

Eighth 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 37 records, including 25 accepted records of 23 species, and 12 unaccepted records of 11 species. A total of 40 observers contributed descriptions or photographs documenting the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations from 2000, 2001, and 2002. The Committee is still reviewing some records during this period. If a photograph was published in *North American Birds* (a publication of the American Birding Association), *American Birds* or *Meadowlark*, an attempt has been made to reference these publications as evidence. Any errors of omission are the fault of the authors.

Format:

The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through seventh 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, Stotz 2001). 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 Stotz 2001), 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 the 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 documentation 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 *Meadowlark* dealing with first state records are treated as articles.

Several rarities 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 rarities. Often records that have not been accepted suffer from incomplete information, a problem

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 which are now stored at Chicago, Illinois, in the Bird Division of the Field Museum.

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.

Abbreviations

References to seasonal reports in the journals *Illinois Birds and Birding*; *Meadowlark: A Journal of Illinois Birds*; *American Birds*; and

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.

North American Birds are abbreviated by IBB, MJIB, AB, and NAB, respectively, followed by volume and page numbers. Months are abbreviated by their first three letters. County abbreviations follow those adopted in Johnson, Deaton, and Clyne (1998), and can be found in Stotz (2001). CBC indicates a record obtained on a Christmas Bird Count.

"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 "North American Birds" and include Illinois as well as Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and most of Ohio and Kentucky.

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Membership

Current members of the IORC are: Steven D. Bailey, Robert T. Chapel, Robert D. Hughes, David B. Johnson (Vice-Secretary), Dan M. Kassebaum, Keith A. McMullen and Douglas F. Stotz (Secretary). Alternates on the Committee are: Richard Biss, Robert E. Fisher, Joe B. Milosevich and David E. 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 which are extremely rare in all but a few counties in the state. The current review list was approved at the 8 Aug 1999 Committee meeting. The IORC requests and welcomes evidence concerning all records for the species listed on the review list on the IOS/IORC website: [http://](http://www.illinoisbirds.org/iorc.html)

www.illinoisbirds.org/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. Exceptional 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, documentation, photographs, and/or videotapes. Special thanks go to David Willard (Field Museum) for providing access to museum specimens. Thanks to committee member Paul R. Clyne for a final review of this report.

ACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Accepted (22 records of 20 species)

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) One at Clinton Lake DEW on 11 Nov (2001.047; RC).

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) One male at Pere Marquette State Park JER on 19 May (2001.032 JLS; BH, JB, CG).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) One at Lincoln Park, Chicago COO on 23 Apr (2001.005; RH; KH*).

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) One at Montrose Point, Chicago COO on 27 Sep (2001.041; GW); one at Carlyle Lake FAY on 19 to 20 Oct (2001.054; ASe*, KM). The Montrose bird was of the dark-bellied west coast form *nigricans* (formerly considered a distinct species, "Black Brant"). Only two previous records from Illinois are of this form.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) One male at Heidecke Lake GRU on 29 Dec (2001.051; JM). Photographs were apparently obtained of this bird, but the Committee has not seen them. This bird was seen on the 2001 Morris-Wilmington CBC.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) One at Grassy Slough Preserve JOH on 28 Apr to 2 May (2001.008; DK*, KM, FB). This is only the fourth record of this species for Illinois. For a complete account see Kassebaum (2001). A photo appears in MJIB: 10:143.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) One at Carlyle Lake FAY on 27 May (2000.082, ASe*, DK); one at Carlyle Lake CLI on 27 May (2001.016; DK*). This species appears to be regular at Carlyle Lake in small numbers. Elsewhere downstate it remains extremely rare.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) One breeding-plumaged bird at Great Lakes Naval Training Center LAK on 10 to 13 Jun (2001.019; SC*, CF*, KH*, DJ*pv, DD, BH). For an account see Erickson (2001). Photos appear in NAB 55:439 and in MJIB 10:144.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One juvenile at Lake Chautauqua MSN on 10 Sep to 4 Oct (2000.081; DO*). A photo (photo B) appears in MJIB 10: 96 and 10:142 as a jaeger photo quiz bird.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) One juvenile

at Carlyle Lake CLI on 21 Sep (2001.034; DK). This is the third accepted record for this species in the state (Stotz 2001).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) One adult at Waukegan Beach LAK on 18 Nov (2001.059; CF*). This is the first record for Lake County.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) One adult, apparently a male, at Great Lakes Naval Training Center LAK on 19 May through 31 Jul (2001.020; RH, HDB; CF*, KH*, DJ*pv, SH). The bird identified by Robert D. Hughes on 19 May was deemed by the Committee to be the same individual identified on 14 Jun by H. David Bohlen and seen regularly thereafter. See Johnson (2002) for full details on this record.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) One at Montrose Point, Chicago COO on 15 Sep (2001.038; GW).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) One at Penfield CHA on 16-17 Apr (2001.007; JL*). Fifth record for Illinois.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) One at Montrose, Chicago COO on 11 May (2001.014; RH; KH*). A photo appears in MJIB 10:160. Ninth Illinois record, and only the second for spring, excluding one record pending review from Mar 2000.

Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) One at Illinois Beach S.P. LAK on 11 Jul (2001.022; BS*; DJ*pv, GW, recording) to 6 Apr 2002. A first con-



Say's Phoebe. 11 May 2001. Montrose Point in Chicago, Cook County. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.



Brown-headed Nuthatch. 13 July 2001. Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County. Photo by Brad Semel.

firmed state record. This was another stunning vagrant from the southern U.S. pine woods, found at the same site occupied by a Red-cockaded Woodpecker in summer/ fall of 2000 (Sweet 2001). A photo is published in color in NAB 55:505 and in black and white in Semel (2001); a different photo appears in the 102nd Christmas Bird Count issue, AB: 69. This was a first Illinois wintering record for the species and a new addition to the Illinois Christmas Bird Count species list. In addition, this individual's occurrence spanned a full four seasons in Illinois. For a complete account, see Semel (2001). See photo in this report.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) One at Crabtree

Nature Center COO on 17 Dec (2001.048; GB). This bird was seen on the 2001 Barrington CBC.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) One at Congerville WOO 3 Jan to 3 Feb (2001.024; RC, DO*). A photo appears in MJIB 10:118.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) One at Forest Park COO on 12 Oct (2001.056; RM, GW, JK*). See article and photo in this issue.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) One male at East St. Louis STC on 10 May to 6 Aug (2001.013; DK*). At least two males and a female were present at this site, where the species nested in 2000 (Kassebaum 2001).

OTHER ACCEPTED RECORDS — (3 records of 3 species)

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisigena*) One at Crab Orchard Lake WLM on 15 Dec (2001.052; NH, TH). This bird was seen on the 2001 Crab Orchard CBC.

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) One adult at Great Lakes

Naval Training Center LAK on 27 Jun (2001.021, DJ*).

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) One male near Galena JOD on 12-29 Dec (2001.050; RD*). This bird, coming to a feeder, was recorded on the Schapville CBC.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Unaccepted (9 records of 8 species)

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) One near Wataga KNO on 14 Apr (2001.030); one at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe COO on 4 Sep (2001.046). Both of these records were considered by the majority of the Committee to likely represent pale Red-tailed Hawks, perhaps of the subspecies *krideri*. The Botanic Garden bird's tail pattern fits immature Red-tailed and not Ferruginous. Neither record noted the distinctive flight silhouette, compared with Red-tailed Hawk, nor the large pale patches on the upper wing (typical of Ferruginous Hawk), although both birds were seen in flight. There is only one accepted specimen record as well as four acceptable sight documentation records of this species for Illinois, and documentation will need to be very complete to establish further records. See Bohlen (1986) for an informative discussion on the Illinois status and identification pitfalls of this species.

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*) One on the Lake Michigan lakefront, Chicago COO on 28 Jun (2001.033). This bird was reported as a first-year Heermann's Gull. It was clearly a very dark gull, associating with Ring-billed Gulls. The Committee felt that the possibility of a melanistic or oiled Ring-billed Gull had not been fully discussed and eliminated. Additionally, the bill was described as yellow with a black tip. Heermann's Gulls typically have a decidedly fleshy tone to the pale part of the bill. The description did not directly compare size and proportions with Ring-billed Gull. Finally, the date of the observation troubled most of the Committee. In late June, this species is just dispersing from its breeding islands in northwestern Mexico along the Pacific Coast. Nearly all vagrant records of this species inland in California and the western states are later in the fall, mainly in October and November. A first-year bird on the Great Lakes in late June thus does not match this species' known patterns of vagrancy.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) One at Lyons Woods, Waukegan LAK on 1 Jan (2002.001). The majority of the Committee thought that this bird could have been a Common Raven, but the briefness of the observation, the fact that the

bird did not call, and the fact that there have been several recent records of clearly escaped, exotic corvids in the Chicago area, led the Committee to not accept this record. There are no clear Illinois records of Common Ravens since the 1950s (Bohlen 1987), but several recent undocumented reports and an expanding range in Wisconsin suggest that Illinois observers should be on the lookout for this species and be prepared to carefully document it.

Martin, sp? (non-Purple) (*Progne, sp?*) One female-plumaged bird near Colfax McL on 19 Aug (2001.040). A martin with entirely dark upperparts and a strongly white unmarked abdomen was observed in flight for about ten minutes. The majority of the Committee were not convinced that views of a flying bird were sufficient to exclude variation within Purple Martin. Despite the fact that this record was not accepted by the Committee, Illinois observers should be aware that there are several species of Neotropical martins that have been recorded as vagrants in the United States, and should be considered as possibilities, especially in the fall. Because of identification difficulties, photographs at the very least will probably be necessary to secure the identity of vagrant martins.

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*) One adult male at Urbana CHA on 15 Sep (2001.044). Virginia's Warbler continues to be a problematic species in Illinois. This record was not accepted by a majority of the Committee, who felt that the description was too incomplete to provide a first state record (one previous record remains under review). Problems with the description include the fact that the size and extent of the yellow patch on the breast were not described, and the back was described as gray (with no mention of the brown tones that are typical in fresh plumage in this species). The date is at the late edge of this species' typical migratory period in the west.

Yellow Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysopleus*) One female-plumaged bird at Fermilab, Batavia DUP on 15 Dec (2001.049). The documenting observer did not have a com-

plete view of the bird, but the description suggested a female of either the Central American Yellow Grosbeak or the South American Yellow-bellied Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysogaster*). Either is very unlikely as a natural vagrant to Illinois, and this record was not accepted because of questions of origin. At least one Committee member found the description unresponsive, even at the superspecies level. The Yellow Grosbeak is a vagrant to the American Southwest, but records are concentrated in late spring and early summer. It is a common cagebird in Mexico.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) One female-plumaged bird at Urbana CHA on 21-24 Oct (2001.045). The majority of the Committee agreed that this bird was likely a Scott's Oriole. However, the two descriptions provided were incomplete, with the back poorly described and no description of

tail pattern. The descriptions of bill shape as "slender" or "thin" is not consistent with Scott's, which has a heavy bill compared to other Illinois orioles. Finally, the fact that both of the documenting observers presented their observations as "probably" a Scott's Oriole made Committee members hesitant to endorse a specific identification. Scott's Oriole is a very rare vagrant to the eastern U.S. and is known in Illinois from only one previous record (Sprout 2001, Stotz 2001).

Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) one at Jerseyville JER on 5 May (2001.028). The Committee felt that the bird described was not a Bachman's Sparrow. None of the field marks of a Bachman's Sparrow were noted, and the overall color tone described seemed too gray for Bachman's Sparrow. Additionally, the description of the voice did not match that of Bachman's Sparrow:

OTHER UNACCEPTED RECORDS — (3 records of 3 species)

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) One at Rend Lake FRA on 15 Dec (2001.053). A very brief description, with no mention of the bright red bill of this species, made this report unacceptable to the Committee.

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) One adult at Carbondale JAC on 19 to 22 Jan (2001.025). The Committee felt that this bird was incompletely described, and Carolina Chickadee could not be ruled out, despite the fact that the observer was

clearly familiar with the differences between the species.

"Sutton's" Warbler (*Dendroica dominica x Parula americana*) One at Hazlet State Park CLI on 15 Sep (2001.035). The bird was described as similar to Northern Parula, but with more extensive yellow on the underparts and a black auricular patch. The Committee felt that, in the absence of a white supercilium (typical of this hybrid combination), the description indicated an aberrant Northern Parula more than a "Sutton's" Warbler.

ADDENDUM

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) In the 7th report, a record from Chain O' Lakes State Park LAK in Mar 2000 (IORC no. 2000.021) was accepted based on written docu-

mentation (Stotz 2001). The Committee has subsequently reviewed and accepted video evidence of the record (JE*v). See Solum (2000).

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See page 63 for journal abbreviations.

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