

# Nineteenth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

BY PAUL SWEET AND GEOFFREY WILLIAMSON

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC or the Committee) are reported here for a total of 40 records, including 35 accepted records of 28 species, and five unaccepted records of five species. A total of 35 observers contributed reports, including descriptions, photographs, and sound recordings documenting these records. We continue to follow the conventions used in the first eighteen reports of the Committee (e.g. 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 55th (Chesser et al. 2014).

Accepted records are entered with the locality, including county, the date, and (in parentheses) the IORC record number (the first four characters of which generally give the year of initial 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. The initials of a contributor without any further modification indicate that they contributed solely written documentation. When additional information is provided, a colon follows the observer's initials with the following codes: ph for photographic evidence, vid for video and vr for voice recording. Many contributing photographers and audiographers also submitted written documentation, a practice 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.

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 identification 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.

## ACCEPTED RECORDS

### Review List Species

(29 records of 23 species)

#### Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

(*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) Five at Havana, Mason Co., 11 – 27 April 2013 (2013.008; HH:ph).

#### Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*)

Two at Montrose Point, Cook Co., 30 May 2013 (2013.016; LM:ph).

**Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*) One male at Skokie Lagoons, Cook Co., 9 – 29 December 2012 (2012.036; MC, NL:ph).

**Anhinga** (*Anhinga anhinga*) One at Illinois Beach SP, Lake Co., 13 September 2013 (2013.023; PS:ph). One at Greene Valley FP, DuPage Co., 29 September 2013 (2013.024; RF).

*Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Five were at Havana in Mason County. Photo taken 12 April 2013 by Nat Carmichael.*



*Mottled Duck. Two at Montrose Point. Cook County. 30 May 2013. Photo by Luis Munoz.*



*Anhinga. Illinois Beach State Park. Lake County. 13 September 2013. Photo by Paul Sweet.*



*Barrow's Goldeneye. Skokie Lagoons. Cook County. 16 December 2012. Photo by Nolan Lameka.*



*Tricolored Heron.*  
Winnebago County.  
6 June 2013.  
Photo by John Longhenry.

*Swallow-tailed Kite.*  
Illinois Beach State Park.  
Lake County.  
1 September 2013.  
Photo by Karen Lund.

## ACCEPTED RECORDS

**Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*) One adult at Nygren Wetland Preserve, Winnebago Co., 5 – 7 June 2013 (2013.015; DW, JCL:ph).

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) One in Woodford Co., 24 May 2013 (2013.018; TH:ph).

**Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*) One at Illinois Beach SP, Lake Co., 1 September 2013 (2013.029; PS:ph, KL:ph).

**Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) One, possibly 2 in Shelby Co., 14 July 2013 (2013.055; TM:vr).

**Ruff** (*Calidris pugnax*) One in Whiteside Co., 3 May 2013 (2013.007; DH:ph, MT:ph).

**Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) As many as 6 reported at Carlyle Lake, Clinton Co., with at least one present from 1 September – 3 October, 2013 (2013.050; DK:ph).

**Little Gull** (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) One at Lake Shelbyville, Moultrie Co., 2 November 2013 (2013.037; TM). One adult at Lake Carlyle, Clinton Co., 26-28 October 2013 (2013.053; DK:ph). Two (including a 1st-cycle) at Carlyle Lake, 9 November 2013 (2013.051; DK:ph).

**Mew Gull** (*Larus canus*) One at Saganashkee Slough, Cook Co., 18 October 2013 (2013.026; AA:ph).

**Royal Tern** (*Thalasseus maximus*) One at Carlyle Lake, Clinton Co., 10 August 2013 (2013.040; DK:ph).

**Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*) One at Marshall Co., 5 January 2013 (2013.002; KJ).

**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*) One at N. Pt. Marina, Lake Co., 24 April 2013 (2013.019; JWL). One at Greene Valley FP, DuPage Co., 23 – 25 September 2013 (2013.028; JN).



*Ruff.* Whiteside County. 3 May 2013.  
Photo by Marna Towne.



*Little Gull with two Bonaparte's Gulls.*  
Carlyle Lake. Clinton County. 9 November 2013.  
Photo by Leroy Harrison.



*Mountain Bluebird.* Lost Mound National Wildlife Refuge. JoDavies County. 23 February 2013.  
Photo by Nathan Goldberg.



*Royal Tern, right.* Carlyle Lake. Clinton County. 10 August 2013.  
Photo by Dan Kassebaum.



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 permission, except for use in Meadowlark.

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 Committees. 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 with discrepancies between the details presented here and other published records, the data provided here represent 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. The Committee accepts responsibility for any inaccuracies or misrepresentations of information

## ACCEPTED RECORDS

**Gray Kingbird** (*Tyrannus domincensis*) One in Edwards Co., 1 November 2013 (2013.038; RS:ph). See article in this issue for details.

**Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*) Lost Mound, Upper Mississippi NWR, Jo Daviess Co., 14 December 2012 – 23 February 2013 (2013.006; DW, NG:ph).

**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) One at Jon J. Duerr FP, Kane Co., 7 November 2013 – 11 March 2014 (2013.032; JN:ph).

**Bohemian Waxwing** (*Bombycilla garrulus*) Two at N. Pt. Marina, Lake Co., 2 February 2013 (2013.005; RH:ph, BS:ph).

**Swainson's Warbler** (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) One at Quincy, Adams Co., 10 – 20 May 2013 (2013.035; TM:ph, vr).

**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) One at River Forest, Cook Co., 30 May 2013 (2013.017; JA:ph).

**Great-tailed Grackle** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) One at Cook Co., 15 March 2013 (2013.022; JP).

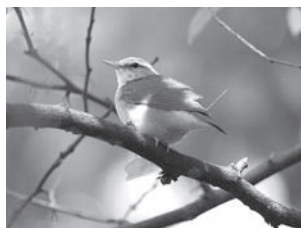
**Hoary Redpoll** (*Acanthis hornemanni*) One at Montrose Point, Cook Co., 11 December 2012 (2012.035; MC:ph). One at Sangamon Co., 22 December 2012 (2012.043; JF:ph). One at Genoa, DeKalb Co., 24 January – 18 February 2013 (2013.003; KL:ph).

herein. Errors that come to our attention will be published as corrigenda in a future IORC report.

Observers and Documenters: Jill Anderson (JA), Amar Ayyash (AA), Marge Busic (MB), Matthew Cvetas (MC), Jim Funk (JF), Robert Fisher (RF), Thomas H. Fuller (THF), Tyler D. Funk (TDF), Nathan Goldberg (NG), Heath Hagy (HH), Ted Hartzler (TH), Jed Hertz (JH), Dustin Holschuh (DH), Robert Hughes (RH), Kevin Jury (KJ), Dan Kassebaum (DK), Nolan Lameka (NL), Joseph W. Lill (JWL), John C. Longhenry (JCL), Karen Lund (KL), Travis Mahan (TM), Luis Muñoz (LM), Joan Norek (JN), James Phillips (JP), Beau Schaefer (BS), Robert Shelby (RS), Vicky Srocinski (VS), Paul Sweet (PS), Marna Towne (MT), Dan Williams (DW).



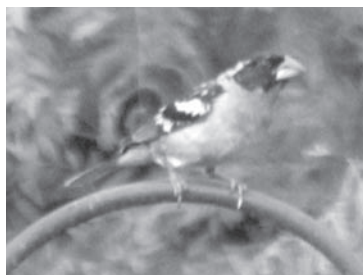
*Gray Kingbird. Edwards County. 1 November 2013. Illinois' second confirmed record. Photo by Leroy Harrison.*



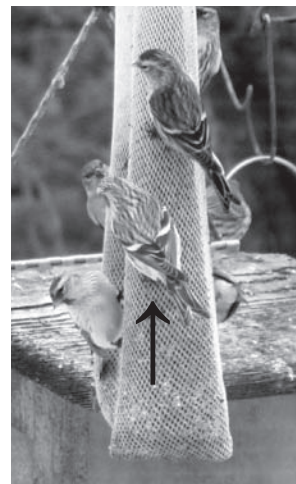
*Swainson's Warbler. Quincy. Adams County. 18 May 2013. Photo by Travis Mahan.*



*Bohemian Waxwing. North Point Marina. Lake County. 2 February 2013. Photos by Beau Schaefer.*



*Black-headed Grosbeak. River Forest. Cook County. 30 May 2013. Photo by Jill Anderson.*



*Hoary Redpoll. Genoa. DeKalb County. 25 January 2013. Photos by Karen Lund.*

## Other accepted records

(six records of five species)

### White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)

One at Grafton, Jersey Co., 15 December 2013 (2013.039; THF:ph).

### Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Two at Prairie Ridge Preserve, Marion Co., 20 April 2013 (2013.034; TM:p, TDF:ph). One at Greene Valley FP, DuPage Co., 14 October 2013 (2013.030; MB, VS:ph).

### Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

Two adults with chicks, Siloam Springs SP, Adams Co., 17 May – 14 June 2013 (2013.036; TM:ph).

### Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)

One at LeVasseur Park, Kankakee Co., 26 November – 8 December 2012 (2012.037; JH:ph). An unusually late date for this species.

**Spotted Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus*) One at Montrose Pt., Cook Co., 4 – 5 May 2013 (2013.012; JN).

## UNACCEPTED RECORDS

### Review List Records Unaccepted

(three records of three species)

**Ferruginous Hawk** (*Buteo regalis*) One at Greene Valley FP, DuPage Co., 25 September 2012 (2012.030). The Committee felt that the details were insufficient to rule out a young Krider's morph Red-tailed Hawk.

**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) One at Montrose Pt., Cook Co., 16 October 2013 (2013.025). Several members of the Committee noted that the description, while suggestive, wasn't sufficient to rule out Forster's or Common. Molt timing was given as a major distinction between Arctic and Common, and it was felt that there's enough variation in this trait to make it unreliable for this purpose.

## 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 12 January 2014 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/illinois-ornithological-records-committee](http://www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-ornithological-records-committee).

In addition, any species not listed in the checklist of Illinois state birds

(available at <http://illinoisbirds.org/the-birds-of-illinois>) 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.

### Literature Cited:

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American birds, seventh edition. Washington, D.C.: American Ornithologists' Union.

Chesser, R.T., R.C. Banks, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, I.J. Lovette, A.G. Navarro-Sigüenza,

P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen Jr., J.D. Rising, D.F. Stotz, & K. Winker. 2014. Fifty-fifth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. Auk 131:CSi-CSxv.

Stotz, D.F. 2012. Seventeenth report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. MJIB 21:45-49.

— Paul Sweet  
2114 Elisha Ave.  
Zion IL 60099  
[paul.sweet@att.net](mailto:paul.sweet@att.net)

— Geoffrey Williamson  
4046 N. Clark St.  
Chicago, IL 60613  
[geoffrey.williamson.21@gmail.com](mailto:geoffrey.williamson.21@gmail.com)



Swainson's Hawk. Marion. Williamson County. 20 April 2013. Photo by Tyler Funk.

Bewick's Wren. Siloam Springs State Park. Adams County. 18 May 2013.  
Photo by Travis Mahan.



**Cassin's Vireo** (*Vireo cassinii*) One at Ryerson Conservation Area, Lake Co., 18 May 2013 (2013.020). The documentation for this bird was excellent, but with neither a photo nor a recording, a majority of the Committee felt that the description wasn't sufficient to rule out Blue-headed (or a hybrid, as the documentation pointed out). One member pointed out that the description failed to sufficiently rule out Bell's Vireo as a possibility.

### Other unaccepted records

(two records of two species)

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) One at Middlefork Savanna FP, Lake Co., 1 January 2013 (2013.001). The Committee felt that the details were insufficient to support this ID, given the extraordinary date for a typically early migrant.

**Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) One at Mason Co., 7 June 2013 (2013.014). The Committee felt that the description didn't sufficiently rule out a young Bald Eagle.