

firmed state record. This was another stunning vagrant from the southern U.S. pine woods, found at the same site occupied by a Red-cockaded Woodpecker in summer/ fall of 2000 (Sweet 2001). A photo is published in color in NAB 55:505 and in black and white in Semel (2001); a different photo appears in the 102nd Christmas Bird Count issue, AB: 69. This was a first Illinois wintering record for the species and a new addition to the Illinois Christmas Bird Count species list. In addition, this individual's occurrence spanned a full four seasons in Illinois. For a complete account, see Semel (2001). See photo in this report.

**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) One at Crabtree

Nature Center COO on 17 Dec (2001.048; GB). This bird was seen on the 2001 Barrington CBC.

**Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*) One at Congerville WOO 3 Jan to 3 Feb (2001.024; RC, DO\*). A photo appears in MJIB 10:118.

**Green-tailed Towhee** (*Pipilo chlorurus*) One at Forest Park COO on 12 Oct (2001.056; RM, GW, JK\*). See article and photo in this issue.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) One male at East St. Louis STC on 10 May to 6 Aug (2001.013; DK\*). At least two males and a female were present at this site, where the species nested in 2000 (Kassebaum 2001).

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## OTHER ACCEPTED RECORDS — (3 records of 3 species)

**Red-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps grisigena*) One at Crab Orchard Lake WLM on 15 Dec (2001.052; NH, TH). This bird was seen on the 2001 Crab Orchard CBC.

**Least Tern** (*Sterna antillarum*) One adult at Great Lakes

Naval Training Center LAK on 27 Jun (2001.021, DJ\*).

**Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*) One male near Galena JOD on 12-29 Dec (2001.050; RD\*). This bird, coming to a feeder, was recorded on the Schapville CBC.

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## UNACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Unaccepted (9 records of 8 species)

**Ferruginous Hawk** (*Buteo regalis*) One near Wataga KNO on 14 Apr (2001.030); one at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe COO on 4 Sep (2001.046). Both of these records were considered by the majority of the Committee to likely represent pale Red-tailed Hawks, perhaps of the subspecies *krideri*. The Botanic Garden bird's tail pattern fits immature Red-tailed and not Ferruginous. Neither record noted the distinctive flight silhouette, compared with Red-tailed Hawk, nor the large pale patches on the upper wing (typical of Ferruginous Hawk), although both birds were seen in flight. There is only one accepted specimen record as well as four acceptable sight documentation records of this species for Illinois, and documentation will need to be very complete to establish further records. See Bohlen (1986) for an informative discussion on the Illinois status and identification pitfalls of this species.

**Heermann's Gull** (*Larus heermanni*) One on the Lake Michigan lakefront, Chicago COO on 28 Jun (2001.033). This bird was reported as a first-year Heermann's Gull. It was clearly a very dark gull, associating with Ring-billed Gulls. The Committee felt that the possibility of a melanistic or oiled Ring-billed Gull had not been fully discussed and eliminated. Additionally, the bill was described as yellow with a black tip. Heermann's Gulls typically have a decidedly fleshy tone to the pale part of the bill. The description did not directly compare size and proportions with Ring-billed Gull. Finally, the date of the observation troubled most of the Committee. In late June, this species is just dispersing from its breeding islands in northwestern Mexico along the Pacific Coast. Nearly all vagrant records of this species inland in California and the western states are later in the fall, mainly in October and November. A first-year bird on the Great Lakes in late June thus does not match this species' known patterns of vagrancy.

**Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*) One at Lyons Woods, Waukegan LAK on 1 Jan (2002.001). The majority of the Committee thought that this bird could have been a Common Raven, but the briefness of the observation, the fact that the

bird did not call, and the fact that there have been several recent records of clearly escaped, exotic corvids in the Chicago area, led the Committee to not accept this record. There are no clear Illinois records of Common Ravens since the 1950s (Bohlen 1987), but several recent undocumented reports and an expanding range in Wisconsin suggest that Illinois observers should be on the lookout for this species and be prepared to carefully document it.

**Martin, sp? (non-Purple)** (*Progne, sp?*) One female-plumaged bird near Colfax McL on 19 Aug (2001.040). A martin with entirely dark upperparts and a strongly white unmarked abdomen was observed in flight for about ten minutes. The majority of the Committee were not convinced that views of a flying bird were sufficient to exclude variation within Purple Martin. Despite the fact that this record was not accepted by the Committee, Illinois observers should be aware that there are several species of Neotropical martins that have been recorded as vagrants in the United States, and should be considered as possibilities, especially in the fall. Because of identification difficulties, photographs at the very least will probably be necessary to secure the identity of vagrant martins.

**Virginia's Warbler** (*Vermivora virginiae*) One adult male at Urbana CHA on 15 Sep (2001.044). Virginia's Warbler continues to be a problematic species in Illinois. This record was not accepted by a majority of the Committee, who felt that the description was too incomplete to provide a first state record (one previous record remains under review). Problems with the description include the fact that the size and extent of the yellow patch on the breast were not described, and the back was described as gray (with no mention of the brown tones that are typical in fresh plumage in this species). The date is at the late edge of this species' typical migratory period in the west.

**Yellow Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus chrysopheplus*) One female-plumaged bird at Fermilab, Batavia DUP on 15 Dec (2001.049). The documenting observer did not have a com-