

Thirteenth 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 60 records of 38 species, including 55 accepted records of 34 species, and five unaccepted records of five species. We examined documentation from a total of 50 observers in evaluating the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations by the current committee from 2003 through 2006.

Format: The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through twelfth 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). 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 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 48th (Banks et al. 2007).

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 (*); 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. 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.

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 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 docu-



*First-year
male Lazuli
Bunting
banded
at Sand
Bluff Bird
Observatory,
Winnebago
County.
29 April 2007.
Photo by John
Longhenry.*