

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 electronic media 19 November 2022. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Kimberly A. Emerson (alternate), Rebecca R. Engdahl (alternate), Anthony X. Hertzler, Ann E. Kessen, Douglas W. Kieser, Andrew D. Smith, Steven P. Stucker, Howard C. Towle (alternate), and Thomas A. Tustison (Chair).

The following records were voted on at, or subsequent to, the meeting and were Accepted (Note: in general, dates given for each record represent the first and last dates of observation; some records may not have been documented on each intervening date):

- **Eurasian Wigeon** (*Mareca penelope*) [Casual], 10 April 2023, George Watch Lake, Peltier Channel, near Lino Lakes, Anoka County (record #2023-005, vote 5–2). Adult male. Dissenting members mentioned that lack of significant details was the main reason not to accept. Concern was also expressed not only with this record, but others as well, that simply submitting an eBird report is one of the root causes of non-acceptance because much of the important information in the Request for Documentation (RQD) form is missing. For example, the distance from the bird could make a huge difference when evaluating a record.

- **Eurasian Wigeon**, 18 April – 1 May 2023, near the intersection of Kent Avenue and 80th Street West, west of Lonsdale, Rice County (record #2023-008, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

- **Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*) [Accidental], 12 May 2023, Park Point Recreation Area, near the Sailing Club, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2023-044, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed. Fourth state record.

- **Band-tailed Pigeon** (*Patagioenas fasciata*) [Accidental], 6 February 2023, private residence, Winona, Winona County (record

#2023-001, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. First county and twelfth state record.

- **Chuck-will's-widow** (*Antrostomus carolinensis*) [Accidental], 30 May 2023, private residence, Baihly Estates Lane Southwest, Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2023-065, vote 7–0). Audio recorded. First county and sixth state record. First spring record; all others were summer records. The last previous record was in 1984 (*The Loon* 56:200).

- **Limpkin** (*Aramus guarauna*) [Accidental], 6–8 August 2022, Lake George, Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2022-084, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. First seen at Lake George then it was seen two days later about 0.7 miles to the northeast near the Apache Mall. First county and second state record.

- **Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*) [Casual] 23 April – 8 May 2023, county road 26 south of 320th street, Geneva Lake near Geneva, Freeborn County (record #2023-012, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. As many as three birds were reported but only one was documented.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 23 April 2023, near the intersection of Houston County roads 21 and 16, north of Hokah, (record #2023-011, vote 7–0). First county record.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 27–29 April 2023, near the intersection of county road 37 Northwest and Minnesota State Highway 55, west of Maple Lake, Wright County (record #2023-023, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 7 May 2023, Lac qui Parle Lake, Swift County (record #2023-036, vote 7–0). Adult female, photographed.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 7–13 May 2023, flooded area near Wabasha County Road 24 about 0.6 miles west of county road 76 where the backwater/channel of Robinson Lake crosses the road, Wabasha County (record #2023-035, vote 7–0). Ten birds were accepted with some photographed.



Limpkin, 6 August 2022, Lake George, Rochester, Olmsted County. Photo by David Jorgenson.



Ross's Gull, 31 May 2023, Lake Superior, St. Louis County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen.

• **Black-necked Stilt**, 8 May 2023, the intersection of Carver County Road 32 and Tacoma Avenue, Carver County (record #2023-039, vote 7-0). Pair of adults, photographed.

• **Black-necked Stilt**, 8 May 2023, southeast quadrant of the intersection of Minnesota State Highway 30 and county road 16, Watonwan County (record #2023-040, vote 6-1). Two adults.

• **Black-necked Stilt**, 8 May 2023, 115th Avenue about one mile south of state highway 95, Greenbush Township, Mille Lacs County (record #2023-037, vote 5-2). Two adults. First county record.

• **Black-necked Stilt**, 11 May 2023, wetland just north of Interstate 94 about halfway between Keats Avenue North and Lake Elmo Avenue North, Washington County (record #2023-042, vote 7-0). Adult photographed.

• **Black-necked Stilt**, 15 May 2023, near Wilmont, Bloom Township, Nobles County (record #2023-048, vote 7-0). Adult female, photographed.

• **Black-necked Stilt**, 16 May 2023, near the town of Nicollet just north of Mud Lake and county road 99, Nicollet County (record #2023-050, vote 7-0). Pair of adults, photographed.

• **Black-necked Stilt**, 21-22 May 2023, just southwest of the intersection of county road 8 and 120th Street, Brown County (record #2023-058, vote 7-0). Pair of adults, photographed.

• **Black-necked Stilt**, 22-31 May 2023, on county road 18 roughly 0.5 miles east of county road 8 just north of Wood Lake WMA, Brown County (record #2023-060, vote 7-0).

Two adults photographed and were possibly the same birds as the previous record, being only 1.3 miles apart.

• **Red Knot** (*Calidris canutus*) [Casual], 20-24 May 2023, beach by Sky Harbor Airport, Minnesota Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2023-055, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

• **Red Knot**, 25-27 May 2023, just north of 130th Street about 0.4 miles west of Kale Avenue between Biscay and Glencoe, McLeod County (record #2023-062, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

• **Ruff** (*Calidris pugnax*) [Casual], 12-13 May 2023, Albany sewage ponds, Albany Township, Stearns County (record #2023-045, vote 7-0). Reeve, photographed.

• **Black-legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*) [Casual], 16 December 2022, Lake Pepin, Wabasha County (record #2022-100, vote 7-0). Juvenile/first cycle, photographed.

• **Ross's Gull** (*Rhodostethia rosea*) [Accidental], 31 May 2023, Lake Superior, (viewed from Wisconsin Point), St. Louis County (record #2023-067, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record and fifth state record.

• **California Gull** (*Larus californicus*) [Casual], 24 April 2023, flooded field just south of 40th Avenue South about 0.4 miles west of the Clay County Landfill, Clay County (record #2023-014, vote 5-2). First cycle, photographed.

• **Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) [Casual], 25 May 2023, 31st Street South, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2023-063, vote 7-0). Adult.



Burrowing Owl, 23 April 2023, Mulligan Township, Brown County. Photo by Brian T. Smith.



Swallow-tailed Kite, 20 August 2022, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Frank Nicoletti.

• **Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*) [Accidental], 3 December 2022, Bde Maka Ska, Minneapolis, Hennepin County (record #2022-097, vote 7-0). Apparent adult, photographed. First county and seventh state record.

• **Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) [Casual], 23 April 2023, Woodstock WMA, Pipestone County (record #2023-013, vote 5-2). Apparent adults, photographed. Three birds were reported, but only two were accepted. First county record.

• **Glossy Ibis**, 23-29 April 2023, Lyon County (record #2023-019, vote 5-2). Also seen in Yellow Medicine County. Adult, photographed.

• **Glossy Ibis**, 1 May 2023, 191st Street about 0.5 miles east of 140th Avenue, Lake Sarah Township, Murray County (record #2023-031, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

• **Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*) [Casual], 22 May 2023, Forestville State Park, Fillmore County (record #2023-059, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record and eleventh state record.

• **Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*) [Accidental], 20 August 2022, Hawk Ridge Nature Preserve, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2022-126, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

• **Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) [Casual], 17 May 2023, Riverside Cemetery, Breckenridge, Wilkin County (record #2023-052, vote 7-0). Adult. First county record.

• **Mississippi Kite**, 18 May 2023, adja-

cent to Chippewa County Park #1, Chippewa County (record #2023-054, vote 6-1). Adult. First county record.

• **Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*) [Casual], 5 May 2023, state highway 26 and county road 16 intersection, Houston County (record #2023-032, vote 7-0). Specimen, photographed.

• **Burrowing Owl** (*Athene cunicularia*) [Casual], 23 April 2023, 330th Avenue about one mile south of county road 20, Mulligan Township, Brown County (record #2023-018, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

• **Burrowing Owl**, 24-30 April 2023, 210th Street about 0.4 miles east of 450th Avenue, northwest of Delavan, Faribault County (record #2023-021, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

• **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) [Casual], 28-29 May 2023, Grey Cloud Dunes SNA, Washington County (record #2023-064, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

• **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, 30 May 2023, state highway 64, just south of 112th Street, Cass County (record #2023-066, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

• **White-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo griseus*) [Casual], 8 May - 13 July 2022, northwest of Whalan along the Root River State Trail, Fillmore County (record #2022-074, vote 6-1). Singing adult, audio-recorded.

• **White-eyed Vireo**, 15 May 2023, Minnesota, the southeast quadrant of the intersection of Lincoln County Road 114 and an unnamed road that runs parallel to, and one mile north of, Minnesota State Highway 19, northeast of



Worm-eating Warbler, 2 May 2023, Bass Ponds, Bloomington, Hennepin County. Photo by Trey Weaver.

Ivanhoe, Lincoln County (record #2023-049, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **White-eyed Vireo**, 18–20 May 2023, Mound Creek Trail, Blue Mounds State Park, Rock County (record #2023-056, vote 7-0).

- **Rock Wren** (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) [Accidental], 13 April 2023, private residence about 1.0 miles northwest of Herman, Grant County (record #2023-006, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **Curve-billed Thrasher** (*Toxostoma curvirostre*) [Accidental], 19–22 April 2023, private residence, 490th Street, Correll, Big Stone County (record #2023-009, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **Sage Thrasher** (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) [Accidental], 13 May 2022, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne County (record #2022-127, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*) [Casual], 1 May 2022, on the north side of 270th Street Southwest, 1.6 miles west of Minnesota State Highway 32, Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County (record #2022-125, vote 5-2). Female.

- **Mountain Bluebird**, 28 April 2023, southeast of Downer in the southwest quadrant of the intersection of county road 71 and 110 Avenue South, Clay County (record #2023-024, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

- **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, (*Passer montanus*) [Casual], 31 December 2022, northeast quadrant county road 89 and Hogan Avenue,

Dakota County (record #2022-102, vote 5-2). Adult.

- **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, 30 March 2023, unspecified location, Wabasha County (record #2023-004, vote 7-0). Three adults, photographed. First county record.

- **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, 13 April 2023, northeast corner of the intersection of Wilkin Avenue and Maple Street, Breckenridge, Wilkin County (record #2023-007, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, 17–23 April 2023, private residence, near the southeast quadrant of the intersection of 670th Street and 305th Avenue, Lake City, Wabasha County (record #2023-010, vote 7-0). Three adults reported, but only one photographed and Accepted.

- **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, 27 April 2023, Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2023-022, vote 7-0). Two adults, photographed.

- **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, 29 April 2023, private residence, Tindolph Avenue North, Thief River Falls, Pennington County (record #2023-027, vote 6-1). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, 30 April 2023, private residence, East Madison Street, Ely, St. Louis County (record #2023-029, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

- **Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*) [Accidental], 23–25 April 2023, near the intersection of Big Pine Road and Big Pine Cutoff, about six miles west of Finlayson, Pine County (record #2023-017, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record and tenth state record.

- **Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) [Casual], 21 May 2023, 50th Avenue East, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2023-057, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

- **Worm-eating Warbler** (*Helminthos vermivorum*) [Casual], 1–3 May 2023, Bass Ponds, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington, Hennepin County (record #2023-030, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

- **Swainson's Warbler** (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*) [Accidental], 29 April – 2 May 2023, Arden Park, Edina, Hennepin County (record #2023-026, vote 10-0). Adult, photographed. First county and first state record. Amazingly, it stayed in the same location for four straight days possibly making it one of the most pho-

tographed observations ever of this species.

• **Kentucky Warbler** (*Geothlypis formosa*) [Casual], 8–10 May 2023, Wood Lake Nature Center, Richfield, Hennepin County (record #2023-038, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed and audio-recorded.

• **Kentucky Warbler**, 13–14 May 2023, private residence, Edina, Hennepin County (record #2023-046, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

• **Kentucky Warbler**, 15 May 2023, T.S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary, Minneapolis, Hennepin County (record #2023-084, vote 7–0). Adult male.

• **Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Setophaga dominica*) [Casual], 22 April – 17 May 2023, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Dakota County (record #2023-015, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed and audio-recorded.

• **Yellow-throated Warbler**, 24 April – 27 May 2023, Hillside Road, near Reno, Houston County (record #2023-020, vote 7–0). Presumed singing male.

• **Prairie Warbler** (*Setophaga discolor*) [Casual], 17–19 May 2023, Silverwood Park, St. Anthony, Ramsey County (record #2023-051, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed. First county record (*The Loon* 95:50–51).

• **Hermit Warbler** (*Setophaga occidentalis*) [Accidental], 6 May 2023, Park Point Recreation Area, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2023-033, vote 7–0). Single bird of indeterminate sex. First county record and third state record. Previous records were a male specimen taken near Cambridge, Isanti County 1931 (*The Auk* 48:435) and Yellow Bank River, Lac qui Parle County 1983 (*The Loon* 80:118). With reference to the 1931 specimen, T.S. Roberts (Roberts, T.S. (1932) *The Birds of Minnesota*: Vol. 2 pp. 226–227) states that “this is a most exceptional occurrence, for there appear to be no other records east of the Rocky Mountains.”

• **Hermit Warbler**, 9 May 2023, unspecified location, Roseville, Ramsey County (record #2023-041, vote 6–1). Single bird of indeterminate sex. First county record and fourth state record. All four state records were in May. It is interesting to note that it was 40 years after the second record in 1983 that two new records occurred nearly simultaneously (only three days apart) in the spring of 2023.

• **Lazuli Bunting** (*Passerina amoena*) [Casual], 11 May 2023, Sucker Lake, Ramsey

County (record #2023-043, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed.

• **Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) [Casual], 7–9 May 2023, Red Jacket Trail, Rasmussen Woods, Mankato, Blue Earth County (record #2023-034, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed. Second 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-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*) [Casual], 28 April 2023, state highway 22, about a mile southeast of Biscay, McLeod County (record #2023-025, vote 0–7). While the identification may possibly be correct, the description does not meet minimum standards for a Casual species.

• **Pacific Golden-Plover** (*Pulvialis fulva*) [Accidental], 26 May 2022, Tacoma Avenue Fields, Carver (record #2022-065, vote 0–10). A potential first state record must meet a high bar for acceptance. While the observer should be complemented for submitting the record, the photographic evidence is not adequate for the Committee to definitively conclude that the identification was correct. An outside expert was consulted who agreed.

• **Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) [Casual], 29 April 2023, northwest quadrant of the intersection of state highway 40 and county road 5, east of Marietta, Lac qui Parle County (record #2023-028, vote 2–5). Many members felt that the documentation was too casual regarding the facial features to eliminate an immature White-faced Ibis or even a possible hybrid ibis.

• **Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) [Casual], 24 May 2023, fields behind Saint Peter High School, Nicollet County (record #2023-061, vote 0–7). The Committee unanimously agreed the brief observation in low light by a

birder inexperienced with the species did not provide enough information for acceptance.

• **Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) [Casual], 7 May 2022, near the state highway 99 bridge at the east end of Lake Sakatah, Rice County (record #2022-019, original vote 4–3, recirculated vote 1–6). The report lacks details surrounding the circumstances of the brief observation that would have been helpful for the Committee to evaluate the record, such as the amount of time and distance while perched versus in flight. Additionally, some of the written description of the bird is inconsistent with Black-headed Grosbeak.

A correction: a Lark Bunting record from Wilkin County from 6 June 2016 was originally assigned MOURC record number #2016-051, evaluated by the Committee, and Accepted 7–0. When published, however, it was erroneously listed as #2016-054 (*The Loon* 91:91). Record #2016-054 already had been assigned to a Least Tern documented in Big Stone County for 19 July 2016. This record was also voted on and Accepted 7–0, but never published. To correct this, on page 91 in the fall 2019 issue of *The Loon*, please change the record number for Lark Bunting from #2016-054 to #2016-051. And in the *Proceedings* report from spring 2019 (*The Loon* 91:3–5), please add the following: Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) [Accidental], 19 July 2016, west of Graceville in Toqua Township, Big Stone County (record #2016-054, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. First county and twenty-third state record.

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: Pam Albin, Maria Bauman, Lon Baumgardt, Dedrick Benz, Matthew Berg, Karla A. Bloem, Julie Brophy, Steve Broste, Kathy Carroll, Philip C. Chu, Anne Conway, Jeremy Cushman, Herb H. Dingmann, Jody Doll, Ben Douglas, Carl Ebeling, Kim R. Eckert, Kimberly A. Emerson, Steve Emerson, Ronald A. Erpelding, Paul & Koni Fank, Wayne Feder, Cole Foster, John Frentz, Tom Gilde, Cory Gregory,



Least Tern, 19 July 2016, Toqua Township, Big Stone County. Photo by John P. Richardson.

Scott F. Gruwell, Charles Dennis Huber, Liz Harper, Chad Heins, Diana Hensley, Anthony X. Hertzler, Edward Hicks, Rachel Ann Hill-esheim, Henry Hinchcliffe, Carl Hoang, Luke Hollander, Ezra Hosch, Paul E. Jantscher, Tom Jones, David Jorgenson, Jessica Kainz, Darlene Kelley, Douglas W. Kieser, Valerie Klumper, Michael Kurtz, Tim Lamey, Justin Lehman, Tucker Lutter, Craig R. Mandel, William C. Marengo, Nolan Meyer, Jennifer Miller, Todd Mitchell, Yasushi Nakagawa, Frank Nicoletti, Mark Noble, Andrew Nyhus, Michael Oetken, Dan Orr, Wayne Ostlie, Paula Perdoni, Aaron Pietsch, Jerry Pruett, Tate Putman, Larry Sirvio, Andrew D. Smith, Brian T. Smith, Dalton Spencer, Dana Sterner, Tim Stuck, Peder H. Svingen, Michelle Terrell, Matthew Thompson, Howard Towle, Chad Unruh, Curt Vacek, Alexander R. Watson, Trey Weaver, Garrett Wee, Steve Weston, Jen Widmer, Dustin Wrolstad, Mathew Zappa, 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: 74 records voted on — 69 Accepted, 5 Not Accepted.

Edina, MN.