

The Sixth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

by Douglas F. Stotz and David B. Johnson



Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee ("IORC," or "the Committee") are reported here for a total of 68 records, including 57 accepted records of 38 species, and 11 unaccepted records of 11 species. A total of 69 observers contributed descriptions or photographs documenting the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations from 1997, 1998, and 1999. Some records are still in dispute and the Committee is, as of this publication, still reviewing those records. If a photograph was published in *American Birds*, *Audubon Field Notes*, *Field Notes* (now the combined publication of American Birding Association and National Audubon Society), *Illinois Birds and Birding*, or *Meadowlark* an attempt has been made to reference those publications for that bird record evidence. Any errors of omission are the fault of the authors.

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).

Format: The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through fifth reports of the Committee (Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1989; Goetz 1990; Johnson, Deaton and Clyne 1998; Johnson and Stotz 1999). 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 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 (see below)), 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. 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. 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 observer(s) 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.

Several records seen by several to many observers were documented by only one or two of these observers. The committee would like to encourage all observers to document all the review list species they see. Documentation by multiple observers can provide additional evidence and support for the identity of rarities. Often records that have not been accepted suffer from incomplete information, a problem that additional documentation by other observers could help overcome.

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,

Abbreviations: References to seasonal reports in the journals *Illinois Birds and Birding*; *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds*; *American Birds*; *Field Notes*; and *North American Birds* are abbreviated by IBB, MJIB, AB, 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.

County abbreviations largely follow those adopted in Johnson, Deaton and Clyne (1998). The 102 Illinois counties and their abbreviations are as follows:

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

Other abbreviations used throughout are:

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

"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 NAB and include Illinois as well as Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and most of Ohio and Kentucky.

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 that are 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.

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Westcott, Barbara Williams, Daniel T. Williams (DTW), David Williams, Geoff Williamson.

Membership: Current members of the IORC are: Steven D. Bailey, Robert T. Chapel, Paul R. Clyne, Myrna Deaton, David B. Johnson (Vice-Secretary), Dan Kassebaum and Douglas Stotz (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 and Vernon M. Kleen

Review List: As in past reports, the Review List is provided to indicate those birds the observer might encounter that the Committee is most interested in reviewing. These are species that, 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 current review list was approved at the 8 August 1999 Committee meeting. The IORC requests and welcomes evidence concerning all records for the review species listed on the review list on the IOS/IORC website: <http://www.chias.org/ios/iorc.html>. 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.

Acknowledgements. 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, Nancy L. Newfield, and Thomas Schulenberg.

ACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Accepted (47 records of 28 species)

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsi*): One in juvenile plumage at Evergreen Lake McL and WOO on 19 to 29 Dec (1998.074; MRt, DB, DO*, RCh, RHe). Second state record. Photo published (Engel 1999).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*): One at Clinton Lake DEW on 10 to 17 Dec (1999.051; RCh, MD). One at Lake Shelbyville MOU on 5 Dec (1999.053; RCh). One at Vulcan Lake McH on 18 Sep to 5 Oct (1999.043; VB, GB*, DJ, RAM). See photo and article on page 56 of this journal.

Neotropical Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*): One sub-adult at Crabtree Lake, Barrington COO on 11 May to 5 Jun (1999.017; CF; CW). This is the tenth accepted state record for this species.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*): One at Montrose, Chicago COO on 7 Apr (1999.009; RH*). One at Gale ALE on 29 May (1999.028; MD, DK).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*): One south of Rochester SAN on 27 Apr (1999.012; PW*). One at Cypress Creek NWR PUL on 22 Apr (1999.025; RM).

Brant (*Branta bernicla*): One at Horseshoe Lake CA ALE on 29 Dec (1998.086; SB). This bird was recorded on the Horseshoe Lake CBC.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*): One at Carlyle Lake FAY and BON on 16 to 31 Oct (1999.046; DK, FB, KM)

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*): One male at Clinton Lake DEW on 18 Apr (1999.013; RCh). One male

in southwestern PER on 11 Apr (1999.019; BC*). One male near Lyerla Lake UNI on 10 to 11 Apr (1999.026; KM). One male in PIK on 8 May (1999.033; RCa). This last bird was seen on the SBC. Males of this species have been removed from the review list.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*): One male at Garden Prairie BOO on 10 to 14 May (1999.015; DTW*, DB). This is the second record for the state. An account and photo can be found in Williams (1999). Photos of the first Garganey in the state have also been recently published (Chapel 1999).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Clangula islandica*): One at Mel Price Dam MAD on 24 to 26 Jan (1999.001; WR).

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*): One at Larimore Farm VER on 14 to 16 Sep (1997.053; JOS).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*): One adult found dead at Flanagan McL on 5 May (1999.036; AC, spec. to Illinois State University). One at Highwood LAK on 6 to 13 May (1999.062; MT*v). One adult at Montrose, Chicago COO on 7 to 10 May (1999.014; TB*, KH*); this bird was recorded on the SBC. One adult at Ron Beese Park, Barrington COO on 26 May (1999.021; CF). One adult at Anderson Garden, Rockford WIN on 11 to 25 May (1999.023; BW, JM*). Two adults at Lake Carlyle FAY on 15 to 18 May (1999.027; MD, DK, AS*). One adult at Wilkinson-Renwick Marsh DEK on 12 to 13 May (1999.035; DJS). The unprecedented invasion by this species in May 1999 is described by Shambaugh (1999),

where photos of the Montrose and Rockford bird are published; another photo of the Montrose bird appears in NAB 53:3. Following the spring invasion—one fall juvenile was at the Daley Center, Chicago COO on 29 Sep (1999.055; RH*).

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*): One in juvenile plumage at Waukegan Beach LAK on 3 Dec (1998.080; RB, DD) to 1 Jan 1999. This bird was last seen on the Waukegan CBC.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): One juvenile at Meredosia Lake MOR on 11 Sep (1999.042; BA).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*): One at Clinton Lake DEW on 31 Oct to 7 Nov (1999.050; RCh). A Pomarine Jaeger was reported at this site later in November, but not documented. It is unclear whether this may have been the same bird or a different one.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*): One adult at Belmont and Montrose Harbors, Chicago, COO on 23 to 24 Jan (1999.005; GW, DFS)

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Two at Carlyle Lake CLI on 22 Dec (1997.034; MB, HDB, VK, MD, AS*). One at Newton Lake, JAS on 21 Dec (1999.063; JW*).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*): One at Montrose, Chicago COO on 26 Apr (1999.011; RH). One at Urbana CHA on 18 Oct (1999.047; RCh). These are the second and third state records.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbinapasserina*): One near Sanganois CA MSN on 18 Dec (1999.057; MW, TW). This bird was reported on the Crane Lake - Sangamon CBC.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): 2 to 4 individuals at Cypress Creek NWR UNI on 7 Dec (1998.090; FB) to 22 Feb 1999.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*): One male at Urbana CHA on 3 to 5 Dec (1999.054; RCh). This is the fifth confirmed record for the state.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*): One at Peoria, PEO on 15 to 20 Dec (1999.061; BP*v).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*): One at Carlyle Lake CLI on 15 May (1999.020; DK; MS*). A remarkable first Illinois and regional record. An account appears in Kassebaum (1999); a color photo is published in NAB 53: 342.

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchi*): One at Waterloo MNR on 3 Jun (1999.029; DK; JM*). First record of this complex for Illinois and the region. The bird did not vocalize during the observation, which would distinguish these two species. Currently, the photos have not allowed the definitive assignment of this bird to either species. An account and photo can be found in Kassebaum (1999) and a color photo is published in NAB 53:446.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*): One along St. Rte. 3 near Big Muddy River UNI on 24 Apr (1999.018; TM, SK*). One at Prairie Du Rocher RAN on 5 Jul (1999.034; DK). One near Harrisonville MNR on 8 May (1999.040; MRg). This last bird was seen on the SBC.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*): One at Morton Arboretum DUP on 31 Jan to 21 Mar (1999.003; TK*, PM*, EW*). For a photograph by EW and account of this record see Chapman (1999).



Purple Gallinule found at the Daley Center in downtown Chicago, 29 September 1999. Photo by Robert Hughes.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*): Fifteen at Calumet Park, Chicago COO on 27 Jan (1999.004; DFS).

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*): Three to six individuals in northern JAS on 21 Dec (1999.060; EK). These birds were seen on the Newton CBC and are a first Illinois CBC record. The Committee would like to obtain

Other Accepted Records (10 records of 10 species)

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*): One at Mermet Lake MSS 16 Jan to 13 Feb (1999.007; FB*v). This is apparently the second winter record in southern Illinois (Robinson 1996).

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*): Two pairs nesting at Indian Ridge Marsh COO 20 May to 25 Jul (1999.037; WM). This is the first confirmed nesting of this species in northeastern Illinois.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*): One at Alton along the Mississippi River MAD on 30 Jan to 6 Feb (1999.006; WR, JR*); recorded also in Missouri at Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area during this period.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): One at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation KNE on 1 to 3 Dec (1998.093; RAM*). A photo of this rare northern Illinois winter record can be found in MJIB 8:113.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*): One at Porter Bottoms Rd. JOH on 11 Feb (1999.010; SO)

Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*): One at Navy Pier, Chicago COO on 20 to 21 Oct (1999.056;

harder evidence for any winter record for this species in the state.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*): One adult male at Bloomington McL on 19 to 22 May (1999.016; AL, SSS; MRt, DJ*, JBM*, RCh). An account and photo of this third record for the state can be found in Latham et al. (1999).

SP). One feather from the undertail coverts of this bird was taken and is now housed at FMNH.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): One at Mermet Lake MSS 12-13 Feb (1999.008; FB*v). First February record for state.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*): One adult male at the Chicago Botanic Garden COO on 27 Nov to 26 Dec (1998.081; MH, JSt, AH). This bird was accompanied by a second dull-plumaged warbler that likely was an immature of this species; however, a majority of the committee felt that the written descriptions of the second bird were too incomplete and inconsistent to definitely establish its identification as this species.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*): One at Grant Park, Chicago, COO on 14 to 22 Dec (1998.083; DJ*v). This bird was seen on the Chicago Urban CBC.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*): One to two birds at Great Lakes Naval Training Center LAK 14 Nov (1999.058; RB, DJ) to 8 Jan 2000. Species seen on Waukegan CBC. This is the second winter record for northern Illinois.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Unaccepted (5 records of 5 species)

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*): One at Heyworth McL on 25 to 26 Oct (1999.052). An oddly-plumaged bird, probably an eclipse male. Much of the description suggests this species but some inconsistent detail for this species suggests the possibility of a hybrid or anomalous plumage.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*): One at Chain O'Lakes SP LAK on 8 May (1999.038). This report was based on size, shape, and flight profile. In the absence of any plumage detail being seen in this brief observation, the committee could not accept this record.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*): One at Exner Marsh McH on 8 May (1999.039). A majority of the committee felt that while the details were consistent with Black Rail, there were no diagnostic plumage details presented in the description.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*): One in Chicago COO on 8 May (1999.022). The committee felt that inconsistencies in the description, especially just the wings and a "mask" described as black, and the fact that the observers did not use binoculars, made it uncertain that this was not a male Scarlet Tanager.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*): One at Illinois Beach SP LAK on 4 Jun (1999.030). The description provided was not clearly assignable to any species. The observer suggested that inconsistencies in the plumage were a result of the bird being in very worn plumage. But there were no diagnostic plumage characters for this species, and the description of size and shape did not fit the species.

Other Unaccepted Records (6 records of 6 species)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): One over Mississippi River near Horseshoe Lake, ALE on 3 Jan (1997.031). Possibly correct, but there was concern that limited description was insufficient to rule out various plumages of young Bald Eagles. Observers should take care to thoroughly document winter Ospreys because of the wide variation in Bald Eagle plumages.

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*): One near Enfield WHT 14 Apr (1998.031). The committee felt that the bird was correctly identified, but the majority thought it likely that this record pertained to a recently released bird, rather than a wild occurrence of this species outside of its limited range in Jasper and Marion county.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*): One first year bird at the Mallard Lake Landfill DUP on 12 Dec (1998.079). Possibly correct, but the committee felt that the details did not completely rule out Herring Gull in this difficult plumage.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*): One at Newton Lake JAS on 21 Dec (1999.059). Unfortunately, although the plumage pattern described was consistent with this species, the observer did not note the very distinctive orange-red bill color of this species. It seemed to the majority of the committee that an observation under conditions so poor that the bill color could not be determined was not acceptable for what would be the first record of this species in winter in Illinois.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*): One below Hamburg Hill UNI 4 Jan (1998.001). The brevity of the observation, together with a description of the back color as "brownish" concerned enough of the committee that the record was not accepted.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): One photographed at Franklin Park COO in Jan (1999.002). There was no question of the identity of this bird, but the committee all thought that this was a almost certainly an escape from captivity, rather than a wild bird.

Corrigenda

White-faced Ibis: The accepted report listed as 1997.014 should be listed as 1998.014, and was seen 25 Apr to 5 May 1998, not 1997.

Barrow's Goldeneye: The accepted report listed as 1997.006 should be listed as 1998.006, and was seen on 21 Feb 1998, not 1997.

Black Rail: The unaccepted report from 26 Oct 1998 listed as 1998.023 should be listed as 1998.072.

Least Tern: The unaccepted report listed as 1997.040 should be listed as 1998.040 and was seen on 14 May 1998, not 1997.

Rufous Hummingbird: The departure date of 20

Dec for 1998.084 should be 21 Dec.

Vermilion Flycatcher: The report listed as 1998.58 should be listed as 1998.57.

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See page 51 for journal abbreviations.

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