



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

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AVIAN ENDANGERED SPECIES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MAY 30, 2023 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. Wendy Schelsky, Dr. Douglas Stotz, Dr. Jeffery Walk, Dr. Michael Ward

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Eric Bollinger, Mr. Brad Semel

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Joyce Hofmann (ESPB Chair), Ms. Natalia Maass (IDNR)

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

Dr. Capparella called the meeting to order at 10:34 am. He conducted a roll call of committee members and announced that a quorum was present. There were two guests in attendance. Dr. Hofmann gave some opening remarks.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Herkert moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hoover and carried by an unanimous vote.

3. Review of Listed Species

Discussion began by examining listed species to see if any re-categorization was warranted. Upland Sandpiper: showing an increase, but not enough to delist. Black-crowned Night-Heron: population growing but range is still too narrow. Swainson's Hawk: remains a small isolated population. Chuck-wills-widow: need more data and Ms. Maass said she will be obtaining some from southern Illinois. Least Bittern: getting closer to being recovered enough to remove. Northern Harrier: increased breeding in Wisconsin but not in Illinois. Cerulean Warbler: need more data and Ms. Maass said she would be getting some from southern Illinois. Trumpeter Swan: not enough breeders in the state and concern over the nonnative Mute Swan Competition. Grasshopper Sparrow: showing some decline so should continue to monitor.

4. Discussion of Potential Additions of Bird Species to the Illinois list of

Endangered and Threatened Species

Discussion began about potential species that might need listing. Bobolink: holding its own in protected habitats. Keep monitoring but not list at this time: Western Meadowlark, Virginia Rail, Red-headed Woodpecker, Chimney Swift, Common Nighthawk.

Potential addition: Whip-poor-will. Much discussion about this species. Both the Breeding Bird Survey and Spring Bird Count show a decline. Some factors causing this Decline are the loss of large moths for food and forests too dense for nesting. However, eBird listings indicate that there are some strongholds. Further data on this species is being collected so it was decided to table this discussion and revisit at another time.

Delisting: extensive discussion was held regarding the Osprey which is currently listed as threatened. It was the consensus that enough nesting sites are known so the Osprey can be delisted. Dr. Herkert made a motion to delist the Osprey. Dr. Stotz seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. It is recommended to IDNR that should this proposal be adopted that IDNR will do publicity to highlight the value of conservation efforts for bird species.

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

Dr. Herkert made a motion that the Avian ESTAC recommend the following changes to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species: delist the Osprey. Dr. Stotz seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

6. Assignment of ESTAC Members to Complete Petition Forms for Changes or Additions to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Dr. Hoover and Ms. Beveroth will complete the petition to change the status of the Osprey from threatened to delisted. Should we decide to list the Whip-poor-will at a later date, then Drs. Ward and Herkert will complete the petition.

7. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

8. Other Business

Ms. Maass announced that she is adding EORs from eBird to the Natural Heritage database.

9. Adjournment

A unanimous voice vote was held and the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 pm.

Compiled by Angelo Capparella.