

# Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Thomas A. Tustison, Chairman

The most recent meeting of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee ("MOURC") was conducted at the Trailhead Lodge at the Carpenter Nature Center on 4 December 2016. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Dedrick A. Benz, Robert M. Dunlap, Andrew R. Forbes, Bruce A. Fall, Douglas W. Kieser (alternate), William C. Marengo (alternate), Robert P. Russell, Andrew D. Smith, and Thomas A. Tustison (chair).

At, or subsequent to, the meeting the following records were voted on and were Accepted:

- **Brant** (*Branta bernicla brota*), 18–22 October 2016, Agate Bay boat launch and various nearby locations, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2016-041, vote 7–0). Juvenile of the *brota* subspecies ("Atlantic" Brant), photographed. First county and the nineteenth state record. The first report since fall 2012.

- **White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*), 23 November – 4 December 2016, private residence, Ramsey, Anoka County (record #2016-046, vote 7–0). Photographed, first county record.

- **Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*), 10 October – 2 December 2016, private residence near Isanti, Isanti County (record #2016-048, vote 7–0). Photographed, adult female. First county record. Photographs were submitted to an outside expert who confirmed the identification as an adult female Rufous. Apparently, the bird was present approximately two weeks earlier than 10 October, but additional documentation is lacking to support a specific date.

- **Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 18 May 2016, southern edge of the Ottawa Impoundment, Grant County (record #2016-032, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 16 June – 16 August 2016, slough at the intersection of state high-

way 28 and county road 61, Big Stone County (record #2016-030, vote 7–0). Two individuals photographed.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 21 July – 20 August 2016, Christiania Waterfowl Production Area, Jackson County (record #2016-031, vote 7–0). First county record and first county breeding record. Four adults were observed on 22 July 2016. Three adults and four young were seen on 20 August 2016; all were accepted. Some of these individuals were photographed. As many as nine individuals may have been present in the immediate vicinity on 28 July 2016 (as reported by one observer), but were not formally documented.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 1 September, 171st Street, about four miles west of county road 20 near Lake Crystal, Blue Earth County (record #2016-036, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed.

- **Black-necked Stilt**, 16–18 October 2016, county road 13 between county roads 30 and 32, Blue Earth County (record #2016-039, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed.

- **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (*Calidris acuminata*), 20–25 September 2016, county road 32 just east of Tacoma Avenue, Carver County (record #2016-037, vote 10–0). First state record. Two juveniles were shown in the same photograph taken on 23 September 2016 and both remained until the last date indicated above (*The Loon* 89:6–8). Both individuals were accepted. It is unknown whether the second juvenile, first noticed and photographed on 23 September, was present during the entire period and went undetected by observers, or whether it arrived sometime between 20 September and 23 September.

- **Red Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), 13 October 2016, county road 32 just east of Tacoma Avenue, Carver County (record #2016-040, vote 7–0). Photographed. First county record.

- **Red Phalarope**, 19–22 October 2016,



**Record #2016-049, *Fregata* frigatebird, 21 August 2016, Mounds View, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertz.**

Cook Wastewater Treatment Ponds, St. Louis County (record #2016-042, vote 7–0). Photographed.

- **Black-legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*), 7 November 2016, Agate Bay, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2016-043, vote 7–0). Juvenile, photographed.

- ***Fregata* frigatebird** (*Fregata* sp.), 21 August 2016, private residence, Mounds View, Ramsey County (record #2016-049, vote 7–0). First county record, adult male, photographed. This is the fifth accepted frigatebird record for the state. One was a Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) (Jackson County, 2 September 2007, *The Loon* 80:106–107) and all others *Fregata* sp. This is the only *Fregata* sp. to be photographed. The three previous *Fregata* sp. records are as follows: Clearwater County (22 September 1988, *The Loon* 79:51), Dakota County (1 October 1988, *The Loon* 79:51), St. Louis County (19–21 September 2005, *The Loon* 78:41).

- **Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 11 May 2016, marsh 0.7 miles east of county roads 2 and 3 on south side of the road, Traverse County (record #2016-033, vote 7–0). Photographed. First county record.

- **Acorn Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes for-*



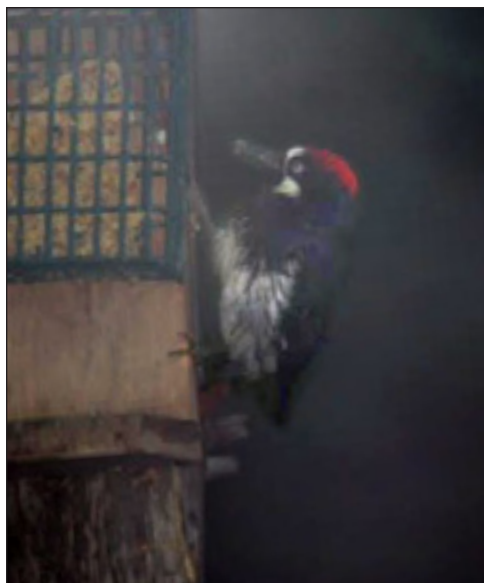
**Record #2016-033, Glossy Ibis, 11 May 2016, Arthur Township, Traverse County. Photo by Andrew Nyhus.**

*micivorus*), 14 September 2016, private residence, Detroit Lakes, Becker County (record #2016-050, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. The bird was seen at a feeder. Second state and first county record.

- **Sprague's Pipit** (*Anthus spragueii*), 5 October 2016, South Heron Lake, Jackson County (record #2016-038, vote 6–1).

- **Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), 30 September 2016 – 25 January 2017, Lakeside neighborhood, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2016-044, vote 7–0). Photographed adult in basic plumage. Undoubtedly, this is a returning individual to the exact same feeder for the third consecutive winter. Thirteenth state record and the sixth for St. Louis County.

The following records were voted on and 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* 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



**Record #2016-050, Acorn Woodpecker, 14 September 2016, Detroit Lakes, Becker County. Photo by Art Bakker.**



**Record #2016-044, Golden-crowned Sparrow. 19 November 2016, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Peder H. Svingen**

the observer. The only purpose is to highlight the difficulties an observer may encounter while identifying or documenting these and similar species.).

• **Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 5 July 2016, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac qui Parle County (record #2016-029, vote 0–7). There was little description of the bird other than a gray bird with dark “square-tipped tail.” The photographs were not determinative, basically showing only a silhouette.

• **Bewick’s Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*), 10 April – 4 May 2016, private residence near La Crescent, Houston County (record #2016-016, initial vote 4–3, recirculated vote 0–7). Manipulation of the background color in the images shows that the bird had both buffy underparts and rufous upperparts strongly suggesting a Carolina Wren (*T. ludovicianus*) rather than a Bewick’s.

The efforts of all those observers who document unusual species are greatly appreciated, whether or not the records are Accepted. Though photographs are always welcome, observers are strongly encouraged to submit written documentation based on contempo-

rary field notes for all records. The Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written descriptions for the records listed in this article: Brad Abendroth, Danny Akers, Ruth Amundson, Art Bakker, David A. Bartkey, Dedrick Benz, Philip C. Chu, Kimberly Emerson, Ben W. Fritchman, Dan & Pam Guynn, Chad Heins, Anthony X. Hertz, Pete Hoeger, Douglas W. Kieser, Noah Kuck, Alex Lamoreaux, William C. Marengo, Bruce Munson, Douglas L. Pierzina, Karl Roe, Kathryn Rozovics, Alex Sundvall, Peder H. Svingen, Thomas A. Tustison, Garrett Wee, Julie Zempel, and Roy Zimmerman. Many observers documented records of rare Regular species which were not evaluated by the Committee; though not cited here, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Committee welcomes questions or comments from MOU members regarding any record in particular or our procedures in general. More information including our bylaws and current checklist can be found at <<http://moumn.org/mourc>>. Summary: 19 records voted on — 17 Accepted, 2 Not Accepted.

**3244 – 10th Avenue South, #2, Minneapolis MN 55407.**