

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

by Kim R. Eckert

The following records were voted on, January-May, 1987, and found Acceptable. (Normally June records would also appear in this summary, but voting on some records from that month, and from late May, has yet to be completed):

—Mute Swan, 4/27/86, Carlos Avery W.M.A., Chisago Co. (vote on identification 7-0; vote on wildness: 7 Acceptable as Cc, 2 probable escapes and Unacceptable, 1 non-voting observer). For an explanation on votes on wildness, see *The Loon* 58:42-43.

—Iceland Gull, 12/2-9/86, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:54-55).

—Pacific Loon, 10/9-23/86, Lake Vadnais, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59: 50-51).

—House Finch, early Dec. 1986 - 2/8/87, Golden Valley, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 2/25/87, Minnesota R. near Black Dog L., Hennepin/Dakota Co's (vote 6-1).

—Prothonotary Warbler, 9/23/86, Mayo-wood L., Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0).

—Great Black-backed Gull (adult), 12/15/86-2/22/87, Duluth, St. Louis Co.; Great Black-backed Gull (imm.), 1/10-2/18/87, Duluth; Iceland Gull (adult), 2/2/87, Duluth; Iceland Gull (3rd winter), 12/17/86-1/10/87, Duluth; Iceland Gull (2nd winter), 12/17/86-1/17/87, Duluth (votes on all five records 7-0; *The Loon* 59:100-101).

—Turkey Vulture, 2/9/87, near Rushford, Fillmore Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 59:56-57).

—Carolina Wren, 1/24/87, Lanesboro, Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:56).

—Carolina Wren, 11/19/86-3/3/87, Austin, Mower Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:103).

—House Finch, 12/21-24/86, Marshall, Lyon Co. (vote 7-0).

—Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2/4/87, Edgerton, Pipestone Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 59:54).

—Turkey Vulture, 1/17/87, near Minneapolis S.P., Blue Earth Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 59:105).

—Eurasian Wigeon, 3/11/87, Oakleaf L., Nicollet Co. (vote 6-1).

—Loggerhead Shrike, 2/28/87, near

Lanesboro, Fillmore Co. (vote 5-2).

—Turkey Vulture, 2/7/87, near Eitzen, Houston Co. (vote 6-1).

—Pine Grosbeak, 4/13/87, Roseville, Ramsey Co. (vote 5-2).

—Clark's Grebe, 5/2/87, Heron L., Jackson Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 59:102).

The following records were voted on January-May, 1987, and found Unacceptable:

—Lazuli Bunting, 8/27/86, Stoney Point, St. Louis Co. (vote 4-3, with 6-1 required for acceptance). The rump and tail were not visible, which would show some diagnostic blue coloration on a Lazuli, and some felt the description of this female or immature could also fit a juvenal American Goldfinch or an atypical Indigo Bunting or possibly a hybrid bunting. It was agreed that the identification was possibly correct, but identification of female/immature buntings is tricky enough that the minority felt it was best not to accept.

—Rough-legged Hawk, 9/7/86, near Moorhead, Clay Co. (vote 2-5). The entire identification was based on a "light area at the base of the tail and the ... dark band on the tail end"; however, for such an early date the majority felt that more of the plumage should have been described, and that immature Red-taileds have a lot of white on the upper tail coverts and a brown tail which might also fit the description.

--Chestnut-collared Longspur, 11/23/86, Kurtz Twp., Clay Co. (vote 2-5). The identification of non-breeding-plumaged longspurs is very difficult, and the description of this late individual was not clear enough to eliminate Smith's or even McCown's. Laplands were present for comparison and this was clearly not a Lapland, but not enough information was given to say which of the other three it was.

--Common Nighthawk, 3/10/87, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7). The bird was never seen for sure, and the entire identification of this extremely early individual was based on a call heard out a window; however, the observer himself admits it could have been a starling -- it could also have been

the similar call of a goldeneye from the nearby river.

--Pine Warbler, 3/22/87, Roseville, Ramsey Co. (vote 0-7). The very sketchy description from the inexperienced observer was not complete enough to eliminate the possibility of a kinglet.

--Common Raven, 2/6/87, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 1-6). No binoculars were used, and the reported larger size is suspect since there apparently was nothing nearby for comparison; the folded tail reportedly had a "wedge shape" but crows in molt can have atypical tail shapes which can appear wedge-shaped.

--Scarlet Tanager, 4/4/87, Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7). This greenish bird with black wings might have been an extremely early tanager, but not enough description of other features -- e.g., size, shape or bill -- was given to eliminate other possibilities like a female crossbill.

--jaeger (sp.-?), 4/10/87, White Bear Lake, Ramsey Co. (vote 2-5). The observer, who

had no previous experience with jaegers, was not using binoculars, the bird was described as the size of a "big gull" (jaegers are smaller than this), and the identification was made only from memory after looking at field guides three hours later.

--Common Nighthawk, 4/4/87, North Oaks, Ramsey Co. (vote 0-7). No bird was ever seen and the identification was only based on hearing the nighthawk-like call given on or over a lake; most likely the observer heard a goldeneye which has a call very similar to a nighthawk.

--Kentucky Warbler, 4/25/87, near Ortonville, Big Stone Co. (vote 2-5). The sketchy description was not complete enough for such an unusual record, and the facial pattern described did not accurately describe a Kentucky Warbler. In addition, the details clearly show the observers were influenced by looking at field guides at the time of the observation, and these inexperienced observers had difficulty getting a clear look at the bird.
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Evening Grosbeaks, Summer 1987, Lake Vermillion, St. Louis County. Photo by Robert O. Ferguson.