

Tenth 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 46 records, including 42 accepted records of 33 species plus a hybrid, and four unaccepted records of three species. A total of 54 observers contributed descriptions or photographs documenting the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed

species evaluations by the current committee from 2002 through 2004, plus some earlier records that had not been previously evaluated, as well as records that earlier incarnations of the committee evaluated, but never published. The committee is examining the archives of IORC to bring the publications of the committee up-to-date. We will publish early records that the committee

has already evaluated without further evaluation by the committee. Records assigned an IORC reference number, but that have not been evaluated previously by the committee, will be evaluated by the current committee. We anticipate being current with the historical records within two to three years.

Format: The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through ninth 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; Stotz and Johnson 2002; Stotz and Johnson 2003). 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 seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's checklis, (1998) and its supplements, through the 44th (Banks et al. 2003).

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. 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 (#) follows 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 the *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. If a photograph was published in *North American Birds* or the *Meadowlark*, an attempt has been made to reference the publication of those photographs. Any errors of omission are the fault of the authors.

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 rarities. 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 authors', although most of the information comes from the committee files which are now stored in 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 report.

Abbreviations: References to seasonal reports in the journals *Illinois Birds and Birding*; *Meadowlark*, *A Journal of Illinois Birds*; *American Birds* and *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 largely follow those adopted in Johnson, Deaton and Clyne (1998).

“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.

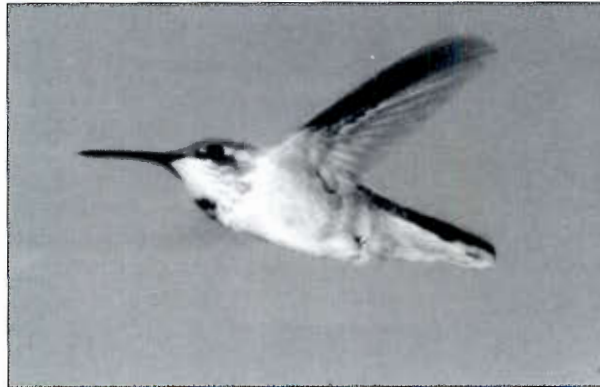
Documentors: Bill Atwood, Richard Anderson, Louise Augustine, Jeff Baughmann, Michael Baum, Frank Bennett, Bill Bertrand, Richard Biss, Richard and Sigurd Bjorklund, H. D. Bohlen, Robert Cecil (RCe), Robert Chapel (RCh), Myrna Deaton, Betty Dralle, Mary Jane Easterday, Darlene Fiske, William Foster, Jim Fuller, Loraine Funk, Ron Goetz, James E. Hampson, Joan Hendrickson (JHn), Gary Herren, Kanae Hirabayashi, Larry L. Hood, Walter Hopkins, Robert Hughes, Dan Kassebaum, Peter Kasper, Vicki Lang, Jim Landing, Mike Matson, Travis Mahan, Joe Milosevich, Bob Montgomery, Greg Neise, Richard Palmer, Bruce Peterjohn, Dale Pontius, Doug Robinson, Rhonda

Rothrock, Mary Kay Rubey, William Rudden, Thomas Schulenberg, Eric Secker, James Smith, Muriel Smith, Phoebe Snetsinger, Douglas F. Stotz, Sherman Suter, Geoff Williamson, Allen and Pat Yenerich.

Review List: The Review List includes species for which the committee will review all records or all records outside of some determined range within the state. These are species that, in general, average two 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 18 January 2003 committee meeting. IORC requests and welcomes evidence concerning all records for the review species listed on the review list on the IOS/IORC website: <http://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. Exceptionally high counts of species may also merit documentation. These documentations should generally be sent to the seasonal editor of the Field Notes in the Meadowlark.

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 which contributed evidence of Illinois birds by specimens, documentations, photographs, and/or videotapes.



Young male Rufous Hummingbird at feeder in Elgin, Kane County. Fall 2003. Photo by Sue Douglas. This bird was seen from 27 September 2002 to 4 January 2003.

ACCEPTED RECORDS ... Review List Records Accepted (23 records of 21 species)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

(*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) One at Chau, MSN on 21 Aug to 8 Oct (2003.020; R&SB, HDB*, LA*). This is the second record of this expanding species in Illinois. A report from spring 2003 is still under review.

Barrow's Goldeneye

(*Bucephala islandica*) One female at Belmont Harbor, Chicago COO on 24 to 28 Mar (1979.005; JL, WH, GN).

Neotropic Cormorant

(*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) One at Fermilab DUP on 15 Apr (1989.016; PK).

Magnificent Frigatebird

(*Fregata magnificens*) One along the Lake Michigan lakefront COO on 28 Sep (1988.068; DP, RB, WF, RHu, SS). This individual, a juvenile, was seen following the passage of Hurricane Gilbert along the Gulf Coast. It was first observed at Jackson Park at about 7:30 AM flying north, and then subsequently observed in Lincoln Park and finally at Wilmette at about 9:30 AM.

Roseate Spoonbill

(*Platalea ajaja*) one immature near Vandalia on 22 Jun to 8 Jul, and at Carlyle Lake, FAY on 14 Jul to 16 Aug (2003.015: TM*, DK*). Mahan (2004) provides an account of this record, and two photos. It represents the

first accepted record for Illinois. It was one of several records of spoonbills during the summer and fall of 2003 in the central US, north of its normal range (Mahan 2004). The state checklist (IORC 1999) previously considered this species hypothetical. Bohlen (1989) treated the species as extirpated, but details only a skeleton from a pre-Columbian archaeological site (possibly a trade item from outside Illinois), a specimen that was not preserved and reported by a different author over 30 years later, and second-hand reports in Ridgway (1895) from twenty years earlier. Mahan (2004) mentions another specimen, without locality data, that some circumstantial evidence suggests could have been collected in Fayette County, Illinois.

Prairie Falcon

(*Falco mexicanus*) one at Forest Glen Preserve, VER on 26 Nov (1989.049; MJE).

Ruff

(*Philomachus pugnax*) One at Rice Lake FUL on 3 Sep (1988.102; MB).

Snowy Plover

(*Charadrius alexandrinus*) One at Meredosia Lake MOR on 27-28 Apr (2003:011; BA, TM*). An account of this record, along with a photo of the bird is provided by Atwood (2004). This is the fourth accepted record of Snowy Plover for Illinois. The 1993 record from near Fountain Bluff, Jackson County mentioned by Atwood (2004) has not been reviewed by IORC. The committee has not received documentation of this record. If anyone is aware of extant documentation of this record, the committee would be interested in seeing this documentation.

Pomarine Jaeger

(*Stercorarius pomarinus*) One at Northwestern University Landfill, Evanston, COO on 16 Oct (1978.007; GN).



Black-tailed Gull. Montrose, Cook County. 7 August 2003. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.

Black-tailed Gull

(*Larus crassirostris*) One adult at Montrose, Chicago, COO on 7 Aug (2003.012; RHu*, KH*)

See an article in this issue for details on this first-state record for this species.

White-winged Dove

(*Zenaida asiatica*) One at Soldier Field, Chicago COO on 13 May (2003.007; DFS, TS, GW)

Barn Owl

(*Tyto alba*) One at Big River State Forest HND on 19 Dec (1988.119; BB).

Burrowing Owl

(*Athene cunicularia*) One approximately one mile northwest of Allerton (Vermilion County) in far e. CHA on 17 Mar (2003.008; JS*). This is the first Illinois record since 1985, and is the earliest spring record (Bohlen 1989). Smith (2003) provides an account of the record accompanied by two photos taken by S. Bailey.

Rufous Hummingbird

(*Selasphorus rufus*) One young male at a feeder in Elgin, KNE on 27 Sep (2002.025; MKR*, TM*, BM) on 4 January 2003. One adult male in LEE on 20-22 Apr (2003.009; A&PY*; JEH). The latter record represents the first spring record for this species. As wintering populations continue to increase along the Gulf Coast, it is to be expected that more spring birds will begin appearing in Illinois.

Vermilion Flycatcher

(*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) One female at Lincoln Park, Chicago COO on 8 to 12 Apr (1981.013; JL). This bird was supposedly photographed but no photos appear to be in the IORC archives. If anybody has photos of this bird, the committee would encourage them to be submitted.

Bewick's Wren

(*Thryomanes bewickii*) One at Montrose, Chicago COO on 6 Apr (2003.006; GW). This bird was seen by numerous observers during its brief stay, but documentation was submitted to the committee by only one observer. Photographic evidence was apparently obtained, but has not been seen by the committee.

Varied Thrush

(*Ixoreus naevius*) One at a feeder in Libertyville LAK from late Apr to 5 May (2003.022; MM*). This is the latest spring record for this species. One at Bushnell McD on 20 Nov (2003.023; LLH*).

Grace's Warbler

(*Dendroica graciae*) One at Montrose, Chicago COO on 8 Sep (2003.021; RHu*, KH*) First-state record for this species. See photos in this report. Also, please see a more detailed article on the Grace's Warbler in Illinois in the next issue of Meadowlark.

Swainson's Warbler

(*Limnothlypis swainsoni*) One south of Carbondale JAC on 4 to 10 May (2003.011; VL, FB, RR). The last known breeding population of Swainson's Warbler disappeared from Illinois in the 1990s. The few documented records since that time have consisted of spring migrants, including this one. Undocumented reports and rumors continue for Swainson's Warbler during the breeding season. It seems reasonable that a breeding population

could still exist or re-establish itself in Illinois as succession creates the appropriate cane habitat for this species.

Great-tailed Grackle

(*Quiscalus mexicanus*) One female 2 miles east of Savanna CAR on 10 May (2003.022; JB*). This bird constitutes the first record for the Spring Bird Count.

Bachman's Sparrow

(*Aimophila bachmani*) Two at Little Grassy Lake JAC on 7 Sep (1975.009; BP). The history of Bachman's Sparrow in Illinois is one of range expansion, then contraction and finally extinction (see Bohlen 1989 for details). The species was apparently restricted to southern Illinois in the 1800s. By the early 20th century, there were records from much of the state and it bred near the Wisconsin line. Soon after, the species began to disappear, and by the 1950s was again found in only southern Illinois. This record is the last record from the state. Although appropriate habitat still exists, declines elsewhere in the northern part of its range (Palmer-Ball 1996) suggest that the species is gone for good from Illinois.



Other Accepted Records:

(16 records of 11 species, plus one record of a hybrid)

Blue-winged Teal

(*Anas discors*) One at Elgin KNE on 18 Dec (1989.072; BD).

Pacific Loon

(*Gavia pacifica*) One at Clinton Lake DEW on 4 November (1989.037; RCh). One at Lake Decatur MCN on 19 Apr (1989.015; MD, RP).

Little Blue Heron

(*Egretta caerulea*) One in MAD on 19 Dec (1987.137; JHn).

White-faced Ibis

(*Plegadis chihi*) one adult near Fountain MNR on 5-6

May (1978.005; WR, RA). One at Cahokia, STC on 10 to 22 Sep (1983.007; RG, PS). One at Clear Lake, MAS on 4-5 Apr (2003.005; TM *p). A majority of the committee did not think that the photographs taken of the Clear Lake bird were unequivocally identifiable to species. However, written documentation established the identification beyond a doubt.

Glossy Ibis

(*Plegadis falcinellus*) One at the Cinder Flats, SAN on 4 May (1982.011; HDB). One at Clear Lake MSN on 18-26 Sep (1988.070; LA).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

(*Larus fuscus*) One at Joliet WLL on 28 Nov (1986.196; JM). One at Lock and Dam 19, HAN on 20 to 22 Oct (1986.199; JF, RCe).

Sabine's Gull

(*Xema sabini*) One at Clinton L DEW on 9 Oct (1988.094; MD).

Grace's Warbler. Montrose, Cook County.

8 September 2003. Photos by Kanae Hirabayashi.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

(*Tyrannus forficatus*) One near Wolf Lake UNI on 29 Dec (1988.127; DR). This is the only winter record and Christmas Bird Count record for Illinois and one of the very few north of the Gulf Coast.

Golden-winged

X Blue-winged Warbler

"Lawrence's" Warbler

(*Vermivora pinus x chrysoptera*)

One in ne UNI on 7 May (1988.046; GH).

Palm Warbler

(*Dendroica palmarum*) One of the hypochrysea race at Tri-County SP, DUP on 10 Apr (2003.014; MS).

Lincoln's Sparrow

(*Melospiza lincolni*) One e. of Beverly, ADA on 26 Dec (1989.094; LF).

Harris' Sparrow

(*Zonotrichia querula*) One adult at Clinton Lake DEW on 17 Dec (1989.096; LA).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS ... Review List Records Unaccepted (4 records of 3 species)

Parasitic Jaeger

(*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One at Montrose, Chicago COO on 15 Nov (1980.009). One at IBSP LAK on 2 Oct (1982.013). Committee members did not find that the documentation of these birds were sufficient to rule out other species of jaegers. It was accepted by the committee as an unidentified jaeger. Jaeger identification, especially of first year birds, is an evolving science.

Many of the criteria used for identification in the past are not currently considered to be reliable. Add to this, the fact that birds are usually distant and observation periods are often very short, and the difficulties are obvious. Review of the IORC archives suggests that some accepted records from the past will need to be re-evaluated using current criteria.

Common Ground-Dove

(*Columbina passerina*) One near Rockford, WIN in Oct (1977.005). Photos of a dove at a feeder were found in a collection of bird photos from near Rockford. IORC was asked to review the photos as a Common Ground-Dove. The committee unanimously agreed that the photo instead represented a juvenile Mourning Dove. Although October is a late date for birds still in scaly juvenile plumage, such plumage at this date is not uncommon in Illinois.

Great Tit

(*Parus major*) Two at a feeder in Harvard McH 23 May (2003.010). Excellent photos were obtained of these birds, and there is no doubt as to their identity. Fiske (2004) discusses this occurrence in detail. Birds were seen at this feeder though at least April 2004, and the birds apparently nested in the area. Fiske (2004) sug-

gests a source from which these birds may have escaped. There are no confirmed natural occurrences in North America, although a sight record exists for Alaska (AOU 1998). Other records at feeders elsewhere in eastern North America have been treated as escapes from captivity. IORC considers this record as most likely to fall within this category as well.

Corrigenda:

The Gyrfalcon (2003.001) at LaSalle Lake in January 2003 was first found and identified by Cindy Alberico, who provided the committee with written documentation. The mention of this record in the ninth IORC report (Stotz and Johnson 2003) failed to credit her. Dennis Oehmke was left off the list of Documentors in the ninth report.

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