

Acknowledgements

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Eighteenth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

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Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC or “the Committee”) are reported here for a total of 31 records, including 29 accepted records of 20 species, one unaccepted record of one species, and one unaccepted historical record, resubmitted after two observers examined the specimen. A total of 51 observers contributed reports, including descriptions and photographs documenting these records. We continue to follow the conventions used in the first seventeen reports of the Committee (Stotz 2012). The records below are divided into two groups: Accepted and Unaccepted. The Accepted group is further divided into First State Records, Review List Records and Other Records. Nomenclature, English names and sequence of species conform to that of the seventh edition of the American Ornithologist's Union checklist, (1998) and its supplements, through the 53rd (Chesser et al. 2012).

Accepted records are entered with the locality, including county, the date, the IORC record number (in parentheses, the year of initial observation followed by a serial number), 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. The initials of a contributor without any further modification indicate that they contributed solely written documentation. When additional information was provided, a colon follows the observer's initials with the following codes: ph for photographic evidence, v for video, s for sound recording, and sp for a specimen. Many contributing photographers also submitted written documentation, a practice that the Committee strongly encourages. If the observer who first discovered the bird is known to the committee, 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 # follows an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen, along with that institution's catalog number of the specimen if available.

The Committee continues to encourage all observers of rare birds to submit documentation, even when multiple observers are involved in a sighting. Some records are deemed unacceptable due to incomplete information, which can often be resolved

by additional documentation. Photos are of course invaluable resources for the Committee, but there are times when a tricky ID can be resolved from written details not depicted in photos. Additionally, submitting documentation directly to the Committee, even if it involves strictly photos, resolves some ambiguity regarding copyright issues, etc. and is appreciated. It only takes a few moments to attach photos to an e-mail, and is greatly appreciated. Photos won't be republished without express permission, although there is hope to have any evidence submitted available in a searchable format eventually. Please see the field notes section of this issue for more photos of some of the entries below.

The Committee does not always take a position on the age or sex of a bird, and any such information given may be the observer's opinion, rather than the Committee's. All other remarks are the author's, 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 those cases where there are discrepancies between the details presented here and other published records, the data provided here represent the Committee's best assessment of all

Accepted Records

New State Records (two records of two species)

Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incana*) One well-photographed at Montrose Harbor in Chicago, Cook Co. on 9 Aug. 2012. (2012.026; ML:ph; SS:ph). This is the first accepted record for Illinois. See a detailed account in this issue.



Wandering Tattler. Montrose Harbor, Cook County. 9 August 2012. Photo by Matthew Ligas.

White-crested/Small-billed Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps/parvirostris*) One very well-photographed at Douglas Park, Chicago, Cook Co. 17-22 April (2012.007; AG:ph, EtG:ph; JL:ph, MF:ph, NG:ph, MB:ph, NL:ph, RS:ph, BT:ph, SI:v, CB:ph, JG:ph, KK:ph, JH:ph, LR:ph). The Committee voted unanimously to accept this bird as an Elaenia sp., while seeking additional advice on the identification to species. Regardless of species, this is the first accepted record of any elaenia in Illinois. See Meadowlark 22: for a detailed account.

Review List Species

(27 records of 18 species)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) Two at Mermet Lake, Massac Co., 3 May 2012 (2012.011; JS:ph; GK:ph). One at Springfield, Sangamon Co., 1-29 July 2012 (2012.024; HB:ph)

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) One at Lake Renwick, Will Co., 25-28 Nov 2010 (2010.024; DS; BH:ph, EW:ph)

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) One male at Lake Sangchris, Sangamon Co., 6 April 2012 (2012.009; HB:ph)

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) One at Carlyle Lake, Clinton Co., 1 June 2012 (2012.017; DK:ph)

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) One male at Skokie Lagoons, Cook Co., 3 Feb – Mar 6 2012 (2012.002; GG; BH:ph, JG:p, SC:ph)

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) One at Emiquon NWR, Fulton Co., 29 July – 1 Aug 1010 (2010.026; GN:p, ASi, KR). One at Calumet Park, Chicago, Cook Co., 11-27 April 2012 (2012.008; AA:ph)

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) One immature at Rend Lake, Jefferson Co., 12-15 Aug 2012 (2012.033; LH:ph)



Reddish Egret. Rend Lake, Jefferson County. 12 August 2012. Photo by Leroy Harrison.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus alba*) Two immatures at Cahokia Mounds, St. Clair Co., 23 July – 7 Aug 2010 (2010.023; BR:ph). One immature at Carlyle Lake, Clinton Co., 4-8 Aug 2012 (2012.025; KM; ASm:ph)



White Ibis. Carlyle Lake, Clinton County. 8 August 2012. Photo by Al Smith.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) 18 April 2012 (2012.010; MSE:p), 13 July 2012 (2012.022; JM:p), 23 July 2012 (2012.023; MWi:ph, TH)



Ruff. Swan Lake, Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge. Calhoun County. 13 July 2012. Photo by Jim Mountjoy.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) One adult at Carlyle Lake, Clinton Co., 15 Jan – 7 Feb 2012 (2012.016; DK:ph; CD:ph). One at Clinton Lake, DeWitt Co., 14 April 2012 (2012.006; GL) Photos were taken of this bird, by an anonymous photographer. The Committee would appreciate any information on the identity of that photographer.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) One at North Point Marina, Lake Co., 12 – 21 Jan 2012 (2012.003; BeS; PS:ph, GN:ph, AG:ph)

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) One adult at Calumet Park, Chicago, Cook Co., 30 Dec. 2010 – 30 Jan 2011 (2010.028; DJ; AA:p, MSc:ph) This bird spent most of its time in Indiana, but was photographed on the Illinois side of the state line on several occasions.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) One at Emiquon NWR, Fulton Co., 25 June 2012 (2012.021; EG; AG:ph)

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) One at Montrose Point, Chicago, Cook Co., 1 April 2012 (2012.005; RC:ph)

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) One in Coles Co. first spotted 3 Nov 2012. It was joined by a second bird on 17 Jan 2013, and sightings of two birds continued to 8 Mar 2013. The last sighting of a single individual was on 14 Mar 2013. (2012.032; TF:ph). One at Sidney, Champaign Co., 31 Jan – 12 April 2012 (2012.001; BoS:ph)



Prairie Falcon. Arcola, Douglas County. 3 November 2012.
Photo by Tyler Funk.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*) One bird photographed at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake Co. 23 Nov 2012 (2012.034; VB:ph)

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) Buckhorn Township, Brown Co., 5 – 15 May 2012 (2012.013; MWA:ph). Four birds, thought to be a family group, at Siloam Springs SP, Adams Co. 23 June 2012 (2012.020; JE:ph)

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) One male at North Fork Conservation Area, McHenry Co. 7 – 17 June 2012 (2012.018; DM; KL:ph, DW:ph, KK:ph)

Non-Review List Records

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) One at Lake Villa, Lake Co., 3-13 Mar 2012 (2012.004; GWT:ph)

Unaccepted Records

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) One immature bird, 19 Oct – 17 Nov 1927 (1927.00). Examination of this specimen by Robert Hughes and Amar Ayyash convinced the Committee that this bird was actually a Glaucous-winged X Western Gull hybrid, and the decision to reject the record as Western Gull and thereby remove Western Gull from the state list was unanimous.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) One SY bird photographed and well-documented at North Point Marina, 2 Jun 2011 (2011.031) While the documentation on this bird was excellent, the Committee felt that the very worn state of the plumage and the current state of knowledge regarding identifying this species at such an age made it impossible to rule out other possible species.

available information. We have not generally commented on records that are published elsewhere with more limited data than contained here. 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:

Observers and Documentors: Amar Ayyash (AA), H. David Bohlen (HB), Mark Bowman (MB), C.A. Bridge (CB), Scott Cohrs (SC), Rob Curtis (RC), Colin Dobson (CD), Josh Engel (JE), Matt Fraker (MF), Tyler Funk (TF), Glenn Giacinto (GG), Nathan Goldberg (NG), Jerry Goldner (JG), Aaron Gyllenhaal (AG), Ethan Gyllenhaal (EtG), Eric Gyllenhaal (ErG), LeRoy Harrison (LH), Ted Hartzler (TH), Bruce Heimer (BH), Jim Hully (JH), Stoil Ivanov (SI), Dan Kassebaum (DK), Greg Keller (GK), Ken Koontz (KK), Greg Lambeth (GL), Nolan Lameka (NL), Matthew Ligas (ML), Joshua Little (JL), Karen Lund (KL), Keith McMullen (KM), D. James Mountjoy (JM), Greg Neise (GN), Lisa Rest (LR), Bill Rudden (BR), Ryan Sanderson (RS), Beau Schaefer (BeS), Mark Scheel (MSc), Bob Schifo (BoS), John Schwegman (JS), Mark Seifert (MSe), Andy Sigler (ASi), Allen Smith (ASm), Steve Spitzer (SS), Paul Sweet (PS), Brian Tang (BT), Gayle and William Teltz (GWT), Eric Walters (EW), Dan Williams (DW), Michael P. Ward (MWA), Matthew Winks (MWi)

Review List:

The review list includes species for which the Committee will review all records, or all records outside of some determined region or range of dates within the state. Generally, these are species that average two or fewer records per year in the state or which are extremely rare in all but a few counties. The current review list was approved at the 21 September 2008 committee meeting. IORC requests and welcomes evidence concerning all records for those species listed on the review list on the IOS website: www.illinoisbirds.org/iorc.html.

In addition, any species not listed in the checklist of Illinois state birds (IORC 1999, also available at http://www.illinoisbirds.org/birds_of_illinois.html) should be documented. Documentation of out of season records and first state nesting records should be sent to the seasonal editor of the Field Notes in the Meadowlark. These may be considered by the Committee, as well as those submitted for the Christmas Bird Count and Spring Bird Count.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to make a special acknowledgement of Doug Stotz, whose work as secretary of the Committee for many years has made this report possible. Those observers who provide the Committee with records to consider are also worth mention. Their tireless devotion adds immeasurably to our knowledge of the birds of Illinois. The members of the Committee should be commended for their intelligent, careful reviews, including Bob Hughes (former member), Josh Engel, Dan Kassebaum, Travis Mahan, Keith McMullen, and Vice-Secretary Geoff Williamson. Bob Fisher acts as an alternate member of IORC and reviewed some of the records included here. The author currently acts as Secretary of the Committee.

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