

Minutes of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee: Meeting on 25 July 2024

Present: Geoff Williamson (Secretary), Nathan Goldberg, Steve Huggins, Davida Kalina (Vice Secretary), Terry Walsh, Dan Williams, Kyle Wiktor

Absent: none

This meeting of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (the "Committee") was called to order at 7:00 PM via videoconference. There being seven voting members present, quorum was met to transact business.

The minutes of the 14 January 2024 meeting were corrected and then approved by unanimous consent.

Williamson informed the Committee about adjustments he made to the materials for record 2024-026 (Painted Bunting) after the Committee had voted on the record. The changes amount to increasing the number of individuals involved to three (two males, with physical evidence available for one of these, and one female).

Williamson introduced the following eight motions, which had been distributed in advance to the Committee. The motions were collectively approved by unanimous consent.

1. Whereas the number of accepted records of White-winged Dove between 2012 and 2020 was 30, with accepted records occurring in seven of those nine years; whereas during 2021 to 2023 there were 12 confirmed eBird records supported by clear photographic evidence (with several other confirmed eBird records not supported by physical evidence), with eBird records supported by photographic evidence in each of those three years; whereas there have been more than 10 accepted IORC records over the preceding 10 years in every year from 2003 to 2023; and whereas the species has been recorded in every year from 2012 to 2023 with the two exceptions of 2013 and 2014; the status designation of this species is changed from Casual to Regular.
2. Whereas the number of records of Swallow-tailed Kite during 2012 to 2021 was 22, whereas there were at least nine accepted records during prior 10-year periods in each year from 2016 to 2023 and more than 17 accepted records during prior 10-year periods in each year from 2019 to 2023, whereas the number of confirmed eBird records supported by clear photographic evidence during 2022 and 2023 totaled three, and whereas the species has been recorded in every year from 2012 to 2023 with the two exceptions of 2018 and 2023, the status designation of this species is changed from Casual to Regular.
3. Whereas for decades Evening Grosbeak has been an irruptive species with a long record of at least eight records during 10-year periods, and whereas the period in which there was a drought of records for more than 10 years was brief in comparison to the long historic record, the status designation of this species is returned from Casual to Regular.
4. Whereas the number of records of Hoary Redpoll during 2012 to 2022 was 22; whereas there were at least 10 accepted records during prior 10-year periods in each year from 2012 to 2023 and more than 16 accepted records during prior 10-year periods in each year from 2020 to

2023; whereas the species has been recorded in every year from 2012 to 2023 with the four exceptions of 2014, 2016, 2019, and 2023; and whereas the species is expected to occur in Illinois during each major redpoll irruption year; the status designation of this species is changed from Casual to Regular.

5. Whereas for decades White-winged Crossbill has been an irruptive species with a long record of at least eight records during 10-year periods, and whereas the period in which there was a drought of records for more than 10 years was brief in comparison to the long historic record, the status designation of this species is returned from Casual to Regular.
6. Whereas the number of records of Western Tanager during 2012 to 2021 was 19, whereas there were at least eight accepted records during prior 10-year periods in each year from 2017 to 2021 and more than 17 accepted records during prior 10-year periods in each year from 2020 to 2023, whereas the number of confirmed eBird records supported by clear photographic evidence during 2022 and 2023 totaled two, and whereas the species has been recorded every year from 2012 to 2023 with the one exception of 2015, the status designation of this species is changed from Casual to Regular.
7. Whereas the only consecutive 10 year stretch to date with Painted Buntings at the East St. Louis, St. Clair County site was during 2000 to 2009, and whereas Painted Bunting has shown an off-and-on record of maintaining at least eight accepted records during 10-year periods, the status designation of this species is maintained as Casual and to be consistent with the Casual status the Review List exception for the East St. Louis site is removed.
8. Bylaw VII.A.(4)(a) and VII.A.(4)(b) are changed to read (additions marked by underlining and deletions marked with strikeouts)

VII.A.(4)(a) Regular. Recorded in the state with at least eight records in the previous 10 years and thought to be probable to maintain that rate of records, including those species that are very local and those that cannot be located reliably anywhere in the state. Most species in this status category are expected within the state annually.

VII.A.(4)(b) Casual: Not meeting the requirements for Rregular status, with at least six records in the state and at least three ~~to seven~~ records in the previous 10 years.

Record 2023-099 (White-faced Ibis) was discussed by the Committee in preparation for its 4th circulation.

Recent records of Great-tailed Grackle in northeast Illinois were discussed with respect to potential rationales for merging some of the records together, as many likely pertain to the same individual. A perspective shared by several Committee members was that records 2022-004, 2023-003, 2023-072, 2023-108, and 2024-029 are very likely to involve the same, single Great-tailed Grackle, which would make merger of all those records reasonable. Williamson indicated that he was unclear about principles to apply to decide when multi-year records like that should be merged.

The changes to the official Illinois State List of Birds stemming from the 65th supplement to the NACC check-list were provided to the Committee.

Plans for the regular member and secretary elections at the next Annual Meeting were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.