

# Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Thomas A. Tustison, Chairman

The most recent meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) was conducted at the Trailhead Lodge at Carpenter Nature Center on 7 December 2014. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Dedrick A. Benz (alternate), Robert M. Dunlap, Kim R. Eckert, Bruce A. Fall, Andrew R. Forbes (alternate), Anthony X. Hertzler, Douglas W. Kieser (alternate), Robert P. Russell, Andrew D. Smith, and Thomas A. Tustison (chair).

At, or subsequent to, the most recent meeting, the following records were voted on (most electronically) and Accepted:

- Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), 26–31 March 2015, northwest quadrant of the intersection of county roads 9 and 86, Jackson County (record #2015-020, vote 5–2). Adult male, photographed.

- Eurasian Wigeon, 17–18 April 2015, Twin Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Kittson County (record #2015-006, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

- Eurasian Wigeon, 30 April – 1 May 2015, Mud River Pool, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County (record #2015-011, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 25–26 April 2015, Getchell Lake, Oak Township, Stearns County (record #2015-005, vote 7–0). Two birds were photographed, and both were accepted.

- Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*), 3–10 May 2015, Bass Ponds, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Area, Hennepin County (record #2015-007, vote 7–0). Probable first spring male, photographed. It is interesting to note that three of the four Hennepin County records for this species were from the Bass Ponds; the fourth was at French Lake.

- Ruff, 18 May 2015, Bass Ponds, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Area, Hennepin County (record #2015-014, vote 7–0). Reeve.



**Record #2015-009, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 6 May 2015, Clay County. Photo by Kara Susag.**

- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), 9 June – 6 July 2015, private residence in Eagles Nest Township, St. Louis County (record #2015-018, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed.

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*), 12–13 April 2015, Rice County (record #2015-002, vote 7–0). First county record.

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 6 May 2015, private residence, Clay County (record #2015-009, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed.

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 13 May 2015, Stoney Point, St. Louis County (record #2015-024, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed.

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 4 June 2015, in a large pasture near the town of Grygla, Beltrami County (record #2015-025, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. There are now eighty-eight accepted records for this species.

- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), 9 May 2015, Hok-Si-La Park, Goodhue County (record #2015-012, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed.



**Record #2015-004, Rock Wren, 25 April 2015, Lake Bronson State Park, Kittson County. Photo by Chantel Schlegel.**



**Record #2015-017, Worm-eating Warbler, 30 May 2015, Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Scott County. Photo by Robert M. Dunlap.**

- White-eyed Vireo, 20 May 2015, approximately 415 feet east of the state highway 56 bridge on the east edge of Adams in the pull-out on the north side of the road, Mower County (record #2015-019, vote 7–0). Adult.

- White-eyed Vireo, 22–30 May 2015, along the Hiking Club Trail near the Cottonwood River, Flandrau State Park, Brown County (record #2015-016, vote 7–0).

- Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 18 and 25 April 2015, the dam at Lake Bronson State Park, Kittson County (record #2015-004, vote 7–0). Photographed. First county record (**The Loon** 87:141–141).

- Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), 1–9 June 2015, Hastings Sand Coulee Scientific and Natural Area, Dakota County (record #2015-022, vote 7–0). Vocalization audio recorded. First county record and first state record since 1998 (Sherburne County, **The Loon** 70:219 and **The Loon** 71:28).

- Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmintheros vermivorum*), 30 May 2015, trailhead #17 about 200 yards from the road in Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Scott County (record #2015-017, vote 7–0). Photographed, first county record.

- Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*), 2 May – 22 June 2015, the Nature Store parking lot, Whitewater State Park, Wi-

nona County (record #2015-008, vote 7–0). Photographed. Breeding suspected, but only one bird was documented (see **The Loon** 86:44 for a previous breeding record at this location in 2013). This represents the third consecutive year that this species has been seen in this area of the park.

- Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*), 7 June 2015, Hastings Sand Coulee Scientific and Natural Area, Dakota County (record #2015-023, vote 7–0). Vocalization recorded.

- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), 18–20 May 2015, private residence, Brainerd, Crow Wing County (record #2015-013, vote 6–1). Photographed, first county record. The member voting not to accept expressed concern about the bill's apparent pinkish coloring and the indistinct flank streaking.

- Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*), 20 March 2015, private residence, Brainerd, Crow Wing County (record #2015-001, vote 7–0). Photographed (**The Loon** 87:140–141). First county record. Seventh state record and the first since 2001 (**The Loon** 74:122–123).

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



**Record #2015-013, Black-headed Grosbeak, 18 May 2015, Brainerd, Crow Wing County. Photo by Scott B. Meyer.**

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.)

- Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), 18–19 May 2015, Sham Lake, Lyon County (record #2015-015, vote 3–4). The pointed shape of the facial skin and longer tail were not mentioned. Although the photographs appear to show a smaller cormorant, they unfortunately aren't of sufficient quality to be diagnostic for Neotropic.

- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), 9 May 2015, Big Stone National Wildlife Area Auto Tour, Lac qui Parle County (record #2015-026, vote 0–7). Description given is not diagnostic of Ferruginous Hawk and could easily pertain to Red-tailed Hawk. No statement of experience with the species was given. There was no discussion of how other similar species were eliminated from consideration.

- Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americana*), 20 April 2015, southwest of intersection of county roads 14 and 53 (44.9793051,-96.37477), Lac qui Parle County (record #2015-003, vote 0–7). Details were seen while driving a vehicle and without the aid of any optics. The observation was limited to just a few seconds. Other similar species, such as Marbled Godwit and Whimbrel, were not ruled out.

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: Brad Abendroth, Sandy Aubol, Karl J. Bardon, Tom F. Boevers, Conny M. Brunell, Philip C. Chu, Robert M. Dunlap, Bruce A. Fall, Ben W. Fritchman, John W. Hockema, Gerald Hoekstra, Tyson Kahler, Paul Kammen, Douglas W. Kieser, Alex Lewanski, Tom Lewanski, James W. Lind, Michael J. Majeski, Craig R. Mandel, Scott B. Meyer, Andrew Nyhus, Carolyn Quick, John Richardson, Karl Roe, Chantel Schlegel, Andrew D. Smith, Kevin D. Smith, Matt Stratmoen, Kara Susag, Thomas A. Tustison, Josh Wallestad, Garrett Wee, 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: 24 records evaluated, 21 Accepted, 3 Not Accepted.

*Corrigendum:* In a previous *Proceedings* article (*The Loon* 85:101) Yellow-throated Warbler (record #2013-032) incorrectly listed the county of record as Olmsted. It should be Wabasha.

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