

## Secretary's Report: Calendar Year 2024

submitted by Geoffrey A. Williamson  
7 January 2025

Here is a summary of the work of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) during 2024. Please note that that summary may not be all inclusive. Individuals are encouraged to consult the minutes of IORC meetings as well.

- The 28th report of IORC was published in Meadowlark vol. 32 no. 2 (Fall 2023). This report covers records reviewed during the 2022 calendar year.
- At the 14 January 2024 Annual Meeting, Nathan Goldberg was elected to his first three-year term on IORC, and Terry Walsh was elected to his second three-year term.
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird was added to the Illinois State List of Birds (and to the Review List) upon acceptance of record 2023-087 on 9 January 2024. European Goldfinch was added to the Illinois State List of Birds (but not to the Review List) upon acceptance of record 2021-043.
- The state list lost one species with the lumping of Common Redpoll and Hoary Redpoll into Redpoll.
- The Siloam Springs State Park exception for Bewick's Wren on the Review List was removed.
- In 2024, IORC made decisions on 55 circulated records. There were 48 1st circulations, three 2nd circulations, three 3rd circulations, and one 4th circulation.
  - Of the 48 1st circulations of records, 35 were accepted based on physical evidence, seven were accepted based on the full collection of documentary evidence, four were rejected based on identification, and two were moved to a second circulation.
  - Of the three 2nd circulations of records, one was rejected based on identification, and two were moved to a third circulation.
  - Of the three 3rd circulations of records, one was accepted on the full collection of documentary evidence, and two were moved to a fourth circulation.
  - The one 4th circulation of a record was rejected based on identification.
- The IORC online database at <http://empty-sunset-8541.herokuapp.com/> has moved to <http://iorc.herokuapp.com>. The content remains unchanged since the last secretary's report. Information from the first 22 IORC reports has been entered into the database. Data from the 23rd report forward have not yet been entered (these decisions are available at <https://www.illinoisbirds.org/illinois-ornithological-records-committee/>). This site needs some work.
- The Official Illinois State List of Birds (published online at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/the-birds-of-illinois/>) is up to date with the present AOS taxonomy (through 7<sup>th</sup> edition on the check-list and through the 65th supplement published in July 2024). Changes to the list included
  - changing the position of Passenger Pigeon;
  - changing the genera of Wilson's Plover, Mountain Plover, Snowy Plover, and Least Bittern;

- changing the common names of Western Cattle-Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, American Barn Owl, and Northern House Wren;
- changing the sequence of species within the herons;
- lumping Common Redpoll and Hoary Redpoll as Redpoll;
- changing species status from Casual to Regular for White-winged Dove, Swallow-tailed Kite, Evening Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, and Western Tanager. Prior to its lumping with Common Redpoll, the status of Hoary Redpoll was also changed from Casual to Regular.

On and after the Annual Meeting on 14 January 2024, the results of concluded circulations were as follows.

**From the circulation of 17 January 2024:**

- **Record 1906-002**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Pine Grosbeak on 17 November 1906 in Beach, Lake County. The result was to accept the record based on specimen evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-SP.
- **Record 1919-002**  
This was the first circulation of a record of 1200 Bohemian Waxwings on 30 November 1906 in Beach, Lake County. The result was to accept the record based on specimen evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-SP.
- **Record 1933-001**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Pine Grosbeak on 22 November 1933 in Chicago, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on specimen evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-SP.
- **Record 1936-002**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one King Eider on 21 November 1936 in Henry, Marshall County. The result was to accept the record based on specimen evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-SP.
- **Record 2023-049**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 6 September 2023 in Chicago, Cook County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of two A-PE and five U-ID.
- **Record 2023-052**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 12 September 2023 at Burnham Park, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of one A-PE, two A-DE(1), and four U-ID.
- **Record 2023-055**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 6 September 2023 at Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of two A-DE(1) and five U-ID.

- **Record 2023-056**  
This was the second circulation of a record of one Cinnamon Teal on 29 August 2023 at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, Grundy County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of three A-PE and four U-ID.
- **Record 2023-058**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 17 September 2023 at Rainbow Beach, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of seven U-ID.
- **Record 2023-075**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 14 October 2023 at Jackson Park, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of seven U-ID.
- **Record 2023-076**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 14 October 2023 at Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2023-082**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Pomarine Jaeger on 28 October 2023 at Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook County. The result was to move the record to a 2nd circulation, with a vote tally of two A-PE, two A-DE(1), and three U-ID.
- **Record 2023-084**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Long-tailed Jaeger on 17 September 2023 at Rainbow Beach, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to move the record to a 2nd circulation, with a vote tally of three A-PE, two A-DE(1), and two U-ID.
- **Record 2023-100**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Pomarine Jaeger on 4 November 2023 at Park No. 566, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to move the record to a 2nd circulation, with a vote tally of three A-PE, two A-DE(1), and two U-ID.
- **Record 2023-116**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 18 September 2023 at Burnham Park, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of one A-PE and six U-ID.
- **Record 2023-117**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 23 September 2023 at South Shore Cultural Center, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of one A-PE and six U-ID.
- **Record 2023-118**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 27 September 2023 at Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of one A-PE, two A-DE(1), four U-ID.

### From the circulation of 3 February 2024:

- **Record 2011-044**  
This was the fourth circulation of a record of one Audubon's Oriole on 8 May 2011 at Half Day Forest Preserve, Lake County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of three A-DE(1) and four U-ID.
- **Record 2023-092**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Limpkin on 17 October 2023 at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2023-099**  
This was the second circulation of a record of two White-faced Ibis on 22 November 2023 at Pyramid State Park, Perry County. The result was to move the record to a 3rd circulation, with a vote tally of three A-PE, one A-DE(1), and three U-ID.
- **Record 2023-109**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one White Ibis during 17 November to 19 December 2023 at Emiquon Preserve, Fulton County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2023-110**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on 16 December 2023 at Rend Lake, Franklin County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2023-111**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one American Golden-Plover on 16 December 2023 at Rend Lake, Jefferson County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2023-112**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) during 19 November to 19 December 2023 north of Rockford, Winnebago County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2023-115**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Limpkin on 8 December 2023 at Lake Springfield, Sangamon County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-001**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Say's Phoebe during 1-9 January 2024 in Danville, Vermilion County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-002**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Black-throated Gray Warbler during 7-14 January

2024 in Elgin, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-003**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Short-billed Gull during 8-11 January 2024 at Lock & Dam 14 on the Mississippi River, Rock Island County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of six A-PE and one A-DE(1).

- **Record 2024-005**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Limpkin on 12 January 2024 at Borah Lake, Richland County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

### **From the circulation of 9 June 2024:**

- **Record 1990-039**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Swainson's Warbler on 29 April 1990 at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, Winnebago County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2023-082**

This was the second circulation of a record of one Pomarine Jaeger on 28 October 2023 at Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of three A-DE(1) and four U-ID.

The Committee was split on this record in two rounds of voting with a slight majority unconvinced in the second round that there was sufficient information to conclude definitively the identification to species. This was a tough identification made under the usual brief and challenging conditions of observing a passing bird from shore.

- **Record 2023-084**

This was the second circulation of a record of one Long-tailed Jaeger on 17 September 2023 at Rainbow Beach, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to move the record to a third circulation, with a vote tally of one A-PE, four A-DE(1), and two U-ID.

- **Record 2023-099**

This was the third circulation of a record of two White-faced Ibis on 22 November 2023 at Pyramid State Park, Perry County. The result was to move the record to a fourth circulation, with a vote tally of three A-PE, one A-DE(1), and three U-ID.

- **Record 2023-100**

This was the second circulation of a record of one Pomarine Jaeger on 4 November 2023 at Park No. 566, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to move the record to a third circulation, with a vote tally of two A-PE, three A-DE(1), and two U-ID.

- **Record 2023-101**

This was the first circulation of a record of one to two Prairie Falcons during 28 October 2023 to

26 February 2024 southwest of Arcola, Coles County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of five A-PE, one A-DE(1), and one A-DE(3).

- **Record 2023-108**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Great-tailed Grackle during 20 December 2023 to 12 March 2024 in Monee, Will County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-004**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Limpkin on 14 January 2024 at Forbes Biological Station, Mason County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of seven U-ID.

The Committee was unanimous in declining to accept this record because there was no description of the bird. Several Committee members noted that too much time had passed from the last known Limpkin sighting in this area to be able to conclude that this was a continuing individual from an earlier accepted record.

- **Record 2024-006**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Glaucous-winged Gull during 22 January to 25 February 2024 at North Point Marina in Winthrop Harbor and in Grayslake, Lake County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-007**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Short-billed Gull on 29 January 2024 at Mel Price Lock and Dam, Madison County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-008**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Eurasian Wigeon during 10 to 11 March 2024 at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Champaign County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-009**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Ruff on 27 March 2024 in Richton Park, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-010**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Ruff on 30 March 2024 at the Bellrose Unit of Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Pulaski County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-011**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Burrowing Owl during 10 to 13 April 2024 at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-012**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Sage Thrasher during 13 to 14 April 2024 at

McKee Marsh in Blackwell Forest Preserve, DuPage County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-013**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Prairie Falcon on 26 February 2024 in Essex Township, Kankakee County. The result was to accept the record based on documentary evidence, with a vote tally of three A-DE(2) and four A-DE(1).

- **Record 2024-014**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Say's Phoebe on 24 March 2024 in Hannaford Forest Preserve, Kane County. The result was to accept the record based on documentary evidence, with a vote tally of four A-DE(2), two A-DE(0), and one U-ID.

- **Record 2024-015**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Eyebrowed Thrush during 20 March to 2 April 2024 in Eureka, Woodford County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of seven U-ID.

The Committee was unanimous in thinking that this bird was an American Robin with an unusually bold white eyebrow. Robins are known to show on occasion such an eyebrow, and otherwise the bird had no feature inconsistent with it being an American Robin. Furthermore, the photos show that this bird lacked both the brown back of Eyebrowed Thrush and the stronger contrast that species shows between head and back.

- **Record 2024-016**

This was the first circulation of a record of five Smews during 3 to 4 April 2024 in Woodstock, McHenry County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of seven U-ID.

The Committee was unanimous in the view that the evidence was insufficient to establish identification as Smews. Five members felt that the photos and/or the description suggested that the birds involved were Buffleheads. The Committee also noted that five Smews would make for an unprecedented number of birds for such a rare species.

- **Record 2024-018**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Ruff during 23 to 24 April 2024 at Greene Valley Forest Preserve, DuPage County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-019**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Ruff on 8 May 2024 in Pecatonica, Winnebago County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-021**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Kirtland's Warbler on 18 May 2024 at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-023**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Fish Crow on 23 May 2024 in Evanston, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-024**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Western Tanager on 15 May 2024 at Glacial Park, McHenry County. The result was to accept the record based on documentary evidence, with a vote tally of six A-DE(1) and one U-ID.
- **Record 2024-025**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Black-tailed Gull during 29 to 31 May 2024 at Waukegan Beach, Lake County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-026**  
This was the first circulation of a record one to three Painted Buntings during 3 May to 19 July 2024 (and possibly later) in East St. Louis, St. Clair County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-027**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Prairie Falcon on 26 May 2024 in Johnsburg, McHenry County. The result was to accept the record based on documentary evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-DE(1).
- **Record 2024-028**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Snowy Plover during 31 May to 7 June 2024 at the North Unit of Illinois Beach State Park and at the Johns Mansville Ponds in Waukegan, Lake County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

**From the circulation of 26 July 2024:**

- **Record 1993-079**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Prairie Falcon on 24 October 1993 at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, Winnebago County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2001-064**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Townsend's Warbler on 8 September 2001 at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, Winnebago County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2023-084**  
This was the third circulation of a record of one Long-tailed Jaeger on 17 September 2023 at Rainbow Beach, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to move the record to a fourth circulation, with a vote tally of one A-PE, four A-DE(1), and two U-ID.



- **Record 2023-099**

This was the fourth circulation of a record of two White-faced Ibis on 22 November 2023 at Pyramid State Park, Perry County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of one A-PE and six U-ID.

This record underwent four rounds of voting. In the last round, the Committee was overwhelmingly against acceptance. Assigning immature *Plegadis* ibis to species is quite difficult. What swayed the Committee against this record in the end was the lack of observer commentary on the color of the irises themselves together with the majority view that the photographs are insufficient to establish the color of the irises.

- **Record 2023-100**

This was the third circulation of a record of one Pomarine Jaeger on 4 November 2023 at Park No. 566, Chicago, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on documentary evidence, with a vote tally of two A-PE, one A-DE(2), three A-DE(1), and one U-ID.

- **Record 2024-030**

This was the first circulation of a record one Lark Bunting during 8-9 July 2024 at Chicago's Park No. 566, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-031**

This was the first circulation of a record one Black-headed Grosbeak during 18-22 July 2024 south of Du Quoin, Perry County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

#### **From the circulation of 6 October 2024:**

- **Record 2024-029**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Great-tailed Grackle during 11 July to 31 August 2024 in Monee, Will County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-032**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Mottled Duck on 31 August 2024 at Eldon Hazlet State Park, Clinton County. The result was to reject the record based on identification, with a vote tally of one A-PE, two A-DE(1), and four U-ID.

A majority of the Committee considered the documentation to lack details necessary for definitive establishment of this as a Mottled Duck and for excluding Mallard x American Black Duck and Mallard x Mottled Duck as possibilities.

- **Record 2024-033**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Sharp-shinned Hawk on 22 June 2024 at Dunham Forest Preserve, DuPage County. The result was to accept the record based on documentary evidence, with a vote tally of six A-DE(1) and one U-ID.

- **Record 2024-034**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Ruff on 11 August 2024 at Lake Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, Mason County. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of five A-DE(1) and two U-ID.
- **Record 2024-035**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Wood Stork during 18-20 September 2024 at Clinton Lake, DeWitt County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-036**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Kirtland's Warbler on 18 September 2024 at Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-037**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one White Ibis on 20 September 2024 in Niota, Hancock County. The result was to accept the record based on documentary evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-DE(1).
- **Record 2024-038**  
This was the first circulation of a record of Long-tailed Jaeger on 22 September 2024 on Lake Michigan offshore from Chicago, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-039**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 27 September 2024 at Chicago's Park No. 566, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of six A-PE and one A-DE(1).
- **Record 2024-040**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Say's Phoebe on 30 September 2024 at Montrose Beach Dunes in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-041**  
This was the first circulation of a record of Townsend's Warbler on 25 September 2024 in Chicago's Jackson Park, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-042**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Sage Thrasher during 25 September to 28 October 2024 at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve, DuPage County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.
- **Record 2024-043**  
This was the first circulation of a record of one Pomarine Jaeger on 28 September 2024 at Carlyle Lake, Clinton County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.

- **Record 2024-044**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 23 September 2024 at North Avenue Beach in Chicago's Lincoln Park, Cook County. The result was to accept the record based on documentary evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-DE(1).

- **Record 2024-045**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Parasitic Jaeger on 28 September 2024 at Rend Lake, Franklin County. The result was to accept the record based on documentary evidence, with a vote tally of six A-DE(1) and one U-ID. However, one voting member (Geoff Williamson) requested that the record be recirculated in a second round.

- **Record 2024-046**

This was the first circulation of a record of one Say's Phoebe on 3 October 2024 at Illinois Beach State Park's South Unit, Lake County. The result was to accept the record based on physical evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-PE.