

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

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

There was a meeting of the Committee on 4 December 1994, at which votes were taken on a potential first state record of a possibly escaped individual and on two recirculated records with inconclusive first-round votes; both types of records require discussion and voting at a meeting rather than by mail.

- The identification of a Crested Caracara on 18 July 1994 in Helena Twp., Scott County (*The Loon* 67:59–61) was voted on and unanimously found Acceptable. The possible origins of this bird were then discussed and it was found Acceptable by majority vote as an Accidental (o) species (i.e., the possibilities of captive vs. wild origin are about equal).
- A Sprague's Pipit on 18 May 1994 in

Big Stone Co. was found Acceptable on a second-round vote (*The Loon* 67:56–57).

- A Common Black-headed Gull on 31 July 1994 in Duluth, St. Louis County, was found Unacceptable on a second-round vote. The identification by an experienced observer of this adult blackish-hooded gull was based primarily on its being slightly smaller in size than some adjacent Ring-billed Gulls and its pale gray mantle, which was similar in color to the Ring-billeds. While it was agreed that the identification was probably correct, it was also felt that a second state record should have more complete documentation. Most importantly, the patterns of the upper and under-wing surfaces of this standing gull were

never observed, and additionally, the brownish color of the hood was not seen and the primary observer did not see a reddish bill.

The following records were voted on by mail July–December 1994 and found Acceptable:

- Clark's Grebe, 12 May 1994, Thielke Lake, Big Stone Co.
- Ruff, 11 May 1994, Freeland Twp., Lac Qui Parle Co.
- Clark's Grebe, 30 April 1994, Lake Traverse, Traverse Co. (*The Loon* 66:154–155).
- Sprague's Pipit, 25 June 1994, Felton Prairie, Clay Co.
- Mississippi Kite, 6 August 1994, Roseau, Roseau Co.
- Clark's Grebe, 9–16 July 1994, Minnesota Lake Faribault Co. (*The Loon* 66:208).
- Yellow-throated Warbler, 28 May–June 1994, Sibley State Park, Kandiyohi Co. (*The Loon* 66:210–211).
- Common Black-headed Gull, 4–14 August 1994, Spirit L., Jackson Co. (*The Loon* 67:54–55).
- Mississippi Kite, 16 September 1994, Coon Rapids, Anoka Co. (*The Loon* 66:214–215).
- Pomarine Jaeger, 20 September 1994, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (*The Loon* 66:209–210).
- White-winged Dove, 15 September 1994, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (*The Loon* 66:213–214).
- Yellow-throated Warbler, 8 October 1994, Stillwater, Washington Co. (*The Loon* 66:211).
- Lewis' Woodpecker, 31 May 1994, McKeowen Lake, Cass Co. (*The Loon* 66:210).
- Laughing Gull, 19 October 1994, Oscar Twp., Otter Tail Co. (*The Loon* 66:216).
- Pacific Loon, 29–30 October 1994, Two Harbors, Lake Co.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 21 October 1994, near Rothsay W.M.A., Wilkin Co. (*The Loon* 67:63).
- Pacific Loon, 8–12 November 1994, Duluth, St. Louis Co.

- Sage Thrasher, 23 October–November 1994, Richfield, Hennepin Co. (*The Loon* 66:206).
- Black-throated Gray Warbler, 29 October 1994, Amador Twp., Chisago Co. (*The Loon* 66:207).
- King Eider, 28–30 November 1994, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (*The Loon* 67:62–63).
- White-eyed Vireo, 22 May 1994, near Granite Falls, Chippewa Co. (*The Loon* 67:64).
- Great Black-backed Gull, 9 December 1994–8 January 1995, Duluth, St. Louis Co.
- Vermilion Flycatcher, 25–27 November 1994, near Willmar, Kandiyohi Co., (*The Loon* 67:57–58).
- Iceland Gull, 9–26 December 1994, Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co.

The following records were voted on by mail July–December 1994 and found Unacceptable:

- Great Black-backed Gull, 26 March 1994, near Baudette, Lake of the Woods Co. Because the leg color of this dark-mantled adult gull was not noted and its overall size was not clearly described, the possibility of Lesser Black-backed Gull is not precluded. In addition, the observer apparently did not use optics and the description was apparently written from memory about four months after the observation.
- Sprague's Pipit, 16 August 1994, near Big Fork, Koochiching Co. The incomplete description does not include the bill shape or the overall plumage coloration, and there is no direct mention of white outer tail feathers. Among other things, therefore, the possibilities of Vesper Sparrow and juvenile Horned Lark are not precluded.
- Cinnamon Teal, 16 August 1994, International Falls, Koochiching Co. The description is of a male in full breeding plumage, something which would seem to be easily distinguished from any other species. However, the

majority were uneasy with this record since a male Cinnamon Teal should be in the middle of its nondescript eclipse phase in August, a plumage which is normally held from June until October.

- Pacific Loon, 15 October 1994, Lake Traverse, Traverse Co. The description of this reportedly alternate-plumaged loon only includes mention of a “tipped up” bill, “white flecking”

in rows on the back, “striping” on the throat, and a “puffy” gray head. While it was agreed the identification may have been correct, it was felt that something as distinctive as a Pacific Loon in this plumage should be more clearly described, and that the description of the bill and back are more suggestive of a Red-throated Loon. **8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**