

tionably a Smew, and, although it spent most of its time in Missouri waters, was definitely seen on multiple occasions in Illinois. The question of origin of the Alton bird remains the main point of contention.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One reported from East Moline ROC on 22 Nov (1973.004). This bird was seen briefly in flight along the Mississippi River. Most committee members did not think that the brief description provided ruled out terns or gulls, so the record was not accepted, even as an unidentified jaeger.

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) One adult at Waukegan Harbor LAK on 1 Jan (1949.002). This record may very well be correct, as it was seen by a number of observers. However, the only documentation available to the committee was a handwritten letter to Parmalee in 1954, nearly six years after the observation. In this letter, the bird is described only as a white gull with dark legs and feet. Contributing to the mystery surrounding this record, we are unable to make out the name of the letter's author. Attempts by the committee to contact other people who saw the bird in 1990 did not produce any additional details of the sighting.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) One reported from Chicago COO 24 to 26 May (1923.001). This sighting was reported in Hine (1924). Unfortunately, while the conditions of the sighting are given, no description of any type is provided. In the absence of any description, the committee could not accept this record. It would be the easternmost record for this species. Although Lewis's Woodpecker does engage in long-distance movements, the species is typically back on its breeding grounds much earlier in the spring.

Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*) One reported at Glencoe COO in a spruce grove on 6 Mar (1898.002). This sighting was first published by Russell (1984; Illinois Audubon Bulletin no. 207 32-33

A possible Three-toed Woodpecker sight record for Illinois), who discovered the sighting in the personal notes of the observer. The notes included a brief description of the bird's plumage and its voice and the notation that the bird was in a spruce area. Although the report is clearly intriguing, the limited description that the observer provided was not sufficient for the committee. Further, the description of the voice as a "croak" does not match that of this species. There are no accepted records of this species for Illinois.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) One was reportedly seen along the North Branch of the Chicago River in Evanston COO on 3 Apr (1974.006). The documentation for this record was provided by the observer in 1990, over 15 years after the observation. Although the details provided by the observer are consistent with the identification, the extraordinary time lag makes it impossible to guess how much the passage of time had influenced the description. Especially given that this was a single observer record, the committee did not consider the report acceptable as the first record for the state.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) One specimen collected in Chicago COO on 12 Jun (1911.001; CAS#414) by C. W. Borggren. Although the specimen clearly belongs to this species, the date is not consistent with a natural vagrant. Natural wanderers of this species typically occur in the fall. Additionally, the committee considered the specimen very worn with a damaged tail, consistent with the individual being an escape from captivity. Woodruff (1912) in reporting the collection of this specimen, indicated that the plumage was in good condition, contrary to the findings of IORC. The basis for this inconsistency is not clear.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) An immature at Lake Chautauqua NWR MSN on 12-17 Oct (2002.029). This single observer report, while very suggestive, had several features that

made a majority of the committee unable to accept it as a first state record. Yellow Wagtails have a very complex pattern of geographic variation, and some of the details of the plumage described were not consistent with the immature plumage of the geographically most likely subspecies. Additionally the fact that the observer identified the bird after the fact, and that while the bird was present for several days, the Illinois birding community was not made aware of its presence weighed against the record.

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*) One was reported from Perkins Woods, Evanston COO on 6 May (1979.002). Two observers provided documentation of this sighting. The reasoning of the committee in not accepting this record is not entirely clear, because the original evaluations (from 1988) of the committee members are not in the IORC files. However, it appears that inconsistencies in the description of the bird by the two observers, the fact that the initial observer did not identify the bird in the field, but only subsequent to leaving the field, and that the second observer saw the bird only very briefly left the committee unable to accept this as the first record for the state. Some subsequent reports of this species remain in review, but there are no accepted records for Illinois.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) A female was reported from Jackson Park, Chicago COO on 24 May (2002.012). The majority of the committee believed that this sparse description of this bird was insufficient to rule out a female-plumaged Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*) One female at a feeder in Decatur MAC on 25 Dec (2002.035). A detailed description of this bird unfortunately lacked details of the undertail coverts, the one diagnostic character distinguishing this species from Purple Finch. Although portions of the description were suggestive of this species, the committee was unable to