

Seventeenth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

By Douglas F. Stotz

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee ("IORC," or "the Committee") are reported here for a total of 36 records, including 33 accepted records of 25 species, and three unaccepted records of three species. A total of 54 observers contributed reports, including descriptions or photographs documenting the records included in this report. Included are reviewed species evaluations by the Committee from 2010 through 2012. The format of this report generally follows the conventions used in the first through sixteenth reports of the Committee (e. g. Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1990; Johnson et al 1998; Johnson and Stotz 1999; Stotz and Johnson 2000; Stotz and Johnson 2003; Stotz 2001; Stotz 2009; Stotz 2010). The records below are divided into two major groups: Accepted and Unaccepted. Each of these groups is then further divided into First State Records, Review List Records, and Other Records. The nomenclature, English names and sequence of species conforms to that of the seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's checklist, (1998) and its supplements, through the 53rd (Chesser et al. 2012).

An accepted record is entered with the locality, including county, the date, and (in parentheses) the IORC record number (the first four characters of which give the year of the first observation), and the initials of the primary observer(s) who contributed specimens, descriptions, and/or photographs. Similar information is provided for unaccepted records, except the observers remain anonymous, and a brief explanation of why the record was not accepted is given. The initials of a contributor without any further modification, indicates that no more than written documentation was provided by that observer. When additional evidence exists, a colon follows the observers name with the following codes: p for photographic evidence, v for video, s for sound recording. Many contributing photographers also submitted written descriptions—a practice the Committee encourages. If the observer who first discovered the bird is known to the committee, their initials are set off from the initials of other contributors by a semicolon. Initial observers who did not submit documentations are not always listed. For specimen records, a sharp (#) follows an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen, along with that institution's catalog number of the specimen if available.

Several records that were seen by several to many observers were documented by only one or two of these observers. The Committee would like to encourage all observers to document all the review list species they see. Documentation by multiple observers can provide additional evidence and support for the identity of rarities. Often records that have not been accepted suffer from incomplete information, a problem which additional documentation by other observers could help overcome.

Information on the age and sex of the birds reported may be an opinion of the person(s) submitting the evidence and is not necessarily an accepted position of the Committee. All other remarks are the author's, although most of the information comes from the Committee files which are now stored in Chicago, Illinois, in the Bird Division of the Field Museum.

In several cases there are discrepancies between the details presented here vs. other published sources, especially regarding dates of occurrence. The data in this report provide the Committee's best assessment of all available information. We have not generally commented on records that are published elsewhere with more limited data than contained here. The Committee accepts responsibility for any inaccuracies or misrepresentations of information herein. Errors that come to our attention will be published as corrigenda in a future IORC report.

Abbreviations:

References to seasonal reports in the journals *Illinois Birds and Birding*; *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds*; *American Birds* and *North American Birds* are abbreviated by IBB, MJIB, AB, and NAB, respectively, followed by volume and page numbers. Months are abbreviated by their first three letters.

"Northern", "central", and "southern Illinois" refer to specific subsections of the state as first defined by Gault (1922); see also Bohlen (1978). The terms "region" and "regional" apply to the Middlewestern Prairie Region as used in NAB and include Illinois as well as Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and most of Ohio and Kentucky.

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