

Robert Janssen (RBJ)
 Robert Jessen (RJ)
 David H. Johnson (DJ)
 Oscar L. Johnson (OJ)
 Ron and Rose Kneesern (RRK)
 Henry C. Kyllingstad (HK)
 Pat and Ken La Fond (PKL)
 Tim Lamey (TL)
 Violet Lender (VL)
 Fred Leshner (FL)
 Michael Link (ML)
 Sandy Lunke (SL)
 Don and Wynn Mahle (DWM)
 Monte Mason (MM)
 Jim Mattson (JM)
 Steve and Diane Millard (SDM)
 Clare Mohs (CM)
 Karen Murray (KM)
 Warren Nelson (WN)
 Gary and Marion Otnes (GMO)

Jeffrey S. Palmer (JP)
 Jon Peterson and Ann McKenzie (JP/AM)
 Terry Peterson (TP)
 John Schladweiler (JS)
 Alan Schmierer (AS)
 Tom Sobolik (TS)
 Dave Sovereign (DS)
 Jack Sprenger (JS)
 Evelyn Stanley (ES)
 Keith and Shelly Steva (KSS)
 Forest and Kirsten Strnad (FKS)
 Todd Tonsager (TS)
 Dick and Gloria Wachtler (DGW)
 Steve Wilson and Mary Shedd (SW/MS)
 Mark Wright (MW)
 Steve Young (SY)
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Kim R. Eckert, M.O.R.C. Secretary

The following records were found Acceptable, January - June, 1983:

- Great Black-backed Gull, 12/16-21/82 and 1/20 - Feb./83, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:32-33 and 55:85-86)
- White-faced Ibis, 4/29/83, Sherburne N.W.R., Sherburne Co. (vote 7-0)
- Hermit Warbler, 5/14/83, Yellow Bank Twp., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:88)
- Black-headed Grosbeak, 5/18/83, Chanhassen, Carver Co. (vote 6-1; *Loon* 55:93)
- Say's Phoebe, 4/30 - 5/1/83, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:90)

- Ruff, 5/20/83, Marshall, Lyon Co. (vote 7-0)
- Summer Tanager, 5/18/83, Wolsfeld Woods, Hennepin Co. (vote 5-2)
- Arctic Tern, 5/29 - 6/2/83, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:127)
- Ibis (*Plegadis*, sp.), 5/21/83, Crookston, Polk Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:127)
- Ruff, 4/29 - 5/1/83, Island L., St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0)
- Ruff, 5/16/83, Albany, Stearns Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:128)
- Western Tanager, 6/1/83, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:92)
- Mute Swan, 3/26/83, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0)

- Ross' Goose, 3/24 - 4/1/83, Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:91-92)
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5/10/83, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:92)
- White-eyed Vireo, 6/5-7/83, Roseville, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:90-91)
- Laughing Gull, 6/15/83, Frontenac, Goodhue Co. (vote 7-0; *Loon* 55:125-126)
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 4/27/83, Grand Portage, Cook Co. (vote 7-0)

The following records were found Unacceptable, January - June, 1983:

- House Finch, 12/19-28/83, Shoreview, Ramsey Co. (vote 5-2, with 7-0 required for acceptance)

The majority was convinced by the details: the observer had experience with both Purple and House Finches, saw the bird at his feeder in company with Purple Finch, took field notes at the time of observation, and noted a redder cap and head, browner back and eye stripe, and "distinctive rosy rump." The minority felt that the bird may have been a House Finch, but that the flank streaking was not noted and that Purple Finch plumages are highly variable, something the observer may not have taken into account.

- Western Wood-Pewee, 9/25/82, Cottonwood, Lyon Co. (vote 2-5)

The identification was based primarily on the very dark Olive-sided Flycatcher-like sides of the underparts, which is a feature of the Western species. However, Eastern Wood-Pewees, especially in fall, can have underparts which are just as dark as a Western.

- Common Eider, 5/15/69, Marshall, Lyon Co. (vote 0-7; vote 3-4 as eider, sp.)

A sketch of this bird was rediscovered in the observer's files, and it suggested strongly a female eider, but the sketch was not very detailed, no field notes were apparently made, and the observer could only remember its larger size, brown coloration and "pronounced bars on the sides." It was felt that this was not enough for acceptance for such an unusual species, especially after 14 years had passed.

- Fulvous Whistling-Duck, 10/31/81, near Park Rapids, Hubbard Co. (vote 1-6)

A pair of ducks feeding along a highway shoulder were identified on the basis of their long legs and necks, buff brown coloration and barring on the back. While it was agreed that they may well have been whistling-ducks, the birds were only observed from a moving vehicle (it is common for birders to think they see something while driving by, turn around, look again more closely and find out their first impression was wrong; it is unfortunate that the observer, who knew how unusual the species is in Minnesota, did not stop for a better look). Also it seems likely, even if they were whistling-ducks, that they were escapes since this species is kept widely in captivity and since they acted so "tame," not being bothered by the traffic along Hwy. 34.

- House Finch, 5/16/82, Mountain Lake, Cottonwood Co. (vote 2-5)

The identification of this female was not made until a few days after the observation and only when looking through a field guide. Such a record based only on details from memory and while under the power of suggestion from a field guide is not satisfactory for such an unusual species.

- Brown-headed Nuthatch, 4/17/83, Winona, Winona Co. (vote 0-7)

The submitted details strongly suggested a Brown Creeper, not a nuthatch, because of its manner of feeding as it went up the tree trunks and because of its brown "well camouflaged" upperparts. Further, the back "was not bluish, but brown," which doesn't fit any species of nuthatch, all of which have bluish gray backs. Finally, even if it were a nuthatch, there was nothing to preclude the Pygmy Nuthatch, which would be much more likely in Minnesota.

- Kirtland's Warbler, 5/22/83, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7)

The observer apparently did not decide on his identification until 30 minutes after the sighting, and thus it is based on memory. His notes did suggest a Kirtland's more than any other species, but the description left out too many de-

tails: no tail wagging, back streaking, dark lores/cheeks or tail spots were noted. It was felt such an unusual species should be described more fully.

—MacGillivray's Warbler, 5/8/83, Elm Creek Park, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7)

This identification was based solely on the bird's broken eye ring, but Mourning Warblers, even breeding-plumaged males in spring, can also have such an eye ring. Because of this, it is highly unlikely that any sight records of the MacGillivray's could ever be acceptable in Minnesota; a measured specimen or banded bird would be required.

—Swallow-tailed Kite, July or August 1973, near Ely, St. Louis Co. (vote 3-4)

This sighting was reported to an experienced observer four months after the observation. Their identification was based on the "pattern of pure glistening white below and jet black on the back" and "the long forked tail." It was agreed that the identification may well have been correct, but the majority had the following reservations: there was no clear indication of how experienced the observers were at bird identification; the observers did not write up their own rec-

ord (it was submitted by the experienced observer mentioned above), and while second-hand reports can be acceptable to M.O.R.C., they are less than desirable especially when extreme rarities or belated reports are involved; the description was not very complete, with no indication of where exactly the bird was black or white and no indication of size; and the possibility of Fork-tailed Flycatcher, which has occurred in Ont. and Wis., has not been eliminated.

—Swainson's Hawk, 3/23/83, Near Saratoga, Winona Co. (vote 4-3, with 5-2 required for acceptance)

The majority voted to accept based on the description of the wing linings being whiter than the dark underside of the flight feathers. However, there were reservations based on the fact that this was not a typical adult light-phase Swainson's being identified — the head and wing coverts were described as "red-brown," and there was a black stripe through the whitish wing linings — and the minority felt this may have been some other Buteo in aberrant plumage.

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Trumpeter Swans — 3 March 1983, Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County — Photo by Oscar Johnson
These birds are part of the free-flying group at Carver Park Reserve