



# ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

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## AVIAN ENDANGERED SPECIES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MARCH 29, 2024 MEETING

#### ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

1816 SOUTH OAK STREET, CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Tara Beveroth, Dr. Angelo Capparella, Dr. James Herkert, Dr. Jeffrey Hoover, Dr. D. James Mountjoy, Dr. Brent Pease, Dr. Douglas Stotz, Dr. Michael Ward

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Eric Bollinger, Dr. Wendy Schelsky, Mr. Brad Semel, Dr. Jeffrey Walk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ms. Natalia Maass (IDNR)

#### 1. Call to Order, Roll Call of Avian ESTAC Members, and Introduction of Guests

Dr. Capparella called the meeting (over Zoom) to order at 1:05 pm. He conducted a roll call of committee members and announced that a quorum was present. There was one guest in attendance.

#### 2. Review of Listed and Potential Candidates for Listing Species

**Osprey:** At the previous ESPB meeting, the committee recommended that the Avian ESTAC committee re-evaluate its recommendation that the Osprey be delisted. Concern was expressed by members of the ESPB that while we have seen an increase in nesting records, we do not know their success rate (recruitment). Particularly concerning was that many new nests are appearing on transmission towers which makes them potentially vulnerable to being removed. Dr. Ting of the ESPB announced that her students will be doing an inventory of nests in summer 2025 to help acquire more data.

**Whip-poor-will:** Dr. Ward stated that the overall population trend is not good. Dr. Mountjoy noted that they are gone from a former site in Knox County. Drs. Hoover and Pease noted that there has been an estimated 50% decline in southern Illinois, a former stronghold. Dr. Herkert stated that in checking records in eBird his impression was that the decline statewide has plateaued. Dr. Stotz mentioned that they are gone from

Northeastern Illinois except for Illinois Beach State Park. Dr. Hoover agreed that there have been some declines/losses in former locations, but not statewide.

**3. Approval of Recommendations for Changes to the Avian Section of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species**

The ESTAC decided unanimously to withdraw its earlier recommendation to delist the Osprey and will revisit this species when a study underway in Dr. Ting's lab is complete. It was also decided unanimously that while the Whip-poor-will is declining in many places, there are still healthy populations distributed statewide so it does not warrant listing at this time. Dr. Pease's lab is doing monitoring projects in southern Illinois which will give us more information.

**4. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**5. Adjournment**

A unanimous voice vote was held and the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm.

Compiled by Angelo Capparella.