

Twenty-Sixth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

By Geoffrey A. Williamson

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC or “the Committee”) are reported for records whose review concluded in 2019. There was a total of 94 records, including 77 accepted records of 45 species and forms and 17 unaccepted records of 13 species and forms.

We continue to follow the conventions used in the first 24 reports of the Committee, for example Williamson (2020), 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, Other Species and Subspecies, and Breeding Records. The Unaccepted group is divided into Species New to the State List, Review List Species, and Other Species. 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 61st (Chesser et al. 2020).

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 descriptions, photographs, and/or sound recordings. 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 and v for video recordings. 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, but where possible we have indicated who initially discovered the bird(s) involved.

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 information available to the Committee from other sources when judged by the Committee to be valid. Such sources include eBird (Sullivan et al. 2009), social media venues on the internet, listserves, and personal communications. 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 requests documentation of all records of Review List forms within the state. The current Review List, available at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-ornithological-records-committee/>, was most recently updated at the 28 February 2021 meeting of IORC. Changes made at that time were the removal of White-winged Dove and Neotropic Cormorant from the Review List. In addition, the Committee desires documentation of any species not listed in the Illinois State List of Birds (available at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/the-birds-of-illinois/>). In some cases, documentation of regularly occurring species may be warranted. These instances may include out of season occurrences, first state nesting records or rarely occurring 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. Such records, as well as documentation submitted for the Christmas Bird Count and Spring Bird Count, are formally evaluated by the Committee at its discretion, but in all cases the materials are archived so as to be available in the future to students of Illinois bird life.

An ongoing issue for the Committee is the task of collecting documentary evidence for the occurrence of rare birds. There is a growing set of media, mostly online, where individuals post information about unusual birds. Regardless of whether those individuals posting the information are active within the birding and ornithological communities, the submission to IORC of photographs or other documentation is often neglected. The absence of documentation submitted to IORC also occurs for

sightings included in eBird checklists. All these situations cause difficulty for the archiving function of IORC because IORC is committed to public access to its archives, and the permissions granted through the submission process are necessary for this access. Where practical, IORC endeavors to facilitate the direct submission of documentation of whose existence IORC becomes aware, but these efforts are not always successful nor sometimes even possible.

The Committee thus strongly encourages all observers of rare birds to submit documentation directly to IORC, even when multiple observers are involved in a sighting. Cases do arise of records that are deemed unacceptable due to incomplete information, even when there were many observers, because adequate documentation was not submitted to the Committee. 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.

OBSERVERS AND DOCUMENTERS

Ninety-five individuals contributed documentary material to the records involved in this report. Those among them who are cited in the accounts are listed below, followed in parentheses by their initials, which are used to reference them. IORC sincerely thanks all the documenters, in cases of accepted and unaccepted records alike, for their submissions. All documentation is maintained in the IORC archives so that there is a permanent record of all these observations. Documentation, regardless of the Committee's decision, is a valuable part of the record of bird life in Illinois.

Andrew S. Aldrich (ASA), Negin Almassi (NA), Ryan Askren (RA), Amar A. Ayyash (AAA), Daniel Baechle (DB), Katy Banning (KB), Jeff Baughman (JBn), Stephanie Beilke (SB), Frank K. Bennett (FKB), Shawn Billerman (SBn), Jeff Bilsky (JB), H. David Bohlen (HDB), Mark Bowman (MB), Ron Bradley (RB), C.A. Bridge (CAB), Ethan Brown (EB), Michael Carroll (MC), L. Challoner (LC), Scott A. Cohrs (SAC), Tom Colin (TC), Tony Comerci (TCi), Matthew M. Cvetas (MMC), Carl DauBach (CDh), Pen DauBach (PD), Sara Denham (SD), Chelsea DeVivo (CDo), Colin Dobson (CD), Ida Domazlicky (ID), Bonnie Duman (BD), Matthew E. Fraker (MEF), Steven M. Freed (SMF), Gordon Garcia (GG), Sarah Geiger (SG), Nathan R. Goldberg (NRG), Jerry Goldner (JG), Jean Graf-Teterycz (JG-T), Bonnie Graham (BG), Cory Gregory (CG), Beth Gunderson (BGn), Aaron Gyllenhall (AG), Ethan Gyllenhaal (EG), C. Leroy Harrison (CLH), Ryan Healey (RH), John Heneghan (JHn), Mary Hennen (MH), Robert D. Hughes (RDH), Jim Hully (JH), Tamima Itani (TI), Scott Johnson (SJ), Ryan Jones (RJ), Davida Kalina (DK), Dan M. Kassebaum (DMK), Amy Keller (AK), Ken Koontz (KK), Brendon Lake (BL), Nolan Lameka (NL), Theresa LeCompte (TL), David Logue (DL), John C. Longhenry (JCL), Karen Louis (KL), Lisa Maier (LM), Annette McClellan (AM), Keith A. McMullen (KAM), Matt Misewicz (MM), Stephen

Mitten (SM), Rebecca Murphy (RM), Greg E. Neise (GEN), Jeffrey Nelson (JN), Isao O'Brien (IO), James D. Paar (JDP), Lisa Rest (LR), Gene Rod (GR), Kimberly Rohling (KR), Ryan Sanderson (RS), John Schwegman (JS), Adam W. Sell (AWS), Brad Y. Semel (BYS), Robert E. Shelby (RES), Andrew P. Sigler (APS), Jeffrey R.R. Skrentny (JRRS), Allison Sloan (AS), Trevor Slovick (TS), Jeffrey O. Sundberg (JOS), Zachary Sutton (ZS), Brian Tang (BT), Craig A. Taylor (CAT), Monte Taylor (MT), Mark R. Vanderpoel (MRV), Eric W. Walters (EWW), David E. Willard (DEW), Barbara C. Williams (BCW), Daniel T. Williams (DTW), Geoffrey A. Williamson (GAW), Ted Wolff (TW), Joseph Young (JY), Linda Zoetmulder (LZ).

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Membership in IORC during 2020 consisted of the following individuals:

- Matthew E. Fraker, Voting Member.
- Davida Kalina, Voting Member.
- Walter J. Marcisz, Voting Member.
- Adam W. Sell, Voting Member.
- Douglas F. Stotz, Voting Member.
- Paul W. Sweet, Voting Member and Vice-Secretary.
- Geoffrey A. Williamson, Secretary.

Available to serve as an Alternate Member during 2020 were Robert E. Fisher, Robert D. Hughes, Michael P. Ward, and David E. Willard. Among these, only Robert D. Hughes voted on records during the year.

We thank all the individuals mentioned above for their careful and thoughtful evaluation of records and for their various other services to the Committee. Their efforts were essential to the work of IORC and contributed greatly to the accumulating record of birdlife in Illinois.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

ACCEPTED RECORDS OF SPECIES NEW TO THE STATE LIST

One records of one species

Small-billed Elaenia (*Elaenia parvirostris*) One photographed 17-22 April 2021 at Douglass Park, Chicago, Cook County (2012-007; AG:p, EG:p, MB:p, CAB:p, BD:p, MEF:p, GG:p, NRG:p, JG:p, JH:p, KK:p, NL:p, LR:p, RS:p, BT:p, MT:p). Gyllenhall (2013) provides a detailed account of the observation. In its initial review, the Committee accepted this record as Small-billed/White-crested Elaenia (*E. parvirostris/albiceps*) as questions concerning evaluation at the species level were not yet fully resolved (Sweet 2013). The final accumulated documentation and information regarding this extraordinary record consists of 233 photographs, two videos, commentary by 12

individuals with expertise in South American birds, plus the written documentation of the original observer. Unfortunately, no observer heard the bird vocalizing in any way. Douglas F. Stotz provided the Committee a detailed written proposal for acceptance as Small-billed Elaenia. The Committee considered this proposal and discussed it at its Annual Meeting in February 2020, at which meeting Committee members also examined specimens of relevant members of the genus *Elaenia* in the collection of the Field Museum of Natural History. Subsequently, the record was recirculated, and the Committee accepted the record by unanimous vote as pertaining to Small-billed Elaenia. The Committee then provided the documentary material to the American Birding Association Checklist Committee (ABA-CLC). The ABA-CLC, however, declined to accept the record, noting that "the dissenting CLC members felt that the identification was likely correct, but they did not feel it was sufficiently determinate to add the species to the *ABA Checklist*" (Pyle et al. 2020).

ACCEPTED RECORDS OF REVIEW LIST SPECIES

Seventy-six records of 45 species

Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*) One photographed 24 April 2014 at Carlyle Lake, Fayette County (2014-059; DMK:p). This record is the third for the state, and the first to involve a female bird.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) One photographed 21 November to 1 December 2020 at Des Plaines Conservation Area, Will County (2020-077; AM:p, DTW:p). This individual was originally found by Greg DuBois.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) One photographed 31 October to 2 November 2019 along the Evanston and Chicago lakefront, Cook County (2019-062; TI:p; MMC:p, DTW:p, GAW:p). This record is the ninth accepted by the Committee and the first since 2010. Photographs of this bird are in *Meadowlark* 29(1-2):1, 13, and 53.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) One 3 February 2020 in Moline, Rock Island County (2020-004; SMF). One photographed 1-4 March 2020 in Moline, Rock Island County (2020-005; SMF:p). These two records were submitted by the same observer, who thought that two different individuals were involved. The Committee determined to leave these as two separate records.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) One 4 May 2019 at Mermet Lake, Massac County (2019-071; FKB). This is the sixth record from this location, with the other five occurring during the period from 1998 to 2006, including a nesting record in 1998 (Johnson and Stotz 1999). One photographed 23 September 2020 at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County (2020-054; RDH:p; MMC:p).

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) One 2 June 2019 at Killdeer Wetlands Forest Preserve, Cook County (2019-057; SB:s). This record was accepted based on the description of the full suite of vocalizations heard. Though audio recordings were submitted, they did not include the most distinctive call types, and the Committee declined to accept based on this physical

evidence. One 18 September 2020 at a rice farm in northwest Alexander County (2020-050; CAT), observed from a combine driving through the field.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) One photographed 22 November 2020 at North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor, Lake County (2020-078; JB:p). This individual was originally found by Andrew O. Stewart.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One photographed 7 September 2020 on Lake Michigan east from Chicago, Cook County (2020-056; RJ:p, GAW:p). One photographed 25 October 2020 on Lake Michigan east from Chicago, Cook County (2020-068; GAW:p).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) One photographed 25 October 2020 on Lake Michigan east from Chicago, Cook County (2020-069; GAW:p).

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) One photographed during 9-10 November 2019 at Montrose Point, Lincoln Park, Chicago, Cook County (2019-063; MC:p, RDH; MMC:p, GAW:p). This is the fourth record for Illinois. Photographs of this bird are in *Meadowlark* 29(1-2):58 and *Meadowlark* 29(3):5.

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) One photographed 3 January 2018 at Lake County Fairgrounds, Lake County (2018-073; AAA:p). This is the second accepted record of an adult, and the fourth accepted record overall for the state. A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 27(3-4):34.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) This report includes four accepted records plus two unaccepted records. Though this species now occurs regularly in the state, the Committee has retained it on the Review List. One photographed 1-2 September 2013 at Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, Mason County (2013-084; EWW:p). Two photographed 7 September 2020 on Lake Michigan east from Chicago, Cook County (2020-057; RJ:p, GAW:p). One 12 September 2020 at LaSalle Lake, LaSalle County (2020-046; SJH). One 11 October 2020 in Moline, Rock Island County (2020-063; SMF).

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) One on 10 June 2020 in Seneca Township, near Marengo, McHenry County (2020-040; AK:p; SD:p, BGn, BM:p, RM, BYS). This individual was found by Amy Keller on the roof of her house and was taken



LITTLE GULL. Lake Michigan, Cook County, 7 September 2020. Photo by Ryan Jones.

into captivity for rehabilitation. Unfortunately, the bird died in captivity, but it is now in the collection of the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH #522932). This record is the state's fourth overall and the second specimen record.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) One photographed 14 September 2019 at Carlyle Lake, Clinton County (2019-052; CD:p). This is the 10th record accepted by the Committee. A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(1-2):58.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) One photographed 12 November 2020 at Oakhurst Forest Preserve, Aurora, Kane County (2020-075; BL:p). One photographed 16-17 November 2020 at Heidecke Lake, Grundy County (2020-076; MM:p).

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) Three photographed 23-28 August 2011 south of Kidd Lake Marsh State Natural Area, Monroe County (2011-041; CDh, PD:p). A photograph of the three birds is in *Meadowlark* 21(2):54.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) One photographed 31 August 2020 in Quincy, Adams County (2020-042; CG:p). One photographed 24 October 2020 at Carlyle Lake, Clinton County (2020-061; CLH:p, RES:p). This individual was originally found by Dan M. Kassebaum. These are the state's fifth and sixth records.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) One photographed 6 August to 26 September 2020 at Grand Tower, Jackson County (2020-036; KB:p).

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) One photographed 3 October to 8 December 2018 at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Williamson County (2018-071; CD0:p, NRG:p, KR). A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 28(1-2):57.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) One 5 August 2020 in east-central Wayne County (2020-031; CAT). One photographed 31 August 2020 in Quincy, Adams County (2020-039; CAT:p).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) One photographed 26 September to 23 October 2019 at Dixon Waterfowl Refuge, Putnam County (2019-051; SG; ASA, KAM, DTW:p). The exact date range over which this bird was observed is uncertain due to the identification difficulties coupled with the presence of other *Plegadis* ibis at this location. A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(1-2):61. One photographed on 14 October 2019 at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County (2019-069; HDB:p).

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) One photographed 28-29 August 2020 in Hardin County (2020-041; CAT:p). This was the seventh record for the state, with all seven occurring during or after 2003.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) One photographed 16 May 2020 in Zion, Lake County (2020-065; LZ:p). Two 14 July 2020 at Kickapoo State Park, Vermilion County (2020-025; ZS:v).

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) This report includes three records. The species is occurring with much greater regularity in recent years, almost annually, with 17 now accepted during the 10-year period from 2011-2020. One photographed 24 August to 4 September 2019 near Allerton Park, Piatt County (2019-064; CLH:p). This individual was found initially by Alex Lourash. A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(1-2):61. One 25 July 2020 at Rend Lake, Franklin

County (2020-029; RH). One photographed 4-8 August 2020 in Charleston, Coles County (2020-033; DL:p).

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) One 26 November 2019 at Lake Sule, Rochelle, Ogle County (2019-065; APS; CAT). This is the state's seventh record.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) One specimen collected 27 September 2017 in Chicago, Cook County (2017-084; LC). The record pertains to specimen FMNH #511073 in the collection of the Field Museum of Natural History. One photographed on 23 December 2019 at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, Jasper County (2019-068; RES:p). This was a Christmas Bird Count record.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) One photographed 26 January to 1 February 2020 in the broad area south of LaSalle Lake, LaSalle County (2020-003; TI:p, LM). This individual was found initially by Ken Murphy. A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(3):39.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) One photographed 3 January 2018 in Ridgway Township, Gallatin County (2018-072; RB:p).

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) One photographed 26 August 2020 at North Pond in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County (2020-055; GAW:p). This is the sixth record for Illinois.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) One 16 September 2020 at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County (2020-045; MRV).

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) This report includes five records. This species is occurring with greater regularity. One photographed 13 October 2019 in Oswego, Kendall County (2019-055; SJ:p). One photographed 25 October 2019 at Henneberry Woods Forest Preserve, Kendall County (2019-055; RJ:p). A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(1-2):65. One photographed 19 January to 2 February 2020 at Silver Springs State Park, Kendall County (2020-002; JN:p; ASA:p, DTW:p). A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(3):42. One photographed 2 February 2020 in southwest Jo Daviess County (2020-032; SAC:p). A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(3):43. One photographed 1-21 March 2020 at McCune Sand Prairie, Bureau County (2020-006; DK:p, CAT). This individual was first observed by Michael A. Madsen, who heard the bird calling. A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(3):42.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) Seemingly immediately following the Committee placing Evening Grosbeak on the Review List, the species staged a major irruption into the state. Among the many reports were these five documented records. Two photographed 29 October to 2 November 2020 at Severson Dells Nature Center, Winnebago County (2020-066; DTW:p). Eight 31 October 2020 at Greenwood Cemetery, Rockford, Winnebago County (2020-067; DTW). One photographed 11 November 2020 at North Pond in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County (2020-074; GAW:p). One photographed 19-21 November 2020 in Big Rock, Kane County (2020-073; JHn:p). One photographed 23 November 2020 at Ft. Sheridan Forest Preserve, Lake County (2020-080; TI:p).

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) One photographed 22 November 2020 to 6 January 2021 at Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Cook County (2020-079; TI:p). This individual was originally identified by Isoo O'Brien.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) One photographed 21 November 2020 in Evanston, Cook County (2020-083; TI:p). One photographed 28 November 2020 at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County (2020-084; GAW:p).

Cassin's Sparrow (*Peucaea cassinii*) One photographed 13 November 2020 at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County (2020-070; RDH:p; GAW:p). This record is the fourth for Illinois.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) One photographed 18 November to 13 December 2020 in Rockford, Winnebago County (2020-072; BCW, DTW:p). This record represents the state's seventh for the species.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) One photographed 20 August 2013 in Meredosia, Morgan County (2013-085; SBn:p). A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 23(2):80. One photographed 15 November 2020 at Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Cook County (2020-082; NA:p).

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) One specimen collected 3 May 2018 at Northwestern University, Evanston, Cook County (2018-069; AS). One on 5 May 2019 at Sexton Creek, Alexander County (2019-073; ID).

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) One on 7 May 2011 at Lost Mound National Wildlife Refuge, Carroll County (2011-042; JBn).

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) One photographed 18 May 2020 in Geneva, Kane County (2020-034; SAC:p). This individual was first found by Bob Andrini. A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(4):45.

Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*) One photographed 16-26 April 2020 at Deer Grove East Forest Preserve, Cook County (2020-013; IO:p). This bird was first found by Heidi Tarasiuk. A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(4):48.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) Four records are presented in this report. One photographed 14-28 April 2013 in Warsaw, Hancock County (2013-083; JDP:p). One photographed 21 May 2017 in Serena, LaSalle County (2017-085; JY:p). One photographed 7-12 May 2020 in Albion, Edwards County (2020-012; CLH:p, RES:p). This bird was found by Scott Attebury at his home. One photographed 19-21 May 2020 in Yorkville, Kendall County (2020-017; DB:p). A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(4):46.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) One photographed 16-24 October 2020 in Woodstock, McHenry County (2020-060; JG-T:p; MMC, DTW:p).

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) One photographed during 21 February to 1 March 2020 in Sherman, Sangamon County (2020-007; TS:p). This individual was found by Jarod Hitchings at his residence. A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(4):49. One photographed 16 March to 2 May

2020 in Marion Township, Ogle County (2020-010; DTW:p).

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) One photographed 15-16 May 2018 in Mendota, LaSalle County (2018-075; GR:p). One photographed on 2 May 2020 in Chicago, Cook County (2020-016; JRRS:p). A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(4):49.

ACCEPTED RECORDS OF OTHER SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES

Twenty-five records involving 10 species, including three records involving subspecies forms.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) Six photographed 4 June 2020 at Beall Woods State Park, Wabash County (2020-018; RES:p). One on 6 July 2020 in Wood Dale, DuPage County (2020-035; TCi:p).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) This species was recently removed from the Review List. This report includes five records. One photographed 14 May 2018 in Shiloh, St. Clair County (2018-074; KL:p). One photographed 15 June 2018 in Oswego, Kendall County (2018-076; SJ:p). One 4 May 2019 in Marengo, McHenry County (2019-072; SM). One photographed 14-18 April 2020 in Metropolis, Massac County (2020-009; JS:p). A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 29(4):30. One to two photographed 4 May to 27 July 2020 (with two present during 9-14 May 2020) in Stonington, Christian County (2020-011; TC, TS:p, TW).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) One photographed 21 September 2019 at Eldon Hazlet State Park, Clinton County (2019-054; CD:p).

Neotropic Cormorant (*Nannopterum brasilianum*) This species was recently removed from the Review List. This report includes nine records. One photographed 5 May 2019 at Clinton Lake, DeWitt County (2017-074; MEF:p). One photographed 27 May to 1 June 2019 at Almond Marsh Forest Preserve, Lake County (2017-075; AWS). One photographed 19-20 October 2019 at Rainbow Beach, Chicago, Cook County (2019-058; ASA:p). One photographed 10 April 2020 at Heron County Park, Vermilion County (2020-038; RA:p). One photographed 26 April to 14 May 2020 at Almond Marsh Forest Preserve, Lake County (2020-081; AWS:p). This individual was first reported by Steve Mulhall. One photographed 24 May to 6 July 2020 in Zion, Lake County (2020-019; DTW:p). This individual was first located and identified by Steven J. Huggins. One photographed 20 June to 3 July 2020 at Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve, DuPage County (2020-022; BG:p). This individual was initially found by Glenn Perricone and Kyle Wiktor. One photographed 28 July to 20 September 2020 at Rainbow Beach, Chicago, Cook County (2020-028; IO:p). One photographed 28 September 2020 at Nygren Wetlands, Winnebago County (2020-058; DTW:p).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) One 28 August 2019 at Ft. Sheridan Forest Preserve, Lake County (2019-053; AWS:p).

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) One

photographed 30 November 2019 at Canal Shores Golf Course, Evanston, Cook County (2019-067; JB:p).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) One 10 May 2020 in Berwyn, Cook County (2020-014; GEN:p). One 24 June 2020 in Aurora, Kane County (2020-021; TL:p).

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) One 1 January 2020 in Libertyville, Lake County (2020-001; JOS). This was a Christmas Bird Count record.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) This report includes two records accepted by the Committee as pertaining to subspecies or subspecies groups that occur very infrequently in Illinois. Dark-eyed Junco taxonomy is complicated and perhaps remains unsettled. The terminology and subspecies taxonomy used here follows the Clements Checklist v2019 (Clements et al. 2019). One photographed 10 May 2020 in Arlington Heights, Cook County (2020-015; FL:p). This record was accepted as pertaining to either Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed) *Junco hyemalis caniceps* or Dark-eyed Junco (Red-backed) *Junco hyemalis dorsalis*. One photographed 22 May 2020 at Mississippi Palisades State Park, Carroll County (2020-024; EB:p). This record was accepted as pertaining to the subspecies Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed) *Junco hyemalis caniceps*. Bohlen (1989) remarks that “The ‘Gray-headed’ Junco, *J. h. caniceps*, has five records (Blue Island, Springfield, Urbana, Decatur, and Mount Vernon on dates ranging from February 9 to May 20).” Note, however, that with respect to subspecies, Bohlen (1989) follows the fifth edition of the American Ornithologists’ Union checklist (American Ornithologists’ Union 1957), which was the list to indicate subspecies and had *caniceps* and *dorsalis* as two subspecies of *J. caniceps*, the Gray-headed Junco.

Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*) One photographed 8 November 2016 at McCormick Place, Chicago, Cook County (2016-098; MH:p, DEW). This record was accepted as pertaining to the subspecies Palm Warbler (Yellow) *Setophaga palmarum hypochrisea*.

ACCEPTED BREEDING RECORDS

Two records of two species.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) A record involving two adult and four young Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks 10-21 September 2020 at Milles Fleurs Nature Preserve, Fults, Monroe County (2020-053; CDh, PD:p). Four small ducklings were noted with two adults during this period. This represents the second documented nesting in the state by the species and the first reviewed by the Committee. Marbut (2020) provides extensive details regarding a nesting in Fayette County during the summer of 2018, which constitutes the first documented nesting.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) One breeding record during 21 May to 14 July 2020 in Rockford, Winnebago County (2020-026; JCL:p, DTW:p). This is the first nesting record reviewed by the Committee, with extensive documentation including photographs of young in the nest and of fledged young. The breeding season status of the species has changed rapidly. Bailey (2013) noted observations from 2012 that represented “the first

well-documented summer records for this species for Illinois.” Bailey and Anderson (2019) reported the first confirmed breeding, which occurred in Cook County in 2016 and was based on a live nestling that fell from the nest tree and later died. Walters (2017) describes nesting activity at a site in Lake County in 2017. Two other nesting attempts during 2020 are represented in eBird records, one in Lake County near the 2017 nesting site and the other in Knox County.

ACCEPTED RECORDS OF OTHER SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES

Twenty-five records involving 10 species, including three records involving subspecies forms.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) A maximum of 34 in Granite City, Madison County 9 May to 28 June 2019 (2019-028; FRH:p). Two in Naples, Scott County 30 May 2019 (2019-019; CD:p). Two northeast of Meredosia, Morgan County 16 June 2019 (2019-021; CD:p). Twenty-eight at Grand Tower, Jackson County 28-29 June 2019 (2019-024; RSR, TS:p). Two adults and 19 ducklings in Grand Tower, Jackson County 17 August 2019 (2019-037; DW:p). Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was removed from the Review List on 18 February 2018.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) One juvenile south of Beall Woods State Park, Wabash County 24 July 2019 (2019-029; CLH:p, RES:p).

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) One in Hudson, McLean County 2 May 2019 (2019-038; DTW).

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) One at O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, Cook County 5-25 July 2018 (2018-051; GM, SS). This is a very unusual summer record of the species.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) One in Sun River Terrace, Kankakee County 29 December 2018 (2018-057; BR:p). This was a Christmas Bird Count record.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Ixoreus naevius*) One at Mermet Lake, Massac County 15 March 2019 (2019-003; AG).



EVENING GROSBEEK. Normal, McLean County, 28 October 2020. Photo by Benjamin Murphy.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) One in Big Rock, Kane County 18-19 November 2018 (2018-054; JH:p).

Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) One at Zander Woods Forest Preserve, Cook County 29 December 2018 (2018-058; JP). This was a Christmas Bird Count record.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*) One at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County 14 June 2019 (2019-031; BJS:p).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

UNACCEPTED RECORDS OF SPECIES NEW TO THE STATE LIST

One record of one species

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) One on 14 September 2020 at Mattis Park, Champaign, Champaign County (2020-047). This record consisted of both visual and auditory observations of the bird by a single observer, but no photographs or audio recordings. Although this may have been a Western Wood-Pewee, the Committee was unanimous in not accepting the record. The vocal repertoire of wood-pewees includes several odd calls, especially among juveniles, so that having a recording to analyze is important for a record of this magnitude.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS OF REVIEW LIST SPECIES

Nineteen records of 14 species

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) One during 25-28 February 2019 moving between Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, DuPage County and Bartlett Lake Prairie Wetland, Oswego, Kendall County (2019-002). This record underwent four rounds of review but failed to garner the necessary six votes out of seven for acceptance. In each round, three members raised concerns about the level of evidence related to whether this was a wild, naturally occurring bird. A photograph of this bird is in *Meadowlark* 28(3-4):28.

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) This report includes two records, both of which involved reconsideration of previous evaluations by the Committee. Two on 30 May 2013 at Montrose Point, Lincoln Park, Chicago, Cook County (2013-016). This record was previously accepted as valid (Sweet and Williamson 2015). However, the record was resubmitted on the basis that the two birds manifested evidence of hybridization with Mallards. The Committee's reevaluation agreed with this position and reversed the original decision. One on 29 October 2013, 16 November 2013, and 28 April 2014 at Sangchris Lake State Park, Sangamon County, (2013-065). For this record, the original decision was not to accept (Williamson 2018). Additional photographic evidence was the basis for the resubmission. As with the original decision, the Committee felt that the bird may

very well be a Mottled Duck, but the additional evidence was still insufficient to allay concerns of some Committee members about the possibility of a hybrid between Mottled Duck and Mallard. The Committee commends the observer for including candid and detailed written remarks regarding features important for considering such possibilities; however, the circumstances of the observation prevented clear determination in the Committee's collective review. Recently, the Committee is being more cautious with this complex. The facts that the original submission underwent three rounds of review and the resubmission underwent four rounds reflect the difficulty of the evaluation. To aid in evaluation of all records like this one, the Committee stresses the importance for documenters to provide (as was done for 2013-065) not only the best quality photographs that can be obtained but also written commentary about what was observed in the field.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) One 7 August 2019 at Peacock Marsh, Will County (2019-033). Committee members felt there was insufficient evidence to conclude identification of this bird as a Ruff. In particular, most members felt that the possibility it was a Pectoral Sandpiper was not eliminated.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) One 25 August 2019 at Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, Mason County (2019-041). Committee members were split in their opinion about this sight record. Those who were against acceptance expressed a preference for photographic evidence in cases of difficult identifications such as this and also voiced concerns regarding the viewing conditions.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) This report includes two unaccepted records. One on 18 September 2020 at Illinois Beach State Park (south unit), Lake County (2020-051). The description provided was insufficient to exclude Pomarine Jaeger as a possibility, and some features of the description better supported that identification. The limited amount of detail provided about the bird's appearance contributed to the difficulty of assessing this record. One 24 October 2020 at Carlyle Lake, Clinton County (2020-062). The documentation demonstrated that this bird was not the Long-tailed Jaeger seen at the site at about the same time, but the description did not provide enough evidence to determine which jaeger species was involved.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) One 9 September 2020 in La Grange, Cook County (2020-049). The brevity of the observation combined with the observational circumstances led the Committee to be nearly unanimous against acceptance. One 13 September 2020 at Dixon Waterfowl Refuge, Putnam County (2020-052). The distance at which the observation was made, coupled with the amount and nature of the detail in the description, led to most members being uncomfortable with accepting the record.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) One 25 October 2019 at Lake Charleston, Coles County (2019-060). A variety of concerns led to this record not being accepted. Many of those concerns related to plumage and shape features used to distinguish Arctic from Common Tern and the degree to which those features were detailed in the documentation. Also, the date is a

late one for Arctic Tern.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) This report includes two unaccepted records. One 1 October 2019 in West Dundee, Kane County (2019-050). The Committee has acted very cautiously in recent years regarding sight records of Anhinga seen only in flight, as was the case here, given the possible confusion with cormorant species. In this record, plumage features were either unnoted or not seen well, and the late date amplified concerns. One 3 June 2020 in Wapella, DeWitt County (2020-020). This was another sight record of a flying bird, and though it may have been an Anhinga, the nearly unanimous view of the Committee was that the evidence presented was insufficient to make that determination definitively.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) One 22 August 2020 in East Peoria, Tazewell County (2020-043). The description was insufficient to exclude other heron species, including Great Blue Heron. Some members felt, too, that portions of the description were inconsistent with Tricolored Heron.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) One 20-21 September 2019 near Island Road levee, Jackson County (2019-059). The submitted evidence was insufficient to rule out definitively the possibility that this individual was a Glossy Ibis.

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*) This report includes two unaccepted records within this difficult "Solitary Vireo" complex, with neither record involving vocalizations. One 16 May 2019 at Ewing Park, Bloomington, McLean County (2019-061). One 15 May 2020 at Dam No. 4 Woods Forest Preserve, Cook County (2020-037). In both cases, the Committee was split in its votes. A complicating issue for the adjudication of these records is how one excludes a dull Blue-headed Vireo, given the available evidence in these records, based on current knowledge.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) One 16 March 2020 at Sand Creek Recreation Area, Macon County (2020-008). This record involves only aural observational evidence. A majority of Committee members adopted a position that other possibilities for the source of the sound that was experienced were not eliminated strongly enough to support the identification definitively.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) One 3 October 2019 at West Ridge Nature Preserve, Chicago, Cook County (2019-070). The Committee was unanimous that the possibility of this bird being a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, or perhaps a hybrid between Rose-breasted and Black-headed, was not adequately excluded by the submitted evidence.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) One 1 July 2020 in Makanda, Jackson County (2020-023). The bird may indeed have been a Painted Bunting, but because the documentation did not include any description of the bird, the Committee declined to accept it.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS OF OTHER SPECIES

Neotropic Cormorant (*Nannopterum brasilianum*) Three 16 August 2020 in Savoy, Champaign County (2020-044). A majority of Committee members felt that birds depicted were

Double-crested Cormorants, citing shape of the gular patch and also coloration of the bare skin on the face. ■

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