

things that thrive on, or in, such dead material. Another change from 1989 was the great increase in rainfall and subsequent flooding of margins of the lake, the marsh area, and the tamarack swamps. The high water may have eliminated some Swamp Sparrow habitat. Their numbers dropped from 14 to eight pairs. Or were there fewer Swamp Sparrows because of the terribly cold December of 1989 in the South? Maybe the Pine Warblers decreased from nine to six pairs for the latter reason. I think high water in the tamarack swamps reduced habitat of the Veery, Nashville Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush and caused some abandonment of established territories.

Storms wreaked havoc among old and weakened trees and among the young trees

upon which they fell. Particularly, a heavy, wet snowfall on 8 March broke off innumerable white pine branches, (even oak and maple branches). Some tops were also broken off. Three of the few very tall (90-foot) jack pines broke off 20 to 30 feet above the ground. Most of the breaks occurred at places of inner decay on any of the tree species.

In contrast to 1989, deer flies were almost non-existent on the SNA this year. Apparently the larval stage was drowned out by the high water, a most welcome occurrence.

Categorizing the Ruddy Duck observed on the SNA in 1989 as "Transient" proved to be probably incorrect as a brood was observed on the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area in 1990. 532 W. Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025.

## Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

A meeting of the Committee took place on 2 December 1990, and among the topics discussed there were two involving votes on records. First, the "wildness" of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*The Loon* 62:175-177) was voted on, and it was decided to accept it as an A(b) record (vote 9-1; all ten members participate in votes on wildness) — i.e., the majority felt it was most likely a genuine vagrant and probably was not an escape nor transported up the Mississippi River by barge. There are several records in recent years from southeastern Iowa and at least two from western Wisconsin. Second, a vote on the Whooping Crane (*The Loon* 62:177-181) was taken and it was accepted on a 7-0 vote.

The following records were voted on by mail July-December 1990 and found Acceptable:

- White-faced Ibis, 9 June 1990, Rutland Twp., Martin Co. (vote 6-1)
- Barrow's Goldeneye, 29 March-13 April 1990, Sherburne N.W.R., Sherburne Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:165).
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 20-27 June 1990, Egan, Dakota Co. (vote 10-0 — all ten members vote on potential first state records; *The Loon* 62:175-177).
- Ross' Goose, 27 April-11 May 1990, Manfred Twp., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:168).
- Rufous Hummingbird, 17-19 July 1990, North Branch, Chisago Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:170).
- Short-billed Dowitcher, 15 October 1989, Wagona L., Kandiyohi Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:169).
- Sprague's Pipit, 28 July-August 1990, near Roseau, Roseau Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:167).
- Red-throated Loon, 26 May 1990, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:170-171).
- Tricolored Heron, 28-29 July 1990, near New Germany, Carver Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:233).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 19 August 1990, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 6-1; *The Loon* 62:171).
- Western Sandpiper, 28 July 1988, Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 6-1).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 21 July 1990, Mound Twp., Rock Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:227).
- Harris' Sparrow, 3 June-20 July 1990, Flandrau S.P., Brown Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:63).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 26 September 1990, Rockwell Twp., Norman Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:62).
- Carolina Wren, 24 September 1990-January 1991, Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:231).
- Violet-green Swallow, 9-14 July 1990, Claremont, Dodge Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:226).
- Red-throated Loon, 20 October 1990, Good Harbor Bay, Cook Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 62:228).
- White-crowned Sparrow, 3 July 1990, Minneopa S.P., Blue Earth Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:230).
- Pacific Loon, 27 October 1990, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:71-72).
- Ferruginous Hawk, 3 June 1989, Mound Twp., Rock Co. (vote 7-0 *The Loon* 62:64).
- Red-throated Loon, 21 May 1988, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 6-1).
- King Eider, 20 October to late November 1990, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 62:66).

The following records were voted on July-December 1990 and found Unacceptable:

- Kirtland's Warbler, 24 May 1990, Olson L., Washington Co. (vote 5-2, with 6-1 required for Acceptance). The extensive documentation submitted, which included notes taken in the field, was enough to convince the majority of the Committee. However, those voting against the record felt that since this is such an unusual species, the documentation should have been even more complete with no inconsistencies. The description left them with some doubts about the flanks color, whether the streaking on the upperparts was on the nape or back, why no black lores were noted, and about the boldness and completeness of the eye ring. These doubts were mainly due to minor inconsistencies found between the original field notes and the description recopied and rewritten later. It also appeared that the observer may have been influenced too much by consulting field guides while the bird was in view.
- Kirtland's Warbler, 2 August 1990, Woodbury, Washington Co. (vote 0-7). The documentation by an inexperienced observer was not only incomplete with too much of the bird's plumage not described, but it also included a sketch that showed an eye ring that was far too bold for a Kirtland's and mentioned that the bird was starling — or bluebird-sized, too large for any warbler other than a chat.
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 19 June 1990, Woodbury, Washington Co. (vote 1-9) all ten members vote on potential first state records). The sketchy and incomplete description was thought to be inadequate for a first state record and did not preclude the possibility of juvenile House Sparrow. The fact that two individuals were reported also made the record less credible.
- Rough-legged Hawk, 23 June 1990, near Toimi, Lake Co. (vote 1-6). Although the description of this melanistic Buteo mentioned a "broad dark terminal tail band," hardly anything else was described to eliminate the possibility of other species. The documentation was also only provided from memory three months after the sighting, and the observer was not aware at the time that the species would be unusual in summer.
- Eurasian Wigeon, 11 October 1990, Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 3-4). The majority felt the description was too brief, only mentioning a "dull yellow" crown and "solid rusty chestnut" sides of face. It was also learned after voting was completed that an experienced birder had also studied the same individual and was unsure of its identity since he noted a trace of green on the side of he head, indicating the possibility of a hybrid.
- Swainson's Hawk, 18 March 1990, near Windom, Cottonwood Co. (vote 2-5). The description was too brief and vague to be convincing, especially since the distinctive underwing pattern of a Swainson's Hawk was not clearly seen or described, probably because the hawk was reportedly a half mile away. The identification was based primarily on a dark upper chest, but many Red-tailed Hawks, adult male light-morph Rough-leggeds, and immature Bald Eagles are also dark on the chest/throat area. — 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.