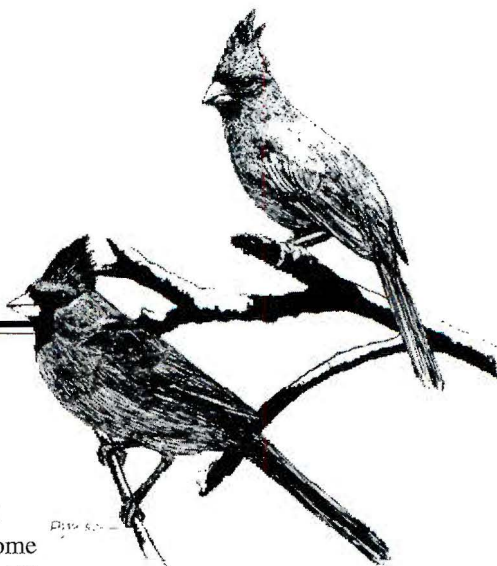# The Sixth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

by Douglas F. Stotz and David B. Johnson

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee ("IORC," or "the Committee") are reported here for a total of 68 records, including 57 accepted records of 38 species, and 11 unaccepted records of 11 species. A total of 69 observers contributed descriptions or photographs documenting the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations from 1997, 1998, and 1999. Some records are still in dispute and the Committee is, as of this publication, still reviewing those records. If a photograph was published in *American Birds*, *Audubon Field Notes*, *Field Notes* (now the combined publication of American Birding Association and National Audubon Society), *Illinois Birds and Birding*, or *Meadowlark* an attempt has been made to reference those publications for that bird record evidence. Any errors of omission are the fault of the authors.

It should also be noted that the Committee has published an official list of bird species accepted for the state of Illinois. This publication is the Checklist of Illinois State Birds (Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, 1999).

Format: The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through fifth reports of the Committee (Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1989; Goetz 1990; Johnson, Deaton and Clyne 1998; Johnson and Stotz 1999). The records below are divided into two major groups: Accepted and Unaccepted. Each of these groups is then further divided into Review List Records, and Other Records. The sequence of species conforms to that of the American Ornithologists' Union seventh checklist (1998) and its supplements.

An accepted record is entered with the locality (including the standard abbreviation for the county (see below)), 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. Photographic evidence is noted following a contributor's name by an asterisk (*); when the photographic evidence is known to be a videotape, a "v" is appended (*v);*p,v indicates both photographic and video evidence presented by same contributor. Many contributing photographers also submitted written descriptions—a practice the Committee encourages. If the observer(s) who first discovered the bird submitted documentation, 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 (#) precedes an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen, along with that institution's catalogue number of the specimen.

We have made an attempt to reference published photographs and brief accounts (such as seasonal highlights published in MJIB) by journal number and page. Articles are cited by author and date and are indexed in the list of references. Seasonal highlights in MJIB dealing with first state records are treated as articles.

Several records 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 that 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 authors', although most of the information comes from the Committee files,