

Fifth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

by David B. Johnson and Douglas F. Stotz

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee ("IORC," or "the Committee") are reported here for a total of 137 records, including 101 accepted records of 63 species, and 36 unaccepted records of 30 species, plus two corrigenda records. A total of 86 observers contributed specimens, descriptions, photographs or video documenting the records included in this report. Included herein

are nearly all 1997 and 1998 reviewed species evaluations and four records prior to 1997. Some records are still in dispute and the Committee is, as of this publication, still reviewing those records. If a photograph was published in *Field Notes*, *North American Birds* or *Meadowlark*, we have referenced those publications for that bird record evidence. Any errors of omission are the fault of the authors. In the future the Committee will also attempt to

publish more judgments on historical bird records.

It should also be noted that the Committee has published an official list of bird species accepted for the state of Illinois. This publication is the Checklist of Illinois State Birds (Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, 1999). The checklist may be obtained from the Illinois Ornithological Society.

Format: The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through fourth reports of the Committee (Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1989; Goetz 1990; Johnson, Deaton, and Clyne 1998). The records below are divided into two major groups: Accepted and Unaccepted. Each of these groups is then further divided into Review List Records and Other Records. The nomenclature and sequence of species conforms to that of the American Ornithologists' Union seventh checklist (1998) and its supplements.

An accepted record is entered with the locality including the standard abbreviation for the county, the date, and in parentheses the IORC record number (the first four characters of which give the year of the first observation), and the initials of the primary observer(s) who contributed specimens, descriptions, and/or photographs. Photographic evidence is noted following a contributor's name by an asterisk (*); when the photographic evidence is known to be a videotape, a "v" is appended (*v); *p,v indicates both photographic and video

evidence presented by same contributor. Many contributing photographers also submitted written descriptions—a practice the Committee encourages. If the observers who first discovered the bird submitted documentation, their initials are set off from the initials of other contributors by a semicolon. Initial observers who did not submit documentations are not always listed. For specimen records, a sharp (#) precedes an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen, along with that institution's catalogue number of the specimen.

We have made an attempt to reference published photographs and brief accounts (such as seasonal highlights published in MJIB) by journal number and page. Articles are cited by author and date and are indexed in the list of references. Seasonal highlights in MJIB dealing with first state records are treated as articles.

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

Information on the age and sex

of the birds reported may be an opinion of the person(s) submitting the evidence and is not necessarily an accepted position of the Committee. All other remarks are the authors', although most of the information comes from the Committee files, which are now stored in Springfield, Illinois, as part of the Avian Ecology Program, Natural Heritage Section, Department of Natural Resources.

In several cases there are discrepancies between the details presented here vs. other published sources, especially regarding dates of occurrence. The data in this report provide the Committee's best assessment of all available information. We have not generally commented on records published elsewhere with more limited data than contained here, but we have made explicit note of apparent errors in published data. The Committee accepts responsibility for any inaccuracies or misrepresentations of information herein. Errors that come to our attention will be published as corrigenda in a future IORC report.

Abbreviations: The start of the references to seasonal reports in the journals *Illinois Birds and Birding*; *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds, Field Notes*; and *North American Birds* are abbreviated by IBB, MJIB, FN, and NAB respectively, followed by volume and page numbers; note that the first two issues of MJIB (Volume 1, Numbers 1 and 2) were paginated separately, not sequentially within that volume, and the journal number is included for those two issues. Months are abbreviated by their first three letters.

“Northern”, “central”, and “southern Illinois” refer to specific subsections of the state as first defined by Gault (1922); see also Bohlen (1978). The terms “region” and “regional” apply to the Middlewestern Prairie Region as used in FN, and include Illinois as well as Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and most of Ohio and Kentucky.

The county abbreviations follow those adopted in Johnson, Deaton, and Clyne (1998).

The 102 Illinois counties and their abbreviations are as follows:

Adams=ADA,	Davies=JOD,	Schuyler=SCH,	Warren=WAR,
Alexander=ALE,	Johnson=JOH,	Scott=SCO,	Washington=WAS,
Bond=BON,	Kane=KNE,	Shelby=SHE,	Wayne=WAY,
Boone=BOO,	Kankakee=KNK,	Stark=STA,	White=WHT,
Brown=BRO,	Kendall=KEN,	Stephenson=STE,	Whiteside=WHS,
Bureau=BUR,	Knox=KNO,	Tazewell=TAZ,	Will=WLL,
Calhoun=CAL,	Lake=LAK,	Union=UNI,	Williamson=WLM,
Carroll=CAR,	La Salle=LAS,	Vermilion=VER,	Winnebago=WIN,
Cass=CAS,	Lawrence=LAW,	Wabash=WAB,	Woodford=WOO.
Champaign=CHA,	Lee=LEE,		
Christian=CHR,	Livingston=LIV,		
Clark=CLR,	Logan=LOG,		
Clay=CLY,	McDonough=McD,		
Clinton=CLI,	McHenry=McH,		
Coles=COL,	McLean=McL,		
Cook=COO,	Macon=MCN,		
Crawford=CRA,	Macoupin=MCP,		
Cumberland=CUM,	Madison=MAD,		
De Kalb=DEK,	Marion=MRN,		
De Witt=DEW,	Marshall=MRS,		
Douglas=DOU,	Mason=MSN,		
Du Page=DUP,	Massac=MSS,		
Edgar=EDG,	Menard=MEN,		
Edwards=EDW,	Mercer=MER,		
Effingham=EFF,	Monroe=MNR,		
Fayette=FAY,	Montgomery=MNT,		
Ford=FOR,	Morgan=MOR,		
Franklin=FRA,	Moultrie=MOU,		
Fulton=FUL,	Ogle=OGL,		
Gallatin=GAL,	Peoria=PEO,		
Greene=GRE,	Perry=PER,		
Grundy=GRU,	Piatt=PIA,		
Hamilton=HAM,	Pike=PIK,		
Hancock=HAN,	Pope=POP,		
Hardin=HAR,	Pulaski=PUL,		
Henderson=HND,	Putnam=PUT,		
Henry=HNR,	Randolph=RAN,		
Iroquois=IRO,	Richland=RIC,		
Jackson=JAC,	Rock Island=ROC,		
Jasper=JAS,	St. Clair=SCL,		
Jefferson=JEF,	Saline=SAL,		
Jersey=JER, Jo	Sangamon=SAN,		

Other abbreviations used throughout are:

AOU=American Ornithologists' Union
 CA=Conservation Area
 CAS=Chicago Academy of Sciences
 CBC=Christmas Bird Count
 Co.=County
 Cos.=Counties
 FMNH=Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago),
 FP=Forest Preserve
 GLNTC=Great Lakes Naval Training Center (LAK),
 GLPSP=Goose Lake Prairie State Park (GRU),
 IBSP=Illinois Beach State Park (LAK)
 ISM=Illinois State Museum (Springfield)
 L.=Lake
 NC=Nature Center
 NF=National Forest
 NWR=National Wildlife Refuge
 R.=River
 SBC=Spring Bird Count
 SP=State Park.

Documentors: Cindy Alberico, Bob Andrini, Michael J. Baum, David Becher (DBe), Cindy Bencheck, Frank Bennett, Vic Berardi, Richard Biss, H. David Bohlen, Denis Bohm (DBo), Melissa Brookens, Joan Bruckman, Robert T. Chapel, Elizabeth Chato, Paul R. Clyne, Hal Cohen, Myrna Deaton, William DeBaets, Tim Dever, Fairy Ditto, Marian Doyle (MDo), Josh Engel, Robert Erickson, Joseph Fahey, Karen Fisher, Robert E. Fisher, Darlene Fiske, Kirby Goslee, Brad Grover, Leroy Harrison (LHa), Ann Haverstock, Scott Hickman, Kanae Hirabayashi, Frank Holmes, Larry Hood (LHo), Robert Hughes, David B. Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Vernon M. Kleen, Greg

Lambeth, James Landing, Vicki Lang, Eric Lattur, Cynthia McKee (née Watkins), Keith McMullen, Walter J. Marcisz, Igal Milchtaich, Joe B. Milosevich, Rhonda Monroe (RhM), Robert A. Montgomery, Roy Morris (RMs), Pete Moxon, Vince Moxon, Rod Myers (RMy), Michael Narish, James Neal, John O' Brien, Ken Oberlander, Dennis Oehmke (DOe), Clark Olson, Daniel J. Olson, James Phillips, Bud Polk, Marjory Rand (MRn), Robert Randall, William Reichert (WRe), Michael Retter (MRt), Justin Rink, William C. Rowe, Jeff Sanders, Wes Serafin, Albert Seppi (ASe), James O. Smith, Phoebe Snetsinger (PSn), Fred Stellema,

Sheila Stenger, Alan F. Stokie, Douglas Stotz, Joe Suchecki (JSu), Jack Van Benthuyzen, Eric Walters, Tony Ward, David Willard, Barbara Williams, Daniel T. Williams (DTW), Jim Ziebol.

Membership: Current members of the IORC are: Steven D. Bailey, Robert T. Chapel, Paul R. Clyne, Myrna Deaton, David B. Johnson (Secretary), Vernon M. Kleen, and Douglas Stotz (Vice Secretary). Alternates on the Committee are: Richard Biss, Robert E. Fisher, Joe B. Milosevich, and David Willard. Recent committee members who served during the review process were H. David Bohlen.

Review List: The Review List indicates those birds which the observer might encounter that the Committee is most interested in reviewing. These are species which, in general, average four or fewer records per year in the state, or which are extremely rare in all but a few counties in the state. The IORC requests and welcomes evidence concerning all records for the review species listed in the fourth IORC report (Johnson, Deaton and Clyne 1998). In addition, any species not listed in the checklist of Illinois state birds (1999) should be documented. Documentation of regular species may be appropriate when they occur out of season—i.e., exceptionally early arrival dates or late departure dates for migratory species. All first state nesting records should also be documented. Exceptionally high counts of species may also merit documentation.

Acknowledgments. This report is made possible by the thoughtful, careful, and timely review by all Committee members both past and current, and by the support of Illinois birders and institutions that contributed evidence of Illinois birds by specimens, documentations, photographs, and/or videotapes. Special thanks must go to David Willard (FMNH) and H. David Bohlen (ISM) for providing access to museum specimens. The Committee also thanks the following expert birders and professional ornithologists who contributed their time and knowledge to address the identification of many of the bird records in this report: Laurence C. Binford, Jon L. Dunn, Michael Hogg, Nancy L. Newfield, Thomas Schulenberg, Thomas Schultz, Thede Tobish, and David Willard.

ACCEPTED RECORDS – Review List Records Accepted (78 records of 45 species)

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*): One in immature plumage at Horseshoe L. MAD 5 May (1997.010; DK). One basic adult at L. Springfield SAN 23 Oct-5 Nov (1997.035; HDB; MD). One basic adult at L. Clinton DEW 21 Nov (1998.062; MD, RTC).

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*): One immature near Miller City ALE 3 Jan (1997.001; MD, KM); a first state CBC record. An adult near Miller City ALE 6 Sep (1997.037; HDB, MD); These are the eighth and ninth accepted state records.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*): One male at I-57 mile marker 60 WLM 14 Sep (1998.066; FB); for an account see this issue.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*): One at L. Renwick WLL 9 May (1998.013; JBM). One at New Cut

Rd. southeast corner of MSS 18 May (1998.038; FB). One at Borrow Pits, Horseshoe L. MAD 2-9 Aug (1998.042; WCR, DK). One at Marine Pt., L. Springfield SAN 31 Jul (1998.044; HDB).

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*): One immature at Montrose, Chicago COO 6 Sep (1997.032; RH*); second state record. An account and photo appears in MJIB 7:48.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*): Three immatures at Kidd L. MNR 26 Jul-8 Aug (1998.045; ASe*, DK, FB, CO).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): One at Carlyle L. CLI 5-8 Oct (1997.065; DK). One at Frank Holten SP SCL 29 May (1998.039; KM)

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*): Two at Decatur MCN 25 Apr-5 May (1997.014; RTC, MD).

Plegadis sp. One at L. Chautauqua MSN 10 Oct (1998.073; CO). The Committee will no longer review *Plegadis* sp.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*): One at Jackson Park, Chicago COO 5 Apr (1997.030; CA); fifth state spring record and second for Jackson Park.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*): One 7.75 miles west of Springfield SAN 20 Jun (1998.046; HDB); first county record.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*): One male at Moraine View SP McL 18-22 Feb (1997.004; BP, EC).

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*): One adult male at Carlyle L. FAY 29-30 Mar (1997.015; DK, ASe*). One adult male at Swan L. CAL 4 May (1997.016; RR). One male at Big L. BRO 10 May (1997.023; TW). One male at Drury Lane LAK 3 Apr (1998.009; DBJ); for an account of this bird and other spring 1998 Cinnamon Teals see MJIB 7:141. One male at Del Monte ponds, Mendota LAS 19-24 Apr (1998.027; RAM, DBo*, ASe*); a photo appears in MJIB 7:141. One at Frontenac Marsh DUP 9 May (1998.029; JSu), a SBC record. One at Carlyle L. CLI 29 Aug (1998.076; DK).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*): One adult male at Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe COO 21 Feb (1997.006; WRe); an excellent sketch, see figure 1, was received by the Committee as evidence for this bird's occurrence.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*): One subadult at Lincoln Gardens, L. Springfield SAN 4-9 Jun (1998.047; HDB). One at Rock Cut SP WIN 26 Jul-16 Aug (1998.055; DTW*); a well documented northern Illinois record; two photos appear in MJIB 8:31.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*): One immature at IBSP LAK 14 Oct (1997.039; RH*); remarkable that the observer had the presence of mind to quickly photograph a hawk in flight with a diagnostic image. One adult at Granite City MAD 11 Apr (1998.025; DBe);

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*): One gray morph immature at Clinton L. DEW 5 Mar (1998.041; MD).

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*): One at Arcola

DOU 9 Mar (1997.026; RTC). One near Parnell DEW 19 Dec (1997.061; RTC); a Clinton L. CBC record.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*): One at Larry Larimore farm, north of Fairmont VER 18 May (1998.023; JOS*). One at Phil Dzuik farm, north of Fairmont VER 18 May (1998.024; JOS*). One at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area JAS 9 Oct (1998.071; DJO).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*): One at Steeple Chase Golf Course, Mundelein LAK 10 Apr (1997.020; #FMNH 385922) an account appears in MJIB 6:140. A pair nested successfully at L. Mermet MSS 11 Jul-10 Aug+ (1998.048; FB*v; DBJ); for a detailed account see MJIB 8:11.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*): One at IBSP LAK 11 Nov (1998.060; RH*, RE); first state record in 40 years; even more amazing is the fact that the two observers got hard evidence for this occurrence by taking photographs as the bird migrated south over IBSP; for an account and a photo, see this issue. A photo appears in NAB 53:59.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): One at Carlyle L., Subimpoundment #3 FAY 17 May (1997.027; DK); first county record. Six near Ullin, 1.5 to 2 miles east of I-64 PUL 2 Jun (1998.032; VMK). One at L. Carlyle BON/ FAY 12-13 Sep (1998.069; MD, HDB, ASe*);

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*): One at Rock Cut SP WIN 22 Nov (1997.043; DTW, BW). The first inland record for the state and a first for the county; the bird was on a small rocky island near the rocky shore of Pierce

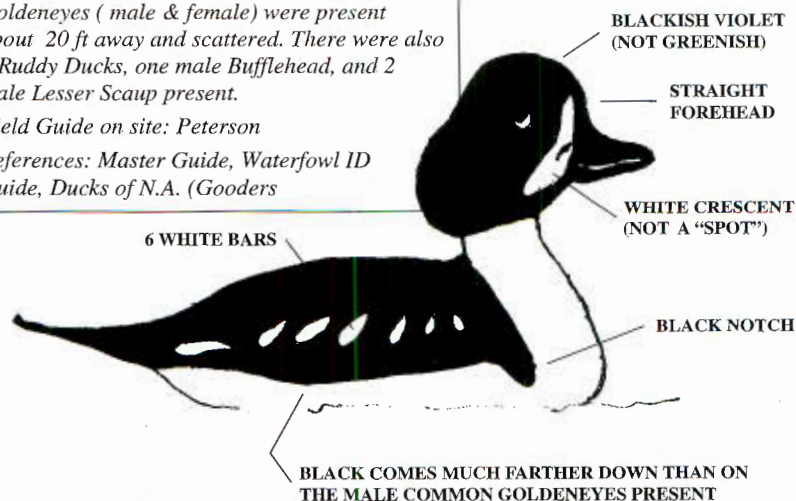
Figure 1. Barrow's Goldeneye sketch by William Reichert. Bird was documented at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Cook County on 21 February 1997.

Observers: Bill Reichert & Andrew Waple

Notes: This bird was observed from 50ft with Leica 10x42 binoculars. Several Common Goldeneyes (male & female) were present about 20 ft away and scattered. There were also 2 Ruddy Ducks, one male Bufflehead, and 2 male Lesser Scaup present.

Field Guide on site: Peterson

References: Master Guide, Waterfowl ID Guide, Ducks of N.A. (Gooders)





First-winter Glaucous-winged Gull. Photo taken at the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area in St. Charles County, Missouri, just over the Illinois border on 8 February 1997 by Kirby Goslee. This bird was seen and documented at Mel Price Lock and Dam in Madison County, Illinois, and is the third accepted record for the state.



L. An account appears in MJIB 7:48-49. One at Waukegan Port District on rocks off the municipal beach's north pier LAK 24 Oct (1998.059; JN*); see photo in this issue.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*): One immature light morph at Gillson Park, Wilmette COO 21 Nov (1997.044; RH).

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*): One sub-adult at L. Springfield SAN 22-23 Jun (1998.049; HDB)

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*): One adult at L. Vermilion, Danville VER 26 Mar (1997.029; RTC). One near adult at L. Springfield SAN 10 Nov (1997.045; HDB). One first-year bird at Burnham Harbor, Chicago COO 13 Nov (1998.064; DS). Observer noted important field marks such as the darkish underneath — "heavily mixed with brown" and the all dark brown tail as well as size differences with adjacent Ring-billed Gulls to eliminate Ring-billed juveniles. This is the first accepted record for the state for this age class.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*): One first-summer bird at L. Springfield beach house SAN 16 May-Jun+ (1998.017; HDB; JR*v).

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*): One first-year bird at Mel Price Lock and Dam MAD 30 Jan-1 Apr+ (1997.003; WCR*, JZ, PSn, DK, KG*); a photo appears in FN 51:755. This is the third accepted record for the state; see photos in this account.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*): One adult at Waukegan Municipal Beach LAK 31 May-2 Jun (1997.012; HDB; DK, MD, RTC, DBo*); fourth state record. One immature with a dark gray carpal bar at Waukegan Municipal Beach LAK 14-17 Jun (1997.013; SH; JO, DBJ*); fifth state record. An account in MJIB 6:138 details the two records; a photo of the immature bird appears in MJIB 6:138, another photo of the same bird is published on the back cover of MJIB 6(4) which also appears in color in FN 51:1064; the correct last date seen (Jun 17) is published in FN.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*): One at L Decatur MCN 4 Sep (1998.054; MD*; VMK, DOe*); a remarkable first state record. For an account and photos, see this issue. A color photo appears in NAB 53:118.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): One at Urbana CHA 27 May 1997-4 Apr+ 1998 (1997.060; RTC); second accepted state record. This bird showed the gray undertail coverts and black basal tail pattern including the black outer web along with the squared-off tail. The bird was chunkier sized than a Ringed Turtle-Dove. In addition, the blackish primaries contrasting with the wing coverts was, to the Committee, diagnostic. This bird was present at this location for at least one year.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*): One at the residence of James O. Smith VER 22-23 Jul (1998.050; JOS*); first state record; first noted by the unusual call. For an account, see this issue.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): Three at PUL 19 Dec (1997.063; VL, RhM). One at Urbana CHA 29 Mar (1998.018; RTC).

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*): One at Rockford WIN 9 Feb (1997.002; MDo, BG, RM, MRn, FS*); an extremely rare occurrence; not since 1914 has this species been recorded for the state and region. For an account and photo see Morris (1997); a slightly different photo in FN 51:756.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*): One adult male at East Alton MAD 7 Nov 1997-8 Jan+ 1998 (1997.046; MD, DOe*); fourth state record and first confirmed adult male record for the state. Two photos appear in MJIB 7: 74 and on the back cover. One adult male at Springfield SAN 7 Nov-20 Dec (1998.084; DOe*); second accepted adult male for the state. An excellent color photo appears in NAB 53:117. One adult female at Springfield SAN 23 Nov (1998.085; DOe*, #ISM660520). These are the fourth through sixth state records.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*): One immature male at Niantic MSN 16 Nov (1997.047; HDB, MD, DOe*, #ISM 660484); a remarkable vagrant and first state record; photos and account appear in Bohlen (1999). This bird was netted, measured and photographed, and two species diagnostic tail feathers were taken. For additional helpful identification information of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds see Stiles (1972) and Heidcamp (1997). See article and photos in this issue.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*): One at Fermilab DUP 28-29 Nov (1998.063; VM, PM*; REF); a first-county record, and eighth for the state. For an account and photograph, see seasonal highlights in this issue.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*): One male at McKee Marsh DUP 7-8 Oct (1998.058; HC; DBo, JSu, REF, KF*); a first county record. An account appears in this issue.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*): One male at Batavia and Fox R. 2-17 Aug KNE (1998.043; AH, DBo*, BA*, DBJ*v). One two miles northwest of Fort de Chartres MNR 3-9 Aug (1998.070; DK, FB, FH*, ASe*, JBM*).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*): One female 1/2 mile NE of Berry SAN 4 Nov (1998.078; HDB); fifth state record, see figure 2.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*): One at Klehm Aboretum and FP WIN 28 Dec-3 Mar (1996.105, DOe*); seventeenth record for the state and possibly the same individual (1995.039) as recorded the previous winter. A photo is in MJIB 6:117. One at Northwestern University landfill, Evanston COO 10-18 Nov (1997.033; EW*; DBJ*, KO*); first county record in 12 years and eighteenth for the state. A photo appears in MJIB 7:77.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*): One at Joliet WLL 27 Nov-23 Dec+ (1997.051; JBM*); a photo appears in MJIB 7:117.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*): One at North Shore Channel or "Canal" between Dempster and Main Streets, Evanston COO 4-8 May (1998; JE; EW*); an account appears in MJIB 7:142. One at North Branch of the Chicago R., LaBaugh Woods

FP, Chicago COO 20 May (1998.010; RH); sixth and seventh state records respectively.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*): One male at Sheila Stenger residence, Rockton, WIN 11 May (1996.104; SS*); see photos in this report. One male at Fairy Ditto residence, RR2 Box 86, Oquawka Township, HND mid-Apr-22 May (1997.022; FD). Apparently attending a feeder for "weeks" and noted on the state SBC.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*): One at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie WLL 4 Dec (1998.077; DS). Studied for a long period in the field--all diagnostic field marks were noted; this is the fourth accepted record for the state.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*): Two, a male and female at approx. 5 miles E of Woodstock McH 20 Dec (1997.049; DF) on a CBC; a very rare winter finch in Illinois.

Other Accepted Records (20 records of 17 species)

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*): One immature at Tampier L. Palos FP COO 23 May-24 Jun (1997.009; JL, MN, JBM*, JP*); a first summer record for the state. An account and photo appear in MJIB 7:25; the same photo is printed in color in FN 51:1063. Incorrect departure dates (22 Jun, 14 Jun, respectively) were

published in MJIB 7:30 and FN 51:875.

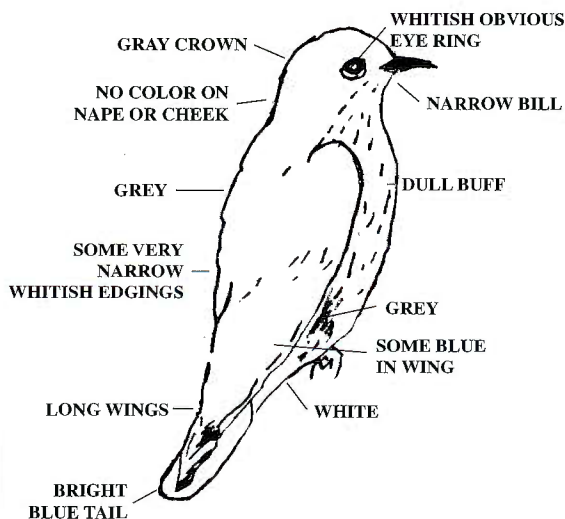
Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*): One at Garden Prairie Rd. BOO 20 March (1997.028; RMy); a remarkable earliest spring arrival date for the state. An account appears in MJIB 6:139-140.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*): One at Sparta RAN 27 Dec 1997-31 Jan 1998 (1997.068; TD); first winter record for the state.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): One juvenile at L. Calumet sewage treatment district, Chicago COO 31 Aug (1997.042; RH); a remarkable record in that the bird was in fresh unmolted juvenile plumage with a heavily spotted throat, breast and belly.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*): One adult in breeding plumage at Gillson Park, Wilmette COO 2 Jan (1998.008; EW*). An account and photo appears in MJIB 7:109.

Figure 2. Mountain Bluebird sketch by H. David Bohlen on 4 November 1998 in Sangamon County.



Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*): One immature at Clinton L. DEW 8 Mar (1997.018; RTC). One immature near Randall Rd. and Rte. 72 KNE 4 May (1997.019; AFS); an account appears in MJIB 5:141. One immature at LaSalle nuclear power plant L. LAS 4 Jan (1997.066; CM*). All three kittiwakes were inland and unusual spring records.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*): One at L. Clinton DEW 19 Dec (1997.065; HDB); recorded on the Clinton L. CBC and one of a few reliably documented occurrences for early winter in the state.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*): One at Wooded Island, Jackson P., Chicago COO 31 July (1998.052; PRC); earliest fall arrival date for the state.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*): One at Oak Ridge Cemetery SAN 13 Nov (1997.054; HDB); latest fall departure date for the state.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*): One at Carpenter Park, Springfield SAN 21 Dec (1997.064; VMK); a Springfield CBC record and at least the eighth winter record for the state.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*): One in the vicinity of L. Springfield SAN 25 Nov-23 Dec (1997.055; HDB); a count week Springfield CBC record and fourth early winter record for the state.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*): One at Little Red School House FP COO 21 Dec 1997-21 Jan 1998 (1997.050; WS, JBM*); an account appears in MJIB 7:109 and two photos appear in MJIB 7: 91 and on the back cover of MJIB 7(3); the same photo but in color appears in FN 52:269. This bird was a Lisle Aboretum CBC record and fourth winter record for Illinois.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*): One female at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Dundee KNE 22 Dec (1997.057; RAM, LHo); recorded on the Barrington CBC, see MJIB 7:60-61, and possibly the same individual as record 1996.059. One at Chautauqua NWR headquarters MSN 27 Dec (1997.059; HDB); a CBC record for Chautauqua NWR.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*): One at entrance to island at Horseshoe L. ALE 3 Jan (1998.002; HDB); well-described winter record seen with juncos.



Western Tanager in Rockton, Illinois, Rock County. 11 May 1996. Photo by Sheila Stenger.

**Note the Scarlet Tanager in the bottom left and the Western Tanager on the right.*



Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*): One late migrant at Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe COO 21 May (1998.026; DBJ).

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*): One adult female at Mermet L. MSS 1 Jan (1998.003; FB); seen on the Mermet L. CBC.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*): One at Clinton L. Marina DEW 14 Nov (1998.056; MRt); part of this species' range expansion.

Other Accepted Forms and Hybrids — (1 record of 1 form and 2 hybrids)

Cinnamon Teal x Blue-winged Teal (*Anas cyanoptera x discors*): One breeding-plumaged male at L. Springfield and east of Springfield SAN 15 Apr-3 May (1998.015; HDB). One breeding-plumaged male at Clinton L. DEW 18 May (1998.037; MRt).

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*): A female specimen record at McCormick Place, Chicago COO 8 Nov (1994.055; #FMNH 367288 collected by DW, MS in prep.); first state specimen and record for this subspecies. One at subimpoundment #2, Carlyle L. FAY 29 Mar (1997.014; DK); second state record for this subspecies. Observers are encouraged to provide documentation for observations of this subspecies (Yellow Palm Warbler).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Unaccepted (36 records of 30 species)

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*): One at Riverlands MAD 30 Oct-4 Nov (1997.036). Possibly correct, but the description is too brief to convincingly eliminate Red-throated Loon. A “dark throat” patch reported on this bird is more suggestive of a juvenile Red-throated Loon while an apparent “white flank” patch was observed and is more indicative of an Arctic Loon. Apparently this loon was observed by many other observers—but unfortunately not enough descriptive detail was provided by observers to support a positive identification. One at Rend L. FRA 16 Nov (1998.065); possibly correct but the sketch provided looked more like a small Common Loon and Red-throated Loon was not safely eliminated by the description.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*): One at Carlyle L. CLI 29 Nov (1997.052). Details, especially bill color, suggested Clark's Grebe, but observers agreed that the black cap of the head extended to the eye, which is not the pattern shown by this species; had others sketched the bird and shown the placement of black in the face perhaps there would not have been as much doubt by the Committee as the yellow-orange bill certainly is a field mark for the species.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*): Six at Dark Bend, Embarrass R. JAS 29 Apr (1997.025). Supportive details and sketch. However, after the second round of voting, the Committee conservatively felt the birds were too distant for a positive identification and elimination of soaring Double-crested Cormorants in flight.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*): Twenty at Lake Villa LAK 21 Aug (1997.038). A remarkable report—but the ducks were seen only briefly in flight with not enough descriptive plumage detail to secure a convincing identification.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*): One immature near Durand WIN 4 Oct (1998.067); identification correct but the Committee was duly concerned about origin of an immature bird without adults present—the likelihood of an escaped individual from a waterfowl collection could not be ignored as this species is often kept in captivity.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*): Two at Moraine View SP McL 18 Mar (1998.036); a brief look at the end of the day with bad light; there were many inconsistencies in the description—enough to rule out this rare duck inland.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*): One at Camp Sagawau COO 26 Apr (1998.016); The observer gave more event detail than a plumage description. This record may well be correct but the observer's comparison of the bird's size being similar to a Peregrine Falcon was puzzling; the milky gray underparts seemed correct—

but not enough to convincingly portray this kite. Two at Spoon L. KNO (1998.035); a brief and distant view with good flight characters; possibly correct but little plumage detail and failure to adequately eliminate other raptor species.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*): One near Naples SCO 9 May (1998.030); the description did not satisfactorily rule out variations in a Red-tailed Hawk and the diagnostic wing to tip of the tail—or long primaried look was not noted—nor was the white chin and throat field marks on the “dark reddish brown upper breast.” One dark phase north of Colfax, Lawndale Township McL 15 Apr (1998.034); description did not rule out a dark phased Rough-legged Hawk or a dark phase immature Red-tailed Hawk.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*): One at Larry Larimore farm, north of Fairmont VER 26 Oct (1998.023); The plumage detail provided in the documentation for this record was judged inadequate by the Committee.

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*): Seven individuals at US 30 4 miles east of I-88 LEE 23 Oct (1998.068); the darker crowns as described for these individuals suggested American Golden-Plover as did other plumage characters; also most Mountain Plover would have already migrated to their wintering grounds by this date—photographic documentation probably is needed before this species can be safely added to the state checklist.

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*): One alternate adult at L. Chautauqua NWR MSN 2 Aug (1997.040). Owing to the ultra rarity of this species and the identification difficulties, the record was evaluated by two experts: one from Alaska and one national expert on bird identification. Both have extensive experience with this species' identification. Both experts felt that without better substantiation (i.e. a photo or specimen) the description failed to rule out the possibility of a Little Stint, bright juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper or as one reviewer suggested—a breeding plumaged Sanderling. Also, unfortunately other observers failed to gather evidence for this rarity. It should also be noted that extreme “heat waves” often hampered good visibility of this bird and other shorebirds at the time of observation. Photographs, or the like, of this difficult to identify species would be necessary to add this species to the state checklist.

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*): One adult in basic plumage at Chautauqua NWR MSN 16 Sep (1997.041). Owing to the ultra rarity of this species and the identification difficulties, the record was evaluated by an expert from Alaska. The description while plausible failed to describe “a dark subfringe just inside of and

parallel to the pale edge of the fresh dorsum feathers," according to the reviewer. Also this bird is often vocal if flushed giving a trill-like call; this was not noted. In addition, the plumage detail failed to mention a basic "Spotted Sandpiper-type wash on the chest and shoulders." Meticulous detail and "harder evidence" are an absolute necessity for a record of this type. Apparently at least five experienced observers saw this bird?and only one documented it!

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*): One first-year bird at Montrose, Chicago COO 24 Jan (1998.005). The lack of a solidly dark brown tail and other soft part descriptive detail failed to convincingly eliminate a Ring-billed Gull in juvenile winter plumage.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*): One juvenile at the "Borrow Pit" MAD 11Oct-19 Dec (1998.058); an underappreciated concern is the the difficulty in assessing the different first-year plumages of Herring Gull that look like a first-year California Gull; this bird was photographed and the Committee had a national gull expert review the evidence. Basic shape (more filled in like a Herring Gull); bill a little thicker throughout and the reddish cast to the bill (not as contrasty fleshy pink in the bicolor—black/pink as in California) and finer points such as the more filled in scapulars (overall paler on California with dark center lines)—identified this bird as a first-year Herring Gull. "It is absolutely routine for first-year Herring Gulls to acquire pink at the bill base, sometimes in a pattern very similar to California. Though it was unusual for this much pink in mid-October," stated the reviewer. One at Clinton L. DEW 27-30 Sep (1998.075); because of the difficulty in eliminating a first-year Herring Gull without more concrete evidence—the Committee elected to not accept this identification; in addition the sketched provided failed to convincingly portray a first-year California Gull—particularly in the mantle and scapular sketches—plus the posture of the sketch seemed more like a juvenile Herring Gull.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*): One first-year bird at Peoria Lock and Dam TAZ 26 Jan-1 Feb (1997.005); the description failed to adequately rule out hybrid gulls. It was indeed unfortunate that many other observers failed obtain supportive descriptive detail at the time of observation. One first-year bird at Lake Calumet area, Chicago COO 20 Feb (1998.007); again, the description failed to adequately rule out hybrid gulls and the distance of observation seemed to weigh against a convincing argument for acceptance.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): One at Salt Creek, Ashwood Park, Palatine COO 2 May (1998.022); possibly correct but diagnostic plumage detail not completely described; the bird did not call. One

at Carrolton GRE 27 Aug (1998.051); likely correct but not enough plumage detail was described to eliminate a hybrid dove and the photo sent in to the Committee did not have the large image quality and sharpness needed to assess the plumage.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*): One at UNI Co. Refuge, South Blacktop UNI 17 May (1998.019); likely correct but the documentation nearly too minimal to evaluate. A few more plumage details in the sketch would have benefited this documentation.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*): One at Lake Villa LAK 18 Jul (1997.048). A brief fly-by view without enough convincing key field marks for such a rarity.

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*) One at Wenmouth Road KNE 4 May (1998.020). For this record the Committee consulted an expert for the evaluation of this extraordinary bird record. Accordingly the flight characters as described were inconsistent with Stonechat. Stonechat has a "whirring flight" like a bumblebee. Size, posture, jizz, perching and feeding behavior as described were inconsistent with this species. Plumage detail was missing a contrasting white rump and the wing bars as described should have had a "white panel" not separated "wing-bars."

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*): One at West Du Page Woods DUP 14 May (1997.021); not enough plumage and behavioral detail for such a rare warbler.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*): One male at Arlington Heights COO 18 May (1997.007). Possibly correct but several key field marks including the black mantle were not noted. An account is in MJIB 6:140.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*): One at Fermi DUP (1998.028); possibly correct; the pale gray underparts and complete eye-ring were very compelling for acceptance. However, the "buff" on the sides of the breast was a field mark generally not associated with Brewer's Sparrow. Several key descriptive elements were missing—including a description of the tail—this was, however, due to a rather brief look at this bird. The Committee ultimately felt that a delayed molting immature Clay-colored Sparrow could not be safely eliminated by the description; in addition, it would have helped had the other observers documented this very rare bird.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*): One male at Downer's Grove DUP 10 May (1996.027); after much discussion and controversy the description was deemed too brief for such a rarity and the bill as described was incorrect for the species; a brief account is in MJIB 5:132.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*): One adult male at Beardstown CAS 7 May (1997.008); Possi-

bly correct and calls as described are very supportive of the identification but the Committee after a second round of review felt the descriptive detail too weak for acceptance.

Other Unaccepted Records (6 records of 6 species)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): One at MAD 20 Dec (1997.058). A description did not eliminate a light morph Rough-legged Hawk plus the description tended to describe the event more than the bird itself. More meticulous evidence is needed to accept winter records of Osprey for the state.

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*): One at Red-wing Slough, Antioch LAK 14 May (1997.040); possibly correct but several key field marks were not seen including the bill color.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*): One at Cemetery Rd. Elsay Township JER 10 May (1997.024). No description given and therefore the record was not accepted.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*): One at Bloomington McL 7 Jan (1997.006). A puzzling descrip-

tion with the "streaks on the breast and flanks" being more suggestive of a thrasher than a thrush.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*): One on the Crane L. CBC in the vicinity of MSN 20 Dec (1997.062); description almost too minimal to evaluate and other observers in the vicinity at the same time found another warbler species—a Common Yellowthroat.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*): one at SE Weldon Springs DEW 19 Dec (1997.056). A very weak description which failed to eliminate other grosbeaks and finches and female Red-winged Blackbird.

Corrigenda (2 records of 1 species and 1 unknown)

Pacific Loon (1996.086) listed as an unaccepted record in the fourth report of the IORC MJIB 7:62 should be deleted from the report as this record was the same bird (James Neal, pers. comm.) as the accepted record (1996.087) from Waukegan.

Spotted X Eastern Towhee (1996.031) in the fourth report of the IORC MJIB 7:62 should be deleted from the report as the bird in question was not accepted as a hybrid (only a "possible" hybrid) by the Committee.

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