

Minutes of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee: Annual Meeting on 14 January 2023

Present: Geoff Williamson (Secretary), Davida Kalina, Walter Marcisz, Adam Sell, Paul Sweet (Vice Secretary), Terry Walsh, Kyle Wiktor

Absent: none

This meeting of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (the "Committee") was called to order at 9:04 AM via Zoom videoconference. There being seven voting members present, quorum was met to transact business.

Davida moved and Paul seconded to approve the minutes of the 19 March 2022 meeting. They were approved by unanimous consent.

Davida moved and Paul seconded to approve the minutes of the 23 July 2022 meeting. They were approved by unanimous consent.

Members whose terms were expiring were Walter Marcisz and Paul Sweet, neither of whom was eligible to serve another consecutive term. Walter Marcisz nominated Steven J. Huggins and Daniel T. Williams as candidates to fill the vacant positions. These two candidates were elected by unanimous vote.

Davida nominated Geoff Williamson to serve as Secretary for 2023, and Williamson was elected by unanimous vote.

Geoff nominated Adam Sell for the position of Vice-Secretary. Adam indicated willingness to serve and was elected by unanimous vote.

Geoff Williamson indicated that his Secretary's Report for 2022 had been distributed to the Committee.

The next Annual Meeting was scheduled for 13 January 2024, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The Committee considered changes to the Review List.

1. Walter moved and Terry seconded to remove Evening Grosbeak from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.
2. The Committee was reminded that changes to the presence of *Plegadis* ibis on the Review List would be aided by a study of the present distribution and occurrence of the two species within the state. Geoff noted that an article in Meadowlark about this topic would be interesting, to raise awareness within the birding community about the current status in Illinois and its neighboring states, including the issue of hybridization.

The Committee was informed of records added to the Suspense File during 2022.

Record 2019-085 was discussed in preparation for its 4th circulation.

Record 2022-064, in its 2nd circulation, was discussed.

Geoff reviewed a list of areas of activity and potential projects for the improvement of IORC's work, including the following.

- Review/revision of the documentation form in all its versions, including the Word document and web form versions.
- Addressing issues associated with the functioning of the web-based documentation form (mainly with respect to attachments to the form).
- Acquire a domain name and web host for the site at <http://geoffwilliamson.info/iorc/>
- Put print archive material into electronic form.
- Updating the contents of the database at <http://empty-sunset-8541.herokuapp.com/>
 - Finding an appropriate permanent home for it. (The database no longer exists at the current site. Tom Kelly, who created the database structure, is currently working to get the database re-established at a different location.)
 - Include decisions from recent reports.
 - Update the taxonomy.
 - Improve the information at the home page so that it explains the contents.
 - Develop a system to provide links from the database contents to pages at <http://geoffwilliamson.info/iorc/>
- Establishing guidelines for when to review of out-of-season records of regularly occurring species.

The Committee agreed that with Evening Grosbeak no longer on the Review List, there is no need to adjudicate the many confirmed eBird records of this species from October 2022 to the present.

Geoff updated the Committee on the status of Mew Gull records following the split into Short-billed Gull and Common Gull. IORC has received formal submissions at the new species level for three past records: 2005-007 (as Short-billed Gull), 2008-007 (as Common Gull), and 2012-003 (as Common Gull). Once a complete set of votes/comments documentation from earlier reviews are assembled, these will go out for review.

The Committee discussed the presence of McCown's Longspur in the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) records for the Lisle Arboretum CBC on 26 Dec 1961. Geoff noted that this species is not on the official state list of birds and that his assumption is that when IORC in its early years (1985 and thereafter) was assembling records from which to construct the list, it did not find reviewable evidence to consider for this observation.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.