

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 via internet video conference on 5 December 2021. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Dedrick A. Benz, Rebecca R. Engdahl (alternate), Anthony X. Hertzell, Ann E. Kessen, Douglas W. Kieser, William C. Marengo, Andrew D. Smith, Steven P. Stucker (alternate), Howard C. Towle (alternate), and Thomas A. Tustison (chair). Subsequent to the meeting, the following records were voted on and were Accepted:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) [Accidental], 2 May 2022, Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Hennepin County (record #2022-015, vote 7-0). Five adults, photographed.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 14-15 May 2022, Old Mill Park, Minnesota Lake, Faribault County (record #2022-034, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) [Casual], 17-21 April 2022, county road 7 approximately 0.4 mile north of county road 30, Bellingham, Lac qui Parle County (record #2022-007, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Black-necked Stilt, 23 April 2022, northeast of the intersection of county road 7 and 410 Street, Southbrook Township, Cottonwood County (record #2022-008, vote 7-0). Four adults, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 1-3 May 2022, Osakis sewage ponds, Douglas County (record #2022-023, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Black-necked Stilt, 6 May 2022, North Ottawa Impoundment, Grant County (record #2022-028, vote 7-0). Adult female, video recorded.

Black-necked Stilt, 7-8 May 2022, Nicollet wastewater treatment plant, Nicollet County (record #2022-022, vote 7-0). Two adults, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 7-8 May 2022, Edgerton wastewater treatment plant, Pipestone County (record #2022-024, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Black-necked Stilt, 12 May 2022, Weaver, Wabasha County (record #2022-038, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Black-necked Stilt, 24 May 2022, Pipestone wastewater treatment plant, Pipestone County (record #2022-049, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 25 May 2022, near the intersection of U.S. Highways 12 and 75, Ortonville, Big Stone County (record #2022-046, vote 7-0). Two adults, photographed.

Black-necked Stilt, 27 May 2022, Quine Avenue between 300th and 310th streets, Bigelow Township, Nobles County (record #2022-051, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [Casual], 19 May 2015, Old Cedar Avenue Bridge, Bloomington, Hennepin County (record #2015-049, vote 7-0). Adult.

Red Knot, 26-27 May 2018, Naniboujou Lodge beach, Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2018-069, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

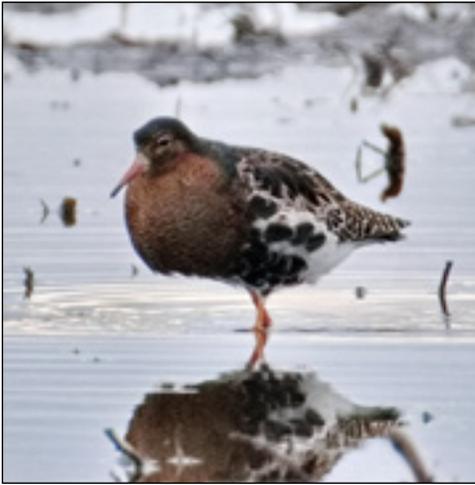
Red Knot, 27 May 2021, Knife River Marina, Lake County (record #2021-096, vote 7-0). Two adults, photographed.

Red Knot, 23 May 2022, junction of state highway 310 and 340th Avenue, Jadis Township, Roseau County (record #2022-047, vote 6-1). Adult, photographed.

Red Knot, 23-30 May 2022, Park Point near Sky Harbor Airport, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2022-048, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Red Knot, 25-28 May 2022, East Valley Township west of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County (record #2022-050, vote 7-0). Two adults, photographed.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) [Casual], 2-3 May 2022, southeast quadrant of intersection of county roads 70 and 23, Rock Creek, Pine



Ruff, 2 May 2022, Rock Creek, Pine County. Photo by Thomas Burns.



Ivory Gull, 8 January 2022, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.

County (record #2022-016, vote 7-0). Alternate-plumaged adult male, photographed. First county record.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) [Casual], 27 April 2022, 180th Street Marsh, Vermillion Township, Dakota County (record #2022-013, vote 5-2). Adult, photographed. Interestingly, this bird was initially identified with the aid of the eBird Merlin App. It may have otherwise been overlooked. Fourth county and 11th state record.

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) [Accidental], 3-12 January 2022, Canal Park, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2022-001, vote 7-0). Immature, photographed. Thirteenth state record.

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) [Casual], 8 August 2021, Tuttle Lake, Tenhassen Township, Martin County (record #2021-095, vote 7-0). Adult. First county record.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) [Casual], 28-29 April 2022, near Ada sewage ponds, Norman County (record #2022-014, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Glossy Ibis, 7 May 2022, Geneva Lake, Freeborn County (record #2022-037, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) [Casual], 11 March - 25 April 2020, Houston, Houston County (record #2020-100, vote 7-0). Audio recorded.

Barn Owl, 19 September - 13 October 2020, Houston, Houston County (record #2020-099, vote 7-0). Two calling birds; audio re-

corded.

Barn Owl, 18 January 2022, Houston County (record #2022-002, vote 7-0). Photographed. The caretaker of the shed where this owl was photographed stated that the bird had been present since the summer of 2021 (**The Loon** 93:53-54).

Barn Owl, 6 May 2022, Winona County (record #2022-025, vote 7-0). Photographed (infrared trail cam capture after dark).

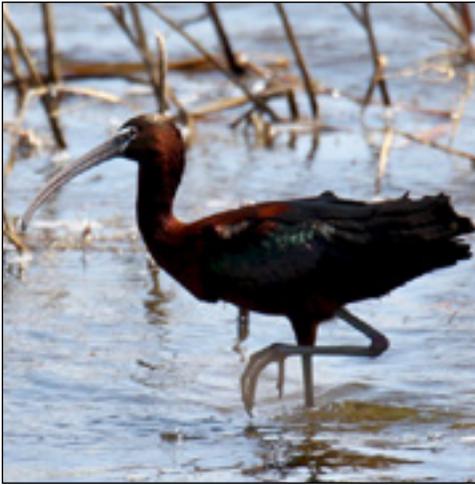
Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) [Casual], 4 May 2022, county road 15 about 0.3 mile south of 660th Street, Canisteo Township, Dodge County (record #2022-017, vote 6-1). First county and eighth state record.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) [Casual], 11-12 April 2015, along Sleepy Hollow Road 0.5 mile east of county road 21, St. Mathias Township, Crow Wing County (record #2015-050, vote 7-0). Adult female, photographed. First county record.

Mountain Bluebird, 12-16 March 2016, Spring Lake Park Reserve, Schaar's Bluff unit, Nininger Township, Dakota County (record #2016-055, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

Mountain Bluebird, 17 April 2022, east of Madison Lake, Le Ray Township, Blue Earth County (record #2022-005, vote 7-0). Adult female, photographed.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) [Casual], 7-20 January 2021, rural Hartland, Freeborn County (record #2021-097, vote 7-0).



Glossy Ibis, 7 May 2022, Geneva Lake, Freeborn County. Photo by Paul E. Jantscher.



Bullock's Oriole, 9 May 2022, Waite Park, Stearns County. Photo by Demelza Larson.

Adult, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 3–4 January 2022, private residence along Township Road 197 about one mile south of county road 19, Birch Cooley Township, Renville County (record #2022-070, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 20 January – 25 May 2022, private residence, Ravenna Township, Dakota County (record #2022-064, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. The last date seen is approximate.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 21 March 2022, Deep River Road near the intersection of Root River State Trail, Holt Township, Fillmore County (record #2022-003, vote 7–0). Five adults, photographed.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 30–31 March 2022, private residence, 29th Street Southwest, Austin, Mower County (record #2022-004, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 19 April – 13 May 2022, Sakatah State Park bridge at The Narrows, Rice County (record #2022-006, vote 7–0). Two adults, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 25–28 April 2022, private residence, Rushford, Fillmore County (record #2022-010, vote 7–0). Three adults, photographed.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 9 May 2022, private residence, Bath Township, Freeborn County (record #2022-053, vote 7–0). Adult,

photographed.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 12 May 2022, Faribault, Rice County (record #2022-054, vote 7–0). Two adults, photographed.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) [Accidental], 9–10 May 2022, Sunwood Park Drive at 2nd Avenue South, Waite Park, Stearns County (record #2022-031, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

Bullock's Oriole, 22 May 2022, private residence, Bigfork, Itasca County (record #2022-041, vote 7–0). First-year male, photographed. Second county and eighth state record. It's notable that six of the eight state records have occurred since 10 May 2019.

Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*) [Casual], 25 May 2015, Veterans Memorial Park, Richfield, Hennepin County (record #2015-051, vote 5–2). Video recorded.

Kentucky Warbler, 31 May – 8 June 2018, about three miles west of New Ulm along KC Road in Milford Township, Brown County (record #2018-070, vote 7–0). Audio recorded. First county record.

Kentucky Warbler, 8 May 2022, Mendota Heights, Dakota County (record #2022-021, vote 7–0). Adult male.

Kentucky Warbler, 9 May 2022, Hidden Valley Park, Savage, Scott County (record #2022-020, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

Kentucky Warbler, 14–16 May 2022, Afton State Park, Washington County (record #2022-



Black-headed Grosbeak, 9 May 2022, Coon Rapids, Anoka County. Photo by Ron Refsnider.



Painted Bunting, 24 April 2022, St. Charles, Winona County. Photo by Luke Hollander.

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

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) [Casual], 21 June 2021, Hillside Road, Reno, Houston County (record #2021-098, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

Yellow-throated Warbler, 24 April 2022, Rice Lake State Park, Steele County (record #2022-012, vote 5-2). First county record.

Yellow-throated Warbler, 9-17 May 2022 Frontenac State Park, Goodhue County (record #2022-027, vote 7-0).

Yellow-throated Warbler, 10-11 May 2022, south of Agate Lake, Cass County (record #2022-029, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Yellow-throated Warbler, 12 May 2022, north of Vadnais Lake, Ramsey County (record #2022-042, vote 6-1).

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) [Casual], 9 May 2022, private residence, Coon Rapids near Mississippi River, Anoka County (record #2022-026, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) [Casual], 9 May 2022, near the Crow River just north of Thomas Trail, Hassan Township, Hennepin County (record #2022-030, vote 6-1).

Lazuli Bunting, 13 May 2022, Cottonwood, Lyon County (record #2022-039, vote 7-0). Apparent first-spring male, photographed.

Lazuli Bunting, 14-15 May 2022, private residence, Underwood, Otter Tail County (re-

cord #2022-044, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

Lazuli Bunting, 20-22 May 2022, private residence, north shore of Kabekona Lake, Hubbard County (record #2022-040, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) [Casual], 24-25 April 2022, private residence, St. Charles, Winona County (record #2022-009, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. 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.)

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) [Accidental], 15 October 1983, south of Montevideo, Yellow Medicine County (record #1983-001, vote 0-7). The sighting was submitted 38 years after the observation. While this is not necessarily fatal to the record, there was

no supporting documentation such as contemporaneous field notes or sketches. Details are lacking for such an important observation and memory is attenuated after such a long interval. Unfortunately, the Committee could not accept the record.

Western Sandpiper, 21–22 May 2022, east of Belle Plaine, Scott County (record #2022-043, vote 1–6). Although accompanied by photographs, several members felt that the documentation did not adequately eliminate other similar species especially Semipalmated Sandpiper.

Least Tern, 28 May 2022, Edgerton wastewater treatment plant, Pipestone County (record #2022-058, vote 2–5). While the described flight characteristics were suggestive of this species, overall details were insufficient.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) [Accidental], 21 April 2022, Odessa Overlook, Big Stone County (record #2022-018, vote 0–7). Many details that would help support the identification were lacking. Certain details that were provided are inconsistent with Brewer's Sparrow such as the unstreaked back.

Bullock's Oriole, 23 May 2022, private residence, Marshall, Lyon County (record #2022-045, vote 1–6). The observer, who has little experience with this species, mentions that there are field notes, but neglected to include them with the report. The observer is apparently describing a female which is a difficult task given the variability of the similar Baltimore Oriole. There are inconsistencies in what is described when compared to standard references. For example, the observer states "Below the nape down the central back, however, was more patterned medium gray and light brown-gray, rather than solid olive." This statement would appear to be indicative of a female Baltimore rather than a Bullock's.

Yellow-throated Warbler, 13 May 2022, northwest side of Schulze Lake, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota County (record #2022-036, vote 0–7). The description was generally too vague to agree that the identification was correct. For instance, the described "Black and some White eye mask" is vague and contains no information about the location of these colors, the size or extent of the mask, or the ratio of black to white. Finally, the observer, who only viewed it briefly through a camera lens while attempting to photograph the bird, lacks experience with the species.

Yellow-throated Warbler, 28 May 2022, Bluefin Bay, Tofte, Cook County (record #2022-067, vote 2–5). Most members felt that a Blackburnian Warbler could not be 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, Brent Ankeny, Kevin Ash, Heidi A. Balgaard, Susan E. Barnes, Allen E. Batt, Cole Bauer, Lon Baumgardt, Dedrick Benz, Karla A. Bloem, Conny M. Brunell, Thomas Burns, Philip C. Chu, Jeremy Cushman, Jack DeMarais, Steve Dietz, Stephen Dinsmore, Lois Van Dyke, Vayla Van Dyke, Larry Kopischke, Kim R. Eckert, Kimberly A. Emerson, Frank Fabbro, Bruce A. Fall, Koni Fank, Wayne Feder, Roger Field, Andy Forbes, Michele Frisch, Dave Gross, Liz Harper, David Harrington, Natalie Heer, Bonnie Heinecke, Nancy Henke, Anthony X. Hertzler, Edward Hicks, John W. Hockema, Luke Hollander, David Holmen, Ezra Hosch, Paul E. Jantscher, Ted Keyel, Jan Kraemer, Larry Kraemer, Demelza Larson, Brandon Lentz, Janet Malotky, Josh Manske, Douglas Mayo, Nolan Meyer, Todd Mitchell, David F. Neitzel, Donald Nelson, Lori Payne, Mike Peppersack, Paula Perdoni, Joshua Pierce, Douglas L. Pierzina, Addie Putman, Jeff Reed, Ronald L. Refsnider, John Richardson, Roger J. Schroeder, Richard N. Smaby, Brian T. Smith, Linda Sparling, Peder H. Svingen, Amy Warzybok, Pete Warzybok, Joshua G. Watson, Trey Weaver, Garrett Wee, Steve Weston, 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: 66 records voted on — 59 Accepted, 7 Not Accepted.

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