

FIRST REPORT OF THE ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

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Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee ("IORC" or "the Committee" hereafter) are reported here for a total of 268 records, including 213 Accepted records of 104 species, 38 Unaccepted records of 26 species, and 17 "Species Unresolved" records. Depending on how the Species Unresolved records are treated, this represents an acceptance rate of between 79 and 85 percent. Although this is slightly lower than the acceptance rate of about 88 percent for the well-established California Bird Records Committee -- see Roberson (1986) -- it is anticipated that the acceptance rate will rise as the Committee restricts the types of records it will review. A total of 74 observers contributed descriptions or photographs. The records contained herein are mostly from the period January 1985 through July 1986.

For general information on the purpose of the IORC Reports and the structure, membership and operation of the Committee, see Robinson and Goetz (1988).

Format: The records below are divided into three major groups: Accepted, Species Unresolved, and Unaccepted. Accepted and Unaccepted Records are further divided into Review List records and other records, for the ease of readers whose primary interest is in the Committee's evaluation of rarities. The Species Unresolved category is used in two situations: 1) when the evidence for a record does not allow final identification to one particular species, but the only candidates left are all rare birds; and 2) when the bird is thought to be of hybrid origin.

For each accepted record, the information includes the locality, including a standard abbreviation for the County (see below), the date, and (in parentheses) the IORC record number (the first four digits of which give the year of the observation) and the initials of observers who contributed descriptions or photographs. If an observer submitted a photograph, an asterisk (*) follows their initials. If the observer(s) who first discovered the bird submitted documentation, their initials are set off from the initials of other contributors by a semicolon. Many photographers submitted written descriptions as well as photos, a practice we certainly encourage.

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.

All annotations other than those noted above are the authors', although most of the information comes from the Committee's files. In particular, information on the age or sex of any bird is an opinion, not an officially accepted position of the IORC.

Abbreviations: References to seasonal reports in *Illinois Birds and Birding* and *American Birds* are abbreviated by IBB and AB, respectively, followed by volume and page number. Months are abbreviated by their first three letters. County abbreviations follow Kleen (1985): Alexander (ALX), Calhoun (CAL), Cass (CAS), Champaign (CHA), Clinton (CLI), Coles (COL), Cook (COO), De Witt (DEW), Du Page (DUP), Franklin (FRA), Fulton (FUL), Grundy (GRU), Hancock (HAN), Henderson (HEN), Jackson (JAC), Jasper (JAS), Jefferson (JEF), Jersey (JER), Jo Daviess (JOD), Johnson (JOH), Kankakee (KNK), Lake (LAK), La Salle (LAS), Lawrence (LAW), Lee (LEE), Macon (MAC), Madison (MAD), Marshall (MSL), Mason (MSN), Massac (MSS), Monroe (MON), Montgomery (MNT), Morgan (MOR), Peoria (PEO), Piatt (PIA), Pulaski (PUL), Randolph (RAN), Richland (RIC), St. Clair (STC), Saline (SAL), Sangamon (SAN), Shelby (SHE), Stephenson (STE), Tazewell (TAZ), Union (UNI), Vermilion (VER), Wabash (WAB), Warren (WAR), Whiteside (WHS), Will (WIL), Williamson (WLM), Woodford (WOO).

Other abbreviations used throughout are: CA = Conservation Area, FP = Forest Preserve, ISM = Illinois State Museum, L. = Lake, L&D = Lock and Dam, Miss.R. = Mississippi River, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, NC = Nature Center, NP = Nature Preserve, R. = River, SF = State Forest, SP = State Park.

Northern, Central, and Southern Illinois refer to the specific regions first defined by Gault (1922); see Bohlen (1978).

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Review List: The IORC currently reviews records of any species in Illinois if the date and location of the record are considered sufficiently unusual. However, in order to better indicate those records which we are most interested in reviewing, the following Review List was adopted at the annual meeting 10 July 1988: it consists roughly of those species which average 4 or fewer records per year in the state, or which are extremely rare in all but a few counties in the state. Species followed by an asterisk (*) have not yet had any records reviewed and accepted by the IORC; their inclusion is based on traditional sources (primarily Bohlen (1978); the Illinois Department of Conservation Seasonal Reports, compiled by Vernon Kleen, from 1974 through Spring 1984; and the Field Notes, compiled by Vernon Kleen, published in IBB subsequently). Species enclosed in parentheses are included solely on the basis of accepted one-person sight records. The IORC welcomes details concerning all relevant records for the following species:

Red-throated, Pacific, and Yellow-billed Loon; Red-necked, Western, and Clark's Grebe; Northern Gannet; Brown Pelican; Olivaceous Cormorant; Anhinga; (Magnificent Frigatebird); Tricolored Heron; White, Glossy* and White-faced Ibis; Wood Stork; Fulvous Whistling-Duck; Ross' Goose (except Baldwin

Lake); Brant; Garganey; Cinnamon Teal; Eurasian Wigeon; Tufted Duck*; Common and King Eider; Barrow's Goldeneye*; Harlequin Duck (except L. Michigan); Black Vulture (except Shawnee NF); American Swallow-tailed, Black-shouldered and Mississippi (except along Miss. R. to Adams Co.) Kite; Swainson's (except Kane Co.) and Ferruginous Hawk; Gyrfalcon; Prairie Falcon; Yellow and Black Rail; Purple Gallinule; Whooping Crane; Snowy Plover; Black-necked Stilt; Whimbrel (except L. Michigan); Long-billed Curlew; Marbled Godwit; Sharp-tailed, Purple, and Curlew Sandpiper; Ruff; Red Phalarope; Pomarine*, Parasitic and Long-tailed* Jaeger; Laughing, Little (except L. Michigan), Common Black-headed, Mew, California, Iceland (except Cook Co.), Lesser Black-backed, Slaty-backed and Western* Gull; Black-legged Kittiwake (except L. Michigan); Ross' and Sabine's Gull; Royal and Large-billed* Tern; Ancient Murrelet; Common Ground-Dove; Groove-billed Ani; Common Barn-Owl; Northern Hawk-Owl*; Burrowing and Boreal* Owl; Black Swift*; Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird; Williamson's Sapsucker; Black-backed Woodpecker; (Western Wood-Pewee); Say's Phoebe; Vermilion, Ash-throated, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; Western Kingbird; Violet-green Swallow*; Scrub and Steller's* Jay; Black-billed Magpie*; Boreal Chickadee*; Rock Wren; Mountain Bluebird; Townsend's Solitaire; Varied Thrush; Sage Thrasher; Sprague's Pipit*; Bohemian Waxwing; Virginia's*, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Kirtland's* and Swainson's (except Shawnee NF) Warbler; Hepatic and Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli and Painted* Bunting; Green-tailed Towhee; Bachman's*, Cassin's, Brewer's*, and Black-throated* Sparrow; Lark Bunting; Golden-crowned Sparrow*; Chestnut-collared Longspur; Great-tailed Grackle*; (Northern "Bullock's" Oriole); Pine Grosbeak; Hoary Redpoll*.

Documentation of many other species may be appropriate in much of the state, and observers are especially encouraged to document their first encounters with scarce species, or records of birds little known from particular localities in the state.

Acknowledgments: This report would not have been possible without the help of all past and present Committee members, the interest in the Committee of

many other Illinois birders, and especially the submission of documentation for bird sightings by the contributors listed above. Additional opinions and information on some of the records were provided by Bruce G. Peterjohn, David Fischer, Greg Lasley, and Guy McCaskie. Finally, we readily acknowledge that this report is modeled after Roberson (1986).

REVIEW LIST RECORDS ACCEPTED

(includes 103 records of 52 species)

- RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*). One juvenile at Chicago COO 23 Oct (1985.031; RB). One juvenile at Carlyle L. CLI 30 Oct (1985.034; RG). One adult at L. Decatur MAC 11-12 Nov (1985.026; RP). One at Horseshoe L. MAD 17 Nov (1985.027; VB). One at Willmette COO 27 Nov (1985.032; RB). One adult at E. Fork L. RIC 4 Dec (1985.033; LH). Autumn 1985 provided perhaps the best numbers ever for this species in a single season in the state.
- PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*). One adult at L. Springfield SAN 9 Nov (1985.039; HDB). One juvenile at Horseshoe L. MAD 11 Nov (1985.163; CP).
- RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*). One immature at Carlyle L. CLI 2-8 Dec (1984.002; VB). One adult at L. Renwick WIL 27 Oct (1985.052; JM). One adult at La Salle Co. Nuclear Plant LAS 16 Nov (1985.054; JMcK).
- ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*). One male at Union Co. CA UNI 28 Apr (1985.001; JR). One in southwest ALX 5 Jul (1986.136; DR*). These were the first records for the state in about 8 years; the photo of the latter was published in IBB 3:34.
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*). One adult female in southwest ALX 19 Jul (1986.137; DR). This is the first acceptably described record for the state; however, under current IORC policy, since this record was a sight record by a single observer, the species will remain on the hypothetical list for the state.
- TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*). One at L. Calumet COO mid-April through May (2 reported on 28 April) (1985.024; JL, RE). One at Horseshoe L. MAD 25 Aug (1985.063; JVB). One at Kankakee R. SP KNK 16 Apr (1986.097; WG). One at Miss. R. L&D 18 HEN 17 May (1986.098; MJB, LMcK). One at L. Calumet COO 6 Jul-24 Aug (1986.138; WM).
- WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus alba*). One juvenile in southwest ALX 5 Jul (1986.139; DR).
- WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*). One in northeast LAW 20 Apr (1985.003; DWJ*). This provided one of few records for the state outside of the southwestern corner.
- ROSS' GOOSE (*Chen rossii*). Two east of Keensburg WAB 9-10 Mar (1985.004; DWJ; LH, GB, JC). One in ALX 16-17 Mar (1985.005; JR). One near Streator LAS 27 Mar-3 Apr (1985.006; JMcK; MJB). Two at Baldwin L. STC 3 Nov (1985.067; DB) -- these birds or others apparently lingered there through 12 Jan 1986, and three adults were there 4 Jan (1986.068; RG). Two at Menmet MSS 1 Feb (1986.069; JR). The Committee decided not to review further records from Baldwin L., where the species has occurred for five years in succession, but records should continue to be documented from all other locations for the time being.
- BRANT (*Branta bernicla hrota*). One at Crab Orchard L. WLM 16 Dec (1985.165; TF*). A photo was published: IBB 2:74.
- CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*). One male west of Crete WIL 22 Apr (1985.007; AD). One female or eclipse male at Buffalo SAN 30 Sep (1985.068; HDB). One male at Keyesport CLI 28 Mar-9 Apr (1986.099; RG, RP, JM*). A photo of the latter was published: AB 40:477, IBB 2:44.
- KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*). One female at Evanston COO 22 Dec (1985.166; RB & MB).
- BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*). One at Kankakee R. SP WIL 28 April (1985.010; JM*). Only the third record for Northern Illinois. The excellent photo was published: IBB 1:81 and AB 39:307.
- SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*). One light phase adult north of Saidora MSN 2 Apr (1985.011; KR). One intermediate phase adult northwest of Springfield SAN 13 Oct (1985.080; HDB). One first summer light phase on the LEE/WH line 25 May (1986.102; LJ*).
- GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*). One in WOO 23 Jan (1985.035; VK).
- PRAIRIE FALCON (*Falco mexicanus*). One at Fults Hill NP MON 9 Apr (1986.105; RG).
- BLACK RAIL (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). One (or two) in GRU 24 May (1985.014; JH). One in Jackson Park COO 17 May (1986.106; RL). Both of these records were thoroughly described.
- SNOWY PLOVER (*Charadrius alexandrius*). One at L. Springfield SAN 7 May (1986.109; HDB; VK, DO*) provided an overdue first state record. Photos and details published in Bohlen (1986a); a photo also appears in AB 40:478.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*). One at Negro L. MSN 18 May (1986.110; RP, MD, F&BW) was the first in the state in 17 years and only the fourth modern published record overall.
- WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*). One at Beall Woods WAB 7 May (1986.111; LH) was perhaps the first record for the southeast quadrant of the state.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius americanus*). One at Meredosia MOR 2-3 April (1985.058; KJ; DO*, RR*) became the first Illinois record since 1963. Photos were published in Jones (1985). Although this bird was seen by many birders, no written documentations were received, and the photos were only belatedly sent to AB. This should amply illustrate the point that one should never assume that someone else has documented a rare bird that one travels to see. The Committee would rather be submerged in superfluous documentation than to have to reject an important record for lack of it.
- MARBLED GODWIT (*Limosa fedoa*). One at Rend L. JEF 20-21 Jul (1985.110; JR; SS), and a different bird at the same location 18-24 Aug (1985.109; LH; RP). One at Hoffman Estates COO 26 Apr (1986.112; JP).
- SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). One juvenile at Chicago COO 6 Oct (1985.112; JL*; AA). The second record for the state, and the first to be definitively photographed (AB 40:120; the entire series of photos is on file at ISM). Again, we hope that in the future such a rare bird would be documented by more of the observers who were lucky enough to see it!
- PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Calidris maritima*). One at Waukegan LAK 6 Nov (1985.114; RB). One at Wilmette COO 17 Nov (1985.113; SB, RC).
- CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*). One in VER 16-19 May (1986.113; SB; JS, RC) became only the 6th record for the state, the second in spring and the second to be seen outside the immediate Chicago area.
- RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). One male in "black" breeding plumage at Chicago COO 4-14 Jul (1985.172; JL, MB*). One male at Horseshoe L. MAD 21 Sep (1985.115; VB). One female at Spring L. TAZ 6 May (1986.114; HDB). One female at L. Calumet COO 14 May (1986.115; RB, LCB).
- RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicaria*). One winter adult at Quiver L. MSN 14 Sep (1985.116; RP, MD). One at Big L. FUL 5 Oct (1985.117; MJB). One on L. Michigan at Kenilworth COO 11 Nov (1985.160; AA).
- PARASITIC JAEGER (*Stercorarius Parasiticus*). One dark phase immature at Wilmette COO 20 Oct (1985.121; RB). One barred immature at Wilmette COO 30 Oct (1985.187; RB). In both of these cases, the pointed elongated central rectrices were described by the observer. Two unidentified jaegers, probably Parasitic, were also seen at this location 20 Oct (see 1985.186, below).
- LAUGHING GULL (*Larus atricilla*). One adult at Rend L. JEF 18-24 Aug (1985.127; LH), one juvenile there 5 Sep (1985.128; LH) and a second winter at that location 14-22 Sep (1985.162; TF). One at Springfield SAN 2-8 Sep (1985.129; HDB). Three (one adult and two juveniles) at E. Alton MAD 8-10 Sep (1985.123; PS), with the juveniles lingering through 25 Sep. Two juveniles at Montrose Harbor COO 11-21 Sep (1985.124; JL; JM*, LJ*). One adult at Big L. FUL 28 Sep (1985.126; RP, MJB). 1985 was a phenomenal year for Laughing Gulls, but it may yet prove to be the exception rather than the rule, and the Committee has retained the species on the Review List for the time being.
- LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). One adult at L. Decatur MAC 29 Nov (1985.131; RP) provided one of very few Central Illinois records. See below for L. Michigan record.
- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*). One adult at Horseshoe L. MAD 4-16 Dec (1985.132; PS, RG, LH), and apparently relocated 4 Jan 1986, provided the first Southern Illinois record, and only the 8th state record overall.
- MEW GULL (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*). An adult at Carlyle L. CLI 12-16 Feb and 1-8 Mar (1986.075; RG, HDB, DWJ*, DBJ*, JL*) was the third published report for the state, but the first to be reviewed and accepted by the Committee. Published photos (AB 40:287 and IBB 2:76) diagnostically indicate subspecies (note the white subapical area on the third primary from the outer -- compare with photos in Grant (1986)).
- CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*). One adult at Rend L. FRA 24 Feb (1985.025; LH, GB, DWJ). One, probably second summer molting to third winter, L. Springfield SAN 30-31 Jul (1985.133; HDB; VK).

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucoideus*). One first winter at Dresden Is. L&D GRU 27 Jan-6 Feb (1985.048;JM) and one adult there 28 Jan-8 Feb (1985.049;JM). One adult at Powerton L. TAZ 4 Feb (1985.046;KR). One adult at Joliet WIL 9-13 Dec (1985.176;JM). One first winter at Powerton L. TAZ 24 Dec 1985-1 Jan 1986 (1986.079; MJB). One adult at Dresden Is. L&D GRU 1 Jan (1986.082;JM). Although this species is being seen more regularly in the state, the difficulty of identification makes the continued review of records outside of COO desirable -- see below for COO records. Recent studies have suggested that this species and Thayer's Gull are only subspecifically different. We suspect such a "lumping" would come as a relief to many observers.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). One adult at L. Calumet COO 30 Dec (1984.008;RB). A third winter bird was on the Little Calumet R. COO 5 Jan (1985.051; DTW,MB,JL*). A photo of the latter appears in IBB 1:69.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*). One first winter at L. Decatur MAC 4 Jan (1986.085;RP). See below for L. Michigan records.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*). One immature at L. Springfield SAN 8 Oct (1985.139;HDB). One immature at Wilmette COO 23 Oct (1985.140;RB). One immature and one adult at Wilmette COO 10 Nov (1985.188;RB). The latter provided one of few records for adults in the state.

ROYAL TERN (*Sterna maxima*). One adult at L. Calumet COO 7 Sep (1985.141;JL*). A first acceptable state record documented by a fine series of photographs (on file at ISM; single photos published AB 40:121, IBB 2:52). Curiously, a Royal Tern had been seen in Manitowoc, WI, the previous summer (AB 40:117).

COMMON BARN-OWL (*Tyto alba*). One at Buttonland Swamp PUL 4-31 May (1986.120;TF).

BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*). One in JAS 6-7 Apr (1985.059;EL,EC,RC,SB*,DWJ*). This is the southernmost record for the state to date.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*). A male at Chicago COO 17 Apr (1985.017;DBJ,JL). This provides the first record for the state, and possibly the first for eastern North America. It is unfortunate that more of the observers of this bird, including some very experienced birders, failed to submit descriptions, but the two documentations on file provide ample detail. The bird appeared in a small yard in Chicago, and was said to have been present for several days, with a female, before being seen by birders.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Picoides arcticus*). A female at Thom Creek FP WIL 5 Jan-3 Mar (1986.001;JL,RC,DBJ*,JM*,DO*). This provided the first record for Illinois in almost 15 years. Photos were published: on the cover of IBB 2, No. 1; AB 40:1047; and IBB 2:78, respectively.

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*). One at Chicago COO 1 Oct (1985.146;KS). This is only the seventh record for Illinois.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). One immature male on the Chicago R. COO 15-22 Apr (1986.063;JL*,JM*,LCB). This was the fourth record for the state -- photos published in IBB 2:95 and AB 40:479.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*). One at Freeport STE 19 Jun (1985.018;DTW). One east of Spring L. TAZ 4 Jul (1985.158;KR). One at Clinton L. DEW 14 Sep (1985.144;RC). One in JOD 16 May (1986.123;RC). One at Churchill Prairie DUP 4 Jun (1986.036;DBJ).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*). One at Ryerson CA LAK 10 Jun (1984.014;MS*). This was apparently a first county record.

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*). One male at Crane L. MSN 21 Dec 1985-1 Jan 1986 (1985.179;LH,MJB,JL*).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*). Fourteen at Forest Glen Preserve VER 28 Dec (1985.161;MJE).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnolophus swainsonii*). One at Busey Woods CHA 21 Apr (1985.022;RA).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*). One male at Urbana CHA 7 May (1985.023;RC). This was only about the ninth record for the state.

NORTHERN (BULLOCK'S) ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula bullockii*). One female at Fort Kaskaskia SPRAN 3 May (1986.134;RG). Although this sighting was accepted, this form remains on the hypothetical list until a sighting is supported by either a specimen, an acceptable photograph or acceptable written documentation by two or more observers. There are at least two other published sight records which have not yet been evaluated by the Committee.

PINE GROSBEAK (*Pinicola enucleator*). One at Chicago COO 1 Nov (1985.147;KS). One female at Thorn Creek FP WIL 19 Jan (1986.002;DWJ;LH).

OTHER ACCEPTED RECORDS

(includes 110 records of 55 species)

COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*). Three at Baldwin L. STC 17 Feb (1985.030;JR). One at L. of Egypt WLM 30 June (1985.159;JR).

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*). One at Baldwin L. STC 10-11 Jan (1986.066;DR;RG). Possibly the first Jan record for the state.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). 91 at Swan L. CAL 28 Sep 1985 with lesser numbers reported there 26 Sep-2 Nov (1985.185;DB).

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*). One north of Thebes ALX 20 Apr (1985.002;JR).

NORTHERN PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*). One eclipse male at Willard ALX 12 Jul (1986.140;DR).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*). One in MSL 5 Jan (1986.070;MJB).

GREATER SCAUP (*Aythya marila*). One female in southwest JAC 29 Apr (1985.008;KR).

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). One at Wilmette COO 30 Oct (1985.069;RB). One at Waukegan LAK 10 Nov (1985.070;RB).

OLDSQUAW (*Clangula hyemalis*). Two at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 20 Dec 1985-27 Feb 1986 (1986.071;DR).

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*). Two at Crab Orchard L. WLM 2 Dec (1984.003;JR). Two at L. Renwick WIL 27 Oct (1985.072;JM). One at Carlyle L. CLI 30 Oct (1985.074;RG). One at Horseshoe L. MAD 6 Nov (1985.073;VB). Two on the Des Plaines R. WIL 16 Nov-4 Dec (1985.071;JM*). Two at Carlyle L. CLI 24 Nov (1985.075;RG).

SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*). Three at Crab Orchard L. WLM 2 Dec (1984.004;JR). One at Carlyle L. CLI 30 Oct (1985.077;RG). Two on the Des Plaines R. WIL 16-27 Nov (1985.076;JM*).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (*Melanitta fusca*). One at Carlyle L. CLI 24 Dec (1984.005;JR).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*). One at Little Grassy L. WLM 1-27 June (1985.009;DR;JR). One at Crab Orchard L. WLM 1-5 Jan (1986.072;DR).

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). One adult at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 1 June (1986.141;JR).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*). One at Deerfield LAK 5-6 Oct (1985.078;DBJ). One adult at Middlefork CA VER 9 Mar (1986.101;RC).

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*). One adult at Gilbert L. JER 7 Jan (1986.074;RG). Immatures at Blackwell FP DUP 26 Apr (1986.103;RY) and 27 Apr (1986.206;RY) were accepted as different birds by the Committee.

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*). One south of Morton TAZ 2 Jan (1985.037;KR). One south of L. Chautauqua MSN 4 Feb (1985.036;KR). One at Big R. SF HEN 14 Sep (1985.086;MJB). Ten at Evanston COO 25 Sep (1985.087;RB). One at Monmouth WAR 29 Sep (1985.084;MJB). One at Deerfield LAK 1 Oct (1985.082;DBJ), and another there 11 Oct (1985.083;DBJ). One at Hazlet SP CLI 30 Oct (1985.085;RG). The Committee retains interest in some winter and spring records, but Sep-Oct records will no longer be reviewed.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*). One at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 2 May (1985.013;JR). One adult at Beardstown CAS 19 Aug (1985.098;KR). One at Homer L. CHA 21 Sep (1985.099;RC). One at Miss. R. L&D 18 HEN 21 Sep (1985.094;MJB). Twenty-three at Evanston COO 25 Sep (1985.088;RB) seems to be about the second highest one-day total for Peregrines ever in the state. One at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 25 Sep (1985.090; TF). One at Fountain Bluff JAC 26 Sep (1985.091;TF). One at Big R. SF HEN 29 Sep (1985.092;MJB). One at L. Vermilion VER 29 Sep (1985.095;SB). One at McKee Marsh DUP 6 Oct (1985.096;JM*). One at Horseshoe L. MAD 10 Oct (1985.097;VB). One at Clinton L. DEW 26 Oct (1985.100;RC).

The Peregrine is being seen in Illinois with much greater frequency than 15 years or so ago, with increases not only in the number of migrants encountered, but with sightings also augmented by release programs in St. Louis, MO; Chicago, IL; and Milwaukee, WI. Because of this, the IORC will probably discontinue review of virtually all records for the time being. However, we urge observers to watch all Peregrines carefully: With some practice and good looks it should be possible to differentiate juveniles of the usual migrant race, *Falco peregrinus tundrius*, from the released birds, which (in St. Louis, at least) resemble the darker, smaller *F. p. anatum* race once resident in the eastern United States. The Committee would still be interested in winter or summer records of definite *F. p. tundrius*, and hopes that observers will help to document the spread of the released birds through the state by their careful observations.

GRAY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*). Two in JOD 18 May (1986.195;RC).

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*). One at Gilbert L. JER 8 & 15 Dec (1984.006;HW) was accepted in spite of reservations by some Members -- note that Great Blue Herons can fly considerable distances with necks outstretched. One at Little Creek Impoundment WLM 8 Jan-12 Mar (1985.038;JR). One at Anna UNI 5-6 Apr (1986.108;RP*).

PIPING PLOVER (*Chardrius melodus*). One at E. Alton MAD 7 Sep (1985.105;DB).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*). One at Quiver L. MSN 21 Sep (1985.107;RP;MD). One at Starved Rock SP LAS 6-28 Oct (1985.169;JH). One at L. Vermilion VER 9 Oct (1985.108;MC;SB). One at Des Plaines CA WIL 13 Oct (1985.106;JM*).

RED KNOT (*Calidris canutus*). One at Rend L. JEF 22-23 Sep (1985.111;TF*).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*). One in MON 25 May (1985.029;RG) apparently becomes the first published spring record for the state since 1921.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Scolopax minor*). One at Crab Orchard NWR JAC 6 Jan (1985.040;AB).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus lobatus*). One at Hazlet SP CLI 27 Sep-2 Oct (1985.170;RG).

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). One adult at Zion LAK 6 Nov (1985.130;JM).

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*). One at L. Calumet COO 29 Dec (1984.011;JL). One at Monroe Harbor COO 30 Dec (1984.012;JL). One at Dresden Is. L&D GRU 18 Jan (1985.044;JM), and another there 30 Jan-6 Feb (1985.045;JM). One adult at Powerton L. TAZ 4 and 18 Feb (possibly different birds) (1985.042;KR). One at Zion LAK 27 Nov (1985.134;JW). One at L. Springfield SAN 30 Nov (1985.135;RP;MD). Three at Dresden Is. L&D GRU 11 Feb (1986.077;JM).

Because of the number of records above, it should be clear that the IORC can no longer routinely review records of Thayer's Gull. This species has now been established as locally uncommon in appropriate winter conditions, principally near the Illinois R. from Chicago to St. Louis. The Committee retains interest in documented high counts, late or early records, and in records from south of St. Louis and Carlyle L. and from along the Miss.R. above St. Louis.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucoideus*). The following records are all from L. Calumet COO: One second winter 13 & 18 Jan (1985.152;JL); one third winter 18 Jan (1985.155;JL); one first winter 15 Dec 1985-11 Jan 1986 (1985.175;JL); one second winter 25 Dec 1985-6 Feb 1986 (1985.174;JL); and one first winter 19 Jan (1986.080;LH).

This species is so regular at L. Calumet that the Committee has decided to stop routine review of COO records. All other records will be reviewed.

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*). One at Crab Orchard L. WLM 17 Feb (1986.083;SO).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*). One adult at Collins L. GRU 9 Jan (1985.053;JM*). One first winter at Clinton L. DEW 1 Dec (1985.137;RP). One at La Salle Co. Nuclear Plant LAS 20 Apr (1986.117;JH).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*). Two first winter at Wilmette COO 10 Nov (1985.138;RB). One first winter at Wilmette COO 11 Dec (1985.043;RB).

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*). One first summer at Rend L. FRA 7 Jun (1986.119;DR).

LEAST TERN (*Sterna antillarum*). One first summer at Waukegan LAK 27 May (1985.016;JL). One at Quiver L. MSN 10 Aug (1985.143;RP).

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*). A pale bird at Urbana CHA 24 Feb 1985 (1985.055;RC). More detail needed to precisely determine the subspecies involved.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL (*Aegolius acadicus*). At least one at Ozark JOH 2 Feb-1 Mar 1986, with two on the latter date (one banded) (1986.087;TF*;JR).

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*). One at Theodore Marsh WIL 15-16 Dec (1984.009;JM;FW).

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*). One at Clinton L. DEW 16 Mar (1985.019;RC). This is likely the earliest record for the state. Technically, Cave Swallow, a species with an explosively expanding range, could not be eliminated based on the details available.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*). At least three were at Urbana CHA 17 Jul-21 Aug (1985.145;EC).

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*). One at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 1 Jun (1986.143;JR).

MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus palustris*). One at Theodore Marsh WIL 15 Dec (1984.010;JM).

NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*). One at Kennekuk Cove Park VER 4 Dec (1985.149;MC). One at Joliet WIL 21 Dec (1985.181;JM). One at Decatur MAC 4-12 Jan (1986.088;RP).

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Vermivora peregrina*). One at Charleston COL 21 Jul (1986.144;LBH).

NORTHERN PARULA (*Parula americana*). One at Evans Field FP COO 29 Mar (1986.126;VBY). One (slight plumage variant) at Kennekuk VER 7 May (1986.127;MJE;MC*).

CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Dendroica tigrina*). One at Oak Ridge Cemetery SAN 20 Nov (1985.150;HDB).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens*). One male at Horseshoe L. ALX 25 Mar (1986.128;ID).

MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*). One male at LaRue Pine Hills UNI 14 June (1986.130;DR) was late for Southern Illinois.

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Guiraca caerulea*). Two near Charleston COL 5 Jul-3 Aug (1986.192;LBH). Possibly a first county record.

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*). One at Carbondale JAC 4-5 Jan (1985.057;MW*).

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*). One at Harrisburg SAL 8 Jan (1986.091;KP).

VESPER SPARROW (*Poocetes gramineus*). One in UNI 3-7 Jan (1986.092;DR).

HENSLow'S SPARROW (*Ammodramushenslowii*). One at Clinton L. DEW 27 Oct (1985.183;RP). Possibly the first county record.

DARK-EYED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis*). One at Middlesworth SHE 11 Jun (1985.157;SB*). In addition to being very late, this bird was described as the "pink-sided" form; photos support this, although they aren't clear enough for subspecific identification in themselves.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius pictus*). One male at Horseshoe L. MAD 12 Mar (1986.133;RG).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). One male at Burnham COO 26 Jan (1986.094;CH).

SPECIES UNRESOLVED (includes 17 records)

WESTERN-TYPE GREBE (*Aechmophorus*), SPECIES. One at Clinton L. DEW 26 Oct (1985.056), and another there 1 Dec (1985.060). One at La Salle Co. Nuclear Plant LAS 24 Nov (1985.062).

Observers are urged to examine grebes of this genus more closely, and to document all records until the status in the state of the two species (Western and Clark's) is clarified. Currently, the Western Grebe appears to be a rare but regular fall migrant, while the Clark's is known from only one record (Goetz, in prep.). For a discussion of identification, see Scott (1987), p. 20.

DARK IBIS (*Plegadis*), SPECIES. One immature at L. Calumet COO 11 Sep (1985.066;JL).

CINNAMON X BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera* x *Anas discors*)? A drake teal at Meredosia MOR 2-5 Apr (1985.156;HDB) seemed to be a Cinnamon except that it showed a white flank patch reminiscent of Blue-winged Teal, and the Committee considers it likely that this bird had some Blue-winged Teal ancestry.

COOT (*Fulica*), SPECIES. One at Great Lakes Naval Base LAK 29 Sep-27 Oct (1985.104;JL*;RB). Three at McGinnis Slough COO 6 Apr (1986.107;JL). The former was clearly a white-shielded coot, but it is not clear at present that it is safe to base the identification of Caribbean Coots on this one characteristic, or that Caribbean Coot is even a distinct species. The latter birds showed variation in the amount of white in the shield, supporting the notion that all such birds in Illinois are variants of the American Coot. The Committee has decided not to formally review further records of such birds until more evidence on the validity of the species Caribbean Coot and the reliability of its only known field mark becomes available. See Clark (1985).

JAAGER (*Stercorarius*), SPECIES. Two immatures with barred underparts, probably Parasitic, at Wilmette COO 20 Oct (1985.186). One, identified by observers as a Pomarine, at Pekin TAZ 3 Nov 1985 (1985.118). One immature, identified as Parasitic, at Carlyle L. CLI 10-16 Nov (1985.171). Two, identified as Parasitic, Wilmette COO 30 Nov 1985 (1985.122).

Identification of immature jaegers is extremely difficult: the rather subtle differences of certain plumage characters require close observation, and the differences in size, shape, and flight style -- while possibly persuasive for someone with extensive experience with all three species -- are not convincing in themselves for observers seeing jaegers only every couple of years. Observers should

not be ashamed to list a jaeger as unidentified to species, and in any event should study any jaegers encountered as closely as possible.

GULLS (*Larus*), SPECIES. (1) An adult of the *argentatus-thayeri-glaucoides* complex at Navy Pier Chicago COO 6 Jan (1985.153;JL). This bird showed dark brown eyes, but the patterning of its primaries approached that of Herring Gull rather than Thayer's. (2) One second or third year dark-mantled gull at Rend L. FRA 19 Jan (1986.086). Size approximating Herring Gull, pink legs, and dark gray mantle suggested Western Gull to the observers, but much more detail (preferably photographs) would be needed for acceptance of that species, especially for a subadult. The bird reportedly had a considerable amount of dark on the bill and a wide blackish tail band, but already had a mirror on the outer primary. Research revealed that this combination is extremely unlikely in Western. Several possible hybrid combinations would need serious consideration.

BLUE-WINGED X GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS (*Vermivora pinus* x *V. chrysoptera*). One at Crawdad Slough COO 8 May 1985 (1985.020;JL) was plumaged like a female Lawrence's, but was apparently a male bird (singing Blue-winged song type). One at Montrose Harbor COO 11 May 1985 (1985.021;JL) was similar to a female Golden-winged with a yellow wash across chest, and also sang Blue-winged song type. One at Danville VER 1 May (1986.124;SB) was a fairly typical male Brewster's. One in southwest TAZ 23 May 1986 (1986.125;RBj) was a classic male Lawrence's.

Observers are urged to continue documenting all *Vermivora* hybrid sightings so that more information on the plumage variation of these birds can be gathered.

REVIEW LIST RECORDS UNACCEPTED (includes 22 records of 16 species)

PACIFIC/ARCTIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica/arctica*). One at Crab Orchard L. WLM 2 November (1985.041). One at Carlyle L. CLI 16 Nov (1985.164). Two observers provided commendably detailed descriptions of the WLM bird; however, both mention the gray scaly pattern of the back, indicating the bird was a juvenile, while failing to note the usually distinctively paler hind neck of juvenile Pacific and Arctic Loons. Moreover, both emphasize the presence of a white thigh patch, as one would expect in Arctic Loon but not in Pacific Loon (see, e.g., Harrison, 1985, 2nd edition; field mark not adequately discussed in 1983 edition). This fact and other contradictions led Committee members to reject both possibilities. Arctic Loon would be a most unlikely visitor to Illinois. The CLI bird was seen at a great distance and was described very briefly only, although by an experienced observer.

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*). One at Crab Orchard L. WLM 6 Mar (1986.096). Insufficient description of bill shape, no description of bill color or head shape, and some ambiguous size comparisons left a majority of the Committee unconvinced after two rounds.

WESTERN-TYPE (*Aechmophorus*) GREBE, SPECIES. One at Horseshoe L. MAD 9 Nov (1985.061) was not accepted due to some odd points in the plumage description and the lack of specific, concrete size estimates.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). One at Sand Ridge NC COO 27 Jul (1986.142). Records of species of such outstanding rarity must be supported by extraordinary detail, preferably photographed or at least described by multiple observers, in order to be seriously considered for inclusion on the state list.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*). One at Hillsboro MNT 15 Feb (1986.073). This bird was described as a sub-adult, but the description did not completely eliminate "Kriders" Red-tailed Hawk, and a "Kriders" Red-tailed (with bare yellow tarsi) was seen at the same location within a few days. Up until a few years ago, it was thought that the Ferruginous Hawk was a rare but fairly regular visitor to Illinois. However, at this writing all documented records of immatures and/or subadults available to the Committee have either been retracted by observers or unaccepted by the Committee, while fewer than five records of adults have sufficient documentation for Committee consideration. Observers are urged to carefully eliminate "Kriders" Red-taileds in all observations of possible Ferruginous Hawks: see Bohlen (1986b).

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). One at McKee Marsh DUP 27 Sep (1985.103). Most Committee members felt that immature Sora was not eliminated by the description.

WHOOPIING CRANE (*Grus americana*). Two at Blue Island COO 23 Mar (1982.001) flying with a flock of Sandhill Cranes. One at Lake Forest LAK 20 May (1984.001). The former caused considerable controversy among Commit-

tee members, but was narrowly rejected after two rounds of voting because of the distant views obtained. Subsequent correspondence indicates that no Whooping Cranes left Texas until after 29 March in 1982 (information provided by Greg Lasley), supporting the Committee's vote. This record had been published by Mlodinow (1984). The latter bird was seen only with the unaided eye, and without size comparison. The call was heard, but described only as "strange".

MARBLED GODWIT (*Limosa fedoa*). Five near Starved Rock SP LAS 5 May 1985 (1985.015) and one at the same location 6 Oct (1985.168). The former was rejected on a split decision: the majority felt that Hudsonian Godwit was not eliminated because of the brevity of the description, the distance of the sighting, and the fact that the patterning of neither wings nor tail could be observed. The latter was rejected narrowly after two rounds for lack of a size comparison to an accompanying Hudsonian Godwit and (again) because of the very brief description.

LAUGHING GULL (*Larus atricilla*). One at Horseshoe L. MAD 12 Aug 1985 (1985.125). One at Jackson Park COO 15 Sep 1985 (1985.173). The former was not accepted due to the described "heavy black line from eye to bill" and some other anomalous features. The latter was not accepted due to the overall vagueness of the description.

COMMON GULL (*Larus canus canus*). One immature at Montrose Harbor COO 11 Feb 1985 (1985.154). The most definitive feature of immatures of this form versus Ring-billed Gull -- the patterning of the wing coverts -- was not described, and the other relevant factors were not described in sufficient detail. This subspecies can very closely approach Ring-billed Gull in many respects (Lauro and Spencer (1980) and Vinicombe (1988)), and would probably need to be photographed to be accepted.

MEW GULL (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*). One adult at Crab Orchard L. WLM 28 Feb (1986.076). Although the description was consistent with and suggestive of Mew Gull, there was no description of the primary pattern, and the darker mantle in comparison to Ring-billed was not pointed out explicitly. Since there were at least four midwestern Mew Gulls in winter 1985-6 (AB 40:287, 474,479), the record could well be correct, but the description did not contain enough detail to convince the Committee.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*). One second winter at Zion LAK 23 Dec (1984.007). This bird was quite well described, but the conditions of the sighting (the bird was seen only in flight for about 2 min.), together with the general difficulties in identifying immature gulls, caused the Committee to reject the record in a split decision after two rounds of voting.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucoides*). One first year at Peoria PEO 1 Feb (1986.078). Likely correct, given experience of non-documenting observers, but the primaries and tail pattern were not described in sufficient detail to eliminate Thayer's Gull.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*). Seven at Chicago COO 31 Oct (1985.182). Neither the rusty undertail coverts, the gray body plumage, nor the locations of the wing markings were noted for these birds. This record was published in spite of this: IBB 2:53 and AB 40:122.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW (*Aimophila aestivalis*). One in JOH 2 Sep (1985.151) lacked enough positive detail for even the observer to be certain of the bird's identity, although the description and habitat could well fit this species.

LARK BUNTING (*Calospiza melanocorys*). One male at Monticello PIA 18 Apr (1986.131). One male at Henning VER 9 Jun (1986.132). The PIA record was described only as a "junco-sized black bird with white wings," which is not enough even for this distinctive plumage. The VER record was better described, but the Committee remained unconvinced after two rounds. Both of these records were published in IBB 2:96, and the former was also published in AB 40:480-1. Because partial albinism commonly occurs in blackbirds and some other species, the bill shape and color, tail shape and pattern, and the position of the white in the wing all should be described for acceptable records of this species.

NORTHERN (BULLOCK'S) ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula bullockii*). One or two females at Evanston COO 5 & 13 May (1986.135). Because of the intergradation between nominate *galbula* and *bullockii*, female Bullock's need to be completely described -- especially the head, back and underparts -- in order to be accepted. The description for this record only described the underparts.

OTHER UNACCEPTED RECORDS

(includes 16 records of 11 species)

- COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*). One at Dallas City HAN 11 January 1986 (1986.065). No real description provided.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). One at Burnham-Chicago COO 2-4 Mar (1986.067). Almost certainly correct, but a rather confusing description. The species has been known to winter at this location.
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*). One immature at Clinton L. DEW 26 Oct (1985.079). One adult in northwest DUP 25 April (1986.100). The DEW bird was described very briefly since it was seen at a great distance with only Ring-billed Gulls for size comparison. The DUP record was only informally described and so failed to convince a majority of the Committee, especially considering the late date.
- MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*). One at Big River SF HEN 14 Sep (1985.184). One at Sahara Mine SAL 16 April 1986 (1986.104). The HEN bird could have been a Sharp-shinned Hawk or American Kestrel from the brief description provided. The SAL record was most likely correct, but the observer again did not specifically eliminate accipiters.
- PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*). One at Plainfield WIL 11 Mar (1985.012). One at Big L. FUL 28 Sep (1985.093). One at Flat Rock CRA 16 November (1985.167). The Plainfield bird was seen only in silhouette without the aid of binoculars, so could not be accepted. The Big L. record was scarcely described at all, although it was seen by several very experienced and competent birders and was probably correct. The Flat Rock bird was only seen flying by and no description of the head patterning was provided.
- ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucoideus*). One second winter at L. Calumet COO 16 Dec (1985.177). This sighting was probably correct, but observers were inexperienced and did not entirely eliminate Thayer's Gull.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*). One at Clinton L. DEW 8 March (1986.118). Seen at a great distance; insubstantial size reference and plumage details did not convince the Committee that the bird was not a worn first winter Herring Gull.
- LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*). 5 at Palos Park COO 25 May (1986.121). The brief description of these birds did not contain enough detail to be convincing in light of the late date.
- SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*). One at S. Barrington COO 14 Jun (1986.191). An extremely brief description, lacking sufficient supporting detail for a summer record.
- NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*). One at Clinton L. DEW 26 Oct 1985 (1985.148). Unaccepted on a split decision after two rounds of voting. A brief sighting, and optical equipment used was not mentioned in documentation; two characteristics favoring Northern were ambiguously described by the observer, while other important field marks were not mentioned.
- SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius pictus*). Fifteen at Goose L. Prairie SP GRU 4 Jan (1986.008). One at Vergennes JAC 15 Feb (1986.093). The former birds were described from highly atypical habitat, behaving in an unprecedented fashion and without giving the rattle call. The latter record was unaccepted by the Committee by a split vote on the second round: date extremely early, and identification based largely on a single field mark (white shoulder). Unfortunately, the call could not be differentiated from surrounding Lapland Longspurs.

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ILLINOIS BIG DAY REPORTS: Each year many Illinois birders take what is considered a "Big Day". Perhaps it would interest readers to see the results of Illinois Big Days. What should or should not be included in an Illinois Big Day? Should the Big Day be limited to spring, or should there be other Big Days? Is anyone interested in serving as the Big Day Editor?