

Stokie, Mike Madsen, Bob and Karen Fisher, Eric Secker, Jeff Chapman, Mary Anne Auer and Mike Brady.

From my journal notes that week, additional observations were made by: 18 July – Keith McMullen, Joe Eades; 19 July – Dan Kassebaum, Albert Seppi; 20 July – Josh Uffman; 22 July – Dan Kassebaum, Jim Landing; 23 July – Dan Kassebaum, Travis Mahan, Joel Greenberg, Doug Stotz, Connie Alwood, David Becher; 24 July – Dan Kassebaum, Bill Rudden, Jeff Sanders, Joe Lill, Richard Messenger, Thad Edmonds; July 25 – Dan Kassebaum.

Unusual behavior

An interesting behavioral note of this observation is that the Sooty Tern regularly rested on the water.

I observed this behavior on 16, 19, 22 and 24 July. A distant photograph on 16 July serves as documentation. (See Figure 1) This behavior is very rarely observed at sea, and banded birds when recovered, according to Vernon Kleen, show virtually no signs of corrosion common on other sea bird bands. The inference is that Sooty Terns at sea remain in the air at almost all times, and the lack of corrosion on the band serves as indirect proof. Insufficient thermals over Carlyle Lake may have forced the Sooty Tern to behave in ways different from those at sea where thermals and strong wind provide constant lift.

The spectacular inland seabird records associated with Hurricanes Dennis and Katrina, especially in Kentucky and Tennessee, present

another birding phenomenon that I expect will result in many similar observations in the years to come.

This is the third record of Sooty Tern in Illinois. All three records are as follows: 4 October 2002, Joppa, Massac County – Frank Bennett (IORC 2002.024; FB) 13 July 2005, Nashville, Washington County, Marty Kemper, specimen (IORC 2005.028; HDB). See article in this issue. 16-25 July 2005, Carlyle Lake, Clinton County – Dan Kassebaum (IORC 2005.025; DMK)

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Magnificent Frigatebird in DuPage County

By Robert Fisher

Around 11:45AM on Friday, 2 September 2005, I was driving home. A private airstrip bisects our subdivision, providing unobstructed sky views. The street I was on crosses the airstrip. When at a stop sign, I noticed our local Red-tailed Hawks soaring around right over the treetops south of the airstrip. Another soaring bird well above them, with noticeably crooked wings, caught my eye. My first thought from this naked eye view was Osprey.

When I got my binoculars up, it was obviously not an Osprey. The tail was as long as or longer than the body and was very narrow. All dark underneath, the body had a very barrel-chested look; the head extended barely beyond the forward crook of the wings, the thin gray bill looked about the same length as the head. Having seen them before in south Florida and the Keys, I concluded I was seeing an adult male Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*).

This identification was by inference, since Magnificent, Great and Ascension Frigatebird males are often indistinguishable.

I watched for 30-40 seconds as it passed over me, drifting southwest until it disappeared behind some trees. The whole time I observed it, it never flapped its wings. I attempted to follow by car, but most of our subdivision is wooded and I never relocated the bird in the minimal patches of open sky between the trees.

Hurricane Katrina had already produced reports of hurricane vagrant birds. I believe this was another such report. Other frigatebird reports gleaned from various rare bird alerts during the 2005 Hurricane Katrina disaster included:

- Lake Eufala, Georgia, 30 August and 1 September
- Northwest suburban Indianapolis, Indiana, 1 September
- Lake McBride in east central Iowa, 4 and 5 September

• Along Lake Erie in Lake County Ohio, 5 September

• Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area in Iowa (near Lake McBride), 18 September

• Barnegat Light/Bar Harbor, New Jersey, 21 September

Seeing this bird certainly brightened my day (I was returning from buying crutches to use for six weeks with my ankle in a cast). My principal regrets: My wife, Karen wasn't with me when I saw the bird, and if only it could have been a yard bird!

The last accepted frigatebird sighting in Illinois was in 1988 after Hurricane Gilbert.

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