

because of the dry conditions or if isolated breeding populations may still exist in Polk County and elsewhere.

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## Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

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The following records were voted "Acceptable" January - July, 1988.

- Ferruginous Hawk, 8/16/87 Land Twp., Grant Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 60:52).
- Orange-crowned Warbler, 12/27/87, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 6-1; **The Loon** 60:42).
- Pacific Loon, 10/16/87, Stoney Pt., St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0).
- Long-billed Curlew, 5/19-21/87, Ely, St. Louis Co. (vote 6-1; **The Loon** 60:89-90).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 4/3/88, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (vote 6-1).
- Common Nighthawk, 4/4/88, Minnetonka, Hennepin Co. (vote 5-2).
- Rufous Hummingbird, 7/20-23/87, Saum, Beltrami Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 60:90).

- Worm-eating Warbler, 5/8/88, Austin, Mower Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 60:93).
- Ruff, 5/11/88, Claremont, Dodge Co. (vote 6-1; **The Loon** 60:93).
- Say's Phoebe, 5/9-10/88, near Edgerton, Murray Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 60:93).
- Blue Grosbeak, 5/22/88, Murphy Hanrehan Park, Scott Co. (vote 6-1).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler, 4/17/88, Carver Park, Carver Co. (vote 5-2).
- Ruff, 5/15/88, Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 6-1; **The Loon** 60:93).
- Worm-eating Warbler, 5/4/88, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0).
- Say's Phoebe, 5/29/88, Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 60:129).
- House Finch, 5/16/88, Thief River Falls, Pennington Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 60:131).

- Black-throated Blue Warbler, 6/5/88, Carver Park, Carver Co. (vote 7-0).
- Sage Thrasher, 6/17/88, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 6-1; **The Loon** 60:127).

The following records were voted "Non-acceptable" January - July, 1988.

— King Rail, 5/17-18/85, Cokato, Wright Co. (vote 3-4). Although the observer is experienced with King Rails and their calls from his previous Minnesota records, and though he described a call given only by the King Rail, the majority voted not to accept because the rail was only heard and not seen, and because there is a considerable uncertainty about some rail vocalizations.

— Olive-sided Flycatcher, 4/20/88, near Tofte, Cook Co. (vote 2-5). Although the observer is familiar with this species' song, the majority did not accept this heard-only record because the observer was not aware how unusually early the date was and made no attempt to try to see the bird. Therefore, it is possible that she only casually listened to the song and did not carefully identify it.

— Clay-colored Sparrow, 1/11/88, Northfield, Rice Co. (vote 3-4). The majority felt that the details did not eliminate the possibil-

ity of Chipping Sparrow; although the latter species in winter is not to be expected, it is more likely than the Clay-colored. These two sparrows are very difficult to distinguish, with rump color the best distinction, but the observers were unable to see this. The identification was based primarily by the presence of a gray nape, but Chipping Sparrows also have this feature.

— Whooping Crane, 9/20/87, Blaine, Anoka Co. (vote 1-6). Another vote on this record (**The Loon** 60:15) was requested by the observer after an individual from the International Crane Foundation wrote that he felt the observer did see two Whooping Cranes. However, since no reasons for his opinion were given, there was no new information received that would prompt anyone to change his vote.

— White-eyed Vireo, 5/22/88, Frontenac, Goodhue Co. (vote 1-6). This bird was only heard and not seen, and the observer described the call as an atypical "werr pupa chu." Since the observer had only heard this species once before in his life, and since the song described was not typical, the observer himself wrote he was unsure of what he heard.

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**IN RESPONSE TO AN EXPECTED** near record low fall flight of waterfowl and continuing habitat degradation resulting from the drought, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed significant cutbacks for this fall's duck hunting season. The fall migrating duck population may be the second lowest on record, amounting to 66 million birds, according to estimates by the FWS and Canadian Wildlife Service. Breeding populations for North America's 10 major duck species are 4% lower than in 1987 and 16% below the average of the past 33 years. Particularly reduced is the Northern Pintail, down to 2.6 million or 54% below the long-term average. Proposed cutbacks for the fall season include shortened hours in the hunting day, a 25% reduction of the season length, reduction of bag limits by 1 duck, and suspension of the point system bag. Bag limits for pintails would be more limited, and special scaup and teal seasons and limits are suspended. The season is closed on Canvasbacks in all flyways. Weather and habitat conditions on goose nesting grounds were generally favorable and satisfactory fall flights are expected for most species. Proposed regulations are similar to those of last year in most respects. Experimental Tundra Swan seasons will be offered in New Jersey and Virginia and continued in North Carolina; season in western states are unchanged.