

tor Emanuel, Alec Forbes-Watson, Steve Hilty, Ben King, Roger Tory Peterson, Olin Pettingill, Arnold Small, Don Turner, and dozens of others. Many other books, notably Pettingill's and Heintzelman's bird-finding guides, suffer from the lack of this kind of collaboration.

The most obvious fault in the book is the choice of English species names. Everyone who studies birds on several continents is aggravated by the illogic and inconsistency of many of the common names, but Alden and Gooders' response is excessive. For example, regular Minnesota species include, in their terminology, Goosander, Northern Treecreeper, Great Gray Shrike, Long-tailed Duck, and Bald Sea-Eagle! North American species do appear to be the hardest hit, and one must suspect the authors of flaunting their cosmopolitanism. On the other hand, why they still use "Everglade Kite" is harder to understand. The most important value of a name is, after all, that it be commonly recognized, and substituting "American Dabchick" and "Painted Whitestart" into the U.S. list is hardly a step forward. (There is an index that cross-references "local"

names.) Clements' choices in his **Birds of the World: a Checklist** seem much more reasonable.

A less blatant, but more serious disappointment, is the minimum attention given to environmental protection. For example, I gather that the forests of Borneo and Thailand are among the most desperately threatened in the world, but one can read the exciting chapters on Khao Yai and Kinbalu in blissful ignorance of those problems. Are birders going to go on indulging themselves in their hobby, oblivious to the destruction of the remaining wild areas? Developing a world-wide interest without corresponding environmental concern and action would be pathetic, and the authors could have made an important contribution in very little space.

These two weaknesses do not reduce the value of the book. Alden and Gooders have done a wonderful job at what would seem an almost impossible undertaking. Any serious birder would do well to read at least parts of it, and no one doing any international travel can afford to overlook it.

—Stephen Greenfield

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Kim R. Eckert, M.O.R.C. Secretary

Following is a list of all records voted on by M.O.R.C. from July through December of 1981. As in the article published in **The Loon** 53:129-131, each listing includes the species, date, location, vote total, the volume/

page reference, if any, where the details of the record were published, and, for unacceptable records, a summary of the reasons why the record was not accepted. It should be pointed out that reasons for the votes on ac-

ceptable records are not given because the details normally speak for themselves and it is usually obvious from reading them, generally in the Notes of Interest cited, why they were accepted. Occasionally, however, reasons may be given with an acceptable record if it is a controversial one with a close vote. It should also be made clear that the purpose of these articles is to give the reader a better idea of what constitutes an acceptable, or unacceptable, bird record and to make readers aware of identification problems encountered by birders.

Acceptable records voted on July-December, 1981:

- Hooded Warbler, 6-16-81, Cedar Creek Bog, Anoka Co. (vote 7-0)
- Say's Phoebe, 5-17-81, Felton Prairie, Clay Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 53:163)
- Little Gull, 5-9-81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 53:163-164)
- Yellow-breasted Chat, 5-15-77, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka Co. (vote 7-0)
- European Wigeon, 5-14-76, Blackduck L., Beltrami Co., (vote 6-1)
- Peregrine Falcon, 6-25-81, Ocheda L., Nobles Co., (vote 6-1, **Loon** 53:219-220)
- Arctic Loon, 6-25-81, Sioux Forks W.M.A., Jackson Co. (vote 6-1, **Loon** 53:230)
- Summer Tanager, 6-18-81, Agate L., Crow Wing Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 53:223)
- Williamson's Sapsucker, 5-25-81, Pickwick Valley, Winona Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 53:232-234)
- Ross' Goose, 1-11-70, Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0)
- Summer Tanager, 10-19 - 11-1-81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 54:63)
- Long-tailed Jaeger, 8-24-81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** in press)
- Townsend's Solitaire, 10-19-81, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 54:60-61)
- Little Gull, 9-29-81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 54:65)
- Townsend's Solitaire, 10-15-81, Dul-

uth Twp., St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 54:60)

- Black-headed Grosbeak, 10-18-81, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 54:61-62)
- Ferruginous Hawk, 10-2-81, near Henderson, Sibley Co. (vote 7-0)
- Purple Sandpiper, 10-30-81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 54:58-59)
- Yellow-breasted Chat, 5-24-80, Winnebago Twp., Houston Co. (vote 7-0)
- Townsend's Solitaire, 11-11-81, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0)
- Townsend's Solitaire, 9-19 - 10-7-81, Bemidji, Beltrami Co. (vote 7-0, **Loon** 54:61)
- Swainson's Hawk, 10-18-81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 6-1)
- Spotted Sandpiper, 11-4-81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0)
- Ferruginous Hawk, 8-7-81, Willmar, Kandiyohi Co. (vote 7-0)

Unacceptable records voted on July-December, 1981:

- Whooping Crane, 5-18-81, Thief Lake W.M.A., Marshall Co. (vote 5-2, with 6-1 required for acceptance)

The extensive description of this immature was enough to convince most members, but because of strong doubts of the minority outside opinions were solicited from crane experts Rod Drewien of the Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and Scott Derickson of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. They stated that the immature Whooping Crane always shows rusty coloration on the head and neck, and that this would never appear gray as stated in the description. The bill of a whooper is not black as described, but rather olive at the tip and pinkish or greenish at the base. Also, by spring a young whooper would begin to show some of the reddish face present in adult plumage, but such was not mentioned. In conclusion, both men also were of the opinion that the description fits a Sandhill Crane with abnormally whitish plumage, something each has seen more than once in the past.

—Western Wood Pewee, 5-28-79, Pelan Park, Roseau Co. (vote 0-7)

Although originally accepted by M.O.R.C. by a 5-2 vote in 1979, this vote was reversed when it was pointed out that the call described only as "phee-ur" could also fit the Eastern Wood Pewee. Since the identification was based only on the call, a better description of this call should be provided before this record can be considered acceptable.

—Barn Owl, April 1971, Worthington, Nobles Co. (vote 0-7)

This previously published record (**Loon** 43:85) was refiled as unacceptable since photos of this bird were seen later and they indicated the bird in question to be a Short-eared Owl.

—California Gull, 4-20-80, Bemidji, Beltrami Co. (vote 5-2, with 7-0 required for acceptance)

The minority was of the strong opinion that the light conditions were unfavorable enough that the bill spots and leg color may not have been as perceived, especially since it was stated that "the red spots on the bills of Herring Gulls were nearly invisible as a result of the intense morning sunlight," and since the group of gulls observed were 200 yards away — a difficult distance to determine bill and leg color unless light conditions are perfect. (This record was published, **Loon** 52:190, as a result of a clerical error in recording the vote.)

—California Gull, 5-6-80, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 4-3, with 7-0 required for acceptance)

The minority was of the opinion that the description was too brief to be convincing; "yellow legs and black spots" is the only plumage description provided. (This record was published, **Loon** 52:190, as a result of the same error above.)

—Bewick's Wren, 5-13-80, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 5-2, with 7-0 required for acceptance)

The minority was of the strong opinion that although the only wren "with white spots in the corners" is a Bewick's, the bird in question was only

seen for a second as "it darted across the path." Such a brief look was felt to be unsatisfactory when dealing with such an unusual species, and the details did not even state why the bird was a wren in the first place. (This record was published, **Loon** 52:191, as a result of a clerical error in recording the vote.)

—Ferruginous Hawk, 6-7-79, Clay Co. (vote 0-7)

Although originally accepted by M.O.R.C. in 1979 by a 4-3 vote, this vote was reversed when it was pointed out that the identification was based on a white patch on the upper wing surface, the white underside of the tail, and the white at the base of the tail; many paler Red-taileds also match this description, and the observers admitted they lacked experience with such Red-taileds.

—Iceland Gull, 2-15-75, Stoney Point, St. Louis Co. (vote 0-7)

Although originally accepted in 1975 by M.O.R.C., this published record (**Loon** 47:99) was reconsidered and found to be unacceptable, since the tail had "a broad banded appearance" and the back and wings were the same buffy coloration throughout; these two features indicate the gull was probably a first-winter Thayer's.

—Iceland Gull, 4-5-71, Two Harbors, Lake Co. (vote 0-7)

This previously published record (**Loon** 43:84) was refiled as unacceptable since the details did not preclude a first-winter Thayer's Gull.

—Bewick's Wren, 10-3-70, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7)

This previously published record (**Loon** 43:16) was refiled as unacceptable since there was nothing in the brief description to even indicate the bird was a wren.

—Whooping Crane, 5-2-78, Kittson Co. (vote 5-2, with 6-1 required for acceptance)

Although originally accepted by M.O.R.C. in 1978, this published record (**Loon** 50:204) was reconsidered and found to be unacceptable because of the strong minority opinion that

the plumage description (mentioned only was "white color with dark outer wings") was inadequate for such an unusual species and did not preclude the possibility of Wood Stork or an abnormally whitish Sandhill Crane.

—Whooping Crane, 5-4-78, Twin Lakes W.M.A., Kittson Co. (vote 5-2, with 6-1 required for acceptance)

Identical situation as described above.

—Barn Owl, 3-26-80, Whitewater W.M.A., Wabasha Co. (vote 5-2, with 6-1 required for acceptance)

The minority was of the opinion that the description was too brief for such an unusual species, that this description did not preclude Short-eared Owl (which is also buff colored and can have a "monkey" face), and that no binoculars were used. (This record was published, *Loon* 52:189, as a result of a clerical error in recording this vote.)

—Long-tailed Jaeger, 9-8-75, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 5-2, with 6-1 required for acceptance)

Although most were convinced by the description of this light-phase adult, the minority was of the opinion that a Long-tailed Jaeger should look grayish above, and not brownish as described. (M.O.R.C. had previously voted on this record in 1975, but the result had been inconclusive.)

—Black-legged Kittiwake, 9-12-78, Stoney Point, St. Louis Co. (vote 5-2, with 6-1 required for acceptance)

Since the size of this immature gull was not mentioned, the minority was of the opinion that the possibility of Little Gull was not precluded by the plumage description. (M.O.R.C. had previously voted on this record in 1978, but the result had been inconclusive.)

—McCown's Longspur, 10-20-35, near Hassman, Aitkin Co. (vote 0-7)

This previously published record (*Auk* 53:342), was reconsidered and found to be unacceptable; although the plumage description of the two birds strongly suggested they were McCown's, the main problem of this

record was that they were said to be in a mixed flock made up primarily of Chestnut-collared Longspurs with no Laplands present. Since such a species composition is most unlikely, even in 1935, it was felt the observer may well have erred in his identifications.

—Vermilion Flycatcher, 10-26 - 11-8-80, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 2-5)

Although an adult male Vermilion Flycatcher is an unmistakable species, there were strong reservations about the described behavior of this bird, since it came to a feeder with cracked corn and foraged on the ground; it was felt that a Vermilion Flycatcher would be most unlikely to do that, and that the inexperienced observer may have been influenced too much by the field guide.

—Prairie Warbler, 9-15-81, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 2-5)

It was felt that for such an unusual species, identification should be based on more than just one feature (the "triangular black whisker mark"). There was also doubt based on the fact that this warbler was never seen to wag its tail.

—Black-legged Kittiwake, 8-28-81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 2-5)

It was felt that this immature gull was not seen well enough to rule out Sabine's Gull, which can have a similar appearing wing pattern when seen under unfavorable conditions as was the case here.

—Prairie Falcon, 9-7-81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 2-5)

Although black "wingpits" were seen, the bird had a dark back and cap which do not fit a Prairie Falcon. Also at close range, which was the case here, a Prairie Falcon shows a light eyeline and narrow whisker marks, but it was stated neither of these were present.

—Rufous Hummingbird, 9-11-81, Lowry Nature Center, Carver Co. (vote 3-4)

Although there was agreement the bird could have been a Rufous, it was bothersome that rusty or buffy

flanks and undertail coverts were not seen, which is a very obvious feature of the Rufous Hummingbird. It was felt that the bird might have been an aberrant Ruby-throated or possibly an Allen's.

—Snowy Plover, 4-24-81, Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 2-5)

Although no one doubted that the bird described was indeed a Snowy Plover, there was not good enough evidence to suggest that this was a different individual than the one photographed (Loon 53:220); therefore, it stands that there was only one Snowy Plover present, and not two as the observer reported.

—Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, 7-4-81, Duluth Twp., St. Louis Co. (vote 2-5)

The brief description was considered too brief to be convincing, and several thought the bird could well have been an immature sapsucker

which also has "horizontal bars on the back."

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 11-28-81, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 0-7)

Without direct comparison with Commons a female Barrow's is very difficult to identify. Since such comparison was not available and since the description was vague about head and bill shapes, this could not be accepted.

—Carolina Wren, 8-10-81, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 2-5)

The description only said that this wren was large and had a "clear buffy breast." Since size descriptions like "large" or "small" are meaningless unless the bird is compared to something else, since other wrens have buffy breasts, and since neither a white eye-line or reddish-brown upperparts were observed, the majority voted not to accept.

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## RECORD NUMBER OF JAEGER SIGHTINGS

Tim Lamey

*At the present time the Pomarine and Parasitic Jaeger are considered to be casual fall visitors and the Long-tailed Jaeger an accidental fall visitor to Minnesota. During the fall of 1981 there were 42 sightings of jaegers in Duluth. Was this a one time occurrence or are jaegers regular in Duluth in the fall?*

Spring sightings of jaegers have occurred in only a few years in Minnesota (Green and Janssen 1975), however, each fall one or more of the three species of jaegers are seen on

Lake Superior with the number of sightings varying greatly from year to year. Past years with large numbers of sightings have occurred in 1976 (Schneider) and 1980 (Eckert 1981,