

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

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

The following records were voted on January-June, 1985, and found **Acceptable**:

—Yellow-throated Warbler, 9/22/84, near Moorhead, Clay Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 57:105-106).

—Carolina Wren, 9/19/76, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 48:177-178).

This 1976 record, originally accepted on a 5-1 vote, was brought up for reevaluation since one member had serious reservations about the record; however, this second vote reaffirmed its acceptability.

—Say's Phoebe, 4/28/84, near Dawson, Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 7-0).

—Black-legged Kittiwake, 10/26/84, Stoney Point, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0).

—Broad-winged Hawk, 4/10/85, Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 5-2).

—Lazuli Bunting, 4/17/85, White Bear Lake, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 57:110-111).

—Yellow-throated Warbler, 4/21/85, Murphy-Hanrahan Park Reserve, Scott Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 57:111).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5/7/85, near Marion, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 57:109).

—Worm-eating Warbler, 5/4/85, Austin, Mower Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 57:108).

—Arctic Tern, 5/18/85, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 57:150).

—Western Tanager, 5/13/85, near Moorhead, Clay Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 57:150).

—Ruff, 5/10/85, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 57:150).

The following records were voted on January-June, 1985, and found **Unacceptable**:

—Pomarine Jaeger, 10/15/80, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 2-5).

This 1980 record, which was originally accepted on a 5-2 vote and published (*The Loon* 53:113-114), was brought up for re-

consideration, and the majority found it to be unacceptable. Its identification was based on its "gull-like and direct" flight, "striking white patches at the base of the primaries," and "dark, wide breast band." However, such features are only subjective, and Parasitics can also appear to be, and be described, the same way. Without direct size comparison with a gull or other bird of known identity, without view of projecting central rectrices (neither was the case here), it takes an observer with frequent contact with jaegers to make a positive identification on such subjective field marks (and none of us in Minnesota sees enough jaegers here to qualify).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 11/20/77, Mille Lacs L., Mille Lacs Co. (vote 2-5).

This 1977 record, which was originally accepted on a 4-2 vote, was brought up for reconsideration and found unacceptable. The identification was based on "an all yellow bill and dark body with only the secondaries in the wings (folded at rest) appearing to have any white." However, female Common Goldeneyes can also, rarely, have an all yellow bill, and the amount of white present in the secondaries is at best difficult to determine in flight — at rest, the amount of white showing is only a function of feather arrangement, not an indication of the species. Viewing conditions were also poor, and the diagnostic shape/size of the bill and head were impossible to accurately determine.

—Arctic Tern, 5/27/84, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Anoka Co. (vote 3-4).

This record, which was originally accepted on a 6-1 vote and published (*The Loon* 56:194), was reconsidered and found unacceptable. The identification was based on its all red bill, shorter legs, and gray underparts/white cheek line. However, Common Terns can also appear to look the same way: in breeding season their bills

often turn almost entirely red with little or no black tip; a tern when not standing fully erect, when standing in a slight depression, or when its belly feathers are fluffed up can appear to have shorter legs; and, depending on light conditions or angle of observation, Commons often appear to have a white cheek line/grayer underparts appearance. Such marks are only valid when noted with caution (there is no indication the observer was aware of these caveats, however), and when viewing conditions are favorable (not the case here since the distance was 300 feet, and the bird was to the northwest with the sun to the west).

—Black-legged Kittiwake, 7/11/84, Leech Lake, Cass Co. (record withdrawn by the observers).

This record, which was originally accepted on a 6-1 vote and published (*The Loon* 56:271), was reconsidered by the observers and withdrawn after it was pointed out that the bird may actually have been a juvenile Common Black-headed Gull, rather than a first summer (i.e., one-year-old) kittiwake. All the details noted could fit either species, except for the "slightly forked tail"; however, viewing conditions were unfavorable, the tail shape on a kittiwake is difficult to see, and one of the observers never saw the tail shape. This observer, who now feels the bird was more likely a Common Black-headed, also had the impression of a brownish back and relatively long legs — both of which would preclude kittiwake.

—Worm-eating Warbler, 11/11/76, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 4-3, with 5-2 required for Acceptance).

This 1976 record, which was originally accepted on a 5-1 vote and published (*The Loon* 49:45), was reconsidered and found

unacceptable. The identification was based entirely on "black stripes on the head . . . small, buffy brown bird . . . habit of walking along the low branches of the alders," and, while it was agreed the identification may well have been correct, it was felt by some that more extensive details should have been provided for such a highly unusual record. The most serious omission was an indication of its being a warbler in the first place, rather than a sparrow or something else.

—Black-shouldered Kite, 10/11/76, near Lawndale, Wilkin Co. (vote 1-6).

This 1976 record, which was originally accepted on a 6-0 vote and published (*The Loon* 48:180-181), was reconsidered and found unacceptable. There were four details in the original description found to be inconsistent with Black-shouldered Kite: 1) as the bird approached at eye level, the leading edge of the wing was noted as white on the inner half and black on the outer half (it should be the opposite); 2) the undersides of the outer half of the wings were described as "very black" (never this dark in Black-shouldered Kite); 3) the black wrist marks were never seen even though the bird flew low overhead, and these marks are very obvious; and 4) the trailing edge of the undersides of the secondaries were noted as being darker than the rest of the inner half of the wings (another mark which is not present in Black-shouldered Kite).

Since this record had been the only one for this species in Minnesota, Black-shouldered Kite has now been deleted from the official list.

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CORRECTIONS TO COLONIAL WATERBIRD REPORT IN *THE LOON* SUMMER 1985 — An active Great Blue Heron/Great Egret colony in Rice County was mistakenly omitted from the article "Colonial Waterbirds in Minnesota" which appeared in the summer 1985 issue of *The Loon*. The addition of the large colony of over 600 nests on Shields Lake brings the total of active Great Blue Heron colonies in the state to 128, active Great Egret colonies to 23, active mixed species colonies to 27, and the total number of active colonies to 234 (refer to Table 2). In Region 5, there are 5 active Great Blue Heron colonies and 3 Great Egret colonies, with the total for the region being 6 (refer to Table 1). In Figures 6, 8 and 12 a "1" should be added in Rice County. A correction also needs to be made in Figure 2: an Eared Grebe colony, which was mistakenly assigned to Anoka County, occurred in Hennepin County on French Lake in 1978 and 1981.