

ness for dislocated feathers, spider webs, flowers, owls, and woman. It takes courage to care, love, and write the way Bob Nero has written here. Thank you Bob.

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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

The Committee had a meeting on 25 July 1990 and a number of topics were discussed. No conclusions were reached involving changes in our procedures, but decisions were made on the four possible Clark's Grebe records that the Committee had never voted on — these are the first four records listed under "Other Records" in *The Loon* 61:104-106. All four records were unanimously found to be Unacceptable:

—The photographic record from Lake Osakis, 23 May 1982, shows bill and flank colors that appear to be consistent with Clark's Grebe, but the angle of the bird and the unknown light conditions, film type and camera exposure make these colors difficult to judge without field notes. Since the facial pattern is also intermediate, no one was comfortable with accepting the record.

—The 12 July 1984 photographs, also from Lake Osakis, show a bill color more consistent with Western Grebe. This, combined with the atypical and asymmetrical facial pattern, also make this an Unacceptable record.

—The documentation for this sight record from Salt Lake, 14 April 1985, includes only a brief description mentioning "an all yellow bill and some white speckling on the dark back," and such a description was thought to be too vague for an Acceptable record.

—One of the two 19 May 1987 photographs, again from Lake Osakis, shows a bill color apparently consistent with Clark's Grebe, and the other photo shows Clark's-like flanks. However, as in the 1982 record, no written field notes exist so that the light conditions, etc. are unknown, making these colors difficult to judge. Also the intermediate facial pattern seems closer to Western Grebe than to Clark's.

The following records were voted on January-June 1990, and found to be Acceptable:

—Ivory Gull, 14 January 1990, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:3-4).

—Iceland Gull, 14-16 December 1989, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:110).

—Long-billed Curlew, 26 June 1989, Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:58-59).

—Swainson's Hawk, 31 October 1989, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:57).

—Carolina Wren, 17 November 1989, Winona, Winona Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 62:112-113).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 1 January-4 March 1990, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:96-99).

—Great Gray Owl, 30 December 1989, near Darwin, Meeker Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:109).

—Eurasian Wigeon, 3 April 1990, Frontenac, Goodhue Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:116).

—Lesser Black-backed Gull, 5 April 1990, Red Wing, Goodhue Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:111-112).

- Carolina Wren, 31 March-4 April 1990, near Brownsville, Houston Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:156).
- Rock Wren, 29 April 1990, Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:116-117).
- Carolina Wren, 25 April 1990, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 6-1).
- Long-billed Curlew, 23-26 April 1990, near Faribault, Rice Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:167-168).
- Ross' Goose, 15 April 1990, Lewiston, Winona Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:117-118).
- Worm-eating Warbler, 30 April 1990, Sakatah Lake S.P., Rice Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:118).
- Yellow-breasted Chat, 3 May 1990, Plymouth, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0).
- White-faced Ibis, 23-27 April 1990 Gun Club Lake, Dakota Co. & Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:154-156).
- Say's Phoebe, 5 May 1990, Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:164).
- Green-tailed Towhee, 13 May 1990, Moorhead, Clay Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:152-153).
- Western Tanager, 16 May 1990, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:154).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 29 April 1990, Goose Lake, Carver Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:119).
- White-faced Ibis, 8-12 May 1990, New Ulm, Brown Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:159-160).

The following records were voted on January-June 1990, and found to be Unacceptable:

- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1 December 1989, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7). Although the concensus was that the careful and experienced observer may well have seen this species, the circumstances at the time of the observation made the record difficult to accept. The identification was based on a darker mantle color and the "slightly smaller" size when compared to adjacent Herring Gulls. However, the gull was observed just after sunset and at a distance of ¼ mile, so that mantle color would have been difficult, if not impossible, to accurately determine. Also the size description is suspect since the head of the sleeping gull was never seen, nor was it ever seen standing up, so that it is unknown if the bird's head, bill and overall height were actually smaller.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 19 November 1989, Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. (vote 0-7). This identification may also have been correct, but it was based only on the gull being "noticeably darker on its back" and "approximately the same size as nearby Herring Gulls." However, such a brief description does not preclude the possibilities of Thayer's or California or female Great Black-backed Gulls, all of which have darker mantles than Herring Gulls and which are about the same size.
- Forster's Tern, 29 October 1989, Lake Vadnais, Ramsey Co. (vote 3-4). While it was agreed that a small tern was actually seen, and while the sketch of the head pattern seems to suggest a Forster's more than Common or Arctic, there is nothing about the wing, bill or tail patterns in the brief description to eliminate other species. The head sketch is also ambiguous, making it unclear how much darkness there was on the nape.
- American Woodcock, 28 February 1990, Eden Prairie, Hennepin Co. (vote 3-4). This identification by an observer experienced with this species may well have been correct, but the sketchy description only mentions "short, stubby wings" and "peculiar flight antics," with nothing said about the bird's plumage or bill length. In addition, the observation was made without binoculars at about a half hour before official sunrise so that the bird could not have been seen all that clearly.
- Swainson's Hawk, 7 April 1990, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7). The description, while lengthy, is unfortunately too vague about chest and tail patterns to eliminate other buteos like Red-tailed and Rough-legged. Also, even though the hawk circled directly overhead, no mention was made of the Swainson's Hawk's diagnostic pale wing linings/dark flight feathers underwing pattern.
- Great Crested Flycatcher, 8 April 1990, Woodbury, Washington Co. (vote 1-6). The vague description leaves out too many details; e.g., nothing is said about any rusty coloration in the wings or tail. Also the yellow on the underparts is described as being on the breast rather than the belly.

—Yellow-throated Warbler, 3 May 1990, Nerstrand Woods State Park, Rice Co. (vote 1-6). The bird was described as having “definite streaking on the back,” which alone would eliminate a Yellow-throated. The description is also too brief to be convincing, mentioning only a “blue-gray back” and “bright yellow bib bordered with black,” features shared by other warbler species.

—White Ibis, 6 May 1990, Sakatah Lake State Park, Rice Co. (vote 0-10). All ten members, including the three alternates, vote in the case of potential first state records. A White Ibis seen in good light at a range of 50 yards, as was the case here, should clearly show the red face, bill and legs; however, these were only described as “black or very dark.” This species is also eliminated by the “narrow edge of black on all flight feathers;” on White Ibis black only appears on the tips of the few outermost primaries. Speculation was that this may have been an escaped Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*); this species not only fits the description, but also a Sacred Ibis was apparently reported about the same time not far from this location. **8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

REPORT YOUR “COMMON” BIRDS — For some time now I have been politely arguing with Bob Jansen about Ruby-throated Hummingbirds’ summer status in the southern part of Minnesota. When I have tried to make a case for their being present in reasonably good numbers in that area, he would say, “But there is no documentation — I can’t publish heresay.” As it turns out, this year he will get ample documentation, not only of their being present, but of their nesting. A check of the stores that sell hummingbird feeders indicates that they do a brisk business, and have over the past several years. One can *infer* from this that there must be a demand in the marketplace or they wouldn’t continue to stock them. A check of numerous friends, acquaintances and persons with feeders in their yards garnered comments like, “Oh we’ve had them for years,” or, “Yes, they built a nest on the limb of one of our trees, about the size of a quarter, and it was such fun watching the young ones.” None of this kind of information is of use when it comes to entering data into the permanent record of Minnesota birds. I realize that I have been as guilty as the next person of not being diligent in filling out nest and/or brood cards to send in along with the Summer Season Report. Not only does this contribute to an inaccurate picture of the range and occurrence of our birds, but it doesn’t help build a base for comparison if the status and numbers change, and/or decline. So we could all do our part by keeping track of our local and common birds — and then reporting them, simply documented, so that the data can become part of the accurate records of our state’s birdlife. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

1. Bold-faced species name (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicates a species occurring as a Casual or Accidental in the state.
2. Bold-faced dates (**10/9**) indicates a date of occurrence either earlier or later or within the earliest or latest dates listed in *Birds in Minnesota* (Jansen, R.B., 1987).
3. Bold-faced counties (**Aitkin**) indicates a county of first or unusual occurrence for that species. City of **Duluth** also bold face when applicable.
4. Counties in italics (*Aitkin*) indicate a first county breeding record.
5. [] — species for which there is reasonable doubt as to origin or wildness.