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5.2 Acknowledgements and Trademarks

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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

Before listing the records voted on during the last half of 1989, I have summarized a few topics of note that were discussed at our 3 December 1989 meeting, which follow.

—There were a few changes in the membership of the Committee (hereafter, MORC) during 1989; as a result, the seven regular members currently are Steve Carlson, Kim Eckert (Secretary), Bruce Fall, Ray Glassel, Bob Janssen (Chairman), Dick Ruhme and Bud Tordoff; the three alternates are Renner Anderson, Terry Savaloja and Peder Svingen.

—Discussion was held on how to handle Acceptable records of “unidentified” birds; e.g., the 1 October 1988 frigatebird record from Dakota County had been unanimously accepted as *Fregata*, sp. only, but some felt the record should also be Acceptable as a Magnificent (*F. magnificens*). It was decided to discuss and vote on such records only at MORC meetings (such votes would not be taken by mail as is done with other records), that all ten members were eligible to vote, and that a simple majority vote of those present would decide the issue. A vote on the frigatebird record was then taken, and it was accepted as a Magnificent: six voted Acceptable (i.e., although the bird seen could not visually be separated from other frigatebird species, the range of this species along with the pattern of extralimital Magnificent records in other states at the same time as a result of Hurricane Gilbert were strong enough evidence to indicate Magnificent and eliminate other frigatebirds); two voted Unacceptable (i.e., the designation of *Fregata*, sp. was still Acceptable, but that the occurrence of other frigatebirds was still a possibility); two members were absent and did not vote.

—The role of the three alternate MORC members was discussed. In the past they only voted in three cases: when voting in place of a regular member who was one of the observers involved in a record being considered, and thus ineligible to vote; when potential first state records are being considered (to be accepted, such records require a 10-0 vote); and when a “wildness” vote is taken on a bird suspected of being an escape. As described above, alternates would also now vote on records such as the frigatebird, and it was also decided that alternates would have input on records recirculated for a second vote: if the first-round vote total on a record calls for it to be recirculated, the Chairman may, at his discretion, send the record along with the first-round votes to the alternates; the alternates would then comment on the record, and these comments would then be included with the record when it is sent to the seven regular members for a second-round vote; these comments of the alternates, although they do not count as official votes, are then taken into consideration by the seven members as they take a final vote.

—The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck record from Crow Wing County on 1 June 1989 (see *The Loon* 61:143-144) was found to be Unacceptable (i.e., a probable escape) after it was

learned that an individual of this species had escaped from a nearby private collection of exotic waterfowl shortly before the observation.

—The status of the Clark's Grebe in Minnesota was discussed, and it was decided that votes would be taken on the five possible records of this species in the file which MORC had never voted on (see *The Loon* 61:99-108).

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The following records were voted on, July-December 1989, and found to be Acceptable:

—Black-necked Stilt, 23-25 April 1989, Roseau River W.M.A., Roseau Co. (vote 10-0; *The Loon* 61:197).

—Least Tern, 12 June 1989, Hastings, Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:140-141).

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 11-26 May 1989, Cerro Gordo Twp., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 61:140).

—Red-throated Loon, 4 May 1989, near Hovland, Cook Co. (vote 6-1).

—Barrow's Goldeneye, 28 May 1989, Grand Portage, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:140).

—Sabine's Gull, 12 June 1989, Thielke L., Big Stone Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:149-150).

—California Gull, 10-11 June 1989, Thielke L., Big Stone Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:149).

—Western Wood-Pewee, 22 June 1989, near Kelsey, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:147-148).

—White-eyed Vireo, 7-8 June 1989, Cannon River Wilderness Area, Rice Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:142).

—Pacific Loon, 2-14 June 1989, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:154).

—Red-throated Loon, 28 May 1989, near Paradise Beach, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:152).

—California Gull, 20 August 1989, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:153).

—*Plegadis ibis*, sp., 12 September 1989, Gatzke, Marshall Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:201).

—Ross' Goose, 13 October 1989, Cucumber L., Becker Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:205).

—Brant, 9-14 October 1989, Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co. (vote 7-0 *The Loon* 61:204).

—Western Tanager, 16 September 1989, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:198-199).

—Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 30 September 1989, Gun Club L., Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:204).

—Iceland Gull, 19 November 1989, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:207-208).

—Loggerhead Shrike, 26 November 1989, near Racine, Mower Co. (vote 7-0 *The Loon* 62:58).

—Loggerhead Shrike, 12 November 1989, near L. Byllesby, Dakota Co. (vote 7-0 *The Loon* 62:58).

The following records were voted on, July-December 1989, and found to be Unacceptable:

—Magnificent Frigatebird, 22 September 1988, Itasca State Park, Clearwater Co. (vote 7-3, with 10-0 required for acceptance). Since so many extralimital frigatebirds were seen about this time as a result of Hurricane Gilbert, it was unanimously believed the observers actually saw a frigatebird. However, the description submitted was, unfortunately, too sketchy for everyone to accept. The description only included that it "looked like a kite at first," that it had a "long slender scissor tail," and that it was "entirely black with a red pouch under its all white bill." The details were good enough to convince the majority, but the minority felt a better description was necessary for such an unusual record.

—Long-billed Curlew, 1 May 1989, Heron L., Jackson Co. (vote 1-6). Although it was believed the identification was correct, neither the sketches nor verbal description were complete enough to eliminate Whimbrel since no mention was made of the head pattern or the color of the underwing linings, and the larger-than-Franklin's Gull size described could also fit Whimbrel.

—Western Tanager, 8 August 1989, Cedar Creek Nat. Hist. Area, Anoka Co. (vote 1-6). The brief description only said the bird had a "red head with all yellow belly," but such details do not eliminate a molting male Scarlet Tanager or a first-summer Summer Tanager.

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 19 August 1989, Blaine, Anoka Co. (vote 2-5). This identification of a female Black-headed was based entirely on the "more golden" and only lightly streaked breast. However, juvenile male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks can also fit this pattern at this time of year, and the color of the underwing linings (the only diagnostic difference between these two) would have to be noted for such a record to be accepted.

—Pomarine Jaeger, 10 November 1989, Weaver, Wabasha Co. (vote 0-7). This bird was identified as a jaeger because of a slight "bump" on the tip of the center of the tail and the "all-brown" overall color which was thought to be too dark for an immature gull. However, a gull in molt can easily show a bump similar to that described, and a juvenile/first-winter Herring Gull can appear dark brown as described here. Also, even if it were a jaeger, the observer's subjective impressions of larger size and slower flight do not eliminate Parasitic Jaeger since no direct size comparison was made and since Parasitics can also fly at a slow pace when not in pursuit of prey.

—Clark's Grebe, 29 April 1989, Big Stone L., Big Stone Co. (vote 2-5). Although the "bright yellow" bill and "considerably paler" flanks were carefully noted in direct comparison with Western Grebes, this grebe had an intermediate facial pattern of the eyes "bisected by the black cap" and "white" lores. Because of this facial pattern, the majority (as well as the observer himself) felt this was enough uncertainty to preclude acceptance as a definite Clark's Grebe. However, this and other Clark's Grebe records may be reconsidered in the future as more is learned about this species' status and identification.

—Eurasian Wigeon, 5 November 1989, L. Vadnais, Ramsey Co. (vote 4-3, with 6-1 required for acceptance). The identification was based on the "dark brown" head, a "cream colored stripe" on the crown, and "no green" visible on the head. However, there was doubt about the record because 1) no rusty coloration was noted on the head; 2) the whitish crown on American Wigeons can often be cream colored; 3) since the green iridescence on the side of the American Wigeon's head does not always appear green at a distance or in poor light: thus a male wigeon with no green visible on the head can still easily be an American.

—Pomarine Jaeger, 16 September 1989, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 3-4). Although the details were good enough to indicate a jaeger was seen, the features noted were too subjective to positively indicate a Pomarine. This identification was based on the overall size, manner of flight and the amount of white in the wings; however, no direct comparison was available for these field marks to be diagnostic enough to eliminate Parasitic Jaeger. Similar to "Herring Gull in size" and "more prominent" white in the wing both suggest a Pomarine, but too much doubt remains without comparisons. The "slower and less maneuverable" flight described can just as easily fit a Parasitic Jaeger when not in pursuit. 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.

Fall Migration of Sandhill Cranes in Northwestern Minnesota, 1988-89

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The Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) was once regarded as common in Minnesota south and west of the heavily forested areas (Roberts 1932). However, the rapid settlement of these areas in the late 1800's in combination with unregulated market and subsistence hunting resulted in a dramatic decrease

in crane numbers (Johnson 1976). By 1900, Sandhill Cranes were considered rare in the state (Swanson 1940). Walkinshaw (1949) estimated that only 10-25 pairs remained in the state in 1944. Since that time, however, cranes have been gradually increasing in numbers once again. In 1985, the breeding popu-