

# Seventh Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

by Douglas F. Stotz

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee ("IORC," or "the Committee") are reported here for a total of 53 records, including 46 accepted records of 33 species, and 8 unaccepted records of 8 species. A total of 57 observers contributed descriptions or photographs documenting the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations from 1999, 2000, and 2001. Some records are still in dispute and the Committee is, as of this publication, still reviewing those records. If a photograph was published in *North American Birds*, *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 author.

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## Format

The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through sixth reports of the Committee (Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1989; Goetz 1990; Johnson, Deaton and Clyne 1998; Johnson and Stotz 1999; Stotz and Johnson 2000). 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 *Meadowlark*) by journal number and page. Articles are cited by author and date and are indexed in the list of references. Seasonal highlights in the *Meadowlark* dealing with first state records are treated as articles.

Several records that were 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 rari-

ties. Often records that have not been accepted suffer from incomplete information, a problem which 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 author's, 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 discrepancies exist 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.

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

## Documentors

Steve Bailey, Frank Bennett, Richard Biss, H. David Bohlen (HDB), Denis Bohm, Barbara Brown, Scott Carpenter, Robert Chapel, Josh Engel, Richard Erickson, Carolyn Fields, Bob Fisher, Steven Freed, Urs Geiser, Ralph Herbst, Scott Hickman, Margaret Hollowell, Frank Holmes, Barbara Johnson, David B. Johnson, Paul Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Jim Landing, Kent Lannert, Sandie Loechle, Charlene Malone, Jim Malone, Keith McMillan, Bill Mellen, Joe B. Milosevich, Rhonda Monroe, Ed Mooney, William Moskoff, Dennis Oehmke, April Paulman, James Phillips, Tim Rathjen, Mary Regan (MRg), Michael Retter (MRt), Justin Rink, Wes Serafin, Jonathan Simms (JSi), Jim Solum (JSO), Pam Sprout (PSP), David Stanfield, Leonard Stanley, Al Stokie, Douglas F. Stotz (DFS), Paul Sweet (PSw), Jeff Walk, Eric Walters, Peter Weber, Chuck Westcott, Daniel Williams, Geoffrey Williamson, Richard Young, Jody Zamirowski (JZa), Jim Ziebol (JZi).

## 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 F. Stotz (Secretary). Alternates on the Committee are Richard Biss, Robert E. Fisher, Joe B. Milosevich, and David Willard.

## 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 that are extremely rare in all but a few counties in the state. The current review list was approved at the 8 August 1999 Committee meet-

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.



ing. 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 (IORC 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 time-

ly 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 (Field Museum) and George Ware (Southern Illinois University) for providing access to museum specimens.

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## ACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Accepted (38 records of 26 species)

**Pacific Loon** (*Gavia pacifica*) One at Clinton Lake DEW on 14 Nov (2000.050; RC).

**Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*) One at Stump Lake, Pere Marquette SP JER on 4 to 7 Aug (2000.038; SB; DK\*, RC).

**Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*) One at Joppa MSS on 20 Sep (2000.043; FB).

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) One adult at Herrick Lake FP DUP on 21 Jun (2000.037; UG). One adult at Horseshoe Lake on 3 to 8 Aug (2000.058; DK\*). One adult at Pere Marquette SP JER on 4 to 7 Aug (2000.059; DK\*). IORC did not consider the photos of the Pere Marquette ibis to be identifiable to species, but written documentation by the observer did establish this bird as a Glossy Ibis.

**White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadis chihi*) One adult in WIN on 29 Apr (2000.023; DW). One adult at Blackwell FP DUP on 6 May (2000.028; JP, JZa). One adult at Horseshoe Lake MAD on 17 to 26 Aug (2000.060; DK\*).

**Eurasian Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*) One adult male at Chain O' Lakes SP, LAK on 15 to 19 Mar (2000.021; JSo; DJ, SC, DB, JR\* [video captures]). Solum (2000) discusses this record. See sketch by David B. Johnson.

**Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) One female-plumaged bird at South Elgin KNE on 1 Jan (2001.001; TR\*).

**Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*) One at Hopkins Park KNK on 1 Jul (2000.040; DFS).

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) One adult at Springbrook Prairie FP DUP on 6 May (2000.028; RY)

**Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) One bird, presumably a male, was at Springbrook Prairie FP DUP on 6 May to 22 June (2000.054; BF written documentation plus recording). Fisher (2000) discusses the record and other recent records of this rarely detected species.

**Purple Gallinule** (*Porphyryla martinica*) One adult at

Mermet Lake MSS on 6 May (2000.030; FB).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (*Calidris acuminata*) One juvenile at Lake Chautauqua NWR MSN on 24 to 30 Sep (2000.047; RC). This bird was seen by numerous observers, but was documented by only one observer.

**Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*) One subadult male at Fairmont City STC and in northern MON on 3 to 6 Apr (2000.022; CM\*, DK\*, KM). The Ruff was seen first at Fairmont City and then moved to nearby Monroe County, it appears. Photos were obtained at both sites and appear identical. Additionally, one observer saw the bird at both sites and believes they were the same bird.

**Pomarine Jaeger** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) One immature at Rend Lake FRA on 29 Jan to 5 Feb (2000.013; FB, DK).

**Long-tailed Jaeger** (*Stercorarius longicaudatus*) One juvenile at Carlyle Lake CLI on 19 Sep to 2 Oct (1999.044; RM\*, CW\*, CF\*, RH\*, KL, JZi, RC, MRt\*, WS, JM, FB). One juvenile at Lake Chautauqua MSN on 10 to 24 Sep (2000.064; DO\*, DJ\*). These are the first two accepted records for Illinois. An immature specimen collected at Nashville was housed at SIU on 21 Oct 1893, and identified as Long-tailed Jaeger. This specimen has been reviewed by IORC, but the committee remains split on its identity. The first record at Carlyle Lake was a controversial bird and remains so. There is some question whether two jaegers may have been present (one Long-tailed and one Parasitic) or whether only a single bird was present. Under this second scenario, this single jaeger, depending on the viewing conditions, was variously identified as a Long-tailed or a Parasitic. At the January 2001 meeting of IORC the committee unanimously agreed that Rhonda Monroe's photos taken on 25 September 1999 during an IOS field trip were of a Long-tailed Jaeger. Outside experts who have viewed these photos on the Internet all concluded it represented a Long-tailed Jaeger, or "probably" a Long-tailed Jaeger. We further decided there was no conclusive evidence

that more than one jaeger was present at Carlyle Lake in September and early October 1999. The committee recognizes this controversy remains, and welcomes additional evidence on the issue.

**California Gull** (*Larus californicus*) One at the Horseshoe Lake borrow pit MAD on 18 December (1999.068; FH) One 1st year bird at Carlyle Lake CLI on 9 to 23 Jan (2000.004; DK\*, FB). One adult at Calumet Park, Chicago COO on 22 to 23 Jan (2000.016; JL\*). A second bird present at the same site was not documented. One adult at Settler's Hill Landfill, Batavia KNE on 28 Oct (2000.048; JSi).

**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) One adult at GLNTC LAK on 3 June (2000.035; AS, DW). This record has details provided by Williams (2000) and is the sixth record for the state accepted by IORC. All have occurred in May or June. The documentation stands out in quality among the written documentation the committee received.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Six individuals at Carlyle CLI on 10 Sep (2000.046; RC; DK\* photo of single individual from a different date at this site). This is a known established population; up to thirteen individuals have been seen here. Dan Kassebaum reports they have been present since 1996. One individual at Newton JAS on 19 Dec (2000.067; JW). This is a population that has been present for an extended period. One individual at Metropolis MSS on 30 Dec (2000.076; DK).

**White-winged Dove** (*Zenaidura asiatica*) One at Ivesdale CHA on 7 May (2000.025; AP\*). This is the fourth record for Illinois of this expanding species.

**Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*) One a Moline ROC on 2 Dec (1999.070; SF) One at Lincoln Park, Chicago COO on 1 Oct (2000.053; GW\*). See photo in this report.

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker** (*Picoides borealis*) One adult female at IBSP LAK on 19 Aug to 10 Dec (2000.052; AS, SB, RE, PSw, DJ\*, DO\*, JBM\*). This remarkable record was the first for Illinois, and perhaps the most unexpected addition to the Illinois list ever. It is this century's second extralimital record north of the states in which it is known to breed for this endangered resident of the southeastern pine forests. Full details and photos can be found in an article on page 42 in this issue of Meadowlark, plus color photos are published in Birding 33:36 and NAB 55:118.

**Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*) One adult male at Naperville WIL on 13 Dec (2000.074; SL\*) to 9 Jan 2001. This bird was seen by many observers.

**Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombycilla garrula*) One at Rochester SAN on 22 Jan to 17 Feb (2000.002; HDB; DO\*). Many other observers saw this bird during its stay. A photo and discussion of the record can be found



Barn Owl. 1 October 2000. Lincoln Park, Chicago, Cook County. Photo by Alan Thatcher. IORC # 2000.053

in Bailey (2000a).

**Scott's Oriole** (*Icterus parisorum*) One immature male at Toulon STA on 15 Jan to 3 Feb (2000.012; PSp\*p,v) A remarkable first Illinois record. This bird came daily to a suet feeder and details of the record are provided by Sprout (2000) and a color photo is published in NAB 54: 228. This bird of the southwestern US and northwestern Mexico has an established pattern of vagrancy that includes records north and east to Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin and western Ontario (AOU 1998). The Wisconsin record also was a feeder bird present from November 1995 to January 1996 (Frank 1996), while the Ontario record was also found in November, in 1975 (Speirs 1985). This suggests that, despite the anomaly of a winter oriole in Illinois, late fall or winter may be the time to expect other vagrant records of this species.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) One immature male at Wadsworth LAK on 21 to 23 Apr (2000.024; BM\*; SC\*v, EW\*, RB\*,DJ). A photo is published along with further details of this record in Mellen (2000) and a color photo is published in NAB 54:335. A pair raised two young in a nest in East St. Louis STC on 29 Jul to 7 Aug (2000.041; DK\*, FB\*v). Details of this nesting record along with photos of the adult male, a nestling and the nest are provided by Kassebaum (2001). These are the fourth and fifth records of this species. The nesting record is a substantial extension of the known breeding range of this species. The nearest known regular breed-



ing population is in southwestern Missouri (Robbins and Easterla 1992).

**Hoary Redpoll** (*Carduelis hornemanni*) One at Skokie

COO on 7 Feb to 3 Mar (2000.017; EM, JE\*, EW\*, SC\*v, DFS, WM, RC) Photos and a discussion of this record are provided by Walters (2000).

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## OTHER ACCEPTED RECORDS — (8 records of 7 species)

**Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularia*) One at Lake Springfield SAN on 25 Jan to 15 Feb (2000.003; HDB). This is one of only two winter records for Illinois.

**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*) One at Mermet Lake MSS on 23 March (2000.020; FB\*v).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) One at Carlyle Lake CLI on 19 Aug to 9 Oct (2000.057; DK\*, RC). This species has recently been removed from the review list.

**Northern Shrike** (*Lanius excubitor*) One at borrow pit near Horseshoe Lake MAD on 26 Nov (1999.069; FH\*; JZi, BJ, PJ) to 6 Feb 2000. This was a well-documented record. One of the documenters believed this bird represented a juvenile Loggerhead Shrike rather than a Northern Shrike. However, Loggerhead Shrikes lose their juvenile characters before November. The documentation in February especially indicated that this was not a juvenile Loggerhead. A photo of this bird was pub-

lished in the review by Bailey (2000b) of the Northern Shrike invasion of the winter of 1999-2000. This is the southernmost record for Northern Shrike in Illinois. See sketch by Jim Ziebol.

**American Pipit** (*Anthus rubescens*) One at GLNTC LAK on 23 Jan (2000.001; SH, AS, RE). One at Lake Sangchris SAN on 22-23 Jan (2000.006; PW). Although American Pipits are irregularly found in Illinois in December (Bohlen 1989), these mid-winter records are unprecedented.

**Dark-eyed Junco** (*Junco hyemalis*) One at Deer Grove East FP COO on 4 June (1999.066; CF). This is one of the few June records for Illinois.

**Dickcissel** (*Spiza americana*) One at Belleville STC on 11 Mar (2000.015; MRg). Typically, this species arrives in Illinois in late April. There is one other March record (Bohlen 1986) and very few winter records, mostly in December and January.



Sketch of Northern Shrike by Jim Ziebol. Documented in St. Charles County, south of its typical wintering range. IORC # 1999.069. Note the strongly hooked bill, diagnostic of this species.

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## UNACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Unaccepted (6 records of 6 species)

**Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*) One in Oakwood Twp. VER on 4 Aug (2000.039). There was almost no description provided of the bird seen. The observer indicated it looked like a frigatebird and nothing in the description ruled out an immature frigatebird.

**Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One immature along the Illinois River JER on 11 Nov (2000.051). A limited description did not eliminate Pomarine Jaeger or even an immature Herring Gull. The described size of the bird observed as larger than a Ring-billed Gull argues against this species.

**Royal Tern** (*Sterna maxima*) One at 64th St. Beach, Chicago COO on 9 June (1999.065). Committee members felt the description was too brief and did not eliminate Caspian Tern.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Three individuals at Kansas EDG on 6 May (2000.033). The flock contained one all-white bird. Since albinos are commonly found in Ringed Turtle-Dove and given brief descriptions of the other birds, the majority of the Committee considered this record questionable. The Committee has several other records of this species that remain in review. It is clear that this species is invading Illinois and is resident in parts of downstate. However, very few records have been well-documented for the state. Given the fact that Ringed Turtle-Doves are held in captivity throughout the U.S., and that a large feral, extremely variable population of *Streptopelia* exists in

Will County, the committee encourages observers to carefully document all *Streptopelia* populations. It will help us understand the spread of this species through the state, and help us understand the interaction with the feral *Streptopelia* populations.

**Carrion Crow** (*Corvus corone*) One at Montrose COO on 13 to 27 Feb (2000.018; photo) The photo of this bird examined by the committee was unequivocally a "Hooded" Crow, the eastern European subspecies of the Carrion Crow. There is a record from the Salton Sea, California, considered to be an escape (AOU 1998). Otherwise it is unrecorded from North America, although there are specimen records from Greenland. Given the unlikelihood of the record, and the extremely worn plumage described by many observers in posts on IBET, the Committee believed the probability this bird represented an escape from captivity was very high, and voted not to accept this record.

**Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombycilla garrula*) One at Highland Park LAK on 30 Dec (2000.066). A lengthy view was obtained by the single observer at close range. However, the description was incomplete. It mentioned white in the wing, but the pale inner edge of tertials on the Cedar Waxwing may appear as a white line. Despite the good view, the description does not mention the chestnut undertail coverts of this species. In the absence of any diagnostic plumage detail in the description, the committee voted not to accept this record.

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## OTHER UNACCEPTED RECORDS — (2 records of 2 species)

**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryothorus bewickii*) One in sw FRA on 26 Sep (2000.049). The photograph that was identified as this species appears to be a House Wren with an unusually prominent eyeline.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** (*Spizella pallida*) One at Bloomington MCL on 13 to 18 December (2000.068).

The committee split, as did observers who saw the bird, on whether this bird was a Clay-colored or Chipping sparrow. It was clearly one or the other, both of which would be exceptional records at this time of year, but the details were insufficient to establish it as either species with certainty.

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## CORRIGENDA

**Purple Gallinule:** The specimen record in the sixth report (Stotz and Johnson 2000) from Flanagan

(1999.036) should be listed as Livingston County, not McLean County.

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## Literature Cited

See the first page of this report for journal abbreviations.

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