

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Bob Dunlap, Chair

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) completed its assessment of reports of Casual and Accidental species submitted from 1 December 2024 through 31 May 2025. The following records were voted on and 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):

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) [Casual], 5 May 2025, Hastings, Dakota and Washington counties (record #2025-020, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of three individuals.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) [Casual], 15-16 November 2024, Reno Bottoms, Houston County (record #2024-072, vote 6-1). Distant photos of a breeding-plumaged drake that most members felt were diagnostic and ruled out a hybrid.

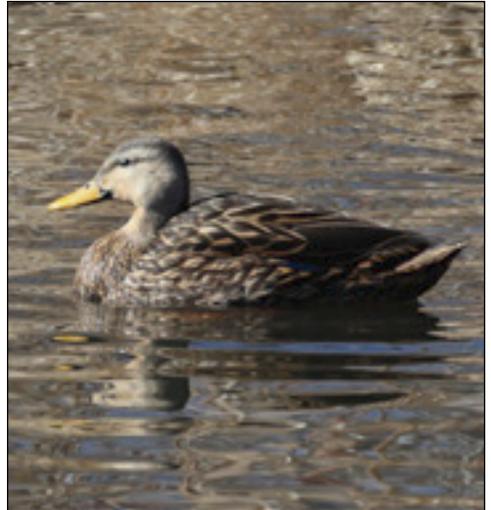
Eurasian Wigeon, 13-14 April 2025, Yaeger Lake WMA, Wadena County (record #2025-006, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a breeding-plumaged drake.

Eurasian Wigeon, 18 April - 3 May 2025, McDonald WPA, Clay County (record #2025-008, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a breeding-plumaged drake.

Eurasian Wigeon, 14 May 2025, south of Waskish, Beltrami County (record #2025-030, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a breeding-plumaged drake.

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) [Accidental], 11-31 January 2025, Multiple locations near the Minnesota River in Burnsville/Eagan, Dakota County (record #2025-002, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a drake that was seen copulating with a hen Mallard. Both photos and written documentation rule out a hybrid. Second state record.

Mottled Duck, 26 February - 3 March



Mottled Duck, 1 March 2025, Kipling Avenue Pond, Edina, Hennepin County. Photo by Darcy Pinotti.

2025, Multiple locations in Edina/Minneapolis, Hennepin County (record #2025-004, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a drake that was closely associating with a hen Mallard. Both photos and written documentation rule out a hybrid. Third state record, but possibly the same individual as in record #2025-002.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cyananthus latirostris*) [Accidental], 28 May 2025, McGregor, Aitkin County (record #2025-043, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a male. Second state record.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) [Casual], 8 May 2025, Clearwater River near 161st/140th St., Wright County (record #2025-022, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) [Accidental], 8 November 2013, Daubs Lake WMA, Redwood County (record #2013-076, vote 7-0). This record involves a bird fitted with a GPS transmitter that was recorded as using a stop-



Glossy Ibis, 5 May 2025, Frontenac, Goodhue County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertzfel.



Pygmy Nuthatch, 8 March 2025, St. Paul, Ramsey County. Photo by Anya Auerbach.

over site in Minnesota as it migrated south from Canada to Texas (Baasch, David M., Patrick D. Farrell, Aaron T. Pearse, David A. Brandt, Andrew J. Caven, Mary J. Harner, Greg D. Wright, and Kristine L. Metzger. 2019. Diurnal habitat selection of migrating Whooping Crane in the Great Plains. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 14(1):6).

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) [Casual], 2–3 May 2025, Lake Byllesby, Dakota County (record #2025-018, vote 7–0). Diagnostic photos.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) [Casual], 24 April 2025, Erskine WTP, Polk County (record #2025-012, vote 7–0). Diagnostic photos of an adult.

Little Gull, 29 April 2025, Saint Louis Bay, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2025-015, vote 7–0). Two well-described adults in breeding plumage among a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls.

Little Gull, 9 May 2025, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2025-039, vote 5–2). Although the bird was not seen in flight, enough members felt that the observers adequately noted all the visible and diagnostic field marks.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) [Casual], 22 April – 17 May 2025, Peterson WMA, Nobles

County (record #2025-011, vote 7–0). Diagnostic photos of two breeding-plumaged birds among a group of White-faced Ibis.

Glossy Ibis, 29 April – 14 May 2025, Big Stone NWR, Lac qui Parle County (record #2025-014, vote 7–0). Diagnostic photos of a breeding-plumaged bird among a group of White-faced Ibis.

Glossy Ibis, 2–10 May 2025, Frontenac, Goodhue County (record #2025-017, vote 7–0). Diagnostic photos of a breeding-plumaged bird among a group of White-faced Ibis.

Glossy Ibis, 12 May 2025, Getchell Lake, Stearns County (record #2025-026, vote 7–0). Diagnostic photos of a breeding-plumaged bird associating with a White-faced Ibis.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) [Casual], 22 May 2025, Alba Twp., Jackson County (record #2025-041, vote 7–0). Found deceased by a homeowner. Specimen to be delivered to the Bell Museum.

American Barn Owl (*Tyto furcata*) [Casual], 7 December 2024, Erhard, Otter Tail County (record #2024-063, vote 7–0). Specimen.

American Barn Owl, 13 March – 22 October 2024, Money Creek Twp., Houston County (record #2024-068, vote 7–0). Series of diagnostic vocalizations.

American Barn Owl, 26 February – 25



Mountain Bluebird, 25 April 2025, Boot Lake W.P.A., Jackson County. Photo by Luke Hollander.



Black-throated Gray Warbler, 18 April 2025, Moorhead, Clay County. Photo by Dennis P. Wiesenborn.

March 2025, Wiscoy Twp., Winona County (record #2025-040, vote 7-0). Series of diagnostic vocalizations.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) [Accidental], 5-6 May 2025, near Louisburg, Lac qui Parle County (record #2025-021, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) [Accidental], 12 October 2024, Old Cedar Ave. Bridge, Bloomington, Hennepin County (record #2024-048, original vote 4-3, recirculated vote 7-0). Although the photos show a bird partially obscured which caused some members to vote against the record initially, following discussion it was determined that enough key identifying features are visible. Fourth state record and the second in fall 2024.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, 12 November 2024, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2024-060, original vote 5-2, recirculated vote 6-1). Although the photos show a bird in difficult lighting which caused some members to vote against the record initially, following discussion most members felt that enough key identifying features are indeed visible. Fifth state record and the third in fall 2024.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) [Casual], 9 May 2025, Red Rock Rd., St.

Paul, Ramsey County (record #2025-023, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photo.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 13 May 2025, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2025-027, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos.

Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*) [Accidental], 8-15 March 2025, Como Regional Park, St. Paul, Ramsey County (record #2025-005, vote 7-0). Well-photographed and documented with written descriptions by many observers. Second state record (*The Loon* 97:1, 42-43).

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) [Casual], 10 June 2024, Touch the Sky Prairie Unit, Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR, Rock County (record #2024-028, vote 7-0). This record was erroneously omitted from the previous Proceedings article. Diagnostic photos.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) [Casual], 25 April 2025, 820th St. & 490th Ave. near Boot Lake W.P.A., Jackson County (record #2025-013, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a female.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) [Accidental], 5 October 2024, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2024-066, original vote 5-2, recirculated vote 7-0). Initially, some members had reservations about the single photo showing a bird very obscured by vegetation as well

as the observer's brief observation. Following discussion, it was determined that enough key identifying features are visible in the photo to rule out all other possible species.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) [Casual], 16 May 2025, McDonald WPA, Clay County (record #2025-032, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a breeding-plumaged male.

Lark Bunting, 21 May 2025, Pine Island Rd. north of Gates Corner, Koochiching County (record #2025-035, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a breeding-plumaged male.

Lark Bunting, 24 May 2025, Grand Portage WTP, Cook County (record #2025-042, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a breeding-plumaged male.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) [Casual], 2 May 2025, Forest Lake, Washington County (record #2025-019, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a male.

Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*) [Casual], 31 May 2025, Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Scott County (record #2025-038, vote 6-1). An adequate description was convincing to most members.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) [Casual], 18 April 2025, Moorhead, Clay County (record #2025-007, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a male.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) [Casual], 17-19 May 2025, near Bigfork, Itasca County (record #2025-034, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a male.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) [Casual], 24-29 June 2024, Gonvick, Clearwater County (record #2024-030, vote 7-0). This record was erroneously omitted from the previous Proceedings article. Diagnostic photos of a male.

Lazuli Bunting, 9 May 2025, Pipestone, Pipestone County (record #2025-024, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a male.

Lazuli Bunting, 15 May 2025, near Willmar, Kandiyohi County (record #2025-031, vote 5-2). Most members considered the photos diagnostic for a male with no apparent signs of hybridization.

Lazuli Bunting, 17-21 May 2025, Delaware Twp., Grant County (record #2025-033, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a female.

Lazuli Bunting, 21 May 2025, north of Muskoda, Clay County (record #2025-036, vote 5-2). Most members felt that the description of

this male is adequate to rule out the possibility of hybridization.

Lazuli Bunting, 31 May 2025, Carpenter Nature Center, Washington County (record #2025-037, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a male.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) [Casual], 2 May 2025, Plymouth, Hennepin County (record #2025-016, vote 7-0). Diagnostic photos of a male.

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 when identifying or documenting these and similar species.):

Whooping Crane, 21 April 2025, Blazing Star State Trail, Freeborn County (record #2025-010, vote 1-6). Although some members felt that the identification may be correct, there was no mention of whether the bird had bands on its legs, which would indicate an individual from the experimental Wisconsin flock. The observer also omitted key descriptions of the bill and face, which would have further supported the identification.

Western Sandpiper, 14 May 2025, Brownsdale W.T.P., Mower County (record #2025-029, vote 1-6). Although the brief description is consistent with the identification, the observer did not mention how similar species were ruled out. In addition, the observer mentioned that photos were obtained, but no photos were ever submitted following a request from an eBird reviewer.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) [Accidental], 2 December 2021, Gervais Lake, Ramsey County (record #2021-099, vote 0-7). The observer changed the initial identification from "jaeger sp." to Long-tailed Jaeger after online discussion and comments from two authors suggesting the identification of Long-tailed; those comments, however, are

less than convincing and even suggest that the small-billed appearance of the bird may be due to the bird's head position. While the photos clearly show a dark jaeger, all members felt that the photos simply do not include enough detail to identify the bird to species and the brief description provided was of little help.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [Accidental], 3 October 2024, Lake Johanna, Ramsey County (record #2024-045, original vote 5–2, recirculated vote 5–2). Although most members felt that the distant video and photos were nonetheless diagnostic, two members felt that they were not adequate to rule out Common Tern and they did not change their votes following subsequent discussion.

Puffinus shearwater (*Puffinus* sp.) [potential first state record], 24 November 2024, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2024-071, vote 1–9). Although several members felt that the bird was likely a shearwater, most did not consider the documentation provided was adequate for narrowing down the identification to the genus level of *Puffinus*.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) [potential first state record], 23 August 2024, La Crescent, Houston County (record #2024-069, vote 3–7). Although the description provided was consistent with the identification, most members had issues with certain key features being omitted including the white wing coverts and long, pale-tipped tail, which should have been obvious especially given fairly close looks at the bird from 20 meters away. In addition, all members had issues with the fact that no photos were taken and there was no mention of any attempt to take photos by the observer, who claimed to understand the significance of the record.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Nannopterum brasilianum*) [Casual], 21 April 2025, Forest Lake, Washington County (record #2025-009, vote 0–7). This report involving six birds provides few details and no indication that the likely Double-crested Cormorant was considered.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) [Casual], 13 May 2025, near Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2025-028, vote 0–7). This report only mentions a soaring bird with a black head and provides no other details to help distinguish this species from other large raptors.

American Barn Owl, 9 January 2025, Lester River Park, Duluth, St. Louis County (record

#2025-001, vote 0–7). This report includes that the bird was heard, but there is no accompanying description of the vocalizations.

American Barn Owl, 12 February 2025, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2025-003, vote 0–7). The description is simply too brief to rule out other species.

Black-headed Grosbeak, 10 May 2025, Watona Park, Watonwan County (record #2025-025, vote 0–7). The observer provided no details to accompany this observation.

The efforts of all those observers who document unusual species are greatly appreciated, regardless of whether 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. In addition to thanking the many observers who submitted eBird checklists associated with these records, MOURC is especially grateful to those who provided written descriptions for the records listed in this article:

Aiden Saari, Brad Abendroth, Ben Fritchman Aguilera, Ryan Aldrich, Anya Auerbach, Dave Bartkey, Cole Bauer, Lon Baumgardt, Patrick B. Beauzay, Karla A. Bloem, Steve Broste, Neil Brown, Alex Burchard, Ryan Bushong, Kathy Carroll, Brandon Caswell, Philip C. Chu, Robert M. Dunlap, Kim R. Eckert, Kimberly A. Emerson, Deborah Fellows, D. L. Gamble, Tom Gilde, Liz Harper, Jason Hedlund, Anthony X. Hertzler, Matthew Hoberg, Luke Hollander, Ezra Hosch, Paul E. Jantscher, Alec Karcz, Valerie Klumper, Stephanie Leckband, James W. Lind, William C. Marengo, Kera Messinger, Emily Patterson, Aaron Pietsch, Darcy Pinotti, Tate Putman, Joey Reichhoff, Morgan Rodenborg, Michael W. Sack, Dawn Johnson Stromquist, Peder H. Svingen, Tom A. Tustison, Josh Wallstad, Joshua G. Watson, Dennis P. Wiesenborn, and Kyle Weitalla.

MOURC welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or the committee's procedures in general. More information including the committee's bylaws and current list of review species can be found at <http://moumn.org/mourc>. Summary: 56 records voted on — 45 Accepted, 11 Not Accepted.

St. Paul, MN.