

# Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert, M.O.R.C. Chairman

The following records were voted on January – July 2001 and found to be Acceptable; these include one reconsidered record previously voted on as Unacceptable and another record whose origin was reconsidered:

- Chipping Sparrow, 4 December 1995, Hoyt Lakes, St. Louis Co. (record #96-30, vote 6–1). This record was originally found Acceptable (*The Loon* 68:166), but then reconsidered and found Unacceptable (*The Loon* 69:151–152). It was again

reconsidered and discussed at the April 2001 meeting of this Committee, however, a new vote was taken, and now this is once again considered an Acceptable record.

- Smew, 17 March 1999, Anderson County Park, Jackson Co. (record #99-55, A<sub>o</sub> origin vote 10–0, **The Loon** 73:72–77). Note that all ten members vote on questions of origin. A previous vote on the origin of this bird had been taken, with a majority voting this to be most likely a wild bird, listed as “Accidental” with no qualifying subscript (**The Loon** 72:40).

However, after this vote, additional research into the status of this species in captivity revealed it to be kept in game farms more often than previously thought. Accordingly, another origin vote was taken, and it was accepted as “Accidental (o)” — e.g., the possibilities of captive vs. wild origin are about equal.

- Red Phalarope, 14 October 2000, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (record #2000-86, vote 7–0, **The Loon** 73:183–184).

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 31 May 2000, Willmar, Kandiyohi Co. (record #2001-02, vote 7–0).

- King Eider, 29 December 2000 – 15 January 2001, Two Harbors, Lake Co. (record #2001-05, vote 7–0).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 22 May 1993, Washington Co. (record #2001-07, vote 6–1). This record had been filed in the MOU archives of records without ever having been voted on.

- Black-legged Kittiwake, 21 October 2000, Grand Marais, Cook Co. (record #2001-09, vote 7–0, **The Loon** 73:124–125).

- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, 13–28 January 2001, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (record #2001-10, vote 7–0).

- Pacific Loon, 21 January 2001, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (record #2001-11, vote 6–1).

- Barrow’s Goldeneye, 3 February – March 2001, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (record #2001-12, vote 7–0).

- Great-tailed Grackle, 20 May – 2 June 2000, Minneota Township, Jackson Co. (record #2001-14, vote 7–0, **The Loon**

73:108–114).

- Barrow’s Goldeneye, 1 March 2001, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (record #2001-15, vote 7–0, **The Loon** 73:180–182).

- Black-headed Gull, 7 April 2001, Spirit Lake, Jackson Co. (record #2001-16, vote 7–0).

- Ruff, 26 April 2001, Vermillion Township, Dakota Co. (record #2001-17, vote 7–0).

- White-eyed Vireo, 29 April 2001, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (record #2001-18, vote 7–0).

- Prairie Warbler, 30 April 2001, Faribault, Rice Co. (record #2001-19, vote 5–2).

- Great Black-backed Gull, 7 May 2001, Breckenridge sewage ponds, Wilkin Lake (record #2001-21, vote 6–1).

- Say’s Phoebe, 11 May 2001, Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle Co. (record #2001-22, vote 5–2).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 12 May 2001, near Starbuck, Pope Co. (record #2001-24, vote 6–1).

- Tricolored Heron, 21 May 2001, near Two Harbors, Lake Co. (record #2001-26, vote 7–0, **The Loon** 73:182–183).

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 23 May – 8 July 2001, Springsteel Island, Roseau Co. (record #2001-27, vote 7–0).

- White-eyed Vireo, 24 May 2001, Buffalo River State Park, Clay Co. (record #2001-28, vote 7–0).

- White-eyed Vireo, 28 May 2001, Camden State Park, Lyon Co. (record #2001-30, vote 6–1).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, early May 2001, near Northome, Koochiching Co. (record #2001-31, vote 6–1).

- White-eyed Vireo, 6 May – July 2001, Rice Lake State Park, Steele Co. (record #2001-32, vote 7–0).

- Black-headed Grosbeak, 10 May 2001, White Earth Lake, Becker Co. (record #2001-33, vote 7–0).

The following records were voted on January – July 2001 and found to be Unacceptable; these include one reconsidered record previously voted on as Acceptable:

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 15 Decem-

ber 1998, near Alden, Freeborn Co. (record #99-12, vote 3-4).

This record was originally voted on and found Acceptable (*The Loon* 71:157). However, the record was reconsidered and discussed at the April 2001 meeting of this Committee, and a new vote was taken. While this bird most likely was correctly identified, neither of the two diagnostic features which separate this from Ringed Turtle-Dove are documented. The dove was not heard to vocalize, and the presence or absence of black on the outer webs of the outer rectrices as seen from below is not clearly described.

- Eurasian Collared-Dove, 15-16 February 2000, Willmar, Kandiyohi Co. (record #2001-01, vote 2-5).

Although the documentation (including sketches) is very extensive, like the record above there is no description of any vocalizations or of the undersides of the outer webs of the outer rectrices. Again, however, in all likelihood the identification was correct.

- Western Tanager, 26 August 2000, Lyon Co. (record #2001-03, vote 2-5).

The observer was careful to consider and preclude the possibility of this being an aberrant Scarlet Tanager with wing bars, but the rest of the documentation is too unclear and somewhat inconsistent for the majority to accept the record. At one point the bill is described as black, which would preclude a Western Tanager, although later the bill is said to be light. Also, it is unclear what the observer means when using the terms mantle and back, and whether they were gray or olive or olive yellow. This lack of clarity weakens the record, since the back color of female tanagers is a key field mark.

- Semipalmated Sandpiper, 1 November 1999, Lyon Co. (record #2001-04, vote 0-7).

The documentation includes mention of a "buff colored breast with fine brown streaks," which is inconsistent with Semipalmated Sandpiper in any plumage. The Committee unanimously felt the somewhat vague description could just as easily fit any other small species of shorebird.

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 5 May 1987, Cook Co. (record #2001-06, vote 1-6).

This record had been filed in the MOU archives of records without ever having been voted on. While the gray plumage, long tail and reddish color on the wings certainly suggest the identification was correct, the description is second-hand, written by someone who did not see the bird. There is also no information provided about size, distance, optics, light conditions, observer experience and other variables.

- Parasitic Jaeger, 14 October 2000, Malmo, Aitkin Co. (record #2001-08, vote 1-6).

The Committee unanimously agreed this was a jaeger, but it is unclear which species was seen. The description includes mention of "short pointed central tail feathers," which would suggest this was indeed a Parasitic. However, the size is described as "slightly larger than the Ring-billed Gull it was chasing," which is more indicative of a Pomarine, not a Parasitic.

- Painted Bunting, 3-5 May 2001, near Pelican Rapids, Otter Tail Co. (record #2001-20, vote 0-7).

The identification was probably correct, since a male Painted Bunting is so distinctive, but the documentation by an inexperienced observer is too brief for such an unusual species. The description mentions blue on the "back of head," greenish color on the back, red "under the neck" and "orangish color under the stomach," but nothing is said of the size, wings, tail, optics used, and how or how soon the identification was made.

- White-throated Swift, 12 May 2001, Carson Township (?), Cottonwood Co. (record #2001-23, vote 0-7).

The Committee unanimously felt the documentation was too vague and brief for something as unusual as a potential second state record. The plumage is hardly described at all, and the bird's described size and manner of flight are confusing. The documentation also indicates the observer was unsure of his identification and originally reluctant to report it.

• Red Phalarope, 20 May 2001, Acton Township., Meeker Co. (record #2001-25, vote 1-6).

The brief documentation seems consistent with this species, but the observer indicates he had doubts about his identification since the plumage did not match any of the references he consulted. The entire description is brief, incomplete and only included in the sketch, which does not clearly show the extent of "light reddish color" on the bird's underparts or what colors or markings there were on the back and wings.

The efforts of all those observers who document their reports of unusual species are appreciated, whether or not those records are accepted. Accordingly, the Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided documentation for the records listed in this article: Karl Bardon (five records), Margaret Barringer, Al Batt

(two records), Beth Blank, Tom Boevers, Brad Bolduan, Steve Carlson, Philip Chu (two records), Kim Eckert (three records), Ron Erpelding (two records), Dan Floren, Randy Frederick-son, Colin Gjervold, Mike Hendrickson, Anthony Hertz, Nancy Jackson, Doug Johnson, Chuck Juhnke, Byron Kinkade, Mike Knox, Jackie Lay, Richard Lukenbill, Warren Nelson, David Peterson, Shaun Putz, Roger Schroeder (three records), Drew Smith, Peder Svingen (six records).

There were also other observers who documented records which were not submitted to the Committee for a vote. The documentations they provided, though not mentioned here, are also appreciated.

Summary: 35 records voted on: 26 Acceptable (74%), 9 Unacceptable (26%).

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