

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Thomas A. Tustison, Chairman

The most recent meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee was conducted at the Trailhead Lodge at the Carpenter Nature Center, Washington County, Minnesota, on 14 June 2014. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Dedrick Benz (alternate), Terry P. Brashear (alternate), Robert M. Dunlap, Kim R. Eckert, Bruce A. Fall, Andy Forbes (alternate), Bob Russell, Andrew D. Smith, and Tom A. Tustison (chair). Absent was Anthony X. Hertz. Minnesota Ornithologists' Union President, Roy Zimmerman, was also in attendance.

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

- **Eurasian Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*), 5–6 April 2014, Lake Byllesby Regional Park, Dakota County (record #2014-001, Casual, vote 7–0). The first of an unprecedented seven spring records — all were adult males and all were photographed.

- **Eurasian Wigeon**, 19 April 2014, Purgatory Creek Wetlands in Eden Prairie, Hennepin County (record #2014-004, Casual, vote 7–0).

- **Eurasian Wigeon**, 25–26 April 2014, Grass Lake, Winsted, McLeod County (record #2014-007, Casual, vote 7–0).

- **Eurasian Wigeon**, 26 April 2014, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, South Pool, Marshall County (record #2014-006, Casual, vote 7–0).

- **Eurasian Wigeon**, 7 May 2014, Brighton Beach, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2014-011, Casual, vote 7–0).

- **Eurasian Wigeon**, 9–16 May 2014, west of Deer River, Itasca County (record #2014-010, Casual, vote 5–2).

- **Eurasian Wigeon**, 10 May 2014, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Cook, St. Louis County (record #2014-013, Casual, vote 7–0).

- **Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala is-*

landica), 25–26 March 2013, Canal Park, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2013-072, Casual, vote 7–0). Adult female, superlatively photographed. It was seen in the same flock as an adult, male Barrow's Goldeneye that was paired with a female Common Goldeneye. While adult males are regularly recorded in winter and early spring, often showing winter site fidelity, adult females are much less frequently observed or photographed. This species became Regular in 2014.

- **Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*), 19–23 June 2014, at a farmstead roughly one-half mile west of 345th Avenue and just north of Interstate I-90, west of Blue Earth, Faribault County (record #2014-033, Accidental, vote 7–0). Sub-adult, photographed. Second state and first county record. The bird was last seen on 23 June 2014.

- **Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 13 May 2014, north access Black Rush Lake, Lyon County (record #2014-015, Casual, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. Was associating with three White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*).

- **Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 21 May 2014, Land of Memories City Park, Blue Earth County (record #2014-024, Casual, vote 6–1). Adult, photographed. First county record for both Blue Earth and Nicollet (the same bird was also noted flying north into Nicollet County by one of the observers).

- **King Rail** (*Rallus elegans*), 27 May 2014, West 3rd St, Zumbrota, Goodhue County (record #2014-034, Accidental, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. This normally cryptic species was foraging amongst ferns and flowers in a residential yard in broad daylight. Last recorded in 1992.

- **Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 12–13 May 2014, southwest side of Minnesota Lake, Faribault County (record #2014-014, Casual, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 14–15 May 2014,



King Rail, 27 May 2014, Zumbrota, Goodhue County. Photo by David A Cahlander.

Miller Lake (state highway 67 and 290th Street west of Clarkfield), Yellow Medicine County (record #2014-016, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 24 May – 14 June 2014, Herman Wastewater Treatment Plant, Grant County (record #2014-022, Casual, vote 7-0). Pair of breeding adults, photographed. Nest with one egg photographed on 27 May, and four eggs on 1 and 5 June. First county record and first confirmed state nesting record (vote 10-0).

- **California Gull** (*Larus californicus*), 7 June 2012, Baudette, Lake of the Woods County (record #2012-049, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult. First county record. This record was originally submitted to eBird on 16 June 2012 nine days after the observation. A written response to an eBird inquiry was received the following day; however, this documentation was not communicated to the Committee until 22 March 2014; hence, the delay in voting. For future reference, the importance of contemporaneous field notes and sketches should be emphasized even though none was taken in this instance.

- **California Gull**, 22 April 2014, Center-

ville Lake, Anoka County (record #2014-005, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*), 25 May 2014, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2014-025, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First spring record for the county.

- **White-winged Dove**, 30-31 May 2014, farm near Elbow Lake, Grant County (record #2014-030, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*), 28 April 2014, near grain elevators on state highway 7 in Ortonville, Big Stone County (record #2014-017, Regular, vote 7-0). Adult photographed. Generally speaking, the Committee does not vote on Regular species. However, votes were cast for this observation prior to its recognition as a Regular species in the 2014 Checklist. The same explanation applies to the next record.

- **Say's Phoebe**, 7-8 May 2014, University of Minnesota-Crookston Campus, Polk County (record #2014-009, Regular, vote 7-0). Adult photographed.

- **Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Setophaga*



Glossy Ibis, 13 May 2014, Black Rush Lake, Lyon County. Photo by Roger J. Schroeder.



Black-necked Stilt, 24 May 2014, Herman, Grant County. Photo by Steven P. Stucker.

dominica), 18 May 2014, Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2014-018, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **Yellow-throated Warbler**, 21 May 2014, at the intersection of 41st Street and Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis, Hennepin County (record #2014-021, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult.

- **Yellow-throated Warbler**, 21 May 2014, Mahtomedi, Washington County (record #2014-020, Casual, vote 5-2). Adult.

- **Yellow-throated Warbler**, 22 May – 8 July 2014, Whitewater State Park picnic area, Winona County (record #2014-029, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult. Reported from the same location as last year.

- **Yellow-throated Warbler**, 30 May – 7 June 2014, east side of Mantorville Cemetery, Dodge County (record #2014-026, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **Black-throated Gray Warbler** (*Setophaga nigrescens*), 10 May 2014, residence outside of Austin, Mower County (record #2014-012, Accidental, vote 7-0). Adult female, photographed. Eighth state and fifth spring re-

cord. First county record.

- **Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), 5 May 2014, residence in Silver Bay, Lake County (record #2014-035, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. Tenth state and first county record.

- **Lazuli Bunting** (*Passerina amoena*), 11 May 2014, Janesville, Waseca County (record #2014-023, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

- **Lazuli Bunting**, 21 May 2014, Roseville, Ramsey County (record #2014-031, Casual, vote 6-1). Adult male, photographed.

- **Lazuli Bunting**, 21-23 May 2014, Orono, Hennepin County (record #2014-032, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

- **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*), 15-22 April 2014, University of Minnesota Crookston-Campus, Polk County (record #2014-002, Casual, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. Tenth state and first county record.

- **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, 7-10 June 2014, the bridge over Florida Creek on 140th Street just north of 250th Avenue, about two miles west of County Road 15 and 3 miles north of state highway 68, Yellow Medicine

County (record #2014-028, Casual, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. Eleventh state and first county record.

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.):

- **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), 14–16 April 2014, Lake Bylesby near Lakeside Cemetery, Dakota County (record #2014-003, Casual, vote 1–6). The observer knew the record was unusual and the birds (about 20) were reported to be present for several days, but the description was very incomplete. Specifically, there was no mention of the bold white stripe on the upper wing, the black belly, the leg color, the back, the face color, or the eyering.

- **Glossy Ibis**, 4 May 2014, a wetland 2 miles west and 2.2 miles south of Minnesota Lake, Faribault County (record #2014-008, Casual, vote 0–7). The description was brief and did not rule out White-faced Ibis. Details such as eye color, facial skin color, and facial skin edging were not noted. The photographs were not diagnostic.

- **Whooping Crane** (*Grus americana*), 10 May 2014, County Road 45 one-half mile north of state highway 30, Steele County (record #2014-036, Accidental, vote 1–6). The bird was one-half mile away making detailed observation difficult. The description was extremely vague for this species. Even if the identification was correct, the experimental Wisconsin flock birds were not considered. The description does not indicate if there were radios or leg bands.

- **MacGillivray's Warbler** (*Geothlypis tolmiei*), 27 May 2014, Otter Tail County (record #2014-027, Accidental, vote 1–6). The obser-

vation was made by an observer who didn't have any experience with the species or the similar-looking Mourning Warbler. The observer also made the identification later from memory after looking at field guides which may involve the power of suggestion.

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: Sandy Aubol, Karl J. Bardon, David A. Bartkey, Mary Beer, Dedrick Benz, Chad and Cheryl Bleses, Conny M. Brunell, Paul E. Budde, Jason Caddy, David A. Cahlander, Philip C. Chu, Shawn Conrad, John Drummond, Wayne Feder, George Feldhamer, Randy S. Frederickson, Melissa Hein, Chad Heins, Anthony X. Hertzels, Gerald Hoekstra, Jacqueline Hosch, Robert B. Janssen, Paul E. Jantscher, Mark Jenzen, Jeanie M. Jopru, Douglas W. Kieser, Andrew Krenz, Dee Kuder, James W. Lind, Bill R. Litkey, Michael J. Majeski, Dennis D. and Barbara J. Martin, Lili T. McMillan, Scott B. Meyer, Bob Myers, Charlene Nelson, Andrew Nyhus, Elijah Parker, Susan Plankis, Brian Plath, Karl Roe, Dennis Sandberg, Roger J. Schroeder, Jessica Searcy, Kevin Smith, Peder H. Svingen, Raymond Tervo, Tom A. Tustison, Ken Vail, 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 Minnesota Ornithologists' Union 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: 37 records voted on – 33 Accepted, 4 Not Accepted. Accepted records: 3 Accidental, 28 Casual, and 2 Regular. Not Accepted records: 2 Accidental and 2 Casual.

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