

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Tom Tustison, Chairman

The most recent meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) was conducted at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in Bloomington on 8 December 2013. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Terry P. Brashear (alternate), Robert M. Dunlap, Kim R. Eckert, Bruce A. Fall, Andrew Forbes (alternate), Anthony X. Hertzler, Robert P. Russell (alternate), Andrew D. Smith and Tom A. Tustison (chair). Absent: James W. Lind.

Subsequent to the meeting, the following records were voted on electronically and were Accepted:

- King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), 12–14 December 2013, Lake Superior near 23rd Avenue East, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2013-066, vote 7–0). Female, photographed. Observed by several experienced observers and supported by one high-quality photograph.

- King Eider, 26 December 2013, Lake Superior near the junction of Greenwood Road and Scenic U.S. Highway 61, St. Louis County (record #2013-067, vote 7–0). First-fall male, photographed.

- Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), 23 November 2013, Lake Pepin, Goodhue County (record #2013-063, vote 7–0). Adult male. Lake Pepin near U.S. Highway 61 rest stop, located between Frontenac and Lake City. First fall record for Goodhue County.

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 12–13 December 2013, Lake Superior at 23rd Avenue East, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2013-064, vote 7–0). Adult female, photographed. Observed by several experienced observers.

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 1 December 2013, Pool #5, Wabasha County (record #2013-065, vote 7–0). Adult male.

- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 27 August 2013, Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, St. Louis County (record #2013-051, vote 7–0).

Age uncertain. Observed by two expert raptor counters.

- Mississippi Kite, 4 September 2013, Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, St. Louis County (record #2013-052, vote 7–0). Age uncertain. Observed by two expert raptor counters.

- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), 26 June 2013, county road 102 southeast of the junction with county road 9 approximately two miles southeast of Crookston, Polk County (record #2013-070, vote 5–2). Age undetermined. Considerable weight was given to the experience of the observers.

- Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), 19–22 September 2013, Minnesota side of Superior Entry, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2013-053, vote 7–0). Third-cycle Long-tailed Jaeger, photographed. Twelfth state record. Observed by at least two experienced observers and documented by many high-quality photographs including one with a direct comparison to a Parasitic Jaeger.

- Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), 3 February 2013, Lakeview Park, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2013-068, vote 7–0). Only the second state-record adult. Observed by at least one experienced observer.

- Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), 20–23 September 2013, Purgatory Creek Wetlands, Eden Prairie, Hennepin County (record #2013-054, vote 7–0). Juvenile, photographed. Witnessed by many observers.

- Sabine's Gull, 20 September 2013, Lake Bemidji just north of Diamond Point, Bemidji, Beltrami County (record #2013-055, vote 7–0 for the photographed bird, and 0-7 for the non-photographed bird). Juvenile, photographed.

- Sabine's Gull, 14 October 2013, Artist's Point, Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2013-058, vote 7–0). Juvenile, partially-scavenged carcass identified by an experienced observer.

- Sabine's Gull, 20 October 2013, Canal



Long-tailed Jaeger, 19 September 2013, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Karl J. Bardon.



Rufous Hummingbird, 26 July 2013, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Joyce Johnson.

Park, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2013-060, vote 7-0). Juvenile, superbly photographed. Witnessed by several experienced observers.

- Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*), 10 November 2013, Minnesota side of Superior Entry, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2013-062, vote 7-0). First-cycle, photographed.

- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), 1 August 2013, Red Lake Falls sewage ponds, Red Lake County (record #2013-048, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record (*The Loon* 86:54).

- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), 28 September 2013, Minnesota side of Superior Entry, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2013-057, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

- Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), 24–26 July 2013, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2013-047, vote 7-0). Adult, documented by an excellent series of photographs. Thirteenth state record.

- Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), 2 November 2013 – 10 May 2014, at a feeder in the town of Roosevelt, along Roseau County Road 17 just north of state highway 11 on the Roseau / Lake of the Woods county line, Roseau County (record #2013-061, vote 7-0). Overwintering adult, photographed. Fourth state record and first county record for both Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties. Documented by many observers in both counties.

- Sprague's Pipit (*Antibus spragueii*), 18–19 October 2013, Rock Ridge Prairie Scientific

and Natural Area, Cottonwood County (record #2013-059, vote 7-0).

- Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*), 22 August 2013, Carver County Park Reserve, Carver County (record #2013-050, vote 7-0). New fall record for Carver County.

- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*), 14 May 2013, Osborne Township, Section 1, northeast of Edgerton, Pipestone County (record #2013-069, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. This is one of three Accepted Lazuli Bunting records for the spring of 2013 for Pipestone County.

The following records were voted on and 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.)

- Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), 6 May 2013, Cannon Lake, Rice County (record #2013-071, vote 1-6). This observation is

based entirely on a single photograph. Almost all MOURC members thought that the photograph represented a Great Blue Heron with its head in an obscured position.

- Sabine's Gull, 26 September 2013, Bear Lake, three miles north of Emmons, Freeborn County (record #2013-056, vote 3–4 for the dark-headed bird, and 0-7 for the winter-plumaged bird). Photographed. There was a purported pair of Sabine's Gulls seen together. Both a dark-headed bird and a second winter-plumaged bird were photographed. The winter-plumaged bird was too far distant in the photograph to determine details. The photograph of the dark-headed bird was thought to lack enough detail to rule out other gull species. The written description was thought to be too vague for acceptance of either bird.

- California Gull (*Larus californicus*), 9 August 2013, Cottonwood Wastewater Treatment Plant, Cottonwood, Lyon County (record #2013-049, vote 2–5 for each of the two birds). Photographed. Several members felt the description alone was insufficient for positive identification. The photographs were lacking in clarity and generally regarded as not very helpful in the identification.

- White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*), 22 May 2013, Lone Tree Lake, Lyon County (record #2013-022, vote 1–9). Apparent adult, photographed. The observer didn't notice this bird in the field but reported it only after looking at the photo subsequent to the actual observation. Therefore, a single photograph is all MOURC had to consider for this potential first state record. Generally, any observation of a potential first state record consisting of a single photograph of marginal quality has a very high bar to overcome, requiring at least nine out of ten votes for acceptance. Several members thought it impossible to rule out the much more likely Black Tern given that the photo was distant and the apparent white wing could simply have been an anomaly or even represent partial albinism. Others thought the white area in the photograph might even suggest something other than the dorsal side of the wing such as undertail coverts while preening or possibly even the underside of the wing.

- Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmintheros vermivorum*), 16 May 2013, River Bend Nature

Center, Faribault, Rice County (record #2013-017, original vote 4–3; recirculated vote 3–4). The observer reported the undeparts as “gray” rather than having buff or caramel-colored tones which one would normally expect a Worm-eating Warbler to exhibit. In addition, the submission was generally too succinct for several of the members to Accept.

The efforts of all those observers who document unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Though photographs are always welcome, observers are strongly encouraged to submit written documentation based on contemporaneous field notes for all records. The Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written descriptions for the records listed in this article: Karl J. Bardon, Tom F. Boevers, Conny M. Brunell, Paul E. Budde, David A. Cahlander, Philip C. Chu, Shawn Conrad, Ron Dorsett, Lois Van Dyke, Kim R. Eckert, Mackenzie Goldthwait, Bruce A. Fall, Andy Forbes, Mike L. Hendrickson, Paul E. Jantscher, Jerry Lundgren, Joyce Johnson, Terry Lee Johnson, Jeanie M. Joppru, Douglas W. Kieser, Jan & Larry Kraemer, Robin LaFortune, James W. Lind, Michael J. Majeski, David F. Neitzel, Andrew Nyhus, Karl Roe, Linda Sparling, Mark Sparky Stensaas, Peder H. Svingen, Raymond Tervo, Skyler Vold, Jeanine Vorland, Garrett Wee, Christopher L. Wood, and Roy Zimmerman. Many observers documented records of rare Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee; though not cited here, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. More information including our bylaws and current checklist can be found at <<http://moumn.org/mourc>>. Summary: 27 records voted on — 22 Accepted, 5 Not Accepted.

Corrigendum: In the previous “Proceedings” article, the last date seen for Yellow-throated Warbler (record #2013-012) should be 30 July 2013, not 27 July 2013 (**The Loon** 85:101).

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