

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Peder H. Svingen, Chairman

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) conducted all of its business online during the period covered by this report. Members voting on records from January – July 2010 were Bob Dunlap (alternate), Kim Eckert, Bruce Fall (alternate), Anthony Hertzell, Ann Kessen, Jim Lind, Bill Marengo, Drew Smith (alternate), Steve Stucker, and Peder Svingen (Chair). Svingen stepped down at the end of this period after 6½ years of service. Tom Tustison was appointed by the MOU Board to serve as the Committee's fourth chairperson effective 1 July 2010. Results of online voting for January – July 2010 are shown below.

The following records were Accepted.

- **Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*), 8 December 2009 – 16 March 2010, adult male at Leif Erikson Park (through 18 February) and Duluth Harbor, St. Louis County (record #2009-067, vote 7–0).

Photographed. Probably the same individual documented and Accepted at Park Point and 21st Avenue East, Duluth, 17–27 November 2009 (record #2009-055, *The Loon* 82:3).

- **Barrow's Goldeneye**, 2–6 January 2010, adult male on Mississippi River, Dakota and Washington counties (record #2010-001, vote 7–0).

- **Barrow's Goldeneye**, 16 January 2010, first-year male east of Camp Lacupolis on Lake Pepin, Wabasha County (record #2010-002, vote 7–0).

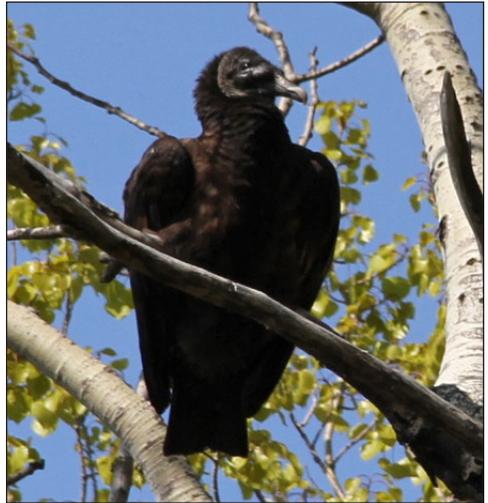
- **Barrow's Goldeneye**, 16 January – 14 February 2010, adult male at east end of Lake Pepin, Wabasha County (record #2010-003, vote 7–0).

Photographed.

- **Barrow's Goldeneye**, 6–13 February 2010, adult male at east end of Lake Pepin, Wabasha County (record #2010-005, vote 7–0).

Known to be a different individual than record #2010-003. Photographed.

- **Barrow's Goldeneye**, 28 February



Record 2010-014: Black Vulture, 16 May 2010, Stoney Point, St. Louis County. Digital photo by Peder H. Svingen.

2010, adult male on Mississippi River at Elk River, Sherburne County (record #2010-006, vote 7–0).

Photographed.

- **Barrow's Goldeneye**, 23–27 March 2010, adult female at Duluth Rowing Club, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2010-007, vote 7–0).

One of the very few females ever photographed in Minnesota.

- **Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*), 15–16 May 2010, Stoney Point, St. Louis County (record #2010-014, vote 7–0).

Fifth state record. Photographed.

- **Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 19 May 2009, ~3 miles south of Pipestone, Pipestone County (record #2009-063, vote 7–0).

First county record and 31st state record.

- **Whooping Crane** (*Grus americana*), 21–23 May 2010, unbanded adult at Agassiz Pool, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Mar-



Record 2010-012: Western Sandpiper, 13 May 2010, Greenvale Township, Dakota County. Digital photo by Douglas W. Kieser.



Record 2010-011: Ruff, 10 May 2010, Annandale, Wright County. Digital photo by Jeff Stephenson.



Record 2010-013: Say's Phoebe, 14 May 2010, Worthington, Nobles County. Digital photo by Kim R. Eckert.



Record 2010-018: Black-throated Gray Warbler, 25 May 2010, Duluth, St. Louis County. Digital photo by Karl J. Bardon.



Record 2010-025: Lark Bunting, 28 May 2010, Agassiz NWR, Marshall County. Digital photo by Brad R. Bolduan.

shall County (record #2010-015, identification Accepted 7-0).

This bird was initially spotted from an airplane during an aerial waterbird survey by refuge personnel. It was refound at Agassiz Pool by Gregg Knutsen, refuge biologist, who has had extensive experience with Whooping Cranes; he carefully observed the bird through a spotting scope and confirmed that it had no leg bands or satellite tracking antennae. Results of a separate vote on origin will be published in the next *Proceedings*.

- **Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 15 May 2010, two adults in Milford Township, Brown County (record #2010-020, vote 7-0 for each individual).

First county record. Both birds photographed.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 23 May 2010, female at Dahl Pool, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County (record #2010-016, vote 7-0).

First county record and first refuge record. Photographed. There are now 17 records of this species in Minnesota.

- **Western Sandpiper** (*Calidris mauri*), 13-14 May 2010, near 320th Street and Holyoke Avenue, Greenvale Township, Dakota County (record #2010-012, vote 7-0).

Seventh documented record. Identifiably photographed.

- **Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*), 10 May 2010, female at Annandale Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Wright County (record #2010-

011, vote 7-0).

First county record and 45th state record. Photographed.

- **Laughing Gull** (*Leucophaeus atricilla*), 2 May 2010, adult at Lake Koronis, Stearns County (record #2010-010, vote 7-0).

First county record and 14th state record.

- **White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*), 10-23 December 2009, Burnsville, Dakota County (record #2009-066, vote 7-0).

Second county record. Photographed.

- **White-winged Dove**, 15-16 April 2010, Waconia, Carver County (record #2010-008, vote 7-0).

First county record. Photographed.

- **White-winged Dove**, 28-31 May 2010, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge Auto Tour, Lac qui Parle County (record #2010-019, vote 7-0).

First county record. All but 2 of the state's 20 records have occurred since 2003.

- **Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*), 8 May 2010, near 170th Street South and 70th Avenue South, Elkton Township, Clay County (record #2010-022, vote 7-0).

Seventh county record.

- **Say's Phoebe**, 14-15 May 2010, Worthington, Nobles County (record #2010-013, vote 7-0).

First county record. Photographed.

- **Say's Phoebe**, 16 June - 25 July 2010, Florida Township, Yellow Medicine County (record #2010-023, vote 7-0).

First county record. Photographed.

• **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*), 24–26 April 2010, near Cedar Rock Wildlife Management Area, Delhi Township, Redwood County (record #2010-009, vote 7–0).

First county record.

• **Black-throated Gray Warbler** (*Dendroica nigrescens*), 25 May 2010, Minnesota Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2010-018, vote 7–0).

Seventh state record. Photographed.

• **Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 28–29 May 2010, adult male along county road 7, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County (record #2010-025, vote 7–0).

Third county record and first refuge record. Photographed.

• **Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), 18 December 2009 – 7 January 2010, immature male at feeder in Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2009-065, vote 7–0).

First county record and first winter record. Photographed (*The Loon* 82:143).

• **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*), 17 December 2009, Raspberry Island, Big Sandy Lake, Aitkin County (record #2009-064, vote 7–0).

First county record. An “interior form” was photographed at a feeder (*The Loon* 82:121).

The following records were Not Accepted. (Please note that a record which is Not Accepted only means that the documentation was not complete or convincing enough to include the sighting in *The Loon*, the journal of the MOU, or in the MOU’s archives of confirmed bird records. Such a vote does not necessarily mean the observer misidentified the bird or did not see it. Summaries of the reasons why a record was Not Accepted are included here. These are in no way intended to be critical of the observer. The only purpose is to highlight the difficulties an observer may encounter while identifying or documenting these and similar species.)

• Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*), 15 June 2010, U.S. Highway 169, Blakeley Township, Scott County (record #2010-024, vote 1–6).

Though possibly correctly identified, this bird was seen for just a few seconds with-

out optics while the observer was driving at highway speeds.

• Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 19 May 2010, Kolu Road, Sax-Zim Bog area, St. Louis County (record #2010-017, vote 3–4).

Field notes were not taken and the observer was not aware that this species was unusual for this area. The brief description did not eliminate the possibility of Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) or partial albino blackbird or cowbird.

The efforts of all those observers who document reports of unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Accordingly, the Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written or photographic documentation for one or more of the records listed in this article: Karl Bardon, Dave Bartkey, Brad Bolduan, Conny Brunell, Dave Cahlander, Phil Chu, Herb Dingmann, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Laura Erickson, Bruce Fall, Janet and John Green, Anthony Hertzell, Janet Hill, Paul Jantscher, Jeanie Joppru, Don Kienholz, Doug Kieser, Gregg Knutsen, Craig Mandel, Jim Mattsson, Bob O’Connor, Judith O’Neale, Ken Oulman, Frank Peterson, Brian Smith, Jeff Stephenson, Steve Stucker, Peder Svingen, Pat and John Thomas, Bill Unzen, and Steve Weston.

There were many more observers who provided written documentation and/or photographs for records of Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee. Although such records are not cited here, the efforts of these individuals are greatly appreciated. All observers are encouraged to use the “Request for Documentation Form”, which can be downloaded from the MOU website or filled out online at <<http://moumn.org/cgi-bin/rqd.pl?op=new>>.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments regarding any record or our procedures in general. Please contact Tom Tustison by e-mail at <mourc@moumn.org>.

Summary: 28 records voted on — 26 Accepted (93%), 2 Not Accepted (7%).

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