Seventh 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 53 records, including 46 accepted records of 33 species, and 8 unaccepted records of 8 species. A total of 57 observers contributed descriptions or photographs documenting the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations from 1999, 2000, and 2001. Some records are still in dispute and the Committee is, as of this publication, still reviewing those records. If a photograph was published in *North American Birds*, *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 author.

Format

The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through sixth reports of the Committee (Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1989; Goetz 1990; Johnson, Deaton and Clyne 1998; Johnson and Stotz 1999; Stotz and Johnson 2000). 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 *Meadowlark*) by journal number and page. Articles are cited by author and date and are indexed in the list of references. Seasonal highlights in the *Meadowlark* dealing with first state records are treated as articles.

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 Springfield, Illinois, as part of the Avian Ecology Program, Natural Heritage Section, Department of Natural Resources.

In several cases discrepancies exist 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, but we have made explicit note of apparent errors in published data. 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.