

proportions, and the assessment of size ("same as lark or starling") indicates a bird substantially larger than Sprague's Pipit.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*): One at Schiller Woods FP, Schiller Park COO 12 May (1996.035). The observers had previous field experience with this species, and the identification may well have been correct, but the description provided was not sufficient to eliminate Magnolia Warbler in partially retained basic plumage. In particular, no specific mention was made of rump color, nor of the tail-wagging habit of Kirtland's Warbler.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*): One immature at Chautauqua NWR MAS 16 May (1996.028). Documented by only one of three experienced observers. The Committee felt that the sole documentation did not rule out a first-year female Indigo Bunting.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*): One adult female at Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe COO 7 Oct (1995.044). Problems inherent in identification and, especially, in descriptions of sparrows are such that it will be difficult to add this species to the state list without a specimen or diagnostic photograph. This record was documented with care by two experienced observers, and was circulated by the Committee to two outside reviewers with extensive field experience with Baird's Sparrow. Both reviewers felt that the descriptions provided could not diagnostically exclude all plumages of Savannah Sparrow. The Committee concurred that the descriptions were not sufficiently detailed to uphold a first acceptable state record.

Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte australis*): One male at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 4 May (1996.032). This record was dismissed after two rounds of voting. Descriptions were submitted by three observers, but none provide complete details (e.g., details of wing-patterning are notably cursory), nor do the descriptions agree with one another, so that even a composite of the three descriptions fails to create a convincing portrayal of this species. Some Committee members suggested the bird might have belonged to a different family altogether. Note further that Brown-capped Rosy-Finch is a short-range altitudinal migrant with no precedent for long-range vagrancy, so that an out-of-range report such as this merits impeccable documentation.

Other Unaccepted Records

(11 records of 8 species)

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*): One adult at Homer L. CHA 6 May (1995.008); said to be a male, but the reasons provided for sex determination are invalid. One of the two documentations described facial pattern briefly, but failed to note a supercilium. Both documenters referred to "long" or "very long wings"—a trait inconsistent with this species—and several Committee members felt that Northern Harrier was not adequately eliminated. The record is published in MJIB 4:149.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*): One on the SBC at MER 6 May (1995.019). The identification was based on voice only, and the Committee felt that the vocal description submitted could not be taken as diagnostic. This record is published in MJIB 4:152.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): One adult accompanied by two fledglings at Nelson L. marsh KNE 11 Jul (1995.042). The Committee (as well as the documentors) felt that the habitat was inappropriate for nesting Winter Wrens, and no description of the birds was provided. This species has yet to be confirmed as a nesting species in Illinois, although there are previous unsubstantiated reports.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*): One at Waterfall Glen DUP 6 May (1995.020). Apparently the observers did not feel entirely confident in the identification; nor did the Committee.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*): One CBC report, of a single at Bay Creek JOH 18 Dec (1995.052). The description provided does not support the identification, and is at least as consistent with Golden-crowned Kinglet as with Worm-eating Warbler.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*): Six, three miles southwest of Murphysboro JAC 1 Jan (1996.001). The descriptions do not provide enough explicit detail, particularly of head pattern, to eliminate more likely species such as American Tree Sparrow. No accepted winter records of Lark Sparrow exist for the state.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*): Two males at Churchill Woods DUP 6 May (1995.022). One near Albany on border of ROC and WHS 21 Dec (1995.050). Four males at Moosehart KNE 16 Dec (1995.051); a CBC report. This species requires complete documentation for acceptable winter records in Illinois, since very few reports provide enough detail to convincingly eliminate Rusty Blackbird or even Common Grackle. The present reports are no exception.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*): One male at Waterfall Glen FP DUP 15 Aug (1996.084). Three (one male, two females) at West Chicago DUP 17 Aug (1996.103). The brief details in these two documentations from nearby sites adequately rule out other naturally occurring species, but do not eliminate the possibility of exotic escapes (in particular, Hooded Grosbeak *C. abeillei*). This shortcoming is critical in light of the extraordinary dates, coupled with the fact that these were the only Evening Grosbeaks reported in the region that fall (see MJIB 6:80 and AFN 51:66). There appear to be no adequately documented fall records of this species in Illinois prior to October.