

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 Bell Museum on 8 December 2019. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Dedrick A. Benz, Anthony X. Hertzell, Ann E. Kessen (alternate), Douglas W. Kieser, William C. Marengo, Steven P. Stucker, Alex V. Sundvall (alternate), and Thomas A. Tustison (chair).

The status of each of the 444 species on the 2019 *Checklist* was examined by the entire Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee over the course of the past year. All species were evaluated and discussed at the 6 April 2019 meeting. Status changes were recognized for 14 species as follows:

From Casual to Regular (one species): White-winged Dove (*Zenaidura asiatica*).

From Regular to Casual (three species): Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*), Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*), and Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*).

From Casual to Accidental (five species): Black-bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*), Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), and Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*).

From Accidental to Casual (five species): Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*), Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), and Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*).

Since the publication of the 2019 *Checklist* in October 2019, four corrections have been identified and are as follows:

For Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus caliope*), the date for the single fall-winter record should state "one fall-winter (1994)."

For King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), the following sentence should be added: "Last breeding record 2017."

For Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), a



King Eider, 4 January 2019, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Steve Broste.

final sentence should be added to read "Formerly Casual."

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*), an "H" superscript should be added to the asterisk. An "H" superscript means, with respect to confirmed breeding, that "one of the breeding individuals was, or may have been, a different species." It is clear from the photographic evidence that one, and most likely both, parents were Eurasian Tree Sparrows. Voting on first state breeding for this species is currently pending before MOURC.

The following records were voted on (most electronically) and Accepted:

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) [Accidental], 23–24 June 2019, North Ottawa Impoundment, Grant County (record #2019-035, vote 7–0). Adult.

- Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) [Casual], 20 April 2019, various locations on Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2019-



Laughing Gull, 13 June 2019, Wells, Faribault County. Photo by William C. Marengo.



Brambling, 28 January 2019, Winona County. Photo by Don Markey.

007, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

- King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) [Casual], 2-21 January 2019, Duluth, mouth of Lester River, St. Louis County (record #2019-001, vote 7-0). First-year male, photographed.

- Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) [Accidental], 1 October 1972, Girard Lake, Hennepin County (record #1972-001, initial vote 8-2, recirculated vote 10-0). Adult. Potential first state record; however, there are still two pre-MOURC purported observations/specimens yet to be evaluated (14 May 1962, Long Meadow Lake, Hennepin County and a specimen donated in 1914 to an Albany, New York museum labeled from Parker's Prairie, Otter Tail County).

- Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) [Accidental], 3 November 2015, near the easternmost tip of Bear Island in the St. Louis River, southeast of New Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2015-048, vote 7-0). Specimen, immature found dead in a muskrat trap, photographed. The specimen currently resides at the Cable Natural History Museum, Cable Wisconsin (*The Loon* 91:82-83).

- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) [Casual], 29 April - 4 May 2019, approximately one-quarter mile north of the intersection of 320th Avenue and County Road 8, Verona Township, Faribault County (record #2019-009, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

- Black-necked Stilt, 3 May 2019, the south shore of Lake Byllesby, Goodhue County (record #2019-010, vote 7-0). Adult. First county record.

- Black-necked Stilt, 16 May 2019, St. Martin's Wastewater Treatment Plant, Stearns County (record #2019-018, vote 7-0). Adult.

- Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) [Casual], 9-16 June 2019, Wells Wastewater Treatment Plant, Faribault County (record #2019-032, vote 7-0). First-cycle, photographed. First county record.

- Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) [Casual], 9 June 2019, near Roseau County line, Lake of the Woods County (record #2019-033, vote 7-0). Same bird reported in Roseau County. Adult, photographed. First county record for Lake of the Woods and Roseau counties.

- Least Tern, 12 June 2018, Cannon Lake, Rice County (record #2018-056, initial vote 2-5, reconsidered vote 7-0). Apparent first-cycle alternate in "portlandica" plumage. First county record.

- Frigate frigatebird (*Fregata* sp.), 21 August 2016, flying over a private residence in Mounds View, Ramsey County (record #2016-049, vote 7-0). Adult male. Not accepted as Magnificent Frigatebird, but remains accepted as Frigate frigatebird (See *The Loon* 89:4).

- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) [Casual], 6 June 2019, near the intersection of Rice Lake Road and Martin Road just north of Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2019-031, vote 7-0). Adult.

- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) [Casual], 2-6 June 2019, Gordon Anderson Recreation Area, Richard J. Dorer State Memorial Hardwood Forest, Houston County (record #2019-



Bullock's Oriole, 10 May 2019, Sleepy Eye, Brown County. Photo by Mike Oetken.



Worm-eating Warbler, 4 May 2018, Wayzata, Hennepin County. Photo by Susan Hartley.

030, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

- Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) [Accidental], 21 September 2017, private residence, Isanti County (record #2017-051, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) [Casual], 18-25 January 2019, private residence in Dassel, Meeker County (record #2019-002, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 21 February 2019, Baudette Township, Lake of the Woods County (record #2019-005, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 11-14 April 2019, private residence, Dakota County (record #2019-006, both birds accepted, 7-0). Two adults photographed together at a feeder. This species had occurred previously at this same residence in 2014 and lingered into 2015 (*The Loon* 87:7).

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 4 May 2019, Cascade Meadows, Olmsted County (record #2019-012, vote 7-0). Adult. First county record.

- Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) [Accidental], Briefly seen 1 January, then regularly 26 January through mid-February, followed by sporadic reports through 4 April 2019, County Road 34, Calloway, Becker County (record #2019-003, vote 7-0). Adult. First county record.

- Brambling, 28 January 2019, Winona County (record #2019-004, vote 7-0). Apparent adult female, photographed. First county record.

- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) [Casual], 6 June 2016, private residence, Wilkin County (record #2016-054, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

- Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) [Accidental], 10-14 May 2019, various locations in residential Sleepy Eye, Brown County (record #2019-014, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. First county and third state record (*The Loon* 91:130-131).

- Bullock's Oriole, 18-20 May 2019, private residence, Willmar, Kandiyohi County (record #2019-021, vote 7-0). First year male, photographed. First county and fourth state record.

- Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmintheros vermivorum*) [Casual], 4 May 2018, Wood-Rill SNA, Hennepin County (record #2018-058, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

- Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) [Accidental], 25 May 2019, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2019-027, vote 7-0). First county and third state record. All records are from the spring season. Most recent previous record was in 1944.

- Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) [Casual], 4-13 May 2019, Whitewater State park, Winona County (record #2019-011, vote 7-0). Adult (sex undetermined), photographed.

- Yellow-throated Warbler, 16 May 2019, west end of Upper Lake, Crosby Farm Regional Park, Ramsey County (record #2019-017, vote 7-0). Adult male.

- Yellow-throated Warbler, 20 May 2019, private residence, East Second Street, Duluth,

St. Louis County (record #2019-022, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed.

- Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*) [Casual], 31 May – 29 June 2019, Gordon Anderson Recreation Area, Richard J. Dorer State Memorial Hardwood Forest, Houston County (record #2019-029, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

- Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) [Accidental], 5 May 2019, Scharr's Bluff, Spring Lake Park Reserve, Dakota County (record #2019-013, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) [Casual], 18–20 May 2019, private residence in rural Dassel, Meeker County (record #2019-020, vote 7–0). First year male, photographed.

- Lazuli Bunting, 21–25 May 2019, private residence, Hennepin County (record #2019-024, vote 7–0). First year male, photographed.

- Lazuli Bunting, 23–25 May 2019, private residence in New Prague, Le Sueur County (record #2019-026, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

- Lazuli Bunting, 26 May 2019, private residence, Pipestone, Pipestone County (record #2019-028, vote 7–0). First year male, photographed.

- Lazuli Bunting, 26–28 May 2019, private residence, Edgerton, Rock County (record #2019-036, vote 7–0). First year male, photographed.

- Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) [Casual], 13 May 2019, private residence in the vicinity of the intersection of State Highway 68 and County Road 24, Blue Earth County (record #2019-015, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

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 Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (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).

- Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) [Casual], 18 August 2018, Freeborn Lake, Freeborn County (record #2018-034, initial vote 3–4, recirculated vote 0–7). Most members felt there was not enough detail to eliminate Semipalmated Sandpiper.

- Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) [Accidental], 18 June 2019, Aitkin County (record #2019-034, vote 1–6). Details were insufficient to eliminate other similar species.

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: Brent Ankeny, Dave Bartkey, Dedrick Benz, Frank Berdan, Zack Blankenheim, David Blazevic, Tom Boevers, Steve Broste, Paul E. Budde, Philip C. Chu, Laurie P. Clemens, Ken Dequaine, Kim R. Eckert, Jeffrey Eddy, Kimberly Emerson, Becca Engdahl, Karol Gresser, Dan and Pam Guynn, Liz Harper, Susan Hartley, Michael Henry, Anthony X. Hertzell, John W. Hockema, Gerald Hoekstra, Ezra Hosch, Brad Nelson II, Paul E. Jantscher, Don O. Kienholz, Douglas W. Kieser, Jan and Larry Kraemer, Sharon Lee, Craig R. Mandel, William C. Marengo, Don Markey, Nolan Meyer, Alex Miller, Todd Mitchell, Jeff Reed, John Richardson, Andrew D. Smith, Brian T. Smith, Linda Sparling, Jeff J. Stephenson, Peder H. Svingen, Dale Trexel, Thomas A. Tustison, Cynthia Van Den Broeke, 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: 39 records voted on — 37 Accepted, 2 not Accepted.

—Edina, MN.