

Northern Parula song, but was a typical Sutton's Warbler in plumage. This hybrid combination has not previously been reported in Illinois. It remains very poorly known, with only a handful of photos and two specimens in existence.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)

An immature near Ware, UNI on 30 Dec (2004.052; DFS)

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

Other Unaccepted records
(3 records of 3 species)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

(*Coccyzus americanus*)

One at Lenzburg, SCL on 18 Dec (2004.058). This bird was seen on a Christmas Bird Count. Unfortunately, the documentation received was second-hand written documentation, plus a sketch drawn several days after the observation by one of the secondary observers. Even had the documentation been impeccable, the second-hand nature of the documentation would have made acceptance of such a rarity difficult. However, there were problems in the description as well, especially the description of the bird as overall dull brown, and the breast as light grayish-ochre (in the cuckoo it should be fairly bright white). Also the sketch had the position of the yellow on the bill misplaced. Given the extreme rarity of Yellow-billed Cuckoos anywhere in North America by December, the committee unanimously did not accept this report.

Blue-headed Vireo

(*Vireo solitarius*)

One heard at Reservoir Lake, Carbondale, JAC on 1 Jan (2005.001) on a Christmas Bird Count. The majority of the committee did not accept this record. The fact that the observer did not see the bird made it difficult to accept such a seasonal rarity, as there are no winter records for this species. Blue-headed Vireo, which winters regularly on the Gulf Coast, would seem like the most likely vireo (other than the very different sounding White-eyed) to appear in winter, but Red-eyed

Vireo is not an unreasonable possibility. In addition, not all of the committee was convinced that the bird was certainly a vireo.

Henslow's Sparrow

(*Ammodramus henslowi*)

One on a Christmas Bird Count at Carlyle L, CLI on 14 Dec (2004.053). A majority of the committee thought that, although the record may have been correct, the limited description provided by the single observer in this brief sighting was insufficient to rule out more common wintering grassland species, especially Le Conte's. As breeding populations in Illinois increase, we expect that this species could begin to appear with some frequency in Illinois in winter.

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