

2001 grounded all plane flights. While alternate means of transport were being discussed, the stork was discovered on the morning of 26 September 2001 with a serious compound fracture of the left wing right above the elbow joint. The break was very bad, and too complicated for repair, so after consultation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the decision was made to euthanize the bird. The body is being held for necropsy and will then be preserved at the Field Museum of Natural History for teaching others about this species. No other Wood Stork specimen has been collected from Illinois (David Willard personal communication.) Following a necropsy to determine the cause of its health problems the skin and other materials will be preserved at the Field Museum of Natural History.

This bird represents the first documented northern Illinois record of a Wood Stork. Bohlen (1989) lists the Wood Stork as a very rare vagrant or post-breeding wanderer in Illinois. Most Illinois reports come from the late 1800s in fall when wanderers ventured into the southern part of the state. For example, Nelson (1877) noted a flock of 50 Wood Storks near Cairo from 11 August through 4 September, which he said gathered in small groups on a sandbar after fishing early in the morning. Forty Wood Storks were reported in Union County in 1960 (Comfort 1961). Records after that were of a few birds only. At the time "Birds of Illinois" was published, (1989) there were "apparently no records from northern Illinois."

Since the publication of Bohlen's book, Wood Storks have been recorded four times in Illinois. In August 1989, an immature bird was found at the Sanganois Conservation Area in central Illinois, which also hosted another immature in August/September 1992, while in August 1996 two immatures were found at Wood River in Madison County (Johnson et al 1998).

Frank Bennett reported five Wood Storks visiting Massac County in September 2000 (Chapel 2001). It is interesting that all recent records for the state are of immature birds, which typically make more extensive dispersals than adults. Dispersal is a normal process, and the number of individuals involved and the distance of their dispersal depends upon habitat condition in their natal areas.

The Wood Stork's habitat ranges from northern Argentina (South America) all the way north to Texas, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. In the United States, the species is more common in Florida, especially in the swamps of southern Florida. Wood Storks of all age groups disperse from their breeding colonies in the Southeast beginning in late May, and fledglings disperse in a widely spaced pattern (Coulter et al 1999).

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## First-Year Wood Stork in Kane County

With Comments on High Numbers from Regional Reports for Summer/Fall 2001

by Robert A. Montgomery

In addition to Bent and Woltman's report (2002) on their Lombard, Du Page County record, an apparent later and less reported record of Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) was obtained. A first-year Wood Stork was videotaped by George and Rosaline Johnson in a backyard in West Dundee, Kane County, 19 August 2001 (personal communication George, Rosaline Johnson, and Dan Kennedy). No one was able to relocate the Kane County bird after the homeowners showed the videotape to a birder. The Kane County bird was near the intersection of

Crescent Drive, Lindstrom Lane, and Route 31, less than a quarter mile from the Fox River and roughly 25 miles northwest of where the Lombard bird was found. This report is believed to represent a second individual. It is unlikely the Kane and DuPage County sightings were of the same bird. The DuPage County bird was present from 5 August until captured on 26 August while the Kane County bird was video taped on 19 August. While the distance between the two sites may be within the daily foraging range of the species flight, it seems too great for