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- Center for Water and the Environment  
Natural Resources Research Institute  
University of Minnesota, Duluth 5013  
Miller Trunk Highway Duluth, MN  
55811.**

## Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

The following records were voted on January - June 1993 and found to be Acceptable:

- Iceland Gull, 4 December 1992, Lake City, Wabasha County (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 65:97-98).
- Carolina Wren, 6 September 1992, Richfield, Hennepin County (vote 7-0).
- Common Moorhen, 26 June 1992, Zippel Bay State Park, Lake of the Woods

County (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 65:102).

- Great-tailed Grackle, 2-10 April 1993, Wells L., Rice County (vote 10-0; *The Loon* 65:148-150).
- Eurasian Wigeon, 20 April-4 May 1993, Beebe L., Wright County (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 65:154-155).
- Laughing Gull, 22 April 1993, near Hokah, Houston County (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 65:103).

• Clark's Grebe, 1 May 1993, L. Traverse, Traverse County (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 65:151-152).

• Lesser Black-backed Gull, 2 May 1993, near L. George, Anoka County (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 65:153-154).

The following records were voted on January - June 1993 and found to be Unacceptable:

• Northern Wheatear, 26 December 1992, Stillwater, Washington County (vote 0-7). There were several things in the documentation which were inconsistent with this species, including the bird's "slow" movements and its appearance at a bird feeder. It was thought the bird might have been a female Red-breasted Nuthatch, which would fit the description given.

• Curlew Sandpiper, 3 October 1992, Duluth, St. Louis County (vote 0-10). The lengthy documentation was difficult to follow, and it was often unclear if the description was of the bird in question, the other shorebirds with it, or a field guide illustration. While it was agreed the identification might have been correct, no one was convinced that Dunlin or White-rumped Sandpiper was fully eliminated, and it was felt that a first state record should be more clearly described.

• Northern Hawk Owl, 14 December 1992, Jackson, Jackson County (vote 2-5). The description and sketch were mostly consistent with this species, except that it was described as "whiter ... under his tail." This feature alone would preclude a hawk owl, which is barred on its under tail coverts in the same way as the rest of the underparts. It was thought the bird was more probably an Accipiter, most likely a Northern Goshawk, which would match the head pattern and underparts shown in the sketch.

• Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 4 April 1993, Coon Rapids Dam Park, Anoka County (vote 0-7). The brief description included no mention of a black smudge on the ear coverts, and it was felt this record of such

an unusual species could not be acceptable without this key field mark.

• Black-shouldered Kite, 7 May 1993, Bloomington, Hennepin County (vote 0-10). While it was unanimously agreed the identification, based primarily on manner of flight and whitish appearance, may well have been correct, the experienced observer was unable to provide anything more than a vague plumage description of the distant bird in flight. It was felt that a first state record should be documented by a much more thorough description.

• Black-headed Grosbeak, 8-16 May 1993, Pomroy L., Kanabec County (vote 2-5). Since separation of female grosbeaks, which are variable in plumage, is often difficult, a complete and careful description is necessary to document this species. Though the relatively unstreaked and orangish underparts of this bird were noted, its supercilium was described as whiter than those of the Rose-breasted with it, while female Black-headed tend to have buffier superciliums.

• Scott's Oriole, 16 May 1993, Fort Snelling State Park, Hennepin County (vote 0-7). The entire description only included mention of a black head, yellow rump, yellow breast and white wing bars. It was felt that such an unusual species should be documented with a much more thorough description.

• Curlew Sandpiper, 26 May 1993, Medicine L., Hennepin County (vote 1-9). The identification of this standing shorebird was based entirely on its "dark red breast" and "slightly decurved bill." However, other shorebirds have rusty underparts, some of which can have slightly decurved bills. The bird was also described as having a "black crown," which does not fit a Curlew Sandpiper; there was also no mention of a white rump, and it is difficult to accept a record of such an unusual species without this key field mark.

**8255 Congdon Boulevard, Duluth MN 55804.**