

THIRD REPORT OF THE ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

by Ronald E. Goetz

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) are reported here for a total of 164 records, including 134 Accepted records of 84 species, and 30 Unaccepted records of 27 species. A total of 110 observers contributed descriptions or photographs documenting the records in this report. The acceptance rate for the records contained herein is 81.7%; the overall acceptance rate for the 748 IORC decisions published in the first three reports is 79.7%.

The Third Report provides a change of pace from previous reports. It contains only slightly more than half the number of records published in the Second Report, but the percentage of Review List records has risen considerably. Moreover, it contains the Committee's first published decisions on older records (prior to 1982); the IORC is attempting at least to review all records, new or old, which might affect the status of a species on the Illinois State List, so it is likely that decisions on older records will be a prominent feature of the reports for some time. In this report, 105 of the records are current (i.e., from the period March 1988 through February 1989).

Format: The records below are divided into two major groups: Accepted and Unaccepted. These 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 rarities. The Species Unresolved category used in Goetz and Robinson (1988) and Goetz (1989) has been eliminated by popular demand: only one of the records herein would have been placed in that category previously, and it is now treated as an accepted record of the superspecies Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird.

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 (many photographers submitted written descriptions as well as photos, a practice we certainly encourage). 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 (because of limited space, initial observers are not listed here if they did not submit documentation). For specimen records, a sharp (#) precedes an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen and the catalogue number of the specimen.

Similar information is provided for Unaccepted Records, except the observers remain anonymous, and a brief explanation of why the record was not accepted is made.

All other annotations except those noted above are the author's, 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; references to Illinois Audubon Bulletin are abbreviated IAB, followed by issue number and page number. Months are abbreviated by their first three letters. County abbreviations follow Kleen (1985): Adams (ADM), Alexander (ALX), Calhoun (CAL), Champaign (CHA), Clinton (CLI), Cook (COO), De Witt (DEW), Du Page (DUP), Fayette (FAY), Franklin (FRA), Fulton (FUL), Grundy (GRU), Hancock (HAN), Henderson (HND), Henry (HNR), Jackson (JAC), Jefferson (JEF), Jersey (JER), Kane (KAN), Knox (KNO), Lake (LAK), La Salle (LAS), Lee (LEE), Logan (LOG), McDonough (McD), Macon (MAC), Madison (MAD), Mason (MSN), Marshall (MSL), Morgan (MOR), Ogle (OGL), Peoria (PEO), Piatt (PIA), Randolph (RAN), Richland (RIC), Rock Island (ROC), Saline (SAL), Sangamon (SAN), Stephenson (STE), Tazewell (TAZ), Union (UNI), Whiteside (WHS), Will (WIL), Williamson (WLM).

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, 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 Palmer. Sue B. Stroyls was a member during the initial evaluation of a few of the records contained in this report, and the initial evaluations of several other records included here were done by the IORC Steering Committee, including Joel Greenberg, David B. Johnson, Dennis W. Jones, and John Robinson (Secretary), as well as Bohlen, Kleen, and Palmer.

Review List: As in past reports, the Review List is provided to indicate those records which we are most interested in reviewing: it consists roughly of those species on the state list 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. The current version has five fewer species than the one in the second report. First, species listed only as Hypothetical in Bohlen (1989) have been deleted from the Illinois State List, at least until reinstated by acceptance of a record by the Committee. Thus, Black Swift and Painted Bunting have been deleted from the Review List. In addition, at its annual meeting 13 August 1989 the IORC voted to delete Ross' Goose, Marbled Godwit, and Laughing Gull from the Review List, as these species were deemed to be too regular in the state to warrant documentation and review of all records. Species followed by an asterisk (*) have not yet had any records reviewed and accepted by the IORC; their inclusion is based on acceptance by Bohlen (1989). Species enclosed in parentheses are included 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; 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 Mississippi R. to Adams County) Kite; Swainson's (except Kane County) 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;

Sharp-tailed, Purple, and Curlew Sandpiper; Ruff; Red Phalarope; Pomarine, Parasitic and Long-tailed* Jaeger; Little (except L. Michigan), Common Black-headed, Mew, California, Iceland (except Cook County), 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; Barn, Northern Hawk, Burrowing and Boreal Owl; 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; Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Kirtland's and Swainson's (except Shawnee NF) Warbler; Hepatic and Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli 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*.

Of course, all records of species not accepted in Bohlen (1989) should be documented in full, and, as always, documentation of regular species may be appropriate in certain portions of the state or on exceptional dates.

Acknowledgements. This report would not have been possible without the help of all past and present Committee members, the continuing interest in the Committee's work of many other Illinois birders, and especially the submission of documentation for bird sightings by the contributors listed above. Special thanks go to Vernon M. Kleen and H. David Bohlen for coordinating access to material from the Avian Ecology files at the Illinois Department of Conservation Natural Heritage Division, and the bird collections at the ISM, respectively, and to David B. Johnson for helping to locate published photographs. The author has profited from correspondence concerning records committee procedures with Laurence C. Binford, Thomas H. Kent, and Don Roberson. Corrections and comments on drafts of this manuscript were provided by Phoebe Snetsinger, W. Douglas Robinson, Richard Palmer, David B. Johnson, James Landing, and Eric Walters. Evaluations and opinions of some of the records in this report were provided by Laurence C. Binford, William S. Clark, Guy McCaskie, and Thede Tobish. Additional information has been provided by Richard Anderson and Robert G. Fisher.

REVIEW LIST RECORDS ACCEPTED (98 records of 57 species)

- RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata*. One in basic plumage at Horseshoe L. MAD 11-12 Mar (1988.024;RG).
- PACIFIC LOON *Gavia pacifica*. One juvenile at L. Decatur MAC 7-13 Nov (1988.066;MD;RDP).
- RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*. One adult in alternate plumage at L. Decatur MAC 13 Apr (1988.025;MD;RDP). Two adults in basic plumage at Clinton L. DEW 13 Nov (1988.067;RDP;MD) with one still present 19 Nov (RTC).
- CLARK'S GREBE *Aechmophorus clarkii*. One at Horseshoe L. MAD 24 Nov-14 Dec (1983.001;RG,PS). This is the only record of this species for the state to date: for details, see Goetz (MS). This species was considered a color morph of the Western Grebe until 1985 (A.O.U., 1985).
- NORTHERN GANNET *Morus bassanus*. One first-winter immature at Powerton L. TAZ 19-20 Nov (1983.002;TP,LA;JM,JR,JL,DBJ). This is the only record of this species for the state to date; complete details and DBJ's sketch can be found in Pucelik (1984). Indistinct photos by DBJ cannot be found at this time.
- BROWN PELICAN *Pelecanus occidentalis*. One adult male in FAY 19 Jun (1916.001;BFS;#ISM 605934). There were five Illinois reports of this species through 1989 (Bohlen 1989), but this seems to be the only one with substantial extant evidence.
- TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor*. One at Jackson Park, Chicago COO 8 May (1988.051;HR). One adult at Horseshoe L. MAD 23 Jul-4 Aug (1988.058;DSB*;RG) (photos are too distant to be diagnostic but support the identification). One adult at Allerton Park PIA 27 Aug (1988.069;JCC,HS;EC). The latter seems to be a first county record.
- WHITE IBIS *Eudocimus albus*. One immature at Rice L. CA FUL 24 Jul-4 Aug (1988.101;MJB). Apparently the first county record.
- GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*. One adult in alternate plumage at Horse shoe L. (Eagle Park) MAD 28 Jun-8 Jul (1988.059;DSB*;RG,RDP,RA*).

Submitted photos are diagnostic only to genus.

WOOD STORK *Mycteria americana*. One immature in FAY 28 Jul (1898.001;BFS;#ISM 605969). This is one of very few extant specimens of this species for Illinois. This species was once rather regular in late summer in Southern Illinois (Bohlen 1989), but has become extremely rare over the last 25 to 40 years.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor*. One, just northeast of Route 3 and the Big Muddy R. in southwestern JAC 24-31 Aug (1974.001;RM;VK,CTC,LGB). Twenty-five or twenty-six at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation KAN 17 May (1979.001;RAM*,BT) (photo of 16 of these birds appears in IAB 190:27). Details on the former record appear in Madding and Bell (1975). The latter record has been mistakenly published as 22 birds on 18 May, but written documentations are dated 17 May and indicate 25 and 26 birds, respectively. The records above are the first acceptable records of this species in Illinois since 1933, and perhaps the only completely unambiguous records through 1989.

CINNAMON TEAL *Anas cyanoptera*. One drake at Banner Marsh FUL 23-24 Apr (1988.028;MD*;RDP;MJB). One drake at Stump L. JER 1 May (1988.052;RA). The latter seems to be the latest spring record ever for the state (by one day).

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*. One drake at L. Calumet COO 24 Apr (1988.029;JL*).

COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima*. One immature male at Sterling WHS 11 Mar-8 Apr (1978.001;BS;LGB,AD,DBJ*,RDP*). This was only the fifth report for Illinois, and the only record to date since 1960. The photos are considered to be diagnostic only because of the distinctive silhouette of this species — transparencies are on file at the ISM (DBJ) and the IORC Archive (RDP). Although it is doubtful that the subspecies could be positively determined from the evidence now available, it is interesting to note that this bird had narrow, pointed bill processes, and so would not seem to be from the common northeastern race *S. m. dresseri* (contra Bohlen 1989); LGB believed that the most likely subspecies was *S. m. borealis* (Balch, et al. 1979).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE *Bucephala islandica*. One adult male at Belmont Harbor, Chicago COO 26 Dec (1956.001;LCB). One adult male, various locations on the Mississippi R. from Alton MAD almost to Grafton JER 15-22 Jan (1973.003;VK). One immature male in Grant Park, Chicago COO 22 Feb (1975.005;CS). One adult female at Chouteau Is. MAD 8 Jan (1977.002;JE,DMJ). One immature male at Great Lakes Naval Base LAK 3 Mar (1985.028;RB,MB). The Committee is grateful to Thede Tobish and LCB for examining the descriptions of the immatures and female above; although all of these records were acceptable, we remind observers to be extremely thorough in documenting immatures and females — see Tobish (1986) for identification criteria.

BLACK VULTURE *Coragyps atratus*. One at Marshall County CA MSL 22 Jun (1982.010;MMS). This was the second of the three records for Northern Illinois, and was indeed only slightly north of Central Illinois.

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE *Elanoides forficatus*. One at several localities along the Illinois R. in FUL and MSN 7-10 May (1982.003;RBj,TP,LA). Only the second modern record of this species in Illinois.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis*. One adult east of La Salle LAS 19 May (1988.032;JMcK).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK *Buteo regalis*. One adult at Joliet WIL 24 Dec (1971.001;LCB;CTC,LGB,WT). One adult in MSN 19 Dec (1981.001;VK). One adult at Lincoln LOG 23 & 30 Jan (1984.016;KR). These seem to be the only sight records of this species prior to 1988 with sufficient evidence to be acceptable.

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus*. One, apparently gray phase, at L. Clinton DEW 19 Mar (1988.033;RTC).

PRAIRIE FALCON *Falco mexicanus*. One at Carlyle L. CLI 1 Oct (1988.074;JVB); this was a very early fall date, but the bird did not seem to be an escaped individual. One immature at the south end of L. Springfield SAN 4 Dec (1988.136;HDB). One north of New Boston MER 19 Dec (1988.110;BLB). One near Lane DEW 4 Feb (1989.004;MD,RDP). One 1 mile west of New Berlin SAN 9-11 Feb (1989.013;HDB).

BLACK-NECKED STILT *Himantopus mexicanus*. One at Mendenhall-Bartonville PEO 24 May (1988.034;LA). One at L. Calumet COO 10 & 17 Jun (1988.061;WM,JL*,JM*). JL's photo of the latter appears in AB 42:1295 and IBB 4:86.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. One reeve at Mark Twain NWR CAL 24 Apr (1988.037;SR;HW). One molting male east of Victoria KNO 27 Apr

- (1988.038;MJB). One reeve at Crest Hill WIL 29 Apr (1988.039;JM) (a first county record; photo published in IBB 4:86 and AB 42:371). One adult, either a large reeve or a molting male, at Rice L. CA FUL 30 Jul (1988.062;RTC,RDP). One adult, probably a molting male, at Horseshoe L. MAD 17-25 Aug (1988.076;RG,RK*) (the photos only support the identification). One molting male at Rice L. CA FUL 20 Aug (1988.077;SB;MJB).
- RED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus fulicaria*. One in basic plumage at E. Fork L. RIC 18 Oct (1988.078;LH*). Apparently a first county record.
- POMARINE JAEGER** *Stercorarius pomarinus*. One juvenile at L. Decatur MAC 1-16 Oct (1988.079;MD*;RDP,RTC,JM*). One juvenile at L. Springfield SAN 6-15 Oct (1988.100;DO*). In both cases, photos show the striking pale crescents on the underprimary coverts which have proved to be a very important field mark for this species in juvenile plumage; moreover, the shape of the central rectrices and all other field marks were well noted. For the state of the art in identification of juvenile jaegers, see Olsen (1989).
- PARASITIC JAEGER** *Stercorarius parasiticus*. One juvenile at E. Fork L. RIC 29-30 Sep (1988.080;LH). One juvenile at Carlyle L. CLI 6 Oct (1988.081;RG). These seem to be the first acceptably documented records of this species from Southern Illinois. Again, see Olsen (1989) for identification criteria.
- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus*. One adult in basic plumage at Alton MAD 10-22 Sep (1988.085;DZB;RG). One adult in basic plumage (possibly but not necessarily the same individual as in 1988.085) at Clinton L. DEW 13 Oct 1988-22 Jan 1989 (1988.086;MD*;RDP*,JM*,RTC). These records were the third for Southern and second for Central Illinois, respectively; note that Peterjohn (1989) treats these records as being of the same bird.
- ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucoideus*. One at Peoria TAZ 17-19 Dec (1988.113;LA). One first winter at L. Chautauqua NWR MSN 23 Dec (1988.114;LA,MJB,HDB). See below for L. Michigan records.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus*. One adult molting into basic plumage at L. Springfield SAN 17 Sep-27 Nov (1988.088;MD,RDP*,DO*). One adult molting into basic plumage at Carlyle L. CLI 22 Sep-20 Nov (1988.089;LH;DZB,RG). One adult at Alton MAD 4-23 Dec 1988 (1988.115;RG*) (photo appears in IBB 5:69); presumably the same bird was at Hartford MAD 9 Feb and at Alton 18 Feb 1989. One adult at Peoria PEO 17-19 Dec (1988.116;LA).
- SLATY-BACKED GULL** *Larus schistisagus*. One adult in basic plumage on the Mississippi R. from St. Louis, MO to Alton MAD 20 Dec 1983-29 Jan 1984 (1983.004;BR,RG,PS;LA,JM,LH*,JP*,DU*). This was the first record of this species to be confirmed east of the Pacific Ocean. Complete details, including identification criteria and diagnostic photos by DU, are in Goetz, et al. (1986); see also Snetsinger, et al. (1984); another photo (LH) appears in IAB 209:35, but notice that an incorrect span of dates was given there.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*. One at Channahon WIL 19 Oct (1988.090;JM*). One first-winter at Clinton L. DEW 13-19 Nov (1988.091;MD;RDP,RTC). The former was an early arrival and a first WIL record — the photo was considered supportive of the identification only (taken as the bird was flying away). See below for L. Michigan record.
- ROSS' GULL** *Rhodostethia rosea*. One adult in basic plumage at Chicago COO 19 Nov-1 Dec (1978.002;DBJ,HDB,RB*). This was the first inland United States record of this species, and it remains the only record for Illinois. Complete details and diagnostic photographs appear in Balch, et al. (1979).
- SABINE'S GULL** *Xema sabini*. One juvenile at Gillson Park, Wilmette COO 13 Sep (1955.001;LCB). One juvenile at Rice L. CA FUL 1-12 Sep (1988.103;MJB). Up to seven juveniles at L. Springfield SAN 18-21 Sep (1988.092;MD,RDP); the documenting observers noted up to 6, but apparently 7 were present (Bohlen 1989), tying the previous state high count. Three juveniles at Carlyle L. CLI 24 Sep (1988.093;DZB).
- ROYAL TERN** *Sterna maxima*. One adult in full nuptial plumage at Montrose Beach, Chicago COO 13 Jul (1988.064;RDH;WH*). This was the second confirmed record for the state; the photo appears on the back covers of IBB 4, No. 3 and No. 4, and in AB 42:1224.
- ANCIENT MURRELET** *Synthliboramphus antiquus*. One injured bird found along a roadside near Macomb McD 16 Nov (1961.001;TBa;ISM 603842) (see Balding 1964 for details and Munyer 1965 for discussion of inland records). One on L. Michigan at Wilmette and Evanston COO 16 & 20-21 Nov (1982.004;GR;JL,DBJ*) (see Rosenband 1983 for complete details and a photo; a second photo appears in IAB 204:54). These two records are the only reports of alcids in Illinois.
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE** *Columbina passerina*. One killed by a cat in Carbondale JAC 26 Nov (1977.001;ISM 606695); only the head and wings of this specimen could be preserved. This is one of two Illinois specimens of this species (among ten or fewer records).
- BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*. Two of five young reportedly fledged from nest near Tilden RAN were photographed 9 Jul (1988.065;RDP*) (although a total of 6 young were photographed in the nest by TF); apparently first noted at this location 13 Apr (IBB 5:16). One at Sanganois CA MSN 27 Dec (1988.120;KR).
- RUFUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** *Selasphorus rufus/S. sasin*. One immature female at Macomb McD 29 Aug-7 Sep (1988.096;EF,EF*;DO*). This was the second photographic record of this superspecies in the state; once again, it was not possible to determine which of the two species was involved from the evidence available (cf. Goetz 1987).
- WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE** *Contopus sordidulus*. One adult calling at L. Springfield SAN 8 Oct (1982.005;HDB). Although this bird was seen by several observers, the distinctive call was heard by only one observer, and so the species is added only to the Hypothetical List on the basis of this record. Details appear in Bohlen (1983). A number of Members feel that this species should not be added to the state list without a recording of a bird calling.
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus cinerascens*. One adult female at Washington Park, Springfield SAN 2-9 Nov (1973.002;HDB;VK,LGB;ISM 605794). This is the only record for the state, and one of very few records from inland eastern North America — see Bohlen (1975).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** *Tyrannus forficatus*. One at Woods Branch Hollow CAL 9 May (1987.135;CG).
- ROCK WREN** *Salpinctes obsoletus*. One at Montrose Harbor, Chicago COO 8-11 Oct (1988.098;JB*,HH;JM*,JL*,EW*). Two of JM's photos were published, on the cover of IBB 4, No. 3 and in AB 43:27, and EW's photo appears in IBB 5:48. This was the ninth Illinois record.
- MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** *Sialia currucoides*. One female at Sangchris L. SP SAN 9-11 Apr (1982.006;HDB;JA*). One male at L. Le-Aqua-Na SP STE 8 Jan (1983.005;HDB;MH*). These were the first confirmed records for the state. See Bohlen (1982) for details and photo of the former. The photo of the latter is on file at the ISM.
- TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** *Myadestes townsendi*. One at Springfield SAN 15 Jan-21 Feb (1978.004;HDB;RDP*;ISM 606698). One of the southernmost verified records for the state, and one of only two extant specimens.
- VARIED THRUSH** *Ixoreus naevius*. One, likely an immature male, at Washington Park, Springfield SAN 14 Jan-2 Mar (1987.032;HDB;DO*). The photograph is on file at the ISM.
- SAGE THRASHER** *Oreoscoptes montanus*. One at Winnetka COO 26 Dec 1969-8 Mar 1970 (1969.002;JA*). This was the second of three records for the state, discovered on the Chicago North Shore Christmas Bird Count by LCB. The photograph reviewed by the IORC was taken 17 Jan 1970 and is on file at the ISM.
- BOHEMIAN WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*. One at Morton Arboretum DUP 9 Dec 1951-3 Feb 1952 (1951.001;LCB). One window-killed specimen at Springfield SAN 22 Dec (1972.001;ISM 605448).
- BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER** *Dendroica nigrescens*. One male at Carpenter Park, Springfield SAN 3 May (1975.002;HDB). One female or immature at the University of Illinois Campus, Urbana CHA 6 Sep (1975.003;JCF). One female along the North Shore Channel, Chicago COO 2-10 May (1984.020;RB;JL*,RE,JM*). These were the third, fourth and fifth reports for the state. For details on the first sighting, see Bohlen (1976); for details and a photo of the latter bird, see Landing and Biss (1984). Photos of the latter were also published in IAB 210:41 (JL) and AB 38:919 (JM).
- TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** *Dendroica townsendi*. One female at Jackson Park, Chicago COO 6 May (1980.002;PC;RG,JMu). One male at Jacksonville MOR 2 May (1982.007;JCP;ST*). These are the only two records for the state. Photos of the latter are on file at the ISM.
- KIRTLAND'S WARBLER** *Dendroica kirtlandii*. One at Lincoln Park, Chicago COO 26 Sep (1978.003;EA). One of few well-described sight records for the state, and one of only two published records in fall.
- LAZULI BUNTING** *Passerina amoena*. One adult male in basic plumage at Elgin KAN 17-21 Dec (1973.001;RAM*,LGB*). This bird, splendidly

- photographed while coming to a feeder, provides the only documented record of this species in the state to date. A photo was published in AB 28:648. The record was originally published as an immature male (and most subsequent publications have followed this), but according to the ageing criteria in Pyle, et al. (1987) it was certainly an adult.
- GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE** *Pipilo chlorurus*. One at Sterling WHS 25 Apr (1979.004;KM*). The photo was published in IAB 190:34; this was the sixth of a total of seven reports of this species in the state.
- CASSIN'S SPARROW** *Aimophila cassinii*. One at Olive Park, Chicago COO 27 May-6 Jun (1983.006;JL,SP,DBJ*,JM*). This is the only state record to date; the bird was captured, banded and photographed in the hand. See Landing and Patti (1983) for photos and details, as well as Landing and Patti (1986). Photos appear in IAB 206:27 (DBJ,JM), IAB 206:41 (DBJ) and AB 37:878 (JM); photos of the bird in the hand are on file at the ISM.
- BREWER'S SPARROW** *Spizella breweri*. One singing male at Jackson Park, Chicago COO 26 May (1982.008;PC;TMCL*,JL). This was the first of the state's two records. The photos support the identification, but are not themselves diagnostic; transparencies are on file with the IORC Archive. Please note that the description of the song quoted in Bohlen (1989) was mistakenly attributed to Goetz; it is in fact a quote from the documentation submitted by the bird's discoverer, Paul Clyne.
- LARK BUNTING** *Calamospiza melanocorys*. One male in alternate plumage at Chicago COO 16-17 May (1988.049;JL*,EW*). Photos appear in IBB 4:92 (EW) and AB 42:443 (JL).
- GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** *Zonotrichia atricapilla*. One adult coming to a feeder at the entrance of Green R. CA LEE 20 Feb-25 Mar (1989.011;JK;DTW,PCP,TP,JM*,DBJ,RG*,MJB,EC). This was only the third record for the state and the first since 1942. Photos appear in AB 43:230 (JM), on the cover of IBB 5, No. 1 (JM), and in IBB 5:71 (RG,JM).
- CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR** *Calcarius ornatus*. One female near Berlin SAN 29 Mar (1980.004;HDB*) — the photo and complete details are published in Bohlen (1980). One alternate plumaged male in TAZ 12 May (1981.005;LA,VH). One alternate plumaged male at Sangchris SP SAN 10 Apr (1982.009;RTC,HDB). These are apparently the only acceptably documented records for the state to date.
- OTHER ACCEPTED RECORDS (36 records of 27 species)
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons*. Five adults at Crabtree L., Barrington COO 19 Dec (1988.106;CAW). These birds may have been from the Greenland race, A.a. Havirostris.
- ROSS' GOOSE** *Chen rossii*. One adult at Waukegan LAK 5-7 Dec (1988.107;DBJ*,JW,LCB). This provided the first acceptable record for the Chicago area in general and LAK in particular.
- GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaetos*. One adult at Clinton L. DEW 25 Sep (1988.073;MD).
- MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*. One near Nason JEF 31 Dec (1988.109;TF,SO).
- HARLEQUIN DUCK** *Histrionicus histrionicus*. One immature male on L. Michigan off Jarvis Ave., Chicago COO 30 Mar-25 Apr (1988.030;RE,JM*). The photo appears in IBB 4:84 and AB 42:441.
- SORA** *Porzana carolina*. One at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 17 Dec (1988.111;SO). This was only the second Illinois CBC record. Although seeing the bird only in flight, the observer provided diagnostic details, including the short yellow bill.
- MARBLED GODWIT** *Limosa fedoa*. One at Victoria KNO 27-28 Apr (1988.035;MJB). One at Big L. FUL 22 May (1988.036;LA). One at Horseshoe L. MAD 23-28 Aug (1988.075;RG).
- LEAST SANDPIPER** *Calidris minutilla*. Three at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 19 Dec (1987.152;KP).
- DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*. One at Great Lakes Naval Base LAK 31 Dec 1988-1 Jan 1989 (1988.112;JN).
- LAUGHING GULL** *Larus atricilla*. One adult in alternate plumage at Big R. SF HND 1 May (1988.041;MJB). One adult in basic plumage at Rend L. JEF 13 Aug (1988.082;WDR). One adult in basic plumage at Alton MAD 14 Aug (1988.083;RG). One adult in basic plumage at Carlyle L. CLI 18-20 Oct (1988.084;RG*). The photos of the latter were considered barely diagnostic.
- FRANKLIN'S GULL** *Larus pipixcan*. One adult in alternate plumage at Dresden Is. L&D GRU 2 Jan & 6 Feb 1989 (JM) and presumably the same bird at L. DePue LAS 29 Jan (JMCK) (1989.005;JM,JMCK). This individual also might account for the records at Alton MAD 18 Feb and at North Pekin TAZ 26 Feb 1989 (IBB 5:69). However, it is also certainly possible that different individuals were involved, especially since there were 33 reports of perhaps 21 individuals of this species in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Illinois in winter 1988-1989 (Fisher, et al., 1989). This was the third Illinois January record, all of them birds in alternate plumage, suggesting that this might be the expected plumage for adults occurring north of their South American winter quarters in January. Fisher, et al. (1989) speculate that stress (such as might be produced by the 1988 drought) could induce an early molt in these wintering individuals.
- ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucoideus*. One adult or subadult at Montrose Beach, Chicago COO 29 Apr (1988.043;RDeC). One second winter at Waukegan LAK 1-11 Jan (1989.007;DBJ).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus*. One adult or subadult at Rock Falls WHS 18-28 Dec (1988.117;LRJ).
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*. One first-winter immature at Gillson Park, Wilmette COO 26 Dec (1988.118;EW;TB). This bird provided a first record for the Chicago North Shore CBC (now to be called the Evanston North Shore CBC).
- EASTERN PHOEBE** *Sayornis phoebe*. Two at LaRue Pine Hills UNI 29 Dec (1988.121;WDR).
- BARN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*. One at L. Springfield SAN 9-10 Dec (1988.097;HDB;DO*).
- FISH CROW** *Corvus ossifragus*. One calling in MSN 30 Apr (1988.044;RDP,MD). This is the farthest that the species has ranged up the Illinois River to date.
- MARSH WREN** *Cistothorus palustris*. One, identified by voice, at Theodore Marsh WIL 18 Dec (1988.123;JM). One .75 miles south of Ward Branch, Rend L. JEF 31 Dec (1988.124;RD).
- GRAY CATBIRD** *Dumetella carolinensis*. One at Greenbelt FP LAK 1 Jan (1989.010;TB).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** *Dendroica dominica*. One at Crabtree NC COO 22 Apr (1988.048;CAW*).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER** *Dendroica castanea*. One at Washington Park Springfield SAN 2-18 Dec (1988.137;HDB). This bird stayed long enough to become the second Illinois CBC record.
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** *Geothlypis trichas*. One immature male at Horseshoe L. CA ALX 28 Dec (1988.129;RW,TB). One, most likely a female, at Ward Branch, Rend L. JEF 30 Dec (1988.130;WDR).
- INDIGO BUNTING** *Passerina cyanea*. One at Crab Orchard NWR WLM 17 Dec (1988.131;WDR). One at Horseshoe L. CA ALX 28 Dec (1988.132;WDR).
- VESPER SPARROW** *Pooecetes gramineus*. One 3 miles east of Olive Branch ALX 28 Dec (1988.133;VK).
- SAVANNAH SPARROW** *Passerculus sandwichensis*. One in WOO 31 Dec (1988.134;BO).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. Up to 12 at Nickel and Dime Stables LAK 1-4 Jan (1989.012;DBJ). A second description was not accepted by the Committee.
- EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*. One at Burnham COO 18 Dec 1988-5 Jan 1989 (1988.135;MJH*) (and rumored to be present both before and after this observation span).
- UNACCEPTED RECORDS OF SPECIES NOT ON THE CURRENT
STATE LIST (8 records of 8 species)
- REDDISH EGRET** *Egretta rufescens*. One at Chouteau Is. MAD 29 Jul (1949.001). The description is not detailed enough to entirely eliminate a subadult Little Blue Heron or possibly even a Tricolored Heron. The plumage was said to have white and dark intermixed equally on the body (possible but unusual in Reddish Egret); the bill was said to have a yellow basal portion (instead of pink); and the size comparison to nearby Great Egrets was not entirely consistent. The description appears in Comfort (1949); Graber, et al. (1978) apparently accepted this record.
- TRUMPETER SWAN** *Cygnus buccinator*. One at Rosehill Cemetery Chicago COO 2 and 5 Jun (1988.026). Submitted description barely adequate for identification (see Jordan 1988 for identification criteria). Very tame bird, so deemed most likely an escaped or released individual, despite lack of bands. The Committee has not determined what criteria need to be met before this extirpated species is added back to the state list as a naturally occurring vagrant — opinions on this question are welcome. Apparently at least two, probably three different individuals from Hennepin Parks, Minnesota have occurred in Illinois since 1985 (Donna Compton, pers. comm.; details to appear with the Fourth Report); however, the Minnesota

- Ornithologists Union has not accepted this population as viably established in Minnesota (e.g., Eckert 1989).
- MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata*. One male at L. Decatur MAC 1 Feb-6 May (1989.014). A diagnostically photographed individual; although it was noted that this bird lacked leg bands, the odds seem overwhelming that it was an escapee from an aviary.
- HEERMANN'S GULL** *Larus heermanni*. One at Jackson Park, Chicago COO 25 Jun (1988.063). Possibly a correct sighting of a first or second summer bird, but no description of the tail was provided (a critical feature of this species), and very little detail was provided on the wing pattern. Observers confronted with an obviously dark gull need to consider that juvenile Ring-billed and Herring Gulls in very fresh plumage could occur by mid-summer, and these birds may present a quite different appearance than they will later in fall. In addition, an oil-stained Ring-billed or Herring Gull is always a possibility that must be taken into account.
- ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii*. One in first alternate plumage at Waukegan LAK 5 Jun (1988.040). Not enough detail was provided to establish this species on the state list, especially since the bird was in a rather little known plumage. Only documented by one of four observers, in spite of requests for more descriptions.
- BLACK-HOODED PARAKEET** *Nandayus nenday*. One at Putnam PUT 31 Dec (1988.138). Correctly identified, but the Committee thought it virtually certain that all individuals of this species observed in Illinois are escaped cage birds.
- BLACK SWIFT** *Cypseloides niger*. One at Crane L. MSN 16-17 Sep (1988.095). Two sightings by two different observers: the first sighting lasted about 15 minutes under heavy overcast, while the second sighting was made under sunny skies for only "4 seconds". The identification was based on the color and the size compared to Tree Swallows — neither observer obtained a direct comparison with Chimney Swifts. Moreover, neither observer noted the relatively long, notched tail, the difference in proportions of body and wings compared to those of Chimney Swifts, or the different flight style. These marks are ranked as being of greater importance than size and color in separating this species from Vaux's Swift, the western counterpart of the Chimney Swift (see Fix 1988).
- BAIRD'S SPARROW** *Ammodramus bairdii*. One at Evanston COO 15 Oct (1975.004). Most Committee Members felt the information provided was not substantial enough to base a first state record on, since the bird was seen by a single observer for only 10-15 seconds. Moreover, the description stated that certain details of the facial pattern that should have been present were lacking (black malar and moustache stripes, eyering). On the other hand, the orange median stripe described by the observer remains hauntingly suggestive of Baird's Sparrow, and no compelling alternative for the bird's identity has been proposed. The record was accepted by Mlodinow (1984).

REVIEW LIST RECORDS UNACCEPTED (includes 12 records of 11 species)

- TRICOLORED HERON** *Egretta tricolor*. One at L. Calumet COO 20 Jul (1988.057). Although this species has been recorded at this location for at least seven years in succession, and it was widely known to have been present there again in 1988, the only description received was just 8 words long and did not give enough information to identify the bird.
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK** *Dendrocygna bicolor*. One at Rice L. CA FUL 3 Aug (1988.071). Seen in poor light at a great distance, allowing few details to be gathered; essentially, it was only described as a large, "tan or golden colored" duck. Since this would have been the first record in the state in over nine years, the Committee felt that much more substantial detail would have been necessary for acceptance.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** *Ictinia mississippiensis*. One at Quincy ADM 7 May (1988.031). This record was from the border of the species regular range, and so perhaps need not have been reviewed. Moreover, it was very likely correct, but was not accepted since a majority felt too little information was given from which to make a judgement.
- SWAINSON'S HAWK** *Buteo swainsoni*. One at Clarksville Is. CAL 23 Dec (1988.108). A perched buteo said to give a hooded appearance. Winter records of this species require full detail to justify their acceptance (cf. Goetz 1988). Some Red-tailed Hawks and adult male Rough-legged Hawks may appear to be "hooded," so much more detail is needed for an acceptable record.
- FERRUGINOUS HAWK** *Buteo regalis*. One immature at L. Chautauqua MSN

20 Nov (1975.001). One at Warsaw HAN 12 Feb (1980.001). The MSN bird was described as an immature, and may have been. However, in part due to windy conditions, no truly diagnostic features could be noted; this record had been previously published, e.g., in Bohlen (1978). The HAN sighting was apparently an adult, but the rusty leggings were not mentioned by either observer. Some of the other features noted were suggestive of Ferruginous, but not diagnostic; this record had not been published previously.

- YELLOW RAIL** *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. One in HNR 7 May (1988.055). Possibly correct, but only described as having white in wings, without specifying the location and shape of these white markings.
- CALIFORNIA GULL** *Larus californicus*. One subadult (?) at Rice L. CA FUL 24 Jul-6 Aug (1988.087). This involved a very complex identification problem: the bird was described as the same size or slightly smaller than Ring-billed Gulls, and showing the same mantle color as that species (or very slightly darker). Two subspecies of California Gulls have recently been described (Jehl 1987); the population breeding in the northern Great Plains is significantly larger and paler mantled than the population breeding in the Great Basin. Thus, although one or the other of the relatively pale mantle color and very small size might be found in individual California Gulls, the combination of these features is probably quite rare. Other factors (subterminal tail band, red spot on bill with no black, significant head streaking) make assignment of this bird to an age class somewhat problematic (cf. Behle and Selander 1953). In sum, although the bird may have been an odd California Gull, and although it was certainly not a typical individual of any other North American species, the Committee felt that it was best to leave this bird unidentified.
- WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE** *Contopus sordidulus*. One at Bussey Woods, Urbana CHA 25 May (1984.018). Although this bird was calling and singing, several members felt that the vocalizations needed to be better described to be certain of their consistency with those of Western Wood-Pewee, and that the plumage needed to be described in greater detail in order to completely eliminate all *Empidonax* flycatchers. The record was published in AB 38:918.
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus cinerascens*. One at Raccoon Grove West WIL 7 May (1988.056). The description seemed to eliminate this species; in particular, the abdomen was said to be pale gray (instead of yellow) and the throat was said to be darker gray than the breast (instead of the reverse).
- SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** *Anthus spragueii*. One in PIA 7 May (1988.045). The description did not eliminate juvenile Horned Lark or several sparrows, and the habitat (plowed field) was inappropriate for Sprague's Pipit.
- KIRTLAND'S WARBLER** *Dendroica kirtlandii*. One at Olive Park, Chicago COO 21 Sep (1988.099). The rather superficial description was found to be insufficient to establish a record of this very rare species, especially since the bird could not be relocated a short time later.

OTHER UNACCEPTED RECORDS (includes 10 records of 8 species)

- ROSS' GOOSE** *Chen rossii*. Four at FermiLab DUP 19 Mar (1988.027). Seen only with binoculars at a distance of 200 feet and only with the highly variable Canada Geese for size comparison; the Committee thought that identification by an observer inexperienced with this species under these circumstances left too much uncertainty.
- OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*. One in SAL 5 Dec (1988.072). Two south of Quincy ADM 2 Jan (1989.003). The SAL bird was seen only from a moving car without binoculars, with correspondingly little detail recorded. The descriptions of the ADM birds failed to convincingly eliminate all plumages of Bald Eagles.
- GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaetos*. One at Horseshoe L. MAD 18 Aug (1985.081). One 7 miles south of Harrisburg SAL 2 Jan (1988.014). Both birds involved somewhat anomalous descriptions and were referred to hawk expert William S. Clark. In both cases, observers described white patches in the flight feathers visible from above but not from below. This combination is apparently unknown in Golden Eagle, according to Clark, and so the records could not be accepted. On the other hand, Clark did note that the pale carpal bar on the uppersurface of the wing of the Golden Eagle might be mistaken for a white patch in the flight feathers, and urged observers to consider this possibility while observing potential Golden Eagles. With regard to the MAD record, since the white was described as being in the outer primaries rather than the inner primaries, Clark also thought it possible that this bird was an escaped exotic eagle (there was

- a raptor breeding station housing several old world eagles near the location at the time).
- MARSH WREN *Cistothorus palustris*. One at the spillway of Rend Lake FRA 31 Dec (1988.125). A very brief look at a possible Marsh Wren: no eyeline was noted, even though the eye was described as dark.
- VEERY *Catharus fuscescens*. One at Rochelle OGL 17 Dec (1988.126). Possibly correct, but the extreme rarity of this species in winter called for a more complete description and a more thorough discussion of similar species than was provided in this case.
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus*. One at Moline ROC 13-18 Dec (1988.127). Likely correct, but again the rarity of this species in winter left Members wanting a more complete description and a thorough discussion of similar species. Since birds coming to feeders are often easily seen and photographed, CBC compilers are urged to attempt to confirm rarities reported at feeders whenever possible.
- PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus*. One in the Shawnee NF UNI 29 Dec (1988.128). Only the underparts were described (wingbars not visible), so this bird could have been any of several warbler species.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER *Mniotilta varia*. One at Urbana CHA 19 Jun (1987.087). This record possibly did not need review, and was almost certainly correct, given experience of the observer and the ease with which this species is identified. However, the description itself was so brief that no more than 5 Members were convinced by it, even after the maximum 4 rounds of voting.

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