

Twenty-Second Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

By Geoffrey A. Williamson

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC or “the Committee”) are reported here for a total of 109 records, including 88 accepted records of 41 species, 20 unaccepted records of 16 species, and one unaccepted breeding record involving one species. A total of 86 observers contributed reports, including descriptions and photographs documenting these records. Without the documentary efforts of these observers, no archival information would exist for preserving the records. The Committee sincerely thanks the contributing observers for their input, regardless of the outcome of the Committee’s evaluations.

We continue to follow the conventions used in the first 21 reports of the Committee, for example Sweet and Williamson (2015), Sweet (2013) and Stotz (2012). The records below are divided into two groups: Accepted and Unaccepted. The Accepted group is further divided into Species New to the State List, Review List Species, and Other Species. The Unaccepted group is divided into Species New to the State List; Review List Species; Other Species, Subspecies, and Hybrid Combinations; and Breeding Records. Nomenclature, English names and sequence of species conform to that of the 7th edition of the *Check-list of North American Birds* (American Ornithologists’ Union 1998) and its supplements, through the 58th (Chesser et al. 2017).

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: p 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, that observer’s 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 sharp (#) follows

an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen, along with the catalog number of the specimen if available.

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 of Natural History.

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 available information. Date ranges for records reflect both the evidence in submitted documentation and also information available to the Committee from other sources when judged by the Committee to be valid. Such sources include internet bulletin boards and listserves, eBird (Sullivan et al. 2009), and personal communications. 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.

DOCUMENTATION AND REVIEW LIST

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 even with high quality photographs available there are times when a tricky identification can be resolved only from written details not depicted in photos. The best practice is for observers to submit documentation directly to the Committee, even if it involves strictly photos. One should not assume that documentary evidence available in the variety of public fora on the internet will make it to the Committee.

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.

IORC requests and welcomes evidence concerning all records for those species listed on the review list.

The current Review List, available at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-ornithological-records-committee/>, was most recently updated at the 18 February 2018 meeting of IORC. The one change adopted at that meeting was the removal of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck from the list. The Committee considered removing Neotropic Cormorant because of the large number of recent occurrences in Illinois but decided to keep it on the list while waiting to see if the recent increasing trend of records continues.

The Committee requests documentation of all records of Review List forms within the state. In addition, any species not listed in the Illinois State List of Birds (available at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/the-birds-of-illinois/>) should be documented. In some cases, documentation of regularly occurring species may be warranted. These instances may include out of season occurrences, first state nesting records, and exceptionally high counts of species. Documentation in these cases should also be sent to the seasonal report editor for the appropriate season. These may be considered by the Committee, as well as documentations submitted for the Christmas Bird Count and Spring Bird Count.

OBSERVERS AND DOCUMENTERS

Andrew S. Aldrich (ASA), Jill S. Anderson (JSA), T.J. Blakeman (TJB), Ron Blazek (RBk), Don Blecha (DB), Nicholas L. Block (NLB), H. David Bohlen (HDB), Ron Bradley (RB), Cindy Brown (CB), Ethan Brown (EB), Jeff Bryant (JB), Mark Crowley (MC), Rob Curtis (RC), Matthew M. Cvetas (MMC), Carl DauBach (CDh), Richard Day (RD), Henry Detwiler (HD), Patricia Dickerson (PD), Colin Dobson (CD), Joshua I. Engel (JIE), Matthew E. Fraker (MEF), Jim Forde (JF), Steve Freed (SF), Tyler D. Funk (TDF), Carl Giometti (CG), Jon Grainger (JG), S.S. Gregory (SSG), Marty Hackl (MH), C. Leroy Harrison (CLH), Elizabeth Hart (EH), Ted Hartzler (TH), Roger Hayes (RH), Jed B. Hertz (JBH), Kanae Hirabayashi (KH), Frank R. Holmes (FRH), Doug Hommert (DM), Steven J. Huggins (SJH), Robert D. Hughes (RDH), Ryan Jones (RJ), Scott Judd (SJ), Dan M. Kassebaum (DMK), Rhonda Kaylor (RK), John Kendall (JK), Yvonne LaGrone (YL), Gregory S. Lambeth (GSL), Corey Lange (CL), Joseph W. Lill (JWL), Mabel Lux (ML), Travis A. Mahan (TAM), Annette McClellan (AM), Fran R. Morel (FRM), Greg E. Neise (GEN), Sydney Oliveira (SO), Linda S. Padera (LSP), Annette Prince (AP), Alyssa Rod (AR), Matthew Rowe (MR), William C. Rowe (WCR), Rob Sall (RS), Matt Schamberger (MS), Rich Scheibel (RhS), Adam W. Sell (AWS), Brian Smith (BS), Jeff A. Smith (JAS), Gary Soper (GS), Julie St. John (JSJ), Andrew Steinmann (AS), Andrew O. Stewart (AOS), Paul W. Sweet (PWS), Susan Szeszol (SS), Jeff Timmons (JT), Dave Weth (DW), Jo Ann Whitmore (JAW), Daniel T. Williams (DTW), Geoffrey A. Williamson (GAW), Matthew J. Winks (MJW), Matt Wistrand (MW), Susan Zelek (SZ). Other abbreviations: Chicago Academy of Sciences (CAS).

RECENT TAXONOMIC CHANGES AFFECTING THE ILLINOIS STATE LIST

The 57th Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's *Check-list of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2016) included two changes that affected the species composition of the Official Illinois State List of Birds. Green Violetear was split into Mexican Violetear and Lesser Violetear, and Western Scrub-Jay was split into California Scrub-Jay and Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay. Illinois has one record from each of these groups, and IORC reviewed the archived material in both cases to assess potential for evaluation at the species level. In the case of the scrub-jay, the Committee decided against immediate re-evaluation of the record since the evidence did not provide a straightforward case for one or the other possibilities. The Committee suspects that this record involves Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay. For the hummingbird, the archived photographic evidence did enable consideration as to which species was involved; this is discussed below.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

ACCEPTED RECORDS OF SPECIES NEW TO THE STATE LIST

Two records of two species

Mexican Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*) One photographed in Fayetteville, St. Clair County 10 August 2009 (2009-033; RhS:p). This was a re-evaluation of record 2009-033 following the split of Green Violetear into Mexican Violetear and Lesser Violetear in Chesser et al. (2016). At its 12 February 2017 meeting, the Committee examined specimens of both forms in the collection of the Field Museum of Natural History and compared their appearance to that of the photographic evidence associated with this record. Photos of the bird, published with the 16th IORC report (Stotz 2010), show a strong presence of blue/purple coloration to the chest feathers. This underpart coloration is consistent with Mexican Violetear (the more expected form) and inconsistent with Lesser Violetear. As of June 2018, at least 22 states in the United States and three provinces in Canada had violetear records. Of these 25 states and provinces, 19 indicated only Mexican Violetear on their official list, with the remaining six indicating Green Violetear.

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) One in northwest Iroquois County 13-14 September 2016 (2016-069; GS:p; NLB, MEF:s, JBH:p, JK:s, JT:p). This bird was well documented, with photographic and sound recording evidence sufficient to enable evaluation of key features that distinguish between Common Ringed Plover and the very similar Semipalmated Plover. The toes lacked the vestigial webbing of Semipalmated Plover. The vocalizations match what is expected from Common Ringed Plover, both in terms of how they sound and what the spectrographic analysis indicates. The orbital ring is dark, and the dark lores reach the gape.



COMMON RINGED PLOVER. Iroquois County, 14 Sep. 2016.
Photo by Gary Soper.

ACCEPTED RECORDS OF REVIEW LIST SPECIES

Sixty-eight records of 34 species

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) One photographed at Northerly Island in Chicago, Cook County 8 November to 11 December 2016 (2016-082; SJH:p; MMC:p, GAW:p).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) One at Stump Lake, Jersey County 29 March 1969 (1969-003; WCR), an old record for which written documentation was submitted recently, including the verbatim journal notes made at the time of the observation.

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) One photographed in the outflow channel from Clinton Power Station, DeWitt County 11 December 2015 to 3 January 2016 (2015-060; MMC, MEF:p, TH:p, AR:p, DTW).

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) One photographed at the north end of Lake Springfield, Sangamon County 23 October 2016 (2016-079; HDB:p).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) This report contains seven accepted records, all from 2016. One photographed south of Lewisburg, Menard County 27 May 2016 (2016-036; CD:p). This bird was found by Michael Morin. One photographed in Harrisburg, Saline County 28 May 2016 (2016-037; RK:p). One in Momence, Kankakee County 2 July 2016 (2016-052; SZ). One photographed at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County 25 July 2016 (2016-059; HDB:p). One photographed in River Grove, Cook County 8 August 2016 (2016-060; SS:p). One at Ft. Sheridan Forest Preserve, Lake County 16 August 2016 (2016-061; AWS). One photographed at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County 10 November 2016 (2016-083; MMC:p). This bird was found by Luis G. Muñoz.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) One photographed in Chicago, Cook County 2 April 2016 (2016-020; YL:p, JIE, AP:p). This bird was initially found by William LaGrone and was eventually brought to a wildlife rehabilitator.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) One photographed at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County 30 May 2016 (2016-041;

CD:p). This bird was first discovered by Jim Mordacq.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) This report contains four accepted records from 2016. One photographed at Carlyle Lake, Clinton County 8-9 May 2016 (2016-026; DMK:p; RH:p). One photographed at Glacial Park, McHenry County 15-17 May 2016 (2016-048; MH:p; DTW). One photographed at the South Globe Unit of Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County 2 June 2016 (2016-044; CD:p). One photographed at Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County and Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, Mason County 5-10 July 2016 (2016-053; MMC:p). This bird was initial found 5 July at the Emiquon location by Kevin Richmond and seen by many there. It was relocated at Chautauqua 9 July but returned to Emiquon 10 July.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One immature photographed on Lake Michigan off Chicago, Cook County 10 September 2016 (2016-070; GAW:p; SJ:p). One immature photographed on Lake Michigan off Chicago, Cook County 24 September 2016 (2016-071; GAW:p; JG:p). One adult photographed on Lake Michigan off Chicago, Cook County 24 September 2016 (2016-072; GAW:p; JG:p).

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) One adult photographed at Horseshoe Lake, Madison County 6 March 2016 (2016-014; FRH:p). One photographed at Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery, Mason County 13-30 March 2016 (2016-015; TH:p). One photographed in Winthrop Harbor, Lake County 23 April 2016 (2016-021; AOS:p, PWS:p).

Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) One photographed at Carlyle Lake, Clinton County 11-16 January 2016 (2016-001; MR:p, WCR; MMC:p, TDF:p, CLH:p, FRM:p).

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) One photographed in Wilmington, Will County 26 January to 20 February 2016 that was also observed and photographed at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County 30 January 2016 (2016-005; ASA:p; MMC:p, JIE:p, KH:p, RDH, FRM:p, GEN:p, MW:p).

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) This report contains four accepted records. One photographed at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County 30 April 2016 (2016-035; HDB:p). One photographed at Horseshoe Lake State Park, Madison County 1-11 July 2016 (2016-050; FRH:p, DH:p). This bird was discovered by Keith McMullen. One photographed at Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County 10 July 2016 (2016-054; MMC:p). One photographed at Chicago's Rainbow Beach, Cook County 9-27 September 2016 (2016-068; ASA:p, MMC:p).

Anhinga (*Anhinga Anhinga*) One photographed at the South Globe Unit of Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County 21 April 2013 (2013-079; CD:p). One photographed at Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson County 28 April 2016 (2016-055; HD:p).

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) One photographed in the area surrounding Mel Price Dam, Madison County 23 April to 19 May 2016 (2016-028; FRH:p, WCR). This bird was first found 22 April 2016 by Mick Richardson on the Missouri side of the Mississippi River.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) One photographed in Alma, Marion County 7 September 2016 (2016-067; RD:p).

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) One photographed at Scott Air Force Base 25 August 2016 and also observed at Silver Creek wetlands outside of Lebanon 22 September 2016, St. Clair County (2016-064; BS:p; SO, MS).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) One photographed at Warbler Woods and Lake Charleston, Coles County 3 May 2015 (2015-064; RB:p). Three photographed at Fox Ridge State Park, Coles County 9 May 2015 (2015-065; TDF:p). With double digit numbers of Black Vultures regularly being recorded near Greencastle, Indiana, which is about 35 miles due east of central Illinois, records of this species in the eastern portion of central Illinois are likely to increase.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) One in Monroe County 14 August 2014 (2014-055; CDh). One photographed at Evergreen Lake, McLean County 31 July 2016 (2016-058; DW:p). One photographed in Champaign, Champaign County 29-31 August 2016 (2016-065; TJB:p; CG).

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) This report contains four accepted records. One photographed in DuPage County 30 January to 11 March 2012 (2012-055; JAS:p). Two to four videoed in DuPage County during 23 April to 8 September 2012 (2012-056; JAS:v), involving two adult birds and their two young. One to five in DuPage County 29 January to 15 September 2013 (2013-078; JAS:p), involving two adults (one photographed) and their three young. One in DuPage County 3-7 January 2014 (2014-057; JAS:p), involving a bird seen living but later found dead. A photograph was obtained of the dead bird, and the specimen was reported to have been turned over to the Field Museum of Natural History. However, as of the writing of this report, the Field Museum has no record of having received any such specimen.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) One photographed northeast of Chauncey, Lawrence County 26 March 2016 (2016-016; JSJ, MC:p).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) One photographed north of Colfax, McLean County 4-6 February 2016 (2016-009; ML:p; EH).

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) This report contains nine accepted records. One in northern Wayne County 6 February 2013 (2013-072; CLH). One north of East Fork Lake, Richland County 6 March 2013 (2013-073; CLH:p). One to two in northern Coles County during 3 November 2013 to 25 February 2014 (2013-076; RB:p). These are likely associated with or possibly are the same birds from records 2014-038 and 2015-051 for subsequent winters. The two birds were photographed together on 19 January 2014, and two were also reported 11 & 26 December 2013, 26 January 2014, and 19 February 2014. One photographed at Bailey Wetland, Richland County and Wayne County 15 November to 14 December 2013 (2013-070; CLH:p). A photograph of this bird appears in Meadowlark 23(2):74. One between Prairie Ridge State Natural Area and Forbes State Park, Marion County 1 December 2013 (2013-071; CLH). One in northwest Douglas County 27 December 2013 (2013-075; JB:p); perhaps this individual is one of the birds from record 2013-076 noted above. One at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, Jasper County 1 January 2016 (2016-006; CLH:p) and 17 January

2016 (2016-004; TDF:p); possibly, these two records pertain to the same individual bird. One at the Butler Tract of Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, Marion County 3 January 2016 (2016-007; CLH:p).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) One in Savanna, Carroll County 7 May 2016 (2016-025; CB, EB:p). One at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County 16 May 2016 (2016-029; RBk:p, RDH).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) One at Carlyle Lake, Clinton County 5 November 2016 (2016-080; DMK:p).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) One at Waukegan Beach, Lake County 19 November 2016 (2016-084; CG:p, SJH:p).

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) One at Sanganois State Fish and Wildlife Area, Schuyler County 28 June 2016 (2016-051; TH).

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) One at Crabtree Nature Center, Cook County 7 November 2015 (2015-047; AS). One at Braidwood Lake, Will County 14-21 January 2016 (2016-002; DB:p). This bird was initially found by Jed B. Hertz. One at Silver Springs State Park, Kendall County 9-16 April 2016 (2016-019; RJ:p).

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) One in Waukegan, Lake County 26 December 1919 (1919-001; SSG:sp CAS #16422).

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) One in LaBagh Woods Forest Preserve, Cook County 1 May 2016 (2016-024; MMC:p). This bird was found by Glenn Giacinto.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) One at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County 11 May 2016 (2016-027; RC:p).

Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*) One in Chicago's Millennium Park, Cook County 28-29 April 2016 (2016-023; MMC:p; RS:p).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) One in Elmwood Park, Cook County 27 April to 2 May 2016 (2016-022; JSA:p, MMC:p, GEN:p, GAW:p). This bird was found by Donna Elich in her yard.



WESTERN TANAGER. Elmwood Park, Cook County, 28 Apr. 2016.
Photo by Jill Anderson.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) Male and female adults nesting, producing two young, in East St. Louis, St. Clair County during 29 May to 4 August 2016 (2016-040; DMK:p, TAM:p, DTW). The male was first discovered by Aaron Gyllenhaal and Ted Wolff. Most sightings in the vicinity were of the singing male, but on 9 July 2016, Dan Kassebaum and Travis Mahan observed all four birds.



COMMON GROUND-DOVE. Sangamon County, 23 Oct. 2016. Photo by Dave Bohlen.

ACCEPTED RECORDS OF OTHER SPECIES

Eighteen records of five species

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) This report contains eight records. Two at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, Jasper County, 22 May 2013 (2013-074; CLH:p). Five at Bailey Wetland, Richland County and Wayne County, 29 May 2014 (2014-056; CLH). Four in Carbondale, Jackson County 7 May 2016 (2016-038; HD:p). Two at Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson County 14 May 2016 (2016-056; HD:p). Six in Springfield, Sangamon County 28 May to 27 July 2016 (2016-042; CD:p, DTW:p). These birds were first found by H. David Bohlen, with six present through 14 June 2016 and one lingering thereafter. Three in Sauget, St. Clair County 29 May 2016 with one staying to 5 June 2016 (2016-034; FRH:p). These birds were found by Aaron Gyllenhaal and Ted Wolff. Four at the Big Muddy wetlands, Jackson County 2 July 2016 (2016-057; HD:p). Three at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County 17 August 2016 (2016-062; RDH:p; JWJ).

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) One in Lemont, Cook County 18 June to 25 November 2016 (2016-047; LSP:p), representing an unusual summering record.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) One in Urbana, Champaign County 6 June 1998 (1998-094; GSL:p). An early record for which photographic documentation was submitted recently.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) The report includes seven records. One 1st cycle individual in Bloomington, McLean County, 22 December 2013 (2013-077; MJW:p). One immature at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County, 2 June 2015 (2015-068; HDB:p). One immature in Wilmington, Will County, 16 January to 17 February 2016 (2016-003; ASA:p; GEN:p, MW:p). One at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County, 11 February 2016 (2016-011; CL:p), thought to be in its 2nd or 3rd plumage cycle. One 2nd cycle individual at North Point Marina in Winthrop Harbor, Lake County 22-23 February 2016 (2016-043; AM:p); it was found initially by Andrew O. Stewart. One in adult or nearly adult basic plumage at Ben Butterworth Park in Moline, Rock Island County 19 September and 5 November 2016 (2016-074; SF:p; JAW:p). One thought to be in its 3rd plumage cycle at Ben Butterworth Park in Moline, Rock Island County 16 and 18 October 2016 (2016-074; JF:p; SF:p). The Committee considered whether 2016-074 and 2016-078 involved the same individual so that the two records should be merged, but it concluded to keep these as separate records.

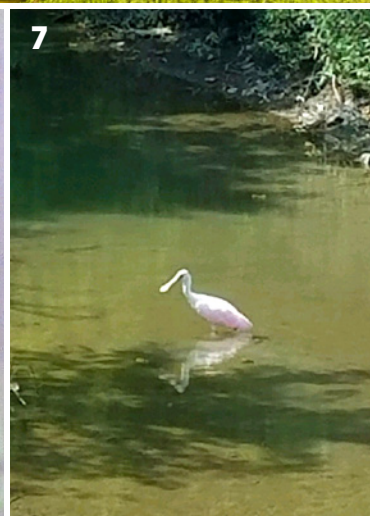
Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) One in Champaign, Champaign County 21 October 2014 (2014-058; PD:p). A photograph of this bird appears in Meadowlark 24(2):74.



BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK. Springfield, Sangamon County, 12 Jun. 2016. Photo by Colin Dobson.



CALIFORNIA GULL. Moline, Rock Island County, 5 Nov. 2016. Photo by Jo Ann Whitmore.



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2016 IORC Photo Highlights

1. Black-tailed Gull. Carlyle Lake, Clinton Co. 12 Jan. 2016. Photo: Tyler Funk.

2. Burrowing Owl. Chauncey, Lawrence Co. 26 Mar. 2016. Photo: Mark Crowley.

3. Parasitic Jaeger. Lake Michigan, Cook Co. 24 Sep. 2016. Photo: Jon Grainger.

4. Purple Gallinule. Photo at local rehabber after rescue in Chicago, Cook Co. 3 Apr. 2016. Photo: Annette Prince.

5. Swallow-tailed Kite. Evergreen Lake, McLean Co. 31 Jul. 2016. Photo: Dave Weth.

6. Swainson's Warbler. LaBagh Woods F.P., Cook Co. 1 May 2016. Photo: Matthew Cvetas.

7. Roseate Spoonbill. St. Clair Co. 25 Aug. 2016. Photo: Brian Smith.

8. Slaty-backed Gull. Montrose Point, Cook Co. 30 Jan. 2016. Photo: Josh Engel.

9. White-winged Dove. Lewisburg, Menard Co. 27 May 2016. Photo: Colin Dobson.

10. Townsend's Solitaire. Silver Springs S.P., Kendall Co. 9 Apr. 2016. Photo: Ryan Jones.

11. Brant. Northerly Island, Cook Co. 22 Nov. 2016. Photo: Geoff Williamson.

12. Brown Pelican. Mel Price Dam, Madison Co. 19 May 2016. Photo: Frank Holmes.

13. Snowy Plover. Lake Springfield, Sangamon Co. 30 May 2016. Photo: Colin Dobson.

14. White Ibis. Alma, Marion Co. 7 Sep. 2016. Photo: Richard Day.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

UNACCEPTED RECORDS OF SPECIES NEW TO THE STATE LIST

Two records of two species

California Quail (*Callipepla californica*) One photographed in Sullivan, Moultrie County, 3 September 2016 (2016-066). Generally, the Committee felt that the identification was correct or likely correct, but unanimously felt that the origin of this bird was questionable with it likely an escaped or released captive bird. Thus, the record failed to earn acceptance based on origin, with the question of identification not settled completely.

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) One near Lake Mauvaisterre, Morgan County 11 May 2016 (2016-031). The Committee felt unanimously that the evidence was insufficient for acceptance of a first state and exceptionally unusual record. Several Committee members noted that descriptions of plumage details and structural aspects of the bird much more extensive than those provided would be important in deciding this bird's specific identification, given that separation of Hooded and Orchard Oriole, as well as other species in the genus, can be quite difficult. The bird was said to have responded to audio playback of its species' vocalizations, but the Committee felt that this was only supportive and not conclusive, given that many species respond to playback of other species' vocalizations. Thus, similar species were not adequately eliminated from consideration.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS OF REVIEW LIST SPECIES

Seventeen records of 13 species

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) This report presents four records of this form that were not accepted. One at CIPS Lake, Jasper County 20 July 2015 (2015-066). Many Committee members expressed the need for caution in this case of a difficult identification where no physical evidence is available for evaluation. Concerns included that the bird's sex was not clearly established and that hybrid possibilities were not eliminated. Mention of this sighting appears in Bailey (2016). Two photographed at Bailey Wetland, Richland County and Wayne County 26 October to 11 December 2015 (2015-067). Most Committee members felt that photographs showed features problematic for Mottled Duck, and many thought American Black Duck was a better fit. One photographed at East Fork Lake, Richland County 15 January 2016 (2016-008). The evidence included features not fully consistent with Mottled, nor did it convincingly eliminate the possibility of a hybrid combination involving one or more of American Black Duck, Mallard, and Mottled Duck. One photographed southeast of Jacksonville, Morgan County 24 May 2016 (2016-046). The available evidence was inconclusive as to which among American Black Duck, Mallard, Mottled Duck, and their hybrid combinations this individual belongs.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) One at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Williamson County 21 February 2016 (2016-012). Committee members noted that a whole range of grouse-like birds would need to be eliminated given the possibility of an escaped/released non-native bird being involved. The evidence was deemed insufficient to do this.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One at Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook County 30 September 2012 (2012-050). The Committee felt that species other than Parasitic Jaeger or Pomarine Jaeger were effectively eliminated from consideration and that the bird likely was a Parasitic. However, the uncertainties involved in estimating size, the lack of evidence regarding the bird's age (consequently undermining any age-dependent reasoning), and insufficient documentation of visible characters for ruling out Pomarine prevented acceptance at the species level. Mention of this sighting appears in Johnson (2013) and in Hengeveld et al. (2013).

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) One photographed at Horseshoe Lake, Madison County 16 February 2016 (2016-013). Though this bird was possibly or even probably a Slaty-backed Gull, other possibilities, particularly that of a Herring Gull x Great Black-backed Gull hybrid, were not sufficiently excluded.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) One at the North Globe Unit of Emiquon Refuge, Fulton County 7 June 2016 (2016-045). Committee members raised concerns that the level of detail in the description was not sufficient for a clear evaluation, that some of the characteristics used in the identification were subjective and hence difficult for the Committee to evaluate in the absence of photographic evidence, and that arguments as to why other species were excluded were not convincing.

Neotropical Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) One photographed at Lake Jacksonville, Morgan County 5 April 2016 (2016-017). The photographic evidence was deemed inconclusive. Details about the shape of the throat patch, the nature of the supraloral area, and the tail length were unavailable in the documentary evidence. The observational circumstances, commendably described with candor in the documentation, may have made determination of these important details difficult. One photographed at the North Globe Unit of Emiquon Refuge, Fulton County 3-5 June 2016 (2016-039). The photographs alone were insufficient to conclude identification to species of this cormorant. The quality of the photographs did not enable assessment of head and bill details, and though the photographs suggested differences in size and proportional tail length between the individual in question and other cormorants, these aspects were not clear cut. A written description would have been helpful given the ambiguity that the photographs alone failed to clear.

Anhinga (*Anhinga Anhinga*) One in Massac County 16 May 2002 (2002-051). The brief description was insufficient for identifying this bird as an Anhinga.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) One at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County 20 November 2016 (2016-085). Committee members had concerns that the level of detail in the description was inadequate to exclude other large, pale raptors

or was of insufficient extent to positively conclude identification of a raptor of this rarity.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) One at North Pond in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County 24 May 2016 (2016-033). The date of this record is quite an extraordinary one for this species for anywhere in the eastern half of the continent. In this circumstance, the presented evidence was not strong enough to conclude positive identification.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) One near Braidwood Power Plant Cooling Pond, Will County 12 December 2015 (2015-063). The identification of *Spizella* sparrows away from the breeding season can be difficult. Thus, the absence in the written documentation of direct consideration of immatures of the other *Spizella* species together with the lack of physical evidence proved problematic for acceptance.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) One in Chicago's Jackson Park, Cook County 23 May 1989 (1989-151). The Committee evaluated written evidence that was prepared close to the time of the observation, but which became available 27 years later. Shortcomings in the description rendered acceptance to species problematic, and the Committee was unanimous in its decision.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) One in Sand Ridge Township, Jackson County 5 April 2016 (2016-018). Factors noted against acceptance included the brevity of the observation, the fact that size can be difficult to assess, the relative lack of detail about the bird's appearance, and the limited explicit arguments to eliminate similar species from consideration.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) One near Lake Jacksonville, Morgan County 7 May 2016 (2016-030). The Committee had concerns about the described behavior being unusual for Swainson's Warbler, the sparsity of the description on the bird, and the duration of the observation. Most of the Committee members felt that the description was at the very least consistent with the proposed identification, but that a firm conclusion as to the specific identity could not be made from the documentary evidence.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS OF OTHER SPECIES, SUBSPECIES, AND HYBRID COMBINATIONS

One record of one form

Herring x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid) (*Larus argentatus x glaucescens*) One photographed in Elgin, Kane County 28 January 2016 (2016-010). The Committee's opinion was split on this record. There was agreement that a likely possibility for the identification of this bird was Herring x Glaucous-winged Gull. However, several Committee members raised concerns that other hybrid combinations such as Herring x Glaucous Gull or even Western x Glaucous-winged Gull need to be excluded definitively, and there was insufficient comfort in doing so given the available evidence.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS OF BREEDING

One record of one species

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) Four birds documented by photograph and video at Air Station Prairie, Glenview, Cook County 8, 17, 18, and 21 June 2016 (2016-076). The Committee's opinion on this record was split. Those in favor were comfortable with indirect evidence of breeding, while those opposed felt that stronger and more direct evidence is necessary to conclude that breeding had occurred.

CORRIGENDA

The 21st IORC Report (Williamson 2016) failed to include the scientific name for Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia*, with records 2012-052 and 2015-059. We include mention of the scientific name here to complete the report.

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