

Twelfth 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 33 records, including 29 accepted records of 25 species, and 4 unaccepted records of 4 species. We examined documentation from a total of 30 observers in evaluating the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations by the current committee with documentations of birds seen from 2003 through 2006.



Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Independence Grove Forest Preserve, Lake County. 3 April 2006. Photo by Sue Murray

Format: The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through eleventh 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, 2005; 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 47th (Banks et al. 2006).

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 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 appar-

ent 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*; *American Birds* and *North American Birds* are abbreviated by IBB, 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>.

Documentors: Michael Baum, Frank Bennett, H. D. Bohlen, Arlene Brei, Joan Bruchman, Scott Cohrs, Thad Edwards, Albert Frohlich, Bob Fisher, Urs Geiser, Jim Hampson, Leroy Harrison, Ann Haverstock,

Tharran Hobson, Roger Hotham, Robert Hughes, Warren Jones, Travis Mahan, Thomas May, Keith McMullen, Patrick Mallory, Sue Murray, Don Rogers, William Rowe, Donald Schultz, Randy Smith, Hans Spiecker, Al Stokie, Robert Shelby, Eric Walters, Dan Williams, Chris Wood.

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. It remains unchanged from the review list at the time of the 11th IORC report (Stotz and Johnson 2005). 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. Current committee members, Bob Hughes, Dan Kassebaum, Keith McMullen, Paul Sweet and Mike Ward all provided careful evaluations of the records included in this report.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Review List Records Accepted
(29 records of 25 species)

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) One with Canada Geese at Afton FP, DEK on 26 Oct (2004.023; EW*) See *Meadowlark* 14: 57 for photographs of this bird.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) One at Independence Grove FP, LAK on 3 April (2006. 004; SM*).

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) One female at Moline, ROC on 29 February (2004.004; AF); One female at Lake Decatur, MCN on 17 Dec (2005.031; TM*, UG*) to 11 Jan 2006.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) One at South Elgin, KNE on 8 June (2004.059; RHo).

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) One at Sugar River FP, WIN on the early date of 2 April (2005.010; DW).

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) One in Versailles Twp, BRO on 6 June (2004.048; TH); One near New Athens, SCL on 12 June (2004.050; TM). These two birds were seen about 120 miles apart within a week of each other. The possibility that these reports refer to the



Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Independence Grove Forest Preserve, Lake County. 3 April 2006. Photo by Sue Murray.

same individual cannot be ruled out, but the fact that these records come from different river valleys (The Illinois for the Brown Co record, and the Kaskaskia for the St. Clair Co. bird) and a recent rash of records of this species in the Midwest, including two birds together in Indiana in September 2005 (Hengeveld et al 2006), suggest it more likely that these were separate individuals.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) One at Rock Cut SP, WIN on 22 Aug (2004.062; DW)

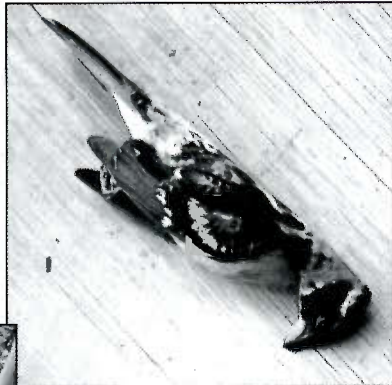
Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) One adult Mermet Lake, MSS on 26 June (2003.41; FB). This species is close to regular at Mermet Lake where it has bred, but remains an extremely rare vagrant otherwise in the state.

Wew Gull (*Larus canus*) One first year bird at Clinton L, DEW on 22 Nov (2004.020; CW*)

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) One adult at Winthrop Harbor, LAK on 3 Jan (2004.003; RHu*); One adult at Waukegan Beach, LAK on 19 June (2005.012; AS). This species has been removed from the IORC review list.



Male Kirtland's Warbler in Wilmette, Cook County. 23 May 2006. Photo by Hans Spiecker.



Above: Black-headed Grosbeak 11 June 2006, Chicago (Rogers Park), Cook County. This is the first state photo of the specimen. It was taken prior to museum preparation. Photo by Patrick Mallory.



Below: Painted Bunting at Charleston, Coles County. 17 April 2006. Photo by Don Roberts.



Say's Phoebe at Crane Lake, Mason County. 20 December 2005. Photo by Dennis Oehnke.

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) One found alive, but injured in parking lot near Nashville, WAS on 12 Jul (2005.028). It died on 13 Jul 2005. The carcass was photographed and prepared as a specimen (HDB*, specimen ISM#661450). This is the first specimen record of this species in Illinois. (See article in this issue.) Its appearance followed Hurricane Dennis, which came ashore on the Gulf Coast on date and the edge of which passed through southern Illinois on 11 July. Another Sooty Tern at Carlyle Lake found on 16 July 2005 (Stotz and Johnson 2005) was undoubtedly also a vagrant associated with this storm. See articles in this issue about the Sooty Terns.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) One in McD on 21 May (2005.017; WJ).

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cucularia*) One at Pyramid Lake SP on 15 Oct (2005.029; RS*) through at least 24 January 2006. See *Meadowlark* 15:12 for a photograph of this bird.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) One at Crane L, MSN on 17-20 Dec (2005.030; HDB*).

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) One at Clinton L, DEW on 20-29 Nov (2004.021; EW*; BF). See *Meadowlark* 14:56 for photographs of this bird.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandi*) One adult male at Wilmette, COO on 23 May (2006.003; HS*)

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) One at Beall Woods SP, WAB on 6-7 May (2005.015; LH; RS*, recording).

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) One in basic plumage at Aurora West FP, KNE on 13 Nov to 18 Dec (2004.037; SC; AH). See *Meadowlark* 14:92 for an arctic le on the sighting of this bird.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus malanocephalus*) A male, probably second-year, found dead as a window-kill in Rogers Park, Chicago, COO on 11 Jun (2006.009; PM*, specimen to Field Museum). This is the first specimen record for Illinois. Most of the ten previous records have been of birds at feeders in autumn or early winter.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) An adult male at Charleston, COL on 17 Apr (2006.005; DR*).

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) One at Urbana, CHA on 7 Aug (2004.038; CW); one at Mendota, LAS on 1 May (2004.063; JH).

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) One at Chautauqua NWR, MSN on 23 to 25 January (2005.011; MB). This bird was seen with a small set of Common Redpolls.

Other accepted records (3 records of 3 species)

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) One at Lyerla Lake, UNI on 18 Apr (2004.060; KM). This species was removed from the review list several years ago, but remains an extreme rarity in the spring. Of the 34 other records reviewed by IORC, all but 4 fell during the period of September to December, with most in November and December. There is a 19 April 1989 record from Lake Decatur (Stotz and Johnson 2004), a 5 May 1997 record from Horseshoe Lake, Madison Co. (Stotz and Johnson

1999); a 16 May 2005 record from East Fork Lake, Richland Co (Stotz and Johnson 2005), and one summer record, a subadult bird that remained in Lake Villa, Lake Co., from 21 to 30 June 1991 (Johnson et al 1998).

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) One at Poplar Grove, BOO on 21 June (2004.047; AB). This is one of only a handful of summer reports of juncos, few of which have been documented.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) One at Elsayh, JER on 22 January (2005.014; WR).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

Review list species
(4 records of 4 species)

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Clangula islandica*) One female at Rome, PEO on 28 February (2005.020). The main characteristic in the documentation suggesting that this bird was a Barrow's Goldeneye was a yellow bill. However, small numbers of Common Goldeneyes also exhibit yellow bills, and little further detail supported the identification, so a majority of the voted not to accept this record.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) One near LaSalle Lake, LAS on 28 December (2004.064). LaSalle Lake has been home to wintering Gyrfalcons on several occasions and is clearly the most likely place for a Gyrfalcon to be found in Illinois. However, a majority of the committee felt that the description provided of this bird did not rule out the possibility of either Peregrine Falcon or Prairie Falcon.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One light morph adult at Carlyle L, CLI on 10 Sep (2004.045). At the time of this observation, two juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers were being observed at Carlyle Lake. A majority of the committee felt that the brief description of this bird provided by the documentor was insufficient to rule out the possibility that the bird seen was one of these two juveniles. Further some of the details provided including the description of the wingflash and the underparts were not consistent with an adult light morph Parasitic.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) Two at Addison, DUP on 5 May (2005.013). A majority of

the committee found the description unconvincing, with characteristics of behavior and plumage inconsistent with Black-backed Woodpecker. In particular, the description did not appear to rule out Yellow-bellied Sapsucker as an alternate identification.

Corrigenda: 11th IORC report (Stotz and Johnson 2005)

Mottled Duck – Remove UG* from the list of credits for the Mottled Duck record at Springfield

Snowy Plover – The report of a bird at Montrose, COO on 3 May 2004 (2004.009) failed to credit Joan Bruchman and Carol Haddon, who independently found, identified and documented the bird.

Vermilion Flycatcher – Add UG* to the list of credits for the Afton FP bird.

Ancient Murrelet – The first Ancient Murrelet record for Illinois is from the year 1962 (pers. comm.. H. D. Bohlen), as in Balding (1964), not 1961 as in our report and in Bohlen (1989).

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Douglas F. Stotz,
Field Conservation Ecologist/
Ornithologist, Environmental
and Conservation Programs
Field Museum of Natural History
1400 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60605
dstotz@fieldmuseum.org

David B. Johnson
504 Crown Point Drive
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
djohnsoda@comcast.net