

differently with a flap and glide pattern; the bird I was watching did not, but rather wafted with firmly held wings in a tilting fashion from side to side. Also this bird had no white/light at the base of the primaries as does the Black Vulture. Immature or sub-adult Bald Eagles also fly differently, with wings flat-out giving a broad flat look. This bird occasionally held its wings in a slight "V" as it tilted side-to-side. The underwing pattern is also different, the eagle showing dark in the flight feathers, and the vulture showing light — the reverse.

Were you aware at the time that the sighting was unusual: Yes; in fact, I was specifically looking for Turkey Vultures because of the sighting of 2-7-87.

References consulted: None; at home, I rechecked the difference in adult vulture and sub-adult eagle plumages to be sure.

Applicable statements: Field guide not needed to make identification

Description: A word or two about the weather conditions: 52 of the past 57 days have been above normal in temperature in this unusual Minnesota winter. Two days prior to my sighting, we had broken existing records with a high of 52 degrees. February 8, we had experienced high winds (up to 35 mph) in southeast Minnesota; these decreased on the 9th in the morning and by the time of this sighting they were still present at about 10/15 mph but petering out to gusts; the overcast was dispersing rapidly. Ten minutes after this sighting I checked the wind sock at the Rushford Municipal Airport (less than ½ mile from the sighting site) and it was showing gusty, interrupted winds from the S.W./S. Like the hawks and the vulture, I was riding the ridges above the valleys of Pine Creek and the Root River. A Rough-legged Hawk had just taken off from its tree perch atop the ridge I was cruising slowly; watching him, a Turkey Vulture hove by and came very close to me overhead. One look with the Trinovids to check out field marks - the small head, the dark wing linings with the lighter/gray flight feathers, the large size of the wing span, the slight dihedral, the side-to-side tilting flight, and the long tail were enough to make me feel certain I was looking at a Turkey Vulture. Knowing this to be very early to be seeing this species, I reported to Robert Janssen as soon as possible. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.**

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

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

The following records were voted on July-December, 1986, and found Acceptable: — Mute Swan, 4/28/85, Orwell W.M.A., Otter Tail Co. (vote: 6 Cc, 3 wild, 1 escape). All ten MORC members vote on questions of wildness, with a majority in favor of "Cc" status in this case (i.e., wild or captive origin of this record of a casual species unclear, but record is Acceptable; see *The Loon* 58:43).

—Painted Bunting, 5/18/86, near Leota, Nobles Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:129).

—Worm-eating Warbler, 5/8/86, near Kasota, Le Sueur Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:139).

—Henslow's Sparrow, 7/6/86, Frenchman's Bluff, near Syre, Norman Co. (vote

5-2; *The Loon* 58:130).

—Carolina Wren, 7/19/86, Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:143-144).

—Mountain Plover, 7/2-5/86, near Huntley, Faribault Co. (vote 10-0; *The Loon* 58:154-158).

In the case of potential first state records, all ten MORC members vote.

—Baird's Sparrow, 7/6/86, Felton prairie, Clay Co. (vote 5-2).

—Snowy Plover, 6/30/86, near Glyndon, Clay Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:142).

—Mississippi Kite, 8/19/86, York Twp., Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 58:192-194).

—Lazuli Bunting, 5/5-11/86, near Clearwater, Stearns Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 58:192).

—Clark's Nutcracker, 9/13/86, Austin, Mower Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 58:199).

—House Finch, 4/7/86, St. Cloud, Stearns Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 58:204).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 11/29/86, L. Calhoun, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 6-1; **The Loon** 58:60).

—Iceland Gull, 12/8/86, L. Calhoun, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 58:61).

The following records were voted on July-December, 1986, and found Unacceptable:

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 5/26/86, Andover, Anoka Co. (vote 2-5). Although the description seemed to indicate Black-headed Grosbeak and no other species, the main problem with the record was that the observers were unaware that the species was unusual since they claimed to have seen the species twice before in Minnesota, but did not report them, in 1983 and 1984. The majority, therefore, felt it most unlikely that someone could have seen this accidental species three times in three years in the state.

—Upland Sandpiper, 10/27/86, Co. Rd. 15, Washington Co. (vote 3-4). The long yellow legs, long straight bill, upright stance, size and shape all fit Greater Yellowlegs just as well as, if not better than, Upland Sandpiper, which normally departs Minnesota in August.

—Mississippi Kite, 9/23/86, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 6-1, with 7-0 required for Acceptance). Although the observer was unable to see or describe all features of this flying bird (e.g., nothing about the tail was described), the majority felt the details were complete enough to indicate Mississippi Kite and preclude all other possibilities. However, the dissenting member felt the record was exceptional enough to require that a more complete description should be given for acceptance.

—Red-billed Pigeon, 7/4/86, West St. Paul, Dakota Co. (vote 6-4, with 10-0 required for Acceptance). As a potential first state record, all ten members voted. Although the description seemed to fit Red-billed Pi-

geon, the minority felt the details could also fit some sort of variant Rock Dove. Even if the description were unanimously acceptable, however, it was agreed that a Red-billed Pigeon could "never" reach Minnesota on its own and would certainly be an escape.

—Clark's Grebe, 5/23/86, Lake Osakis, Todd Co. (vote 4-3, with 7-0 required for Acceptance). This sight record (see **The Loon** 58:110-111) was described by Clark's Grebe expert John Ratti as "probably" a Clark's Grebe with "abnormal coloration" that he had never seen before; he also stated that "it could be a hybrid." The minority felt, therefore, that while the individual may have been a Clark's, the possibility of it being a hybrid still existed, and that for such an unusual species (only one accepted state record) only fully typical Clark's Grebes should be accepted for the time being.

—Glossy Ibis, 6/16/1939, Heron Lake, Jackson Co. (vote 4-6). As a first state record, all ten members voted. This published sight record (see **The Wilson Bulletin** 51:183) has been considered the only accepted record on the official Minnesota checklist for years, but the majority reconsidered and now finds it unacceptable. The identification of this adult ibis was based entirely on "no evidence of white in the very dark feathers about the base of the bill." However, there is no indication of the distance or light conditions involved, so it is unclear how well the bird was seen. Further, according to Douglas Pratt in **Birding** (8:2): "The white face [of White-faced Ibis] is acquired last in the sequence of changes leading to the breeding plumage and in some individuals is quite narrow and difficult to see." Therefore, the possibility of this ibis being a White-faced is not fully precluded, and Glossy Ibis is now considered deleted from the state list.

—Common Raven, 12/6/86, Sumner Twp., Fillmore Co. (vote 1-6). The two individuals were identified only on the basis of tail shape (which was only seen without binoculars) and size (however, nothing was present for direct comparison). Also, no vocalizations were described, and the observer apparently had no previous experience with raven vs. crow identification. **9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**