

The Eleventh 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 59 records, including 56 accepted records of 38 species plus a hybrid, and 3 unaccepted records of 3 species. We examined documentation from a total of 60 observers in evaluating the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations by the current committee from 2003 through 2005, plus some earlier records that had not been previously evaluated.



This Vermilion Flycatcher was found at Afton Forest Preserve in DeKalb County and seen between 10 October 2004 and 8 November 2004. Photo by Eric Walters.

Format: The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through tenth reports of the Committee (Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1989, 1990; Johnson, Deaton and Clyne 1998; Johnson and Stotz 1999; Stotz and Johnson 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004; 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 taxonomy and sequence of species conforms to that of the seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's checklist, (1998) and its supplements, through the 46th (Banks et al. 2005).

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 been not accepted suffer from incomplete information, a problem which additional documentation by other observers could help overcome. Increasingly photographs, especially digital images, are being used to document records, which has improved the acceptance rate of records. However, most photographic documentation is not accompanied by written documentation. The committee encourages observers to provide written documentation of records, even if documented by photographs. Written documentation can often provide important information in the evaluation of a record, even if high-quality photographs are obtained.

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



This Brown Pelican was seen at Clinton Lake, DeWitt County from 7 November 2004 to 4 December 2004. Photo by Eric Walters.

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.

Changes to the Illinois list

This report adds three species to the list of accepted species for Illinois with the addition of Mottled Duck, Inca Dove, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher; all are based on photographic evidence. In addition, the committee changed the status of Trumpeter Swan from Extirpated to Regular based on the populations in surrounding states becoming established. The wintering and migrating Trumpeter Swans that are seen in Illinois come primarily from the reintroduced breeding populations in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Those populations have spread from their initial introductions and are considered established in those states, so we consider Trumpeter Swan to be a current member of the Illinois avifauna. Observers should recognize that not all Trumpeter Swans in Illinois pertain to these established populations. Some may be from other reintroductions that are not considered to be established and some are released captive birds, which may or may not have their wings clipped.

The documentation supporting Sooty Tern's presence on the Illinois state list has been upgraded from written documentation to photographic evidence. A specimen record obtained following Hurricane Dennis has not yet been evaluated by the committee.

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). An on-line map showing the regions of Illinois can be found at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/Listing/2004%20Lists/IllinoisRegionalBirdingMap.gif>.

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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 which are extremely rare in all but a few counties in the state. The current review list was revised at the 17 July 2005 committee meeting. The committee removed California Gull and Varied Thrush from the review list. In addition, for Purple Sandpiper, Lake Michigan lakefront birds will no longer be routinely reviewed, nor will Painted Buntings from the standard E. St. Louis breeding sites. Elsewhere in the state both species should be documented and submitted to IORC for review. 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, and will be

reviewed by IORC. 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 also should 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 and/or the regional editors for North American Birds. Similarly, rarities on Christmas Bird Counts and Spring Bird Counts should

be documented and that documentation provided to the appropriate compiler. In most cases, other than review list species, IORC will not review documentations, except at the request of compilers or editors.

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.

ACCEPTED RECORDS Review List Records Accepted (50 records of 34 species)



Ferruginous Hawk. Clinton Lake, DeWitt County. 25 November 2004. Photo by Christopher L. Wood.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)

One was at Crab Orchard NWR on 21-29 June (2003.028; TM*). This bird was apparently located by staff at the national wildlife refuge on 21 June. Mahan observed the bird on 22 June 2003, photographed it on 23 June and made the birding community aware of its presence.

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*)

One at L. Springfield, SAN on 21 May to 24 Oct (2004.016; HDB*; TM*, ES, UG*). On 21 Dec 2004, what was likely the same bird was located at a sewage plant several miles north of the original sighting (Bohlen 2005a). This is the first record for Illinois; photos of it and a brief discussion of the record can be found at Bohlen (2005a).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

One adult female at L. Springfield and Buffalo, SAN on 15-20 Mar (2004.012; HDB*; TM*) is the fourth state record. A photo of this bird and a discussion of the record can be found at Bohlen (2005b)

Brown Pelican

(*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

An immature at Clinton L., DEW on 7 Nov to 4 Dec (2004.026; DK, GL*; TM*, UG*); an immature at

Montrose, Chicago, COO north along Lake Michigan lakefront to Waukegan, LAK between 27-31 Aug (2004.024; DA, CJ).

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

An immature was at Carlyle L., FAY on 10-11 Aug (2003.026; DK, TM*); an immature at Carlyle L., FAY on 7-16 July (2005.027; DK*)

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

An immature bird was at a small pond in the Palos FP, COO from at least 7-12 Oct (2004.027; B&KF, JK*, KM*, GW*). There are indications that the bird was present for some time before it came to the attention of birders, but the committee does not have specific information to allow us to evaluate that issue. See an article in this issue about the Wood Stork.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

One at Springfield, SAN on 30 Apr (2005.019; HDB*)

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

An immature at Clinton L., DEW on 25 Nov (2004.036; CW). Delete current second sentence and replace with: This species is known from Illinois from a 1939 specimen and four accepted sight reports. There are a number of additional undocumented or unaccepted sight reports.



Brown Pelican. Clinton Lake, DeWitt County. 14 November. Photo by Travis A. Mahan.

Purple Gallinule

(*Porphyrio martinicus*)

An adult at Homer, CHA on 14-30 Apr (2005.021; JWo; BG*, ES*); an adult at Middlefork FP, CHA on 4-31 May (2005.005; L&MH, GA*, TM*). Photos of the two birds seem to clearly indicate that these are different birds. The Middlefork bird's plumage was much brighter than the Homer bird.



Purple Gallinule. Middlefork Forest Preserve, Champaign Co. 28 May 2005. Photo by Travis A. Mahan.

Snowy Plover

(*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

One at Montrose, Chicago, COO on 3 May (2004.009; TSS; RHu*). One at Frank Bellrose Refuge, PUL on 7-9 May (2004.008; SB, AS*)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

(*Calidris acuminata*)

One juvenile was on the Fox River at the Blackhawk FP, KNE on 28 Sep to 6 Oct (2003.029; SC; GW*, TM*, JK*, CF*). This was the third accepted record of this species for Illinois.

Purple Sandpiper

(*Calidris maritima*)

One at Waukegan, LAK on 18-23 Dec (2003.038; KT; TM*); one to two at Waukegan, LAK on 4 Nov to 10 Dec (2004.029; DDz; CF*);

RHu*, GW*); one at Montrose, Chicago, COO on 7 Dec (2004.044; RHu*). At Waukegan, only one bird was seen from 4 Nov to 16 Nov. In December, observers variously observed one or two birds from 8 to 10 December, and Williamson photographed two birds on 10 December. The November bird may have been a different bird from either of the December birds, but one of the December birds was similarly-plumaged to the November individual (the second bird was paler). The committee believes the best course is to treat them as a single record.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

One basic-plumaged bird at Quiver Lake, MSN on 11-14 Oct (2003.030; KR, TM*); One at Grassy Slough Preserve, JOH on 26 Apr (2005.026; DK*).

Parasitic Jaeger

(*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

An immature at Carlyle L., CLI 18-26 Sep (2004.030; DK; CW*); a juvenile at Montrose, Chicago, COO from 25 Sep was found dead on 30 Sep (2003.031; RHu FMNH #439059; also RHu*, TM*).

Long-tailed Jaeger

(*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Two immatures at Carlyle L., CLI 6-25 Sep (2004.031; JEd, DK, TM*).



Glaucous-winged Gull. 29 June 2004. Photo by H. David Bohlen.

Glaucous-winged Gull

(*Larus glaucescens*)

One 1st year bird at Lake Springfield, SAN on 29 June-9 July (2004.017; HDB*). This was a strongly bleached bird, with very worn plumage. It represents the fourth accepted record for the state. Other records remain in review,

including two birds that were photographed. See article in this issue.

Mew Gull

(*Larus canus*)

One adult at Carlyle L., CLI on 16 Jan (2005.007; DK*; TM*).

California Gull

(*Larus californicus*)

One 2nd year bird at Carlyle L., CLI on 12 Dec (2004.042; DK*).

Black-legged Kittiwake

(*Rissa tridactyla*)

One 1st year Carlyle L., CLI on 6-28 Nov (2004.066; TM, DK*)

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*)

One at Carlyle L, CLI on 16-25 Jul (2005.025:DK*). This is the second record for this species in Illinois and the first photographic evidence.



Black Skimmer. Lake Springfield, Sangamon County. 23 July 2004. Photo by Travis A. Mahan.

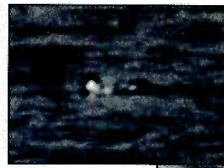
Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)

One at L. Springfield, SAN on 23 July (2004.018; HDB*; TM*); one adult in Madison Co. on 25 Sep (2004.035; FH). The Madison Co. bird was photographed on the same date just across the Mississippi River in Missouri at Riverlands. These are the second and third records from Illinois of this species. See article in this issue.

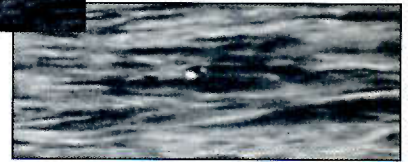
Ancient Murrelet

(*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

One at Carlyle L., CLI on 6 Nov (2004.020; DK*; TM*). This is the third record for Illinois. The only previous records were a bird found injured, which later died, in November 1961 in McDonough Co. (Balding 1964) and a bird in Lake Michigan off Wilmette in November 1982 (Rosenband 1983).



Ancient Murrelet. Carlyle Lake, Clinton County. 6 November 2004. Photo by Dan Kasebuam.



Ancient Murrelet. Carlyle Lake, Clinton County. 6 November 2004. Photo by Travis A. Mahan.

White-winged Dove

(*Zenaida asiatica*)

An adult at Waltonville, JEF 22 Jun to 9 Aug (2003.033; DH, DK*); an adult near Mermet Lake, MSS on 5-6 July (2003.034; TM*); a juvenile at Waltonville, JEF 25 Jul to 5 Aug (2003.040; SB; TM). A sighting at Waltonville on 17 August 2003 was not documented and the age was not reported. An adult White-winged Dove was present at the same Waltonville site, from at least 6 December 2003 to 2 January 2004 (TM*), where the adult and juvenile had been seen in July and August. Presumably it was one of these birds accepted above, but which of these birds it represented is unclear. The presence of a juvenile at Waltonville following observations of an adult, suggests that the species may have bred locally, but two adults were never observed, and the juvenile was independent when seen.

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*)

One at a Carbondale, JAC feeder from 23 Sep to 25 Dec (2004.022; A&HH*; CH*_{p,v}, DK*). This is the first record of this expanding



Inca Dove. first state record. Photo taken sometime between 32 September and early December 2004 by Cathie Hutcheson.

species from Illinois. See a future issue for an article on this species.

Common Ground-Dove

(*Columbina passerina*)

One in MSN on Crane Lake-Sangamon Christmas Bird Count on 19 Dec (2004.055; RR, TW).

Rufous Hummingbird

(*Selasphorus rufus*)

An adult male at a Springfield, SAN feeder on 24-28 July (2003.042; HDB, TM*); an adult male at a feeder in Bull Valley, McH on 10 Aug-4 Oct (2004.046; DF, JB*, ES, BF).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

One photographed at Carlyle L., CLI on 31 Oct (2003.035; DK*; TM*) to 21 Mar 2004; one at Afton FP, DEK on 24 Oct (2004.043; MKR*, TR*). After the Carlyle Lake bird was discovered on 31 October 2003, the bird was not seen again for several months until it was relocated at the same spot on 22 February 2004. It remained in the area until 26 February, vanished again and was refound 18-21 March 2004. Although the possibility exists that this record involves multiple birds, the fact that the bird was always seen at the same location suggests that only a single bird was involved and it is so treated by IORC.

Vermilion Flycatcher

(*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

A young male at Afton FP, DEK on 10 Oct to 8 Nov (2004.019; I&HR*; CF*, TM*, KM*, ES).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher

(*Tyrannus savana*)

One adult, probably female, at Paul Douglas FP, Hoffman Estates, COO on 16 May (2005.006; JEn*; ES*, AK*, JK*, WS*, RHu*). This is the first record of this vagrant from Latin America from Illinois, although there are well over 100 records from North America (Lockwood 1999). The majority of records are in the fall, but about a third have been recorded in spring, with nearly half of these found in May (Lockwood 1999). See article in a future issue on this species.



Sutton's Warbler, Fabyan Forest Preserve, Kane County. Photo by Eric Secker.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

One at Andrew, SAN on 29 Dec (2003.039; KB, HDB, TM*) to 17 Jan 2004; one adult female at Calumet Park, Chicago, COO on 22-28 Dec (2004.056; CM; DFS, ES*); one at Evergreen Lake, WOO on 18 Dec (2004.054; AC). The latter two records were observed on Christmas Bird Counts.

Bohemian Waxwing

(*Bombycilla garrulus*)

One at Chillicothe, PEO on 2 Jan (2005.002; LE). This well-described individual was observed with Cedar Waxwings on a Christmas Bird Count.

Great-tailed Grackle

(*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

A male near Andrew, SAN on 1-29 Apr (2005.004; KB*; HDB*, TM*, JK*, MR*); a male at Arklands reclamation area, PER on 25 December (2004.057; KIM). Several additional records remain in review, including a bird reported from in Menard Co. in late May about ten miles north of the Sangamon County bird. This report may be the same bird as the Sangamon Co. bird. This species continues to spread just west of Illinois in Missouri and Iowa. Breeding should be looked for in appropriate habitats in southern and western Illinois.

Pine Grosbeak

(*Pinicola enucleator*)

A female found dead in Winfield, DUP on 2 Mar (1972.009; no collector, FMNH#328141); male found dead on Northern Illinois University campus, DeKalb, DEK on 31 Jan (1972.010; EZ; FMNH#328141);

female found dead in Chicago, COO on 30 Oct (1986.188; WM; FMNH#331464). All these specimens are referable to the subspecies *P. e. leucura*, which breeds across central Canada. 1972 was a major invasion year, with many additional reports (Bohlen 1989), while the 1986 record was apparently an isolated bird.

Other accepted records

(5 records of 4 species, plus one record of a hybrid)

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

One in basic plumage at East Fork Lake, RIC on 16 May (2005.016; RS*)

Yellow-rumped Warbler

(Audubon's)

(*Dendroica coronata auduboni*)

An adult male found dead at Lake Forest, LAK on 11 May (1976.003; Mrs. Ross Siragusa; deposited at FMNH as #299430); an adult female at Jackson Park, Chicago, COO on 19-29 Mar to (2005.003; PC; JK*, EW* other photos). There are only a handful of documented records for Illinois for Audubon's Warbler, and the specimen reported here is the only specimen for the state. Because of its status as a subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler, Illinois birders may not have been on the look out for this taxon. However, we encourage observers who have seen Audubon's Warblers in Illinois in the past, and have notes that can be used as the basis for documentation to send such documentation to the committee. We are currently reviewing one older record submitted following the March 2005 sighting.

Common Yellowthroat

(*Geothlypis trichas*)

One, probably immature male, on a Christmas Bird Count at Prairie Wolf Slough FP on 26 December (2004.051; PS*).

Sutton's Warbler (*Parula americana x Dendroica dominica*)

A singing male at Fabayan FP, Geneva, KNE on 26 Apr to 16 May (2005.008; ES*, DFS [sound recording]). This bird sang a variant

Northern Parula song, but was a typical Sutton's Warbler in plumage. This hybrid combination has not previously been reported in Illinois. It remains very poorly known, with only a handful of photos and two specimens in existence.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)

An immature near Ware, UNI on 30 Dec (2004.052; DFS)

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

Other Unaccepted records
(3 records of 3 species)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

(*Coccyzus americanus*)

One at Lenzburg, SCL on 18 Dec (2004.058). This bird was seen on a Christmas Bird Count. Unfortunately, the documentation received was second-hand written documentation, plus a sketch drawn several days after the observation by one of the secondary observers. Even had the documentation been impeccable, the second-hand nature of the documentation would have made acceptance of such a rarity difficult. However, there were problems in the description as well, especially the description of the bird as overall dull brown, and the breast as light grayish-ochre (in the cuckoo it should be fairly bright white). Also the sketch had the position of the yellow on the bill misplaced. Given the extreme rarity of Yellow-billed Cuckoos anywhere in North America by December, the committee unanimously did not accept this report.

Blue-headed Vireo

(*Vireo solitarius*)

One heard at Reservoir Lake, Carbondale, JAC on 1 Jan (2005.001) on a Christmas Bird Count. The majority of the committee did not accept this record. The fact that the observer did not see the bird made it difficult to accept such a seasonal rarity, as there are no winter records for this species. Blue-headed Vireo, which winters regularly on the Gulf Coast, would seem like the most likely vireo (other than the very different sounding White-eyed) to appear in winter, but Red-eyed

Vireo is not an unreasonable possibility. In addition, not all of the committee was convinced that the bird was certainly a vireo.

Henslow's Sparrow

(*Ammodramus henslowi*)

One on a Christmas Bird Count at Carlyle L, CLI on 14 Dec (2004.053). A majority of the committee thought that, although the record may have been correct, the limited description provided by the single observer in this brief sighting was insufficient to rule out more common wintering grassland species, especially Le Conte's. As breeding populations in Illinois increase, we expect that this species could begin to appear with some frequency in Illinois in winter.

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See page 59 for journal abbreviations.

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