

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Peder H. Svingen, Chairman

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (MOURC) voted on records by mail January – September 2007. MOURC members reviewing documentation and voting during this period were Karl Bardon (alternate member), Phil Chu, Kim Eckert (alternate), Ann Kessen, Jim Lind (alternate), Bill Marengo, Jim Mattsson, Drew Smith, Steve Stucker, and Peder Svingen (Chairman).

The following records were Accepted (also see Not Accepted records #2006-108 and 2007-019 which involved qualified Accepted votes).

- Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), 19 January – 1 February 2007, Mississippi River near Prescott Island, Dakota County (record #2007-004, vote 7-0).

- Barrow's Goldeneye, 26 March – 11 April 2007, Kabekona Narrows, Leech Lake, Cass County (record #2007-013, vote 7-0).

Both goldeneye records were of adult males and both birds were photographed.

- Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), 9-18 May 2007, Diamond Lake, Minneapolis, Hennepin County (record #2007-025, vote 7-0).

Fourth state record, but the first to be found in spring. Photographed.

- Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*), 5-8 June 2007, Black Rush Lake Waterfowl Production Area, Lyon County (record #2007-038, vote 7-0).

- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 29 April – 1 May 2007, southwest of Madison, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-020, vote 7-0).

Adult in alternate plumage, photographed. Third state record.

- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*), 29



Record 2007-020, Glossy Ibis, 1 May 2007, near Madison, Lac Qui Parle County. Digital photo by James P. Mattsson.



Record 2007-025, Neotropic Cormorant (right), 10 May 2007, Minneapolis, Hennepin County. Digital photo by Terence P. Brashear.



Record 2007-012, Black Vulture (lower left) 25 March 2007, Afton, Washington County. Digital photo by Anthony X. Hertzell.



Record 2007-035, Snowy Plover, 30 May 2007, Duluth, St. Louis County. Digital photo by Shawn C. Zierman.

April – 1 May 2007, southwest of Madison, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-019, vote 7–0 for 13 adults, vote 6–1 for 7 more; total of 20 adults Accepted; 2 sub-adults Accepted 6–1 as *Plegadis* sp.).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis* sp.), 30 August 2006, Folsom Township, Traverse County (record #2006-108, vote 7–0).

- Glossy/White-faced Ibis, 22 October 2006, Lake Johanna Waterfowl Production Area, Pope County (record #2006-093, vote 7–0).

- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), 24–25 March 2007, Afton Marina, Washington County (record #2007-012, vote 7–0; **The Loon** 79:182–183).

Identifiably photographed in flight next to a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). Fourth state record.

- Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), 4 May 2007, Fridley, Anoka County (record #2007-022, vote 7–0).

- Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platyp-*

terus), 16 December 2006, St. Paul, Ramsey County (record #2007-011, vote 5–2).

Minnesota's first winter record of this species was documented during the St. Paul Christmas Bird Count.

- Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), 3 January – 16 February 2007, Port Terminal, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-002, vote 7–0).

- Gyrfalcon, 19 January – 23 March 2007, Vermillion Township, Dakota County (record #2007-005, vote 7–0).

- Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), 9 April 2007, Pembina Trail Preserve, Polk County (record #2007-014, vote 7–0 for one adult, vote 6–1 for four more; total of five adults Accepted; documentation for two juveniles will be recirculated).

- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), 30–31 May 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-035, vote 7–0).

This adult male was initially found with a Piping Plover (*C. melodus*). As with



Record 2007-033, Red Phalarope, 28 May 2007, Graceville, Big Stone County. Digital photo by Peder H. Svingen.



Record 2007-034, Prairie Warbler, 29 May 2007, Ritter Farm Park, Dakota County. Digital photo by Terence P. Brashear.

the following two shorebird species, identifiable photographs were submitted with written details.

- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 26 May 2007, Hills, Rock County (record #2007-032, vote 7-0).

Thirteenth state record and the tenth so far this decade.

- Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), 28 May 2007, Graceville, Big Stone County (record #2007-033, vote 7-0).

Fifteenth state record, but only the third spring occurrence.

- Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), 21-22 October 2006, north end of Spirit Lake along county road 2, Jackson County (record #2006-090, vote 7-0).

- California Gull (*L. californicus*), 22 October 2006, county landfill near Hawley, Clay County (record #2006-091, vote 7-0).

Photographed, with written details provided by multiple observers.

- Slaty-backed Gull (*L. schistisagus*),

3-5 and 9-13 December 2006, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County (record #2006-105, vote 7-0).

Second state record. Photographed and documented with written details on multiple dates by experienced observers. Of related interest was an adult Slaty-backed Gull at Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County, Iowa 16-24 December 2006 (IOU 2006) that appeared strikingly similar to the individual at Black Dog Lake.

- Slaty-backed Gull, 14-25 January 2007, St. Croix River near Point Douglas, Washington County, and Mississippi River and Black Dog Lake, Dakota County (record #2007-003, vote 7-0).

Third state record. Also photographed and documented with written details on multiple dates by experienced observers.

- Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), 11-12 January 2007, Lake Pepin, Wabasha County (record #2007-010, vote 7-0).

Record late by more than two weeks



Record 2007-001, Green-tailed Towhee, 2 January 2007, Mountain Lake, Cottonwood County. Digital photo by David A. Cahlander.

(26 December 1994, *The Loon* 67:110).

- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), 22–29 May 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-029, vote 7–0).

Photographed and well-described by experienced observers.

- Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), 15–19 October 2006, Eagle Lake, Blue Earth County (record #2006-088, vote 6–1).

Only the third Minnesota record of this species away from Duluth and one of very few ever photographed in the state.

- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), 4–22 May 2007, Lancaster, Kittson County (record #2007-021, vote 7–0).

Eleventh state record and ninth occurrence since 2003. Photographed.

- Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), 29–31 October 2006, Eagan, Dakota County (record #2006-094, vote 6–1).

Digital images were taken after its unfortunate demise and the specimen was donated to the Bell Museum of Natural History. Fourth state record.

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus*

forficatus), 7 June 2006, Twin Lakes Township, Carlton County (record #2006-101, vote 5–2).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 23–26 April 2007, New Haven Township, Olmsted County (record #2007-018, vote 7–0).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 23–25 May 2007, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2007-030, vote 7–0).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 7 June 2007, Bena, Cass County (record #2007-037, vote 7–0).

- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), 7–8 May 2007, Bass Ponds, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Hennepin County (record #2007-024, vote 7–0).

- Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), mid-August – 3 December 2006, Nashwauk, Itasca County (record #2006-097, vote 7–0).

Fourth state record. Photographed.

- Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), 28–31 May 2007, Ritter Farm Park, Dakota County (record #2007-034, vote 7–0).

Of special interest was this bird's presence at the same location where a territo-



Record 2006-096, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, 3 December 2006, Cloquet, Carlton County. Digital photo by Vija Kelly.

rial male sang 6 June – 2 July 2005 (*The Loon* 78:30, 78:44).

- Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorum*), 6 May 2007, Moorhead, Clay County (record #2007-023, vote 7-0).

- Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*), late October 2006 – 23 April 2007, Mountain Lake, Cottonwood County (record #2007-001, vote 7-0).

Fifth state record. Digital images by Dave Cahlander and Steve Roman showed the bird wearing band #8051-98299 from Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, Ontario, where it had been captured as an After Second Year (ASY) male 10 June 2006.

- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 19 August 2006, Split Rock Light-house State Park, Lake County (record #2006-102, vote 7-0).

- Lark Bunting, 11 December 2006, Airport Road, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2006-104, vote 7-0).

- Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), 18 November 2006, Maplewood, Ramsey County (record #2006-095, vote 7-0).

Eighteenth state record, two-thirds of

which occurred within the last 10 years.

- Painted Bunting, 19–23 May 2007, near Little Marais, Lake County (record #2007-028, vote 7-0).

Fifth record for the Northeast Region, but the first for Lake County. Both of the above were adult males and both were photographed.

- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*), 27 November 2006 – 26 March 2007, near Cloquet, Carlton County (record #2006-096, vote 7-0 for each of three photographed individuals).

Thirteenth state record. All three birds were “interior form” (*L. t. tephrocotis*).

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*), 15 December 2006 – 31 January 2007, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County (record #2007-006, vote 7-0).

Identifiably photographed during one of its sporadic visits to a backyard feeder. Sixth state record.

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 15 April 2007, Virginia, St. Louis County (record #2007-016, vote 7-0).

Seventh state record. Photographed.

The following records were Not Accepted. Please note that a record which is Not Accepted only means that the documentation was not complete or convincing enough to include the sighting in **The Loon**, the journal of the MOU, or in the MOU's archives of confirmed bird records. Such a vote does not necessarily mean the observer misidentified the bird or did not see it. Summaries of the reasons why a record was Not Accepted are included here. These are in no way intended to be critical of the observer. The only purpose is to highlight the difficulties an observer may encounter while identifying or documenting these and similar species.

- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 30 August 2006, Folsom Township, Traverse County (record #2006-108, vote 1–6).

The single submitted photograph did not show purple iridescence in the wing coverts and the bird's crissum could not be seen. Committee members were not convinced that the bird was an adult. Written documentation, which could have addressed questions about the bird's age and the possibility of hybridization, was not submitted in support of this record.

- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chibi*), 29 April – 1 May 2007, two subadults among flock southwest of Madison, Lac Qui Parle County (record #2007-019, vote 3–4).

- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), 10 April 2007, county road 12 near US highway 169, Mille Lacs County (record #2007-015, vote 3–4).

The majority was concerned that dark morph buteos and other raptor species were not considered and eliminated. Field notes were not submitted.

- Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), 14 May 2007, state highway 210 at county road 1, Cass County (record #2007-031, vote 0–7).

The description was limited to “distinctive black and white wings on the underside.” It was unanimously felt that a more complete description that included size, tail shape, and other aspects of its plumage would be needed.

- Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), 15 De-

cember 2006, near Virginia, St. Louis County (record #2007-009, vote 3–4).

- Prairie Falcon (*F. mexicanus*), 20 January 2007, near Luverne, Rock County (record #2007-007, vote 2–5).

- Prairie Falcon, 20 February 2007, West Union Township, Todd County (record #2007-008, vote 1–6).

Though possibly identified correctly, all three of the above falcons were observed without optics from moving vehicles on major highways.

- Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), 14–15 April 2007, near Detroit Lakes, Becker County (record #2007-017, vote 2–5 for each of six adults).

Though observed on two different days, the description was brief and optics were not used. The birds vocalized, but the observer was unable to describe the calls. No field notes were taken and the documentation form was apparently filled out by an individual who did not see the birds.

- Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*), 26 August 2006, Vineland Bay, Mille Lacs Lake, Mille Lacs County (record #2006-107, vote 2–5).

The documentation for this bird was submitted as a “possible Wilson's Plover” suggesting that the observers were initially unsure of the identification despite referring to field guides during the observation. The large, thick bill of a Wilson's Plover should have caught the observers' attention, but this bird's bill was described as a “long dark bill, mono-colored.” Immature Killdeer with a single breastband was not considered.

- Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), 16 December 2006, Black Dog Lake, Dakota County (record #2006-106, vote 0–7).

Documentation for this individual, which was reported on the Bloomington Christmas Bird Count, did not eliminate other species of dark-mantled gulls. An adult Slaty-backed had been seen in this area earlier in the month, but it could not be refound after the 13th (see Accepted record #2006-105).

- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus*

melanocephalus), 28 August 2006, southeast of Granite Falls, Chippewa County (record #2006-092, vote 0–7).

Despite being observed for 30 minutes with two female grosbeaks (presumably Rose-breasted), there was no comparison among the three birds and no field notes were taken. The description omitted most of its plumage, including wing linings, and its bare parts were not described.

- Black-headed Grosbeak, 18–20 September 2006, Britt, St. Louis County (record #2006-089, vote 1–6).

One distant image and brief written details were insufficient to eliminate either Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*P. ludovicianus*) or hybrids thereof. Wing linings were not seen, so the bird could not be aged or sexed; some first-fall Rose-breasted show a whitish belly and nearly unstreaked pale buff breast, very similar to the appearance of this bird in the submitted image.

The efforts of all those observers who document reports of unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Accordingly, the Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written documentation for one or more of the records listed in this article: Robert Amos, Dave Bartkey, Pat Beauzay, Chris Benson, Dedrick Benz, Andrew Bicek, Thomas Bloom, Brad Bolduan, Jason Bolish, Conny Brunell, Paul Budde, Dave Cahlander, Phil Chu, Shawn Conrad, Nelvina De Kam, Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, John Ellis, Bruce Fall, Ben Fritchman, Dave Grosshuesch, Mike Hendrickson, Anthony Hertz, Ross Hier, John Hockema, Bob Janssen, Jeanie Joppru, Doug Kieser, Roger and Laurie Larson, Jim Lind, Bill Marengo, Jim Mattsson, Shawnee McKenna, Steve Millard, Molly Jo Miller, Mark Ochs, Jim Otto, Jim Pomplun, Al Schirmacher, Nathan Schirmacher, Drew Smith, Shelley Steva, Karen Sussman, Peder Svingen, Dan and Sandy Thimgan, Bill Unzen, Larry Weber, Judith Welu, Ben Wieland, Dennis Wiesenborn, Bob Williams, Steve Yahn, Ben Yobel, and Shawn Zierman. The Committee

also thanks the many photographers who submitted images in support of these records.

There were many more observers who provided written documentation and/or photographs for records of Regular species which were not voted on by the Committee. Although such records are not cited here, the efforts of these individuals are greatly appreciated. All observers are encouraged to use the “Request for Documentation Form”, which can be downloaded from the MOU website or filled out online at <http://moumn.org/cgi-bin/rqd.pl?op=new>, or to follow its format when preparing narratives; this form was designed to insure that critical information about a record is not omitted.

Please note the following corrections to the August–December 2006 *Proceedings* (**The Loon** 79:50–57):

- Change record number to 2006-060 for the Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) at South Landfill Reservoir, Olmsted County, 24 June 2006.

- Change date to 19 August – 3 September 2006 for Glossy/White-faced Ibis at Munnwyler Lake, Big Stone County (record #2006-070).

- Change date to 3–9 September 2006 for Glossy/White-faced Ibis 1.0 mile west of Clinton, Big Stone County (record #2006-078).

The Committee welcomes questions or comments regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. Please contact Peder Svingen by e-mail at mourc@moumn.org or at the address below. Summary: 53 records voted on — 42 Accepted (79%), 11 Not Accepted (21%).

Literature Cited

Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU). 2006. Annual Records Committee Report for 2006. Accessed 22 October 2007 at http://www.iowabirds.org/iou/RCPReports/dynamic_report.asp.

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