

# SECOND REPORT OF THE ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

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Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) are reported here for a total of 316 records, including 234 Accepted Records of 127 species, 73 Unaccepted Records of 50 species, and 9 "Species Unresolved" records. A total of 121 observers contributed descriptions or photographs. The records contained herein are principally from the period August 1986 through February 1988.

Taking a Species Unresolved record as accepted if the Committee agreed with the observer's conclusions, the acceptance rate for this report is 75.6%. Although this is lower than the similarly computed 82.3% acceptance rate for the records in the First Report of the IORC (Goetz and Robinson 1988), the difference is in part accounted for by the large number of Christmas Bird Count (CBC) records reviewed for this report (a total of 113), records which are not as well documented in general as records of true rarities. Indeed, the acceptance rate for the CBC records reviewed here is only 73.5%, while the acceptance rate for the remaining records in this report is 76.8%.

For general information on the purpose of the IORC Reports and the structure 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 species and other species, for the ease of readers whose primary interest is in the Committee's evaluation of extreme rarities. Allocation of a record to the Species Unresolved category indicates that an identification to a particular species could not be accepted based on the submitted evidence, but that the record was nonetheless of interest for one of the following reasons: 1) the evidence shows that the record pertains to a single genus and/or superspecies, all of whose members are rare in Illinois; or 2) 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, the IORC record number in parentheses (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 his or her initials (many photographers submitted written descriptions as well as photos, a practice we strongly encourage). If the observer(s) who first discovered the bird submitted documentation, his or her initials are set off from the initials of other contributors by a semicolon. For specimen records, a sharp (#) precedes an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen and the specimen number.

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 except those noted above are the author's, although most of the information comes from the Committee's

files. In particular, information on age and sex 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): Adams (ADM), Alexander (ALX), Calhoun (CAL), Carroll (CAR), Cass (CAS), Champaign (CHA), Clark (CLK), Clinton (CLI), Coles (COL), Cook (COO), Crawford (CRA), De Witt (DEW), Du Page (DUP), Franklin (FRA), Fulton (FUL), Grundy (GRU), Hancock (HAN), Hardin (HAR), Henderson (HND), Henry (HNR), Jackson (JAC), Jefferson (JEF), Jersey (JER), Johnson (JOH), Kane (KAN), Knox (KNO), Lake (LAK), La Salle (LAS), Lee (LEE), McDonough (McD), McLean (McL), Macon (MAC), Macoupin (MCP), Madison (MAD), Mason (MSN), Marshall (MSL), Massac (MSS), Morgan (MOR), Moultrie (MOU), Ogle (OGL), Peoria (PEO), Piatt (PIA), Randolph (RAN), Rock Island (ROC), St. Clair (STC), Saline (SAL), Sangamon (SAN), Shelby (SHE), Tazewell (TAZ), Union (UNI), Vermilion (VER), Warren (WAR), Wayne (WAY), Whiteside (WHS), Will (WIL), Williamson (WLM), Winnebago (WIN).

Other abbreviations used throughout are: CA = Conservation Area, FP = Forest Preserve, F&WA = Fish & Wildlife Area, ISM = Illinois State Museum, L. = Lake, L&D = Lock and Dam, Miss.R. = Mississippi River, NF = National Forest, 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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**Membership:** Current members of the IORC are: Rich Biss, H. David Bohlen, Ron Goetz (Secretary), Leroy Harrison, Vernon Kleen, Joe Milosevich, and Richard D. Palmer. Sue B. Stroyls was a member during the evaluations of almost all of the records contained in this report. For a few of the records included here, the initial evaluation was done by the IORC Steering Committee, including Joel Greenberg, David B. Johnson, Dennis W. Jones, and John C. Robinson (Secretary), as well as Bohlen, Kleen, and Palmer.

**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; 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). Species enclosed in parentheses are included solely on the basis of accepted one-person sight records. The IORC welcomes details concerning all relevant records, new or old, for the following 116 forms:

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; 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 ADM) Kite; Swainson's (except KAN) 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 COO), 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 Chick-

adee\*; Rock Wren; Mountain Bluebird; Townsend's Solitaire; Varied Thrush; Sage Thrasher; Sprague's Pipit\*; Bohemian Waxwing; 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 records of birds little known from particular localities in the state.

**Acknowledgements:** This report would not have been possible without the help of all past and present Committee members, the continuing interest of many other Illinois birders in the Committee's work, and especially the submission of documentation for bird sightings by the contributors listed above. H. David Bohlen greatly facilitated the Committee's access to the photos and specimens housed at the Illinois State Museum, while Vernon Kleen has been of great help in handling and archiving documentations and photographs. Outside information or opinions on some of the records were provided by Laurence C. Binford, Steven W. Cardiff, William S. Clark, Paul Lehman, Nancy Newfield, Bruce G. Peterjohn, and Mark Robbins. Helpful comments on drafts of this manuscript were supplied by Laurence C. Binford, Doug Robinson and John C. Robinson.

#### REVIEW LIST RECORDS ACCEPTED

(98 records of 49 species)

- RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata*. One at Clinton L. DEW 8-12 Nov (1986.145;JM). One at La Salle Nuclear Plant LAS 28 Mar (1987.039;PCP,MJB). One (probably a juvenile) at Evanston COO 1 Nov (1987.098;RTC).
- ✓ PACIFIC LOON *Gavia pacifica*. One juvenile at Horseshoe L. MAD 29 Oct-8 Nov (1986.146;RG). One adult at E. Alton MAD 18-20 Nov (1986.147;CP;PS). One juvenile at Carlyle L. CLI 6-29 Nov (1987.099;RG).
- YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. One juvenile at Rock Falls WHS 14-30 Dec (1986.003;LJ,BS;TP,JM\*,DO\*,PCP,RG;ISM 608819). A first confirmed state record, the bird died of unknown causes after being present near the falls on the Rock River for over two weeks. See Jones (1987) for photos and discussion of behavior; photos also appear in AB 41:210, IBB 3:66, and on the cover of IBB 3, No. 1.
- RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*. One adult at Indian Springs VER 8 Oct (1986.208;MJE). One adult at Carlyle L. CLI 26 Oct (1986.148;RG).
- WESTERN GREBE *Aechmophorus occidentalis*. One at Wilmette COO 19 Oct (1986.151;RDP). Two at Clinton L. DEW 1-2 Nov (1986.152;RTC). One at Horseshoe L. MAD 10-13 Nov (1986.149;RG). One at L. Shelbyville SHE 19 Nov (1986.150;YM). One at Carlyle L. CLI 6-19 Dec (1986.209;LH). Up to 4 (plus 3 additional *Aechmophorus*, sp.) at Carlyle L. CLI 12 Nov-6 Dec (1987.100;RG) (the count of 7 *Aechmophorus* on 5 Dec probably represents the all-time high count of this genus east of the Miss.R.).
- OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*. One adult in high nuptial plumage at Plainfield and vicinity WIL 22 Aug-5 Oct (1986.153;JM\*). Photos are not portrait quality (e.g., IBB 3:35) but do show the small size as compared to Double-crested Cormorants, the white plumes over the ear coverts, and the white border to the facial skin. A second state record and the first this century.
- TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor*. One adult at L. Calumet COO 13 Jun-

- 25 Jul (1987.173;JM\*). Photo published in IBB 4:12. It is considered likely that the reports of this species from the L. Calumet vicinity in eight successive years (through 1988) pertain to return visits by the two individuals discovered in the summer of 1981.
- WHITE IBIS *Eudocimus albus*. One juvenile near Centreville STC 19 Jul-15 Aug (1987.071;CP\*,JM\*). JM's photos appear on the cover of IBB 3, No.3, and in IBB 4:36 and AB 41:1384.
- ✓ ROSS' GOOSE *Chen rossii*. One adult at L. Springfield SAN 23 Nov-9 Dec (1986.154;HDB;DO\*,JM\*) (JM's photo appears in IBB 3:36). One adult at L. Springfield SAN 24 Nov (1987.102;HDB). Two adults at Mark Twain NWR CAL 19 Dec (1987.139;RG). One adult at Rend L. JEF 23 Dec (1987.146;DR). One adult at Clinton L. DEW 26-27 Feb (1988.023;RTC,MD). The latter two records were firsts for the respective counties.
- BRANT *Branta bernicla hrota*. One at Baldwin L. CA STC and RAN 30 Mar-5 Apr (1987.041;DB,DO\*) (photo published in IBB 3:86 and AB 41:438). One immature at L. Springfield SAN 7-25 Oct (1987.103;HDB). These two birds provided first records of the species for all three counties involved.
- CINNAMON TEAL *Anas cyanoptera*. Two (an adult male in molt out of eclipse plumage accompanied by a female or immature) at Hartford MAD 18 Sep (1987.104;RG). The presumed female was identified by the size, bill size and shape, the face pattern, and the overall tone and pattern of the body plumage; it was not an adult male in eclipse, since it did not have red irides.
- EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*. One drake at Tampier Slough COO 12-31 Oct (1986.155;JM\*,RE). One drake at L. Renwick WIL 15 Apr (1987.043;JM). One drake (initially in eclipse) at Palos COO 22 Sep-14 Nov (1987.096;JM\*,WM).
- KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis*. One immature male at Chicago COO 23 Nov-1 Dec (1986.156;JM\*) (photo appears in IBB 3:37 and AB 41:95). One immature male at L. Springfield SAN 22 Jan-19 Apr (1987.024;HDB;DO\*) (photo appears in IBB 3:67).
- BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE *Elanus caeruleus*. One adult northwest of Williamsfield KNO 9-10 May (1987.045;MJB,KR,LA,HDB,JL\*). A first confirmed state record, this bird was thoroughly described (see Baum 1987). Photos support the identification, but were judged to be too distant to be diagnostic on their own.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis*. One first-summer at Cherry Hill FP COO 18 May (1987.046;PS) provided one of very few records from the Chicago area. Up to nine at Kennekuk Cove Park VER 12-20 Jun (1987.073;MC;RTC,JS\*). Three at Lincoln Trail SP CLK 14 Jun (1987.074;DLS).
- SWAINSON'S HAWK *Buteo swainsoni*. One immature at Willard ALX 16 Aug (1986.160;DR). One immature at Springfield SAN 25 Sep (1986.159;HDB). The former was somewhat controversial due to the early date and low contrast between wing linings and flight feathers, but William S. Clark informed the Committee that some immature Swainson's may give this impression. The record was not previously published.
- ✓ GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus*. One adult gray phase at Springfield SAN 20-24 Oct (1987.106;HDB;DO\*,RG,TP). We understand that other observers obtained photographs at very close range -- we urge anyone with recognizable photos to send copies to the Committee.
- PRAIRIE FALCON *Falco mexicanus*. One at Champaign CHA 20 Dec (1986.041;DE). One at L. Springfield SAN 9 Nov (1987.107;HDB). One adult 1 mile west of Ware UNI 30 Dec (1987.151;RG,DR). One adult at Chautauqua JER 1-2 Jan (1988.003;RG;HW). One immature at Miss.R. Lock No. 27 MAD 9 Jan (1988.016;RG).
- YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. One at Crab Orchard WLM 18-19 Apr (1987.049;DR;TF). One at E. Fork L. RIC 9 May (1987.132;LH). One at Homer CHA 9 Sep (1987.108;JS).
- BLACK RAIL *Laterallus jamaicensis*. One at Sangchris SP SAN 19 May (1987.051;HDB). Seen in flight only, but in good light, with dangling legs and dark bill and plumage noted.
- PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyrio martinica*. One adult at Heron Pond NP JOH 1 May (1987.052;SO).
- SNOWY PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrius*. One nuptial adult near Dickson Mounds FUL 10-11 May (1987.053;KR\*,LA,MJB,JM\*). The second state record, making its appearance almost exactly one year after the first! Photos published in AB 41:379 and IBB 3:92.
- WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. One at Rend L. JEF 21 Sep (1986.165;TF). One at L. Springfield SAN 18 May (1987.056;HDB). Both of these records were firsts for the respective counties.
- MARBLED GODWIT *Limosa fedoa*. One at Rend L. JEF 2 Aug (1986.166;TF). One at Horseshoe L. MAD 13 Apr (1987.054;JVB;SR). One at Quiver L. MSN 19 Jul (1987.081;MJB). The MAD record was among the earliest spring arrivals ever for the state.
- ✓ PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. One at Waukegan LAK 3 Jan (1987.003;DBJ).
- ✓ CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*. One adult at L. Calumet COO 24 Aug-4 Sep (1986.170;JP;JM,JL\*). Three sightings of one or more breeding plumaged adults in the L. Calumet vicinity COO 18-24 Jul (1987.082;KH).
- RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. One "black" male at L. Calumet COO 25 Aug (1986.171;JM). One male at L. Calumet Sewage Treatment Plant COO 26 Jul-1 Sep (1986.197;JM\*) (photo in IBB 3:40). One "cinnamon-black" male at L. Calumet COO 3-5 Jul (1987.094;JL\*). One "white" male at L. Calumet COO 9-14 Jul (1987.083;JL\*;JM\*) (JM's photo in IBB 4:42). One "black" male at L. Calumet COO 10-12 Jul (1987.093;JL\*). One at Wurlley L. TAZ 7-9 Nov (1987.111;LA,MJB). The latter was very late.
- RED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicaria*. One adult nearing completion of molt to winter plumage at L. Calumet COO 8 Sep (1987.157;JL\*).
- PARASITIC JAeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*. One dark phase juvenile at Montrose Beach COO 19-20 Sep (1987.095;JL\*,AST\*). Photos appear in IBB 4:43 and IBB 3:99, respectively.
- LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla*. Five at Clinton L. DEW 30 Aug-13 Sep (with two through 4 Oct) (1986.174;RTC). One at Chautauqua NWR MSN 27 Dec (1986.042;HDB). One juvenile at E. Alton MAD 19-23 Aug (1987.114;RG).
- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. One adult at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 13 Dec (1987.168;DR). This was the second record for Southern Illinois.
- LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*. One second-winter at Carlyle L. CLI 23-30 Oct (1987.115;RG). The fifth record for Southern Illinois. See below for L. Michigan records.
- MEW GULL *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*. One adult at Montrose Harbor COO 11 Apr (1987.059;JL\*;LCB,JM\*). Photos appear in IBB 3:94 and are subspecies diagnostic (cf Goetz and Robinson 1988). The fourth published record for Illinois, the second to be accepted by the IORC.
- CALIFORNIA GULL *Larus californicus*. One adult or subadult at L. Springfield SAN 6 Jun (1987.084;HDB).
- ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoideus*. One first-winter at Joliet WIL 14 Nov (1986.175;JM). One first-winter at Joliet WIL 5-12 Dec (1986.203;JM). One subadult *L.g.kumlieni* at Decatur MAC 4 Apr (1987.117;MD). One subadult *L.g.kumlieni* at Zion LAK 1-3 Jan (1988.008;RB;JL\*). One adult *L.g.kumlieni* at Dresden Is. GRU 2 Jan (1988.007;JM).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. One, probably fourth-winter, at Rock Island ROC 16 Feb (1987.031;BBE, PCP). An adult or subadult at L. Springfield SAN 16 Nov (1987.118;HDB).
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. One first-winter at Horseshoe L. MAD 3-4 Dec (1986.204;RG). One first-winter at Carlyle L. CLI 6-8 Dec (1986.211;LH). One immature at Rend L. JEF 5 Apr (1987.060;RDP). See below for L. Michigan records.
- SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini*. A previously unprecedented flock of 7 juveniles at Carlyle L. CLI 23-28 Sep (1986.177;LH;RG,TF,JM). One juvenile at Horseshoe L. MAD 19 Sep (1987.119;DB;RG). One juvenile at Big L. FUL 4 Oct (1987.121;KR,LA).
- GROOVE-BILLED ANI *Crotophaga sulcirostris*. One at Galesburg KNO 28 Sep (1987.097;B&AS; #ISM 609431). A confused bird, captured after repeatedly hitting windows. Only about the seventh ani reported in the state, all since 1978.
- BURROWING OWL *Athene cunicularia*. One near Towanda McL 24 Jan-20 Mar (1988.019;MJB,TF\*,JL\*,RDP\*). This was the first winter record for the state. Photos appear on the cover of IBB 4, No. 1, in IBB 4:69, and in AB 42:272.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus*. One (probable female) at Makanda JAC 12 May (1987.063;RZ). One at Winnetka COO 22 May (1987.092;MMe\*).
- ROCK WREN *Salpinctes obsoletus*. One at Fulton WHS 28 Sep (1986.181;RP) provided only the eighth record for the state.
- MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD *Sialia currucoides*. One female near Manito MSN 13 Dec (1987.170;LA). Only the third accepted record for the state.
- TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE *Myadestes townsendi*. One at Olive Park, Chicago COO 22 Oct (1985.089;JL\*). Photo published in IBB 2:53 and AB 40:122. This is the only published record of the species in Illinois since 1979.
- VARIED THRUSH *Ixoreus naevius*. One at St. Joseph CHA 4-9 Dec (1986.183;RTC,EC,MC). One at S. Elgin KAN 20 Dec 1986-? Mar 1987



(1986.205;JM\*,EW) (photo published in IBB 3:67). One west of Macomb McD 4 Jan (1988.021;EF).  
 BOHEMIAN WAXWING *Bombicilla garrulus*. One at Morton Arboretum DUP 21-26 Feb (1987.034;EW) was seen by 40+ observers (only one of whom documented it).  
 SWAINSON'S WARBLER *Limnithlypis swainsonii*. One at Saganashkee Slough COO 23 May (1987.069;KH).  
 WESTERN Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*. One, probably a male, at Reavis Prairie MSN 9 Sep (1987.129;KR). This was the first acceptably documented fall record for the state.  
 GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE *Pipilo chlorurus*. One at Reynoldsville UNI 3-10 Jan (1987.011;RDP\*,MD;TF,DR). The photo supports the already strong documentation for this record, but was not considered sharp enough to be diagnostic in itself. This was about the seventh record for the state, the first since 1979.

## OTHER ACCEPTED RECORDS

(135 records of 80 species)

- ✓ HORNED GREBE *Podiceps auritus*. One at Joliet WIL 19-20 Dec (1986.004;JM\*). Three on the Miss.R. in ROC 21 Dec (1986.005;KM,B&AB).
- ✓ DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax auritus*. One at Braidwood WIL 28 Dec (1986.006;JM\*). Two near Morris GRU 28 Dec (1986.007;PD). One at Lyerla L. UNI 3 Jan (1987.021;TF).
- ✓ AMERICAN BITTERN *Botaurus lentiginosus*. One at Quiver Creek MSN 26 Dec (1987.136;RDP;HDB). A first for the Chautauqua NWR CBC.
- ✓ SNOWY EGRET *Egretta thula*. One at L. Vermilion VER 24 May (1987.040;MJE).
- ✓ GREEN-BACKED HERON *Butorides striatus*. One north of Monmouth in WAR 13 Dec (1986.201;MJB). One at Spring L. TAZ 27 Dec (1986.010;MJB).
- ✓ BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*. One at Chicago COO 27 Dec (1986.011;WM).
- ✓ TUNDRA SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*. One at FermiLab DUP 20 Dec (1986.012;JW).
- ✓ GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. Five at L. Calumet COO 26 Dec (1987.138;JL).
- ✓ NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta*. A pair at Havana MSN 25 May-9 Jun (1987.072;RBj).
- CANVASBACK *Aythya valisineria*. One at Morton Arboretum DUP 19-21 Dec (1986.014;EW). One at Dundee KAN 29 Dec (1986.015;SBj).
- ✓ GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marila*. Three at Joliet WIL 13-20 Dec (1986.018;JM\*). Nine at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 19 Dec (1987.142;TF).
- LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*. One at Morton Arboretum DUP 21 Dec (1986.016;EW).
- BLACK SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. A pair at Evanston COO 27 Dec (1987.143;WK).
- ✓ SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*. One immature at Carlyle L. CLI 26 Nov-18 Dec (1986.157;TF\*) (photo published in IBB 3:37). One male at Kennekuk Cove Park VER 24 Apr (1987.044;MC). One immature at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 19 Dec (1987.147;TF). One at Clinton L. DEW 20 Dec (1987.145;MD,RDP). One at Gillson Park COO 27 Dec (1987.144;RR).
- ✓ WHITE-WINGED SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*. Two at Moline ROC 20-22 Dec (1987.148;KM).
- RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*. One at FermiLab DUP 20 Dec (1986.021;JW). Ten on the Illinois River in GRU 28 Dec (1986.022;PD). One at Bakers L. COO 29 Dec (1986.020;CAW).
- TURKEY VULTURE *Cathartes aura*. One north of Mazon GRU 2 Jan (1988.002;WM).
- OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. One on and near the Du Page R. WIL 20-22 Dec (1986.024;LW;FW,JM). One at Forest Glen Preserve VER 27 Dec (1986.023;MJE). These records provided two of the very few winter records for the state -- undoubtedly induced by the mild winter.
- BALD EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. One immature (perhaps second or third year) at Kaskaskia F&WA MOU 13-24 Jun (1987.077;YM). One immature at L. Calumet COO 18 Jul (1987.076;RTC).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK *Accipiter striatus*. One adult in CHA 4 Jul (1987.075;RTC).
- ✓ NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*. One adult near East Moline in HNR

- 21 Dec (1986.029;KM). One adult at Sand Ridge SF MSN 27 Dec (1986.027;RBj). One immature at Horseshoe L. MAD 19 Feb (1987.025;VB).
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK *Buteo lineatus*. One at Spring L. MSN 27 Dec (1986.031;MJB). One at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation KAN 29 Dec (1986.032;GVB).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus*. One at Riverside Park SAN 28-30 Nov (1986.158;HDB;DO\*) was extremely late.
- (HARLAN'S) RED-TAILED HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis harlani*. One at Horseshoe L. ALX 2 Jan (1987.001;HDB).
- GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*. One immature at Fairfield WAY 17 Oct (1986.162;TF). One adult at Mount Hoy DUP 6 Nov (1986.212;RY). One immature at Victoria KNO 23 Nov (1986.161;MJB). One adult at Diswood ALX 2 Jan (1987.022;TF).
- ✓ MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. One at the Anderson Tree Farm CAS 18 Dec (1986.038;PW). One 1 mile west of Northfield COO 28 Dec (1986.037;LCB). One west of Sangchris L. SP SAN 27 Nov (1986.200;HDB). One 3 miles southwest of Tamms ALX 29 Dec (1987.150;VK).
- ✓ PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*. One at L. Calumet COO 30 Aug (1986.163;WM). One in ALX 2 Jan (1987.002;IE). The former could well have been a released bird -- see below for records of correctly identified Peregrines not accepted since judged most likely to be released individuals.
- VIRGINIA RAIL *Rallus limicola*. One identified by calls at Illinois Beach SP LAK 1 Jan (1988.004;JN).
- SANDHILL CRANE *Grus canadensis*. One at Gurnee LAK 4 Jan (1988.005;RBA).
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*. One at L. Springfield SAN 14 Jun (1987.080;HDB).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa melanoleuca*. One in southwest HND 24 Jun (1986.190;RC).
- RED KNOT *Calidris canutus*. One adult at Rend L. JEF 20-23 Aug (1986.167;TF).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*. One adult at Rend L. JEF 31 Aug (1986.168;RTC). One adult nearing completion of molt into winter plumage at Horseshoe L. MAD 5 Sep (1986.169;RG).
- DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*. One at Carbondale JAC 27-28 Jan (1988.017;DR).
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*. Two at Illiopolis SAN 26 Apr (1987.057;HDB) and two or three at Carlyle CLI 7 May (1987.058;RG) provided only the fourth and fifth published spring records for the state.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax minor*. One in CAL 19 Dec (1987.153;DM).
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*. One immature at Horseshoe L. MAD 16-25 Sep (1986.172;RG). One immature at Jacksonville MOR 13 Sep (1987.112;KW\*).
- FRANKLIN'S GULL *Larus pipixcan*. One adult in nuptial plumage at Hamilton HAN 16-17 Jan (1987.030;VK;RC) (also seen across the Miss.R. in Keokuk, Iowa). This was the second Jan record for Illinois, and the first for Iowa (Kent 1988).
- LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*. One adult at Montrose Beach COO 26 Nov (1986.198;JM). One adult at Zion LAK 2 Jan (1988.006;JG).
- THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri*. One at Joliet WIL 20 Dec (1986.044;JM). One at L. Calumet COO 27 Dec (1986.045;JL). Two at Glencoe COO 28 Dec (1986.043;RB).
- GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. Four at Joliet WIL 12-20 Dec (1986.048;JM\*). One at Glencoe COO 28 Dec (1986.046;RB). One at Winnetka COO 28 Dec (1986.047;MH). One at Gages L. LAK 1 Jan (1987.004;DBJ). The Committee retains an interest in records from extreme southern Illinois or on early/late dates only.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. One 3rd-winter bird at Joliet WIL 19 Nov (1986.176;JM). One adult on the Miss.R. ROC 21 & 25 Dec 1986, and 11 Jan 1987 (1986.049;GS;PCP). One second or third winter at L. Calumet COO 27 Dec (1986.050;JL). One adult at Big L. FUL 22-26 Aug (1987.119;JW). One first-winter at Zion LAK 1-9 Jan (1988.009;RB).
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTITWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. Two immatures at Zion and Great Lakes Naval Harbor, respectively, LAK 1-8 Jan (1988.010;RB).
- LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*. One adult at Big River SF HND 7 Jun (1987.085;MJB). One adult at L. Decatur MAC 27 Sep (1987.123;MD) provides one of the latest records for the state.
- SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca*. One at Braidwood WIL 28 Dec (1986.051;JM\*).
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL *Aegolius acadicus*. One at Robert Allerton Park PIA 18 & 23 Jan (1988.020;RTC;RDP\*), and a second individual at the same location 23 Jan (1988.050;SB\*,RTC).
- ✓ CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. One calling at Palos COO

- 15 May (1987.061;JM).
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** *Sphyrapicus varius*. One female of the "black-capped" phase Lincoln Park, Chicago COO 20 Apr (1986.122;JL). One male showing red on the nape at Busey Woods CHA 5 Apr (1987.062;RTC). The former appears to be the second report of this color phase from the state -- the only other record known to the Committee of the "black-capped" phase is a specimen (ISM 606296) which hit a window at Dickson Mounds FUL 16 Apr 1974 (H. D. Bohlen, pers. comm.). Since this phase is said to make up perhaps 13% of all adult females, it probably occurs more regularly in the state than these records suggest (see DeBenedictis 1979). The latter record is not a new phenomenon: For the history of records of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers with red on their napes in Illinois, see Landing (1987); see also Kaufmann (1988) and Gosselin et al (1988) for discussions of the identification of Red-naped Sapsuckers.
- NORTHERN (RED-SHAFTED) FLICKER** *Colaptes auratus*. A male was along the Cache River ALX 2 Jan (1987.005;RDP,MD). This bird showed the field marks of a pure "Red-shafted" phenotype.
- LEAST FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax minimus*. One in SAN 26 Oct-3 Nov (1987.125;HDB). Accepted after two rounds based on the call note, the prominent eyering, and the banding experience of the observer.
- EASTERN PHOEBE** *Sayornis phoebe*. One near Beechville CAL 20 Dec (1986.052;GTG).
- BARN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*. Two at Chouteau Is. MAD 11-12 Nov (1986.180;RG).
- BEWICK'S WREN** *Thryomanes bewickii*. Two at Makanda JAC 2-9 Aug (1986.182;DR).
- HOUSE WREN** *Troglodytes aedon*. One in UNI 3 Jan (1987.006;SKR). One at Lincoln Trail SP CLK 19 Dec (1987.154;DLS,DLSc).
- SEDGE WREN** *Cistothorus platensis*. Two at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 19 Dec (1987.155;JR).
- MARSH WREN** *Cistothorus palustris*. One at Theodore Marsh WIL 20 Dec (1986.053;JM\*) (photo published in AB 41:556). One at Springfield SAN 6 & 21 Dec (1986.054;RTC;HDB). One at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 19 Dec (1987.156;JR).
- HERMIT THRUSH** *Catharus guttatus*. One at Busse Woods COO 29 Dec (1986.055;ASz).
- GRAY CATBIRD** *Dumetella carolinensis*. One at Whiteash WLM 19 Dec (1987.158;GH).
- WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta*. One at Carlyle L. CLI 7 Jan (1987.033;HDB) seems to provide the only documented Jan occurrence for the state.
- NORTHERN SHRIKE** *Lanius excubitor*. One immature at Middle Fork F&WA VER 6 Dec (1987.126;JS).
- WHITE-EYED VIREO** *Vireo griseus*. One at Springfield SAN 21 Dec (1986.056;VK). This is the second winter record for the state.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO** *Vireo philadelphicus*. One at Lick Creek SAN 24 Apr (1987.067;HDB) was very early.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** *Vermivora pinus*. One at Windsor SHE 11 Nov (1986.214;YM) was extremely late.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** *Dendroica caerulescens*. One male at University of Illinois Campus CHA 14 Nov (1987.127;RTC) was quite late.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER** *Dendroica castanea*. One at L. Springfield SAN 13 Nov (1987.128;HDB).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER** *Helmitheros vermivorus*. One at Egger's Woods COO 14 Sep (1986.185;WM) provided an extremely unusual fall record for Northern Illinois.
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** *Geothlypis trichas*. One at Horseshoe L. ALX 2 Jan (1987.010;RTC). One at Union Co. CA UNI and one at Lyerla L. UNI 3 Jan 1987 ((1987.007;TF) and (1987.008;TF), respectively).
- CANADA WARBLER** *Wilsonia canadensis*. One apparently territorial male at Thatcher Woods FP COO 18 Jun-10 Jul (1987.088;VBy).
- BLUE GROSBEAK** *Guiraca caerulea*. One at Todd's Point SHE 29 Jul (1987.089;YM).
- INDIGO BUNTING** *Passerina cyanea*. One at Mermet L. CA MSS 22 Nov (1986.194;DR). One at Charleston COL 10 Jan (1987.036;VC\*).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** *Spizella pallida*. One at Carlyle L. CLI 14 Oct (1986.186;LH).
- VESPER SPARROW** *Poocetes gramineus*. One at Diswood ALX 2 Jan (1987.023;TF,DR). One at Oakwood Cemetery SAN 18 Jan (1987.037;HDB). Three in ALX 29 Dec (1987.163;RY).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW** *Passerculus sandwichensis*. One near Winchester LAK 1 Jan (1987.013;MM). One at intersection of Waukegan and Techny Roads COO 27 Dec (1987.165;LCB). One at Wadsworth LAK 1 Jan (1988.011;DBJ).
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW** *Ammodramus henslowii*. One at Horseshoe L. MAD 11 Oct (1986.187;RAB). One at Windsor SHE 9 May (1987.070;YM).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW** *Melospiza lincolni*. One at Crete WIL 3 Jan (1988.012;AD).
- HARRIS' SPARROW** *Zonotrichia querula*. One at Union Co. CA UNI 3 & 5 Jan (1987.015;RTC;DR).
- WESTERN MEADOWLARK** *Sturnella neglecta*. One in MOR 18 Dec (1987.166;RM).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. One male at Colp WLM 20 Dec (1986.058;LN). One male at Illinois Beach SP LAK 1-2 Jan (1987.017;TS). One first-year male at L. Springfield SAN 30 Jul (1987.091;HDB) (a first July record for the county).
- RED CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*. One female at Flat Rock CRA 3-11 Jun (1986.189;DLS\*).
- WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL** *Loxia leucoptera*. One male at Decatur MAC 20 Jan-5 Mar (1988.022;SBS,TF\*). Notice that an incorrect date span was published in IBB 4:70.
- HOUSE FINCH** *Carpodacus mexicanus*. Two at Plainfield WIL 20 Dec (1986.061;JM\*). Eight at Evanston COO 26 Dec (1986.062;RJP\*). Two at Steger WIL 3 Jan (1987.019;BBa). Two in COO 3 Jan (1987.020;JT). The Committee will no longer review records of this species.

## SPECIES UNRESOLVED

(9 records in 5 genera)

- WESTERN-TYPE GREBE** (*Aechmophorus*), SPECIES. Five at Gillson Park COO 12 Oct (1987.172). Two of these five were identified by the observers as Clark's Grebe, but the bill color was not positively determined, and the continual diving of the birds may have made the face pattern difficult to determine. The Committee did not wish to accept the second state record of Clark's Grebe without a description of the best field mark (bill color), although the face pattern described seemed diagnostic of Clark's.
- DARK IBIS** (*Plegadis*), SPECIES. One near Bismarck VER 27 Sep (1986.210;DW). One at Carlyle CLI 24 Oct (1987.101;JRL) was likely a Glossy, but should have been described in more detail for certain identification.
- JAEGER** (*Stercorarius*), SPECIES. One immature, identified by observers as Parasitic, L. Chautauqua NWR MSN 19-27 Oct (1985.120). One immature, identified by observers as Parasitic, Mississippi Palisades SP CAR 27 Sep (1986.173). One, identified by observer as Pomarine, Powerton L. TAZ 7 Oct (1987.113). The MSN record was almost certainly correct, but Long-tailed Jaeger was not entirely eliminated by the descriptions. It was published in AB 40:120 and IBB 2:51. The other two records provided much less detail, although the observers were again likely correct.
- RUFUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** *Selasphorus rufus* or *S. sasin*. One at Vir-den MCP 22-24 Nov (1986.179;RG,HDB,DO\*,LL\*). Photos of this bird proved it to be a juvenile female of either the Rufous or Allen's Hummingbirds (Rufous much more likely), and hence provides a first state record of the genus: See Goetz (1987) for complete details and photos; another photo appears in IBB 3:41. This record was unfortunately originally published as a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (AB 41:97).
- BLUE-WINGED X GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS** *Vermivora pinus* x *V. chrysoptera*. One, apparently a female Lawrence's, was at Urbana CHA 1 Sep (1986.184;RTC). A classic male Lawrence's paired with a female Blue-winged at Cherry Hill FP COO 15 May-9 Jun (1987.068;JM\*;JL\*) (photos appear in IBB 3:95 and AB 41:440).

## POTENTIAL FIRST STATE RECORDS UNACCEPTED

(3 records of 3 species)

- BAR-HEADED GOOSE** *Anser indicus*. One at Windfall L. VER 30 Dec 1987 into Feb 1988 (1987.140). In spite of this bird's seemingly wild behavior, no credible argument for the wild occurrence of this central Asian goose in Illinois seems possible.
- WILSON'S PLOVER** *Charadrius wilsonia*. One at Illinois Beach SP LAK 30 Aug

(1987.110). A brief description of basic field marks only, insufficiently detailed to establish a first state record. In particular, no consideration was given to the elimination of Mongolian Plover or young Killdeer. Identification actually made twenty-four hours after the observation.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*. One at L. Springfield SAN 3 Oct (1986.178).

The description of this bird was consistent with an immature Arctic Tern and provided several key field marks (especially the long white tips of the secondaries), but failed to make note of the primary patterning and the relative shape of the bird in flight. A one person sight record, so the species would only have been added to the hypothetical list even if accepted. It was published in IBB 2:41.

## REVIEW LIST RECORDS UNACCEPTED

(26 records of 17 species)

PACIFIC LOON *Gavia pacifica*. One at L. Vermilion VER 25-26 Nov (1986.207).

The only submitted description of this bird was obtained as the bird was in flight and could have pertained to almost any loon.

SWAINSON'S HAWK *Buteo swainsoni*. One dark phase in northwestern LEE 20 Dec (1986.033).

One dark phase at Lost Nation OGL 20 Dec (1986.034). Winter records of Swainson's Hawks are currently unknown from the state and would have to be thoroughly described to be accepted. Dark phase birds are not only more uncommon overall, but are also more difficult to identify. Neither of the above descriptions adequately differentiated the observed birds from the various dark phase Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks, and so were not accepted by the Committee. Consult Clark and Wheeler (1987) and Dunne et al (1988) for references on identification of raptors.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK *Buteo regalis*. One at Nashua-Oregon OGL 20 Dec (1986.035). One at Carrier Mills SAL 28 Dec (1986.202). One at Miss.R. L&D No. 18 HND 4 Apr (1987.048).

In all three cases, descriptions of immatures (at any rate, none with the rufous leggings of adults) did not completely eliminate "Kriders" Red-tailed Hawks, and a "Kriders" Red-tailed (with bare yellow tarsi) was seen at the OGL location by independent observers within a few days. Observers are urged to be very thorough in describing possible Ferruginous Hawks: see Bohlen (1986), Lish and Voelker (1986), Clark and Wheeler (1987), and Dunne et al (1988).

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus*. One, presumably gray phase, Gillson Park COO 17 Nov (1985.101).

One white phase at Cave-in-Rock HAR 7 Feb (1987.029). The COO record was likely correct (unaccepted only after four rounds of voting), but it was seen only briefly in good light, several of the best field marks of Gyrfalcons were missing from the description (especially the tail length and shape), and the described proportion of the tail covered by the wings on the perched bird was incorrect. It was published in AB 40:119. For the HAR record, note that as far as the Committee is aware, there are no confirmed Southern Illinois records of this species, and only two records of white phase Gyrfalcons in the state overall, so a white Gyrfalcon in Southern Illinois in a mild winter would need a more clear and thorough description to be convincing.

PRAIRIE FALCON *Falco mexicanus*. One in WIN 6 Nov (1985.102). One in extreme southwest JAC 9 May (1987.130).

For the WIN record, after two rounds, a majority of the Committee felt that Gyrfalcon was not eliminated by the description. In particular, it was deemed odd that the color and pattern of the underparts and even the color of the legs were noted on this low-level fly-by, while the dark axillars and underwing coverts of a Prairie Falcon were not seen; Gyrfalcon was apparently not considered by the observer. The record was published in AB 40:119 and IBB 2:45. The JAC record was a distant sighting, likely correct, but providing too little detail for a potential latest spring date for the state, especially from this extreme southern locality.

RUFFED GROUSE *Bonasa umbellus*. One at Waterfall Glen DUP 9 May (1987.131). Very little detail provided, although by an experienced observer.

Even assuming correct identification, the bird was probably an escape from a nearby gun club, as the observer suggests.

BLACK RAIL *Laterallus jamaicensis*. One at Danville VER 19 Apr (1987.050).

Two at McGinnis Slough COO 15 Apr-9 May (1987.133). One at L. Chautauqua NWR MSN 13 Aug (1987.109). The VER record was not accepted since identification was based solely on apparent size -- it was only seen flying into the setting sun, so coloration was unreliable. The date is also extremely early for Black Rail, more appropriate for Yellow Rail. The COO record was

unaccepted since no binoculars were used, the habitat was somewhat inappropriate, the initial date was extremely early, and since it was not reported to other observers promptly. The MSN record was unaccepted since it was seen very briefly, with no substantial plumage description; juvenile rails were eliminated by the observer only by the timing of the growth of the grasses the bird was seen in, not by any actual physical characteristics.

PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyryla martinica*. One immature at Mernmet L. CA MSS 6 and 10 Aug (1986.164). Although this record may have been correct, the brief description of a brief encounter included too little detail in general, while the described back color (dull tan) differs considerably from the olive green found on immature Purple Gallinules.

MARbled GODWIT *Limosa fedoa*. One at Milan ROC 21 Apr (1987.055). Although likely correct, the observer saw this bird without binoculars while driving by at 60 mph, and the Committee felt this left too much chance for error.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. One at Clinton L. DEW 7 Nov (1987.116). Details were consistent with an adult of this species, but because of the great distance and brevity of the sighting, Committee members felt the details were too general for acceptance of this species.

MEW GULL *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*. One immature at Crab Orchard L. WLM 22 Nov (1986.064). One, described as a second-winter, Jackson Park, Chicago, COO 11 Dec (1987.169). One first-winter at Horseshoe L. MAD 14 Feb (1988.018).

The WLM bird was photographed, and although the bird was certainly small for a Ring-billed Gull, the photograph in combination with a written description eliminate all ages of *L. c. brachyrhynchus*. Although first-winter nominate *canus* could not be completely eliminated, it is virtually certain that the bird was a small first-winter Ring-billed Gull. The COO bird was incompletely described; in particular, the most important field mark of the Mew Gull, the darker mantle color in comparison to Ring-billed Gull, was not mentioned, while other important features, such as size, bill shape, and the patterning of the primaries, were not described in sufficient detail. On the other hand, the combination of dark eye and broken tail band perhaps favor Mew Gull over Ring-billed Gull. Finally, the MAD bird was likely correct, but again the description lacked a comparison of the mantle color to that of the nearby Ring-billeds, and failed to discuss the patterning of the underparts, underwings and tail in sufficient detail. See Lauro and Spencer (1980), Grant (1986), and Vinicombe (1988) for references on the identification of this species and the complications provided by Ring-billed Gull.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. One at Powerton L. TAZ 6 Feb (1985.050). This was most likely a correct sighting (published in IBB 1:69 and AB 39:173), but there was no specific judgment of how the mantle color would have compared to similar species, while the size was said to be the same as the surrounding Herring Gulls and the bird was said to completely lack head streaking. These last two characteristics are atypical of winter Lesser Black-backed Gulls and were also shown by a gull thought by experts to be a likely hybrid Herring x Lesser Black-backed, which was found at Joliet about 22 months later (1986.196 -- stay tuned). There is some possibility that these were even the same birds.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini*. One at Carlyle L. CLI 27 Oct (1987.122). Seen at a great distance under very windy conditions, with the wing pattern not always being visible. Said to be an adult, but the head pattern described was inappropriate.

WESTERN KINGBIRD *Tyrannus verticalis*. One in MCP 30 Aug (1987.124). Not enough description to eliminate other yellow-bellied kingbirds, although none of these are very likely to occur in Illinois. Published in IBB 4:44 and AB 42:83.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD *Sialia currucoides*. Three in SAL 30 Apr (1987.064) were not accepted due to the combination of rather late spring date, extraordinary number, and the inexperience of the observers. However, the details were correct as written and the record could well be correct.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE *Quiscalus mexicanus*. One at Pere Marquette SP JER 7 Feb (1987.038). This was a large grackle seen only very briefly (and one observer saw only the tail). Although the sighting could well be correct, Boat-tailed Grackle could not be eliminated by the information gathered, and most Members felt that more thorough descriptions and a longer period of observation would be necessary for an acceptable second state record.

PINE GROSBELK *Pipilo enucleator*. One male at Georgetown VER 2 Jan (1988.013). Very little description considering the rarity of this species in this portion of the state, especially in a non-flight year.



## OTHER UNACCEPTED RECORDS

(44 records of 30 species)

- GREAT BLUE HERON *Ardea herodias*. One at Utica LAS 28 Dec (1986.009). A heron flying by in silhouette, not identifiable from the description given.
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. One at St. Charles KAN 20 Dec (1986.013). Diagnostic details eliminating some domestic geese (especially black barring on breast of adult) were not presented in the documentation.
- ✓ BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*. Three at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 19 Dec (1987.141). One at Collins L. WIL 2 Jan (1988.001). Both of these Christmas Bird Count records were briefly and confusingly described.
- ✓ CINNAMON x BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas cyanoptera* x *Anas discors*. One teal at Clinton L. DEW 18 Apr (1987.042). The Committee felt the details did not conclusively eliminate Blue-winged Teal because of the distance and the brevity of the sighting.
- LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*. One at Geneva DUP 20 Dec (1986.017). Greater Scaup was not eliminated by the description.
- COMMON MERGANSER *Mergus merganser*. 3 at FermiLab DUP 20 Dec (1986.019). A very brief description of fly-bys.
- OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. One at Cordova ROC 21 Dec (1987.149). Although observers reported that they saw the bird well, they did not actually describe it.
- COOPER'S HAWK *Accipiter cooperii*. One at Wild Rose Girl Scout Camp KAN 20 Dec (1986.026). One at Mount Hope Cemetery COO 27 Dec (1986.025). For the former record, the brief description did not rule out other accipiters or even indicate if the bird was an adult or an immature. For the latter record, a majority of the Committee felt that Sharp-shinned Hawk was not adequately ruled out. Size is difficult to judge, especially without direct comparison, and the tail shape and other factors were not described well in this case.
- ✓ NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*. One on the CAS/MSN line 18 Dec (1986.028). One at Big River SF HND 19 Dec (1986.030). One immature at Sand Ridge SF MSN 27 Dec (1986.095). One adult at Pine Hills UNI 12 Apr (1987.047). The CAS/MSN record was given only the briefest of descriptions and so could not be accepted. The HND record pertained to a brief encounter without specification of size or indication why the bird was an accipiter. The MSN bird could possibly have been a Cooper's Hawk: it was described as somewhat smaller than an adult Goshawk it was chasing, while no diagnostic plumage details were noted. The final bird was thought by some (nondocumenting) observers to be a Northern Harrier, the underparts were described as "almost white", and the face pattern was not noted. This would have been a very late occurrence for Southern Illinois.
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK *Buteo lagopus*. One near Warsaw HAN 27 Sep (1987.105). A very brief description, deemed insufficient for such an early arrival.
- ✓ GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*. One at Hidden Springs SF SHE 11 Feb (1987.026). Not enough plumage description provided to eliminate immature Bald Eagle.
- ✓ MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. One at Evergreen L. McL 20 Dec (1986.039). One at Carlyle L. CLI 25 Jan (1987.027). One along the Illinois R. in JER 30 Jan (1988.015). None of these records convincingly ruled out accipiters.
- ✓ PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*. One at McCook COO 7 Aug (1986.213). One southwest of Homer CHA 20 Dec (1986.040). One at Montrose Harbor COO 17 Jan (1987.028). Two at MTNWR CAL 18 Jul (1987.079). One immature at Peoria PEO 19 Jul (1987.078). Both COO records and the PEO record were certainly correctly identified, but the Committee thought it most likely that these records pertained to released birds. This was almost certainly the case with the McCook and Peoria birds, because the excellent descriptions of very dark juvenile plumage, combined with the summer dates, virtually eliminated the migrant race, *F.p.tundrius*. The identification of the CHA and CAL records was based entirely on flight silhouette.
- ✓ GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. One first-winter at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 14-17 Feb (1986.084). The less than overwhelming size, somewhat wider than expected tail band, and the reported presence of prominent pale windows in the inner primaries left the Committee unconvinced that this was not a worn first-winter Herring Gull. Published in IBB 2:76.
- ✓ LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*. One at Horseshoe L. MAD 9 Aug (1985.142). Identification based almost entirely on bill color, which seems unlikely to have been visible on a bird seen briefly in flight at a distance of 200 yards.
- ✓ LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. One at Spring L. CAR 9 May (1987.134). This bird was only heard calling: the two isolated single hoots described did not seem convincing to a majority of the Committee, since the species is supposed to give a series of hoots (see Eckert and Karalus 1987).
- PURPLE MARTIN *Progne subis*. Two at Burnham COO 12 Oct (1986.193) were very briefly described, and could have been almost any swallow.
- BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE *Parus atricapillus*. One at Makanda JAC 31 Dec (1985.178). Although this bird was banded, and the correct wing:tail ratio for a female Black-capped was observed, the Committee retained some doubt, both because of the difficulty of reproduction of these particular measurements and the existence of backcross hybrid birds with overlapping measurements (Mark Robbins, pers. comm.). The record was published in AB 40:288. A specimen is needed to confirm this species for extreme Southern Illinois.
- ✓ NORTHERN SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. One in VER 1 Apr (1987.066). One north of Chillicothe in MSL 19 Dec (1987.159). The former record lacked sufficient detail to eliminate Loggerhead, which is perhaps more likely on this date even in Northern Illinois. Windy conditions also detracted from the record. The latter bird was seen at 200 yards in a light drizzle, and after two rounds a majority of the Committee felt that these conditions would make the identification of shrikes too uncertain. Details nonetheless suggested Northern.
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER *Dendroica coronata*. One at Big River SF HND 19 Dec (1986.057). The documenting observer in this case was not able to hear the chip note used to identify the bird by an accompanying observer. Not a completely unexpected occurrence, and almost certainly correct, but documented by wrong observer.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica*. One at N. Park NP COO 12 Apr (1986.129). A brief description of only a few field marks. Likely correct, given experience of nondocumenting observers, and it took the Committee three rounds to unaccept the record.
- PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus*. One at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 19 Dec (1987.160). Seen only from underneath, so presence of wingbars not ascertained. Description might have fit a number of species, although all of them are less likely to occur in December in a Southern Illinois pine grove than Pine Warbler.
- KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus*. One at Horseshoe L. MAD 14 Feb (1987.035). Although the description was ostensibly diagnostic of this species, the bird was only briefly glimpsed, making it impossible to accept this completely unprecedented record.
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT *Geothlypis trichas*. One at State Pond UNI 3 Jan (1987.009). Almost certainly a correct sighting given competence of observers, but the description was too brief to rule out other species of warblers.
- ✓ VESPER SPARROW *Poocetes gramineus*. One at Johnston City WLM 19 Dec (1987.164). Pipsits and longspurs not eliminated by description.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW *Melospiza lincolni*. One in WIL 3 Jan (1987.014). Some Members thought the description sounded more like an immature Swamp Sparrow, although the record could well have been correct.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW *Zonotrichia albicollis*. One singing (not seen) at Urbana CHA 5 Jul (1987.090). Almost certainly correct, but because this would be one of the southernmost summer records for the state, it was felt that an actual sighting would have been desirable.
- EASTERN MEADOWLARK *Sturnella magna*. One in WIL 3 Jan (1987.016). The brief description did not eliminate Western Meadowlark.
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus*. One near the Kankakee R. in GRU 28 Dec (1986.059) was likely correct, but some contradictions or confusions in the description caused unacceptance on a split decision after two rounds.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. Six (four males, two females) near the Kankakee R. in GRU 28 Dec (1986.060). One male in ALX 2 Jan (1987.018). Fifty at the WLM Airport 19 Dec (1987.167). For the GRU record, the females, more easily identified than males of this species, were unfortunately not described at all, while the males were not conclusively described. The ALX record was very likely correct, but the distance of the sighting and the brief description left the Committee unconvinced after two rounds. The WLM birds were not well enough described for such an astounding quantity -- once again the females were not described at all.

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## CLIFF SWALLOW COLONIES IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

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The southern Illinois Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) population has undergone some intriguing changes since settlement times. During the 1880's, Ridgway (1887) considered Cliff Swallows to be common summer residents in the Mt. Carmel area. However, by 1910 they had declined to the point that Ridgway (1915) called them rare in southern Illinois. The decline has continued until recent times. Graber et al. (1972) thought the population was still "receding to the north" and felt that most of Illinois' breeding Cliff Swallows resided in northwest Illinois. Nearby, in Kentucky, Mengel (1965) called Cliff Swallows "now very rare in summer".

Current evidence indicates that the Cliff Swallow population is now expanding. Breeding Bird Survey data show an increase in the eastern United States population and a range extension into southeastern states which formerly had no breeding Cliff Swallows (Robbins et al. 1986). This increase has also been observed in Illinois. A 1988 survey of bridges in twelve of the seventeen southernmost Illinois counties revealed 2,384 Cliff Swallow nests in fifteen colonies (Figure 1); a definite change from Bohlen's

(1978) description of the species as a "rare summer resident" in the south.

Eastern Cliff Swallows have used cliffs, barns, dams, and bridges for nesting sites (Graber et al. 1972). There are apparently no well-known cliff or barn colonies in southern Illinois, however. Eifrig (1937) and Campbell (1940) thought Cliff Swallows were declining because paint on barns prevented nests from sticking well. Barn colonies are certainly less common today than in the past (see Hammond 1939). Presently, bridges provide exceptional nesting sites near foraging areas and Cliff Swallows have responded to the relatively new nesting habitats. All colonies in the southern Illinois survey region were on bridges, except for one at Smithland Lock and Dam in Pope County.

Thirty-five bridges were checked in May and June, 1988, for Cliff Swallow nests. Table 1 lists sites surveyed which lacked colonies. When nests were found they were observed with binoculars or spotting scope until a determination of occupancy status could be established. A nest was considered to be occupied if Cliff Swallows were: 1) seen in the nest; 2) alighting at the nest