

Fourteenth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

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Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee ("IORC," or "the Committee") are reported here for a total of 64 records of 42 species, including 57 accepted records of 37 species, and seven unaccepted records of seven species. We examined documentation from a total of 54 observers in evaluating the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations by the current Committee from 2003 through 2008.

Format: The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through thirteenth reports of the Committee (Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1989, 1990; Johnson, Deaton and Clyne 1998; Johnson and Stotz 1999; Stotz and Johnson 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006; Stotz 2001, 2007). 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 taxonomy and sequence of species conforms to that of the seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's checklist, (1998) and its supplements, through the 49th (Banks et al. 2008).

An accepted record is entered with the locality (including the standard abbreviation for the 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. Photographic evidence is noted following a contributor's name by an asterisk (*). Many contributing photographers also submitted written descriptions—a practice the Committee encourages. The initial observers, if known to the Committee, are listed first, set off from later contributors of documentation by a semicolon. For specimen records, a sharp (#) follows an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen, along with that institution's catalog number of the specimen.

Many records seen by numerous observers were documented by only a few of these observers, often only one. The Committee encourages 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 been not accepted suffer from incomplete information, a problem which additional documentation by other observers could help overcome. Additionally, end dates of rarities are often poorly documented; later observers can improve our record of when rarities leave by providing documentation. Increasingly photographs, especially digital images, are being used to document records, which has improved the acceptance rate of records. However, most photographic documentation is not accompanied by written documentation. The Committee encourages observers to provide written documentation of records, even if documented by photographs. Written documentation can often provide important information in the evaluation of a record, even if high-quality photographs are obtained. In at least two cases reported herein, the Committee did not vote to accept based on photographs alone, but did accept the record with additional details provided by written documentation.

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 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 and those in other published sources, especially regarding dates of occurrence. The data in this report provide the Committee's best assessment of all available information. I have not generally commented on records that are published elsewhere with more limited data than contained here, but have made explicit note of apparent errors in published data. The author accepts responsibility for any inaccuracies or misrepresentations of information herein. Errors that come to his 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.