



IOS IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Re: Cassin's Vireo May 1994 Jackson Park record

1 message

Paul Clyne <[REDACTED]> Mon, Jan 30, 2017 at 10:26 PM
Reply-To: Paul Clyne <[REDACTED]>
To: IORC <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Matthew Cvetas <[REDACTED]>, "Robert D. Hughes" <[REDACTED]>

Dear Geoff,

See attached pdf file for a scan of my May 1994 Cassin's Vireo documentation as submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, as well as a letter that I sent to Ron Goetz (then secretary of IORC) in November 1994, following a review of skins at the Field Museum. There are four pages total in the pdf file.

Not attached here is my Seasonal Highlights write-up for Meadowlark 3.4 (p. 141f.), which includes some additional discussion. That text was submitted prior to my study of skins, which study supports the identification.

I'm cc'ing Bob Hughes here, since he also both saw and heard this bird singing on 5 May, and it's possible that he also submitted documentation that got lost in the transfer of documents following Goetz's unfortunate lapse in maintenance of the IORC archives.

I have not cc'd Tom Schulenberg, now at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, since I know from personal correspondence in August 1994 that he remained noncommittal, pending significant study, of the range of individual variation in the "Solitary Vireo" complex, although he does acknowledge that the fact that the Jackson Park bird was singing may eliminate the most challenging identification problem (Cassin's Vireo versus female Blue-headed Vireo).

Memo: As far as I'm aware, this historical record never went through IORC review. At present, I know of no documentation other than my own.

Good birding!
Paul Clyne

[REDACTED]

From: IORC <[REDACTED]>
To: Paul Clyne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 5:34 PM
Subject: Re: Historical upload May 1994, Jackson Park and Promontory Point

Dear Paul:

It would be great if you could send to me your documentation for this record, just in case we do not have it in the archives.

Sincerely,
Geoff Williamson

IORC Secretary

On Thu, Dec 22, 2016 at 11:18 AM, Paul Clyne <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Matthew,

Now that I'm back home, I've added details to my last batch of eBird uploads from spring (Mar-May) 1994 for records that I documented.

I'm cc'ing IORC here, since, like you, I don't find anything on the 3-5 May 1994 CASSIN'S VIREO. I found an old printout, from 1999, of a list of records in the IORC archives, and the record is wanting there.

Since I'm pretty sure that mine was the only documentation submitted for the Cassin's Vireo, and there are no photos or recordings, I assume the record would not pass as a first state record, but it should nonetheless undergo IORC review. (Schulenberg and / or Hughes may have taken notes.)

Here's a link to my 5 May 1994 eBird checklist with the Cassin's Vireo:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32851380>

I've got a paper copy of my documentation, which I can send to IORC on request, but there should also be a copy in the IDNR files. The Meadowlark article is quite similar to the documentation.

The other records that I updated in my eBird entries with remarks from documentations are:

Jackson Park Golf Course:
Swainson's Thrush 15 Apr

Inner/Outer Harbors:
Swainson's Thrush 15 Apr

Wooded Island / Bobolink Meadow area:
Nashville Warbler 15-16 Apr
Yellow Warbler 15 Apr
Yellow-throated Warbler 16 Apr and 3 May
Prairie Warbler 16-17 Apr
Little Blue Heron 25 Apr
Lawrence's Warbler 9 May
Rusty Blackbird 26 May

Good birding!
Paul

From: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

To: Paul Clyne <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 4:25 PM

Subject: Re: Historical upload May 1994, Jackson Park and Promontory Point

Thanks, Paul. I couldn't find any mention of a ruling on the video. Everything else looks fine.

Thanks,

Matthew

----- Original Message -----

From: Paul Clyne

To: Matthew Cvetas

Sent: December 4, 2016 at 11:39 AM

Subject: Historical upload May 1994, Jackson Park and Promontory Point

Hi Matthew,

I just uploaded May 1994, which is the last batch of print-outs I brought with me to Macedonia.

This is all new data, not previously uploaded. The only good checklist with numbers that I could find from Jackson Park for May 1994 is Sherman Suter's checklist of 4 May, and I have not duplicated his records in the upload.

Otherwise, I've included everything I had in my printout for Jackson Park, including Harriet Rylaarsdam's data. Total of 136 checklists uploaded.

There are the usual lakefront migrant trap rarities. Two records are noteworthy:

RUSTY BLACKBIRD on 26 May. This was notably late even for Chicago's migrant traps. Fortunately, it was a cooperative individual and I provided a good documentation. It should be in Meadowlark. I've put it on my calendar to add details when I get back to Chicago.

CASSIN'S VIREO on 3-5 May. I don't recall for certain if IORC voted on this record, but I think it did, citing insufficient evidence for a first state record. I've put it on my calendar to add details when I get back to Chicago, since it's probably the best record thus far presented for Illinois. (What I remember of subsequent reports is that they have been seen-only birds, but this was one was singing.)

Here's a bit of back-story on this: SOLITARY VIREO had not yet been split at that time, and Cassin's Vireo (unlike Plumbeous Vireo), was not on anyone's radar. The bird was identified by song as a Yellow-throated Vireo, and observers were surprised on seeing the songster as a really washed out Blue-headed Vireo (so drab that someone entertained Bell's Vireo). It wasn't until day 3 that Tom Schulenberg (then at the Field Museum, now at the Cornell Lab) raised Cassin's Vireo (a taxon that the rest of us didn't know a thing about) as a candidate.

Alas, that was the last day of occurrence. No photos. No audio recordings. And I think I was the only observer who submitted a documentation. Too bad. So it goes.

Best of birding,
Paul



--

Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

e-mail: [REDACTED]



CassinsVireo199405_JP.pdf
628K