

# 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 3 December 2017. In attendance and voting at this meeting were members Dedrick A. Benz, Robert M. Dunlap, Andrew R. Forbes, Douglas W. Kieser, William C. Maren-go (alternate), Robert P. Russell, Andrew D. Smith, Peder H. Svingen (alternate), and Thomas A. Tustison (chair).

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

- White-winged Dove (*Zenaidura asiatica*) [Casual], 28 July 2017, La Salle, Watonwan County (record #2017-038, vote 7-0). Photographed. First county record (A).

- Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) [Accidental], 24-26 July 2017, private residence, Hennepin County (record #2017-036, vote 7-0). Photographed. Adult male (B).

- Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) [Casual], 28 October 2017, Black Beach, Lake County (record #2017-046, vote 7-0). Photographed (C).

- Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [Casual], 24-25 November 2017, Hazen P. Mooers Park, Grey Cloud Trail South, Cottage Grove, Washington County (record #2017-048, vote 7-0). Juvenile, photographed (D).

- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) [Casual], 5 August 2017, Lac qui Parle County (record #2017-039, vote 7-0). Juvenile, photographed (E).

- Ferruginous Hawk [Casual], 16 October 2017, Plummer, Red Lake County (record #2017-045, vote 7-0). Juvenile, superbly photographed (F).

- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) [Accidental], 7 July 2017, Koester Prairie WMA, Lamb Avenue southwest of Dennison, Rice County (record #2017-047, vote 7-0). Photographed (G).

- Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus ru-*

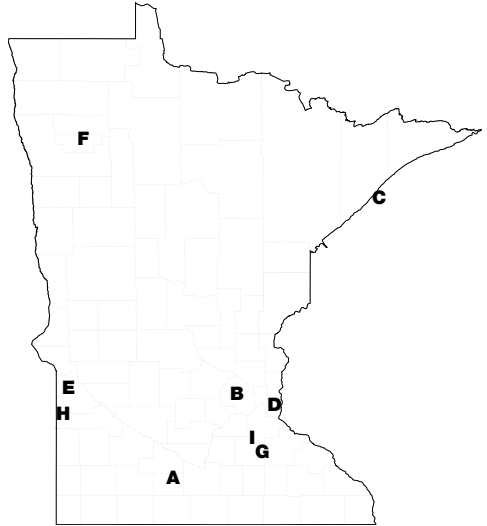


Figure 1. Approximate locations of all Accepted records referenced in the individual species accounts.

- binus*) [Accidental], 12 October 2017, 110th Street just south of 250th Avenue, Yellow Medicine County (record #2017-044, vote 7-0). Presumed first-year male, photographed. First county record (H).

- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) [Casual], 1 July 2017, Lamb Avenue one-quarter mile north of Dennison Boulevard, near Dennison, Rice County (record #2017-037, vote 7-0) (I).

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*, the journal of the MOU, or in the MOU's archives of confirmed bird records. Such a vote does not necessarily mean the



**White-winged Dove, 28 July 2017, La Salle, Watonwan County. Photo by Sarah Taylor.**



**Rufous Hummingbird, 26 July 2017, Minneapolis, Hennepin County. Photo by Liz Harper.**

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.)

- Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) [Accidental], 6 August 2017, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Wildlife Drive, Sherburne County (record #2017-040, vote 0–7). Many members did not believe that other species of juvenile rails were satisfactorily eliminated. Apparently, no white spotting was observed on the wings or back, possibly due to being partially obscured by cattails, though this white spotting normally should have stood out. Usually observers mention a rusty or rufous nape not simply a “brown back” without further elaboration. The observer mentions that field notes and sketches were taken before consulting a field guide (and that they were made within one minute of the observation) but none were included with the documentation. The observer only saw the bird for one minute and apparently his view was often obscured by vegetation. Though seen through a scope, there was no mention of

eye color which most likely should have been seen because the bill was seen.

- Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) [Casual], 8–10 June 2017, North Ottawa Impoundment, cell A2, Grant County (record #2017-021, vote 0–7). This record was split into two parts based on date: 8 June 2017, and 10 June 2017. First vote was 4–3 for both dates. The recirculated vote was (0–7) for the 8 June date and (1–6) for the 10 June date. Most members thought the 8 June documentation was inadequate to distinguish the observation from a Pectoral Sandpiper. Regarding the 10 June observation, the observer had no experience with the species and the bird was seen from a considerable distance. In spite of seeing it flush multiple times, no mention was made of the Ruff's characteristic white, oval tail pattern.

- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) [Casual], 14 September 2017, Riverside Cemetery, Moorhead, Clay County (record #2017-043, vote 1–6). There was good effort in the documentation, but there was not enough focus on significant details that might have supported the identification. Overall, the description was too incomplete for acceptance.

- Ferruginous Hawk [Casual], 25 November 2017, private residence, North Minneapolis



**Ferruginous Hawk, 16 October 2017, Plummer, Red Lake County. Photo by Paula Cater.**



**Barn Owl, 7 July 2017, Koester Prairie WMA, Dennison, Rice County. Photo by Barb Bolan.**

lis, Hennepin County (record #2017-049, vote 0–7). The members who commented unanimously thought the bird was probably a Red-tailed Hawk.

- Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) [Accidental], 16–17 July 2017, Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge auto tour road, Lac qui Parle County (record #2017-035, vote 0–7). There was no adequate written description of the bird that would distinguish it from an Eastern Wood-Pewee. It may have been a Western because it responded to a tape, and while this is relevant evidence, it is not sufficient, in itself, to rule out all other species.

- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) [Casual], 7 September 2017, State Line Road/100th Street, east of Lake Bella Wildlife Management Area, Nobles County (record #2017-042, vote 2–5). Prebasic molt is complete July – September. As this bird was observed in early September, it should show at least some indication that it was undergoing molt, meaning it wouldn't be overall black. The white wing patch is drawn in entirely the wrong spot, surrounded by whatever color the wing is (we are only told it was “a dark to black overall color”). If a Bobolink, however, it's in exactly the right spot.

The efforts of all those observers who doc-

ument 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 contemporaneous field notes for all records. The Committee acknowledges with thanks those who provided written descriptions for the records listed in this article: Ann Oslund, Barb Bolan, Paula Cater, Richard Clearman, Kim R. Eckert, Rebecca Engdahl, Ronald A. Erpelding, Jason Frank, Shawn Goodchild, Liz Harper, Ezra Hosch, Heidi Hughes, Mike Majeski, William C. Marengo, David F. Neitzel, Peter Nichols, Dana Sterner and Michael Sack, Kevin D. Smith and Sarah Taylor. Many observers documented records of rare Regular species which were not voted on 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: 15 records voted on — 9 Accepted, 6 Not Accepted.

**Edina, MN.**