

# Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

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

There was a meeting of the Committee on 3 December 1995, and the agenda included votes on several records. These records included: three potential first state records (which require a unanimous vote for acceptance by all 10 members at a meeting); five records with inconclusive first-round vote totals (which require a second-round vote at a meeting); a record of an individual of uncertain origin (which requires a vote by all 10 members at a meeting); and a record documented primarily by photographs (which are difficult to circulate by mail).

The following records were found to be Acceptable:

Calliope Hummingbird, early November–5 December 1994, Minneapolis, Hennepin County (*The Loon* 67:3–8).

White Ibis, 13 May 1995, Winona, Winona County (*The Loon* 67:71–72).

Glaucous-winged Gull, 19 October–24 December 1995, Burnsville, Dakota County and Minneapolis, Hennepin County (*The Loon* 68:3–13).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 7 September 1995, Roseau River W.M.A., Roseau County (*The Loon* 67:247–248); a vote

on origin was also taken, and the record was accepted as Accidental (i.e. wild vs. captive origin probabilities about equal).

Green-tailed Towhee, 18 December 1994, near Ely, St. Louis County.

Northern Wheatear, 27 September–2 October 1995, Duluth, St. Louis County (*The Loon* 67:189–191).

The following records were found to be Unacceptable:

Wilson's Plover, 8 June 1995, near Grand Marais, Cook County. Although the description is consistent with this species, the documentation left too many doubts for the Committee to accept such an unusual species. The bird was observed while consulting a field guide, and this seemed to influence its description since no field notes on the bird were apparently written. The identification relied on the bird's larger overall size and bill size than a Semipalmated Plover (but nothing was apparently present for direct comparison), on an all-black bill (which the Semipalmated can also have away from the breeding grounds), and on "gray-pink" legs (but the light conditions at the time were not described and might have been unfavorable).

Prairie Warbler, 26 August 1994, Mont-essippi County Park, Wright County. The description perfectly fits a male of this species in breeding plumage, but it is unlikely an adult male in late August would be as boldly marked on the face as described. The identification was apparently influenced by consulting field guides during and after the observation, and the description was only written from memory eight months later.

Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1 January 1995, St. Paul, Ramsey County. This "black-backed" gull was most likely a Lesser Black-backed, but the leg color was not seen, the overall size ("about the size of a Herring Gull") would also fit a female Great Black-backed, and the observer's impression of mantle color is difficult to judge since the light conditions and distance involved are not clearly described.

Also discussed at the 3 December meeting were the following items:

It was agreed that only six of the Western Tanager records from the May 1995 influx (*The Loon* 67:180–181) could be filed as Acceptable, since these were the only ones documented. It was agreed, however, that the other 13 undocumented males reported were still probably correct identifications, and written descriptions or photographs of these individuals would still be welcome. The six Acceptable records are: 9–11 May 1995, near Oronoco, Olmsted County; 14 May 1995, Mankato, Blue Earth County; 11–12 May 1995, near Long Prairie, Todd County; 24 May 1995, near Princeton, Mille Lacs County; 19–21 May 1995, Ironton, Crow Wing County; 10–12 May 1995, near Maple Lake, Wright County.

The status of the Trumpeter Swan was discussed, but for the time being it was decided not to change its status to Regular, and it remains on the Accidental list (the only Acceptable modern record of a "countable" individual is from 1991 in Wabasha County; see *The Loon* 63:147–150). Even though introduced Trumpeter Swans are regularly seen in Minnesota, there is no evidence the species has established a viable population since the Committee has yet to receive complete data on their numbers, release dates and locations, movements, and on releases in other states and provinces. It is possible that no decision on changing this species' status will be made until the next official Minnesota checklist is published, which is scheduled for 1999.

Bob Janssen, who has chaired this Committee since its inception in 1974, decided to retire as Chairman, and Kim Eckert has succeeded him.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 30 June 1996 and, as are all these meetings, it is open to any M.O.U. member interested in observing our proceedings. For the time and place, contact either Kim Eckert or Bob Janssen.

The following records were voted on by mail August–December 1995 and all were found to be Acceptable (there were

no Unacceptable records):

Sprague's Pipit, 31 May–1 June 1995, Kertsonville Twp, Polk County (*The Loon* 68:67–68).

Clark's Grebe, 15 July 1995, Agassiz N.W.R, Marshall County (*The Loon* 67:187).

Sabine's Gull, 6 September 1995, Agassiz N.W.R, Marshall County (*The Loon* 67:246–247).

Clark's Grebe, 19 August 1995, Timm Lake, Yellow Medicine County (*The Loon* 67:252).

Sabine's Gull, 16 September 1995, Warroad, Roseau County (*The Loon* 67:251).

Pacific Loon, 21 September–7 October 1995, Stoney Point, St. Louis County.

Black-legged Kittiwake, 16 September 1995, Duluth, St. Louis County.

Sabine's Gull, 5–6 October 1995, Duluth, St. Louis County).

Pacific Loon, 10 October 1995, Lake George, Anoka Co. (*The Loon* 68:74).

Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1–12 October 1995, Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co.

Pacific Loon, 17 October 1995, Winona, Winona County.

Yellow-billed Loon, 11–13 November 1995, Mille Lacs Lake, Crow Wing County. (*The Loon* 68:59–60).

Great Black-backed Gull, 22 November 1995, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County.

Great Black-backed Gull, 12 November 1995, Duluth, St. Louis County. (*The Loon* 68:69).

Great Black-backed Gull, 25 November 1995, Grand Marais, Cook County. (*The Loon* 68:68–69).

Burrowing Owl, 30 April 1995, Troy Twp, Pipestone County.

Iceland Gull, 29 November–2 December 1995, Black Dog Lake and Pine Bend, Dakota County.

Iceland Gull, 26 November 1995, Lake City, Wabasha County.

Barrow's Goldeneye, 29 November 1995, Lilydale, Ramsey County.

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