

Michigan on 23 May 1997.

Without voice recordings, only in-hand measurements can secure a positive identification of either of the two species though subtle differences in plumage and bill length have been mentioned in the literature. The author's second look at a kingbird on a wire will hopefully urge other Illinois birders to look at all kingbirds in Illinois with greater attention.

Acknowledgments

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Purple Gallinule Invasion: Spring 1999

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The Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) is normally found in the southeastern United States, its range extending along the Gulf Coast of Texas to Florida and up the Atlantic coast to southern North Carolina. This species is also found in wetlands in the interior of east Texas, Louisiana, and up the Mississippi River flood plain to the southern tip of Illinois.

In the spring of 1999, Purple Gallinules were found outside of their normal range all across the eastern and central United States. Purple Gallinules have a history of occurring far outside of their normal range, but in 1999, they were more numerous and widespread than in most years. At least 38 extralimital records were reported from Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and South Dakota. The South Dakota bird was a first state record (Wood 1999).

In May 1999 at least 13 Purple Gallinules occurred in Illinois, just shy of one-third of all the reportings of Purple Gallinules in Illinois' history. Even more astounding was the fact that many of them were reported in northern Illinois. Many Chicago area birders got to add this species to



Purple Gallinule, 8 May 1999. Montrose Harbor, Chicago, IL. Photo by Tadas Birutis.

their state lists.

The first reported Purple Gallinule the spring 1999 season was a dead specimen found on 5 May in Flannigan in McLean County. This specimen is now at Illinois State University in Normal.

The northern Illinois records begin on 6 May when Jesse Stewart observed a Purple Gallinule in the backyard of M. Trapani in Highwood, Lake County. It remained there until 13 May. A video recording of this rare occurrence is on file with the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee.

On 7 May, a man walking his dog at Montrose Harbor in Chicago noticed a bird with huge yellow feet, a blue forehead, purple body, and white tail feathers. He told birders he saw something that looked like a purple chicken. Excited birders realized this was a Purple Gallinule. It was seen by many birders over the next three days.

A pair of Purple Gallinules occurred in extreme southern Illinois at Mermet Lake in Massac County on 9 May. They were seen there through June and July, but no nest

Meadowlark