

# 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 James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History in St. Paul on 8 December 2019. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Dedrick A. Benz, Anthony X. Hertz, Ann E. Kessen, Douglas W. Kieser, William C. Marengo, Steve P. Stucker (alternate), Alex V. Sundvall (alternate), and Thomas A. Tustison (chair).

At, or subsequent to, the meeting, the following records were voted on (most electronically) and were Accepted:

- Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*) [Regular], 9 April 2011, Freeman Township, Freeborn County (record #2011-056, vote 10-0). Adult, male. While a Regular species, the Committee decided to review this record because it is a candidate for a possible future taxonomic split giving it full species status. This current subspecies is often referred to as Common Teal or Eurasian Teal. It breeds in the Palearctic and the Aleutian Islands, wintering from southern and central Europe east to Japan and southern and southeast Asia.

- Rufous Hummingbird 17 September – 3 November 2019, private residence, Eagan, Dakota County (record #2019-056, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

- Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) [Casual], 28 September – 10 October 2019, Le Sueur, Le Sueur County (record #2019-055, vote 7-0). Immature female/male photographed.

- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) [Casual], 14-17 October 2018, North Ottawa Impoundment, Grant County (record #2019-049, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [Casual], 18 May 2019, Dakota County (record #2019-037, vote 7-0). Five adults, photographed.

- Red Knot 26 May 2019, Agate Bay, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2019-038, vote 6-1). Adult, photographed.



**Red Phalarope, 14 September 2018, Cook Sewage Lagoons, St. Louis County. Photo by Alan and Karen Orr.**

- Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) [Casual], 14 September 2018, Cook Sewage Lagoons, St. Louis County (record #2018-059, vote 7-0). Juvenile, photographed.

- California Gull (*Larus californicus*) [Casual], 28 July 2019, Breckenridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, Wilkin County (record #2019-041, vote 7-0). Juvenile, Photographed.

- California Gull 3-6 November 2019, Superior Entry, St. Louis County (record #2019-057, vote 5-2). Second-cycle.

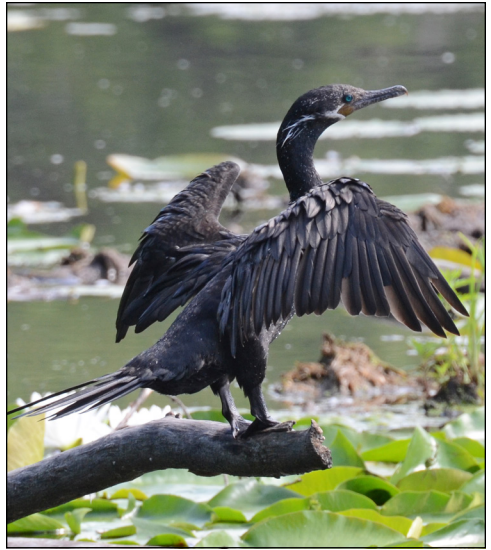
- California Gull 24 December 2019, Point Douglas Park, Washington County (record #2019-061, vote 7-0). First-cycle.

- Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) [Accidental], 27 July – 18 August 2019, Richfield Lake Park, Hennepin County (record #2019-040, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) [Casual], 18 August 2019, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, St. Louis County (record #2019-042, vote 7-0). This is the second accepted record from this location; the first was 28 August 2001 (**The**



**Rufous Hummingbird, 2 October 2019, Le Sueur, Le Sueur County. Photo by James Halbmaier.**



**Neotropical Cormorant, 5 August 2019, Richfield Lake Park, Hennepin County. Photo by Bruce A. Fall.**

**Loon** 74:36) which was a first state record at the time.

- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) [Casual], 3 October 2019, west side of Chatfield at intersection of County Road 30 and Orchard Ridge Road, Olmsted County (record #2019-050, vote 7-0). Specimen, photographed, probable first-year female based on physical measurements and all primaries being single-generation. First county record.

- Barn Owl 7 October 2019, five miles northwest of Houston, Houston County (record #2019-058, vote 5-2). Audio recorded.

- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) [Casual], 4 September 2019, Sucker Lake, Ramsey County (record #2019-045, vote 5-2).

- Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) [Accidental], 8 October 2019, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, Hennepin County (record #2019-053, vote 7-0). Photographed. This is the second time this species has been documented at this exact location; the first was on 5 May 1997 (**The Loon** 70:45).

- Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) [Accidental], 22 September 2019, Locke Avenue Northwest just north of County Road 37 (45.2026, -94.1306), Wright County (record #2019-047, vote 7-0). Photographed. Fifth state

and fourth fall record.

- Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) [Accidental], 5 June 2019, County Road 5, Floodwood, St. Louis County (record #2019-051, vote 7-0). Photographed.

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow 21-23 May 2019, Secret Cove, Lake County (record #2019-043, vote 7-0). Three birds photographed — all three birds accepted.

- Eurasian Tree Sparrow 14 – 31 December, private residence, Silver Lake, McLeod County (record #2019-060, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

- Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*) 8-11 December 2019, private residence, Warren, Polk County (record #2019-059, vote 10-0). Adult, photographed. First state and county record (**The Loon** 92:6-8).

- Cassin's Sparrow (*Peucaea cassinii*) 27-28 September 2019, near Edna G tugboat parking area, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2019-048, vote 10-0). Adult, photographed. First state and county record.

- Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*) [Casual], 22 May 2019, River Bend Nature Center, Rice County (record #2019-062, vote 5-2).

The following records were voted on and



**Rock Wren, 8 October 2019, Minnesota Valley NWR, Bloomington, Hennepin County. Photo by Edward W. McFadden.**



**Northern Wheatear, 22 September 2019, Anandale Township, Wright County. Photo by Milton J. Blomberg.**

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 Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (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. 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.)

- California Gull [Casual], 28 August 2019, Cottonwood wastewater treatment plant, Lyon County (record #2019-044, vote 3–4).

- Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) [Accidental], 16 September 2019, Mankato, Blue Earth County (record #2019-046, vote 0–10).

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 contemporaneous field notes for all records. The Committee

acknowledges with thanks those who provided written descriptions for the records listed in this article: Jill Beim, Karla A. Bloem, Milton J. Blomberg, Tom Boevers, Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus, Robert M. Dunlap, Kim R. Eckert, Kimberly A. Emerson, Bruce A. Fall, Liz Harper, Bethany Hawkwatch, Chad Heins, Anthony X. Hertz, Thomas Benjamin Hertz, John W. Hockema, Pete Hoeger, Gerald Hoekstra, Ezra Hosch, Isaac Hosch, Heidi Hughes, Paul E. Jantscher, Douglas W. Kieser, Steve Kolbe, James W. Lind, Craig R. Mandel, Edward W. McFadden, Alan and Karen Orr, Aaron Pietsch, John Richardson, Andrew D. Smith, Kevin D. Smith, Dana Sterner, Alex Sundvall, and Roy Zimmerman. 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: 25 records voted on — 23 Accepted, 2 Not Accepted.

**Edina Minnesota.**