

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

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

The following records were voted on January - July, 1986, and found Acceptable: —White-winged Dove, 10/13/85, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 10-0; *The Loon* 58:92-93). In the case of potential first state records, such as this, a vote of 10-0 is now required for acceptance: the seven regular Committee members plus the three alternate members vote.

—Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5/24/85, near Borup, Norman Co. (vote 7-0).

—Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 10/19/84, Rice Lake, Faribault Co. (vote 8-2 in favor of Ac category; *The Loon* 58:97-99).

A potential first state record; all ten members voted. As discussed in the previous Proceedings article (*The Loon* 58:42-43), a simple majority vote decides the status of possible escapes such as this; the two dissenting members voted for Aa status.

—Mute Swan, 4/1-2/86, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0)

—Eurasian Wigeon, 4/6/86, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:99).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 11/9/85, Medicine Lake, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:99).

—White-faced Ibis, 4/26/86, near Truman, Martin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:138).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 3/29-4/6/86, Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:141).

—Ruff, 4/19/86, near Sherburn, Martin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:139).

—Yellow-throated Warbler, 5/4/86, near Freeborn, Freeborn Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:130).

—Western Tanager, 5/10/86, Belle Prairie Twp., Morrison Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:99).

—Bewick's Wren, 4/27/86, near Salem Corners, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:137-138).

—House Finch, 5/6/86, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (vote 7-0).

—Clark's Grebe, 5/10/86, Ash L., Grant Co. (vote 10-0; *The Loon* 58:110).

Another potential first state record with all ten members voting.

—Mississippi Kite, 5/20/86, North Oaks, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:140).

—Worm-eating Warbler, 5/22/86, Pilot Mound Twp., Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:133).

—Worm-eating Warbler, 5/11/86, Forestville Twp., Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:133).

—Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5/17/86, near Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:136-137).

—Pacific (formerly Arctic) Loon, 5/7/86, Duluth Twp., St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:128-129).

—Mississippi Kite, 5/14/86, Forestville Twp., Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:134).

—White-eyed Vireo, 5/9/86, North Oaks, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:136).

—Plegadis ibis, sp., 6/2/86, Heron Lake, Jackson Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:141).

—White-eyed Vireo, 6/6-7/1/86, Pleasant Prairie Twp., Martin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:139).

—White-faced Ibis, 4/27-28/86, Hamlin Twp., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:138).

—Pacific Loon, 5/24/86, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0).

—Laughing Gull, 6/16/86, York Twp., Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:137).

—Sage Thrasher, 6/16/86, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:139).

—Least Tern, 6/12-14/86, near Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:129-130).

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 5/24/86, Blue Mounds State Park, Rock Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:140).

—Least Tern, 5/9/86, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:138).

The following records were voted on Jan-

uary-June, 1986, and found Unacceptable:

—Common Barn-Owl, 8/28-Sept./85, L. Vermillion, St. Louis Co. (vote 2-5).

A family group of owls was heard on several nights, but none of them were ever seen clearly. A tape recording of their calls was made, and most agreed that they were food-begging cries of juveniles, but that the calls were not diagnostic for barn-owls, since other owl species can give similar calls. The tape of the calls was submitted to several known barn-owl experts. When the results are known a report on this observation will be published in *The Loon*.

—Swainson's Hawk, 11/2/85, near Red Wing, Goodhue Co. (vote 3-4).

This was a difficult and close vote; although the description fit Swainson's Hawk, the diagnostic underwing pattern was not clearly described, and it seemed the identification was based on features shared by other species. Some felt the possibility of it being a Red-tailed or a Northern Harrier was not completely ruled out.

—Swainson's Hawk, 1/25/86, Winona, Winona Co. (vote 1-6).

Although the diagnostic pattern of "dark flight feathers" and "white wing linings" was described, the majority felt that a Swainson's Hawk in midwinter was so unlikely and unprecedented that all doubts should be eliminated before accepting such a record. However, there were problems with the documentation: a photo was taken of the bird which was not clear enough to show any field marks, but the shape of the wings appeared to be wrong for a Swainson's (they appear too broad and rounded—a Swainson's has relatively long and pointed wings for a Buteo); the identification was partly based on "a hood effect" and "a narrow dark subterminal band" on the barred tail, features shared by other raptors; although the bird was "too small to be a Bald Eagle" (immatures have a similar underwing pattern), it is unclear how the size

was determined (and the shape of the bird in the photo suggests Bald Eagle); and the observer was looking up into the sun, which could have made the field marks difficult to see accurately.

—Swainson's Hawk, 11/8/85, Hwy. 38, Itasca Co. (vote 1-6).

Although the underwing pattern was correctly described, the bird was seen well only by a relatively inexperienced birder (the most experienced observer with him apparently did not get a good look), and the bird was only observed from a moving car—birds seen then often look different than they really are; many birders have stopped to look at something they thought was different only to find it doesn't look the same as it did from the moving car. The majority felt a better look from the more experienced birder was needed to accept the sighting of a species this far out of season, range and habitat.

—Swainson's Warbler, 5/20/86, Columbus Twp., Anoka Co. (vote 0-10).

A potential first state record, so all ten members voted. The relatively inexperienced observer never described the color of the crown, and the sketchy details given could also fit other warblers or vireos. Also, the bird was seen actively feeding in some branches of oak trees—behavior and habitat which are inconsistent with Swainson's Warbler.

—Swainson's Warbler, 5/10/86, Maplewood Nature Center, Ramsey Co. (vote 1-9).

This observation included a description of the brown cap, but the back was said to be a "warbler green", which doesn't fit Swainson's Warbler. There was also no mention of whether there was a dark eyeline, nothing was said about the bird's behavior, and the observer was not sure if there were any wing bars. For a first state record a more complete set of details should be given. **9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**