

length to the right, apparently to help maintain its balance. This happened three times while I was watching. I was told that in the evening the bird was still on the same branch (some came back to look again), but it had turned again, giving observers on the main path a front view.

During the period from 8:30 to 3:30 p.m. while I watched the owl I documented the names of over fifty birders who saw the owl. No person, to my knowledge, expressed any doubt as to the identification of the bird as a Barn Owl. I was told that from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. many other birders saw the owl. We estimate that between 100 to 150 people (birders, Nature Center staff, school classes, and casual passersby) saw their first Minnesota Barn Owl that day.

Comments made during the day related to the fact that the light was so good it was possible to see the most minute detail, particularly with spotting scopes. My 10 ×

40 Trinovids provided excellent details, and many brands and powers of binoculars were used by others. The sun was behind and above the viewers during the entire day, with good light, but photographers were having some difficulty because of the wind and the leaves. The temperature ranged from 48° to 69° and a very strong NW wind blew all day, with gusts from 25 mph to 40 mph.

Another comment made was that because the owl seemed so large it was probably a female. Dimensions given in the various new field guides range from 14" to 20", with a 44" wingspan. Whether male or female, this Barn Owl provided a delightful day of good fellowship and an awareness of the willingness on the part of a great many people to share an exciting bird with the rest of the birding community. 5935 Columbus Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55417

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

The following records were voted on January-June, 1984 and found Acceptable:

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 1/7/84, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 7-0).
- Barrow's Goldeneye, 2/4/84, Elk River, Sherburne Co. (vote 7-0).
- House Finch, 12/3/83, Mankato, Blue Earth Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 56:130-131).
- Osprey, 2/25/84, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 6-1).
- House Finch, 3/18/84, St. Cloud, Stearns Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 56:194).
- House Finch, 4/25/84, Austin, Mower Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 56:198-199).
- Worm-eating Warbler, 5/8/84, Courthouse Co. Park, Waseca Co. (vote 7-0 *The Loon* 56:193-194).
- Brant, 4/21/84, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 56:194).
- California Gull, 4/12/84, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 56:194).
- Arctic Tern, 5/27/84, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 56:194).
- Black-headed Grosbeak, 5/24/84, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 56:196).
- Chuck-will's-widow, 6/9/84, Nicollet Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 56:200).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5/11/84, Elba, Winona Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 56:199-200).
- Tricolored Heron, 5/4/84, Plymouth, Hennepin Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 56:196).
- Mute Swan, 4/24-26/84, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0).

The following records were voted on January-June, 1984 and found Unacceptable:

- House Finch, 8/23/81, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 0-7).

The description and sketch of the bird could fit a female House Finch, but its described flycatching behavior didn't seem to fit this species. It was felt that the description did not fully preclude female or immature Indigo Bunting or juvenile Red Crossbill, both of which could behave as the observer described.

- Broad-winged Hawk, 3/1/84, Shoreview, Ramsey Co. (vote 1-6).

The only description given was "broad, equal-width tail bands", and an indication that it was "a small buteo". But there was no description of the rest of the plumage, and no indication as to why the observer felt it was a Buteo and not an Accipiter (which often circles and fans its tail like a Buteo in flight).

- House Finch, 3/2/84, Excelsior, Carver Co. (vote 3-4).

The full description of this male finch stated: "brown streaking on the side of the body and the red is slightly different from a Purple Finch". While it was agreed that such details seemed indicative of House Finch, the majority felt that a more complete description should have been given for such an unusual species.

- Mississippi Kite, 4/28/84, Otter Tail Co. (vote 4-3, with 7-0 required for Acceptance).

Although no one could suggest another species which would fit the description and sketch given of the plumage and behavior, it was pointed out that in late April an immature Mississippi Kite should resemble an adult except for the barred tail, and would not be streaked on the wing linings and underparts as was indicated in the details.

- Pelagic Cormorant, 5/19/84, Silver Bay, Lake Co. (vote 1-6).

The identification was based entirely on the cormorant's "very small" size and "a very noticeable white patch behind wing". However, as is so often the case, this was another example of a very unusual species not being completely described — a Pelagic Cormorant both away from salt water and in the eastern U.S. would be extremely unlikely if not "impossible" and would require a much more complete description. It was also unclear from the details if there was direct comparison with Double-crested to permit an accurate size determination, and it was unclear where the white patch was exactly, its size and shape, whether there was a patch on both sides of the bird, and if the patch could have been a white stain of some kind.

- House Finch, 4/29/84, Coon Rapids Dam, Hennepin Co. (vote 1-6).

This finch was described as a female by plumage, but it was heard singing and the possibility of it being a first spring male was precluded by the fact that immature male House Finches resemble adult males by their first fall (unlike Purple Finch in which young males resemble females in their first spring). The description also did not rule out Pine Siskin, which could fit the described plumage and song.

9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.

Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

The next meeting of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC) will be held on December 2, 1984, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota. This meeting is open to members of the Minnesota Ornithologists Union who would like to see how MORC operates and make contributions to better methods of operation for the Committee. Call Bob Janssen, Chairman of MORC at 546-4220 in the evenings or at 645-0251, during the day if you would like to attend the meeting.