



Lark Bunting. 31 August 2011.
Montrose, Cook County. Photo by Josh Engel.
Note the severe deformity in this bird's bill.

of a Marsh Wren. The bird was in marsh vegetation, and differed from a Bewick's Wren by being too reddish above, too bright white with buffy sides below, and lacked white corners to the tail. Additionally, some of the back streaking typical of a Marsh Wren could be seen in the photo.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocapillus*) A bird coming to a feeder in Belvidere, Boone Co. was seen for multiple days and documented as this species based on a sighting on 23 May (2009.065). While the committee agreed that the bird may very well have been a male Black-headed Grosbeak, the limited description and the fact that the bird was documented from memory more than a year after the sighting made it impossible for the committee to accept the record.

Other unaccepted records (one record of one subspecies)

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens japonicus*) A bird identified as this subspecies was photographed at Fullerton Beach, Chicago, Cook Co. on 10 December (2009.068). It accompanied other American Pipits. Its plumage and soft part colors were clearly, but subtly, different from a typical American Pipit. However, the committee examined specimens in the Field Museum collection and looked at other on-line resources, and a majority concluded that this bird could not be definitively identified as being of a subspecies other than the widespread North American form, *A. r. rubescens*. The status of *A. r. japonicus* in North America remains unclear, adding to the difficulty with accepting this record.

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- See page 45 for journal abbreviations.
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