

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Thomas A. Tustison, Chairman

It has recently come to the attention of the chair that a significant number of records previously voted on by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee ("MOURC") were never published. Therefore, this supplemental Proceedings article is being published to rectify this oversight.

The following records were voted on and were Accepted:

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) [Casual], 26 September 2020, Highway 26 Overlook, Houston County (record #2020-059, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) [Casual], 6 April 2020, Hamden Slough N.W.R., Becker County (record #2020-081, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) [Casual], 6-7 November 2020, Lake Bemidji, from the Paul Bunyan Bike Trail on the east side, Beltrami County (record #2020-069, vote 7-0). Apparent first winter male, photographed.

King Eider, 19 December 2020 – 23 January 2021, Good Harbor Bay and Grand Marais, Cook County (record #2020-076, vote 7-0). Female, photographed.

Ani sp. (*Crotophaga ani/sulcirostris*) [Accidental], 20 August 2020, Park Point, by Sky Harbor Airport, St. Louis County (record #2020-045, vote 5-2). Eleventh record of the genus with eight Accepted as Groove-billed Ani. Not Accepted at the species level (vote 2-5).

Black-necked Stilt, [Casual], 26 September 2020, Cupp's Slough, Lyon County (record #2020-060, vote 7-0). Four birds were accepted.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [Casual], 18 August 2020, Stony Point, St. Louis County (record #2020-044, vote 7-0).

Red Knot, 7-10 September 2020, North Ottawa Impoundment, Grant County (record #2020-054, vote 7-0). Also seen in Traverse County 8 September 2022. Juvenile, photographed.



Record #2020-067, Arctic Tern, 16 September 2016, near Bigelow, Nobles County. Photo by Neil Wingert.

Red Knot, 11 September 2020, Lone Tree Lake, Lyon County (record #2020-056, vote 7-0). Three birds were accepted.

Red Knot, 11 October 2020, Marsh Lake near Odessa, Big Stone County (record #2020-064, vote 6-1). Photographed.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) [Accidental], 8-13 September 2020, Black Rush Lake W.P.A., Lyon County (record #2020-055, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county and twelfth state record.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) [Casual], 26-29 September 2020, Minnesota side of Superior Entry, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2020-061, vote 7-0). Basic-plumaged adult, photographed.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) [Casual], 28 August 2020, Port Terminal, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2020-049, vote 6-1). Apparent late second-cycle or early third-cycle, photographed. The tenth state record and the second earliest southbound record.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [Casual], 16 September 2016, north end of Lake Bella near



Record #2021-049, Neotropic Cormorant, 13 July 2021, Richfield Lake Park, Hennepin County. Photo by Paul E. Budde.

Bigelow, Nobles County (record #2020-067, vote 7-0). Juvenile, photographed. First county record.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) [Accidental], 19 July 2020, Richfield Lake Park, Hennepin County (record #2020-082, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. Ninth state record. This bird joined another Neotropic adult (see *The Loon* 92:93-94) which had been frequenting this location since 3 June 2020. As mentioned in the immediately preceding citation, both birds were seen simultaneously until 21 August 2020. The two were well photographed on 2 August 2020 clearly showing two different adults.

Neotropic Cormorant, 24 April – 21 September 2021, Richfield Lake Park, Hennepin County (record #2021-013, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. Tenth state record. This bird was joined by an immature Neotropic Cormorant (see below) which was first observed on 11 June 2021. Apparently, this immature bird had been seen at least several weeks prior to 11 June 2021 and possibly as early as early May 2021 until the observer realized there were two different birds when both the immature and the adult were observed together. Both individuals were seen together sporadically at least until 21 September. One of these two individuals lingered until 5 October 2021 although the age of that bird was not documented.

Neotropic Cormorant, 11 June – 21 September

2021, Richfield Lake Park, Hennepin County (record #2021-049, vote 7-0). Immature, photographed. Eleventh state record. This bird is the immature bird referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) [Accidental], 16 August 2020, Hammond Road, Finlayson, Pine County (record #2020-043, vote 7-0). Adult. First county record.

Swallow-tailed Kite, 6 September 2020, Duesler, Carlton County (record #2020-053, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record. This is possibly the same adult that was seen three weeks earlier and roughly 23 miles southwest in Pine County (see the immediately preceding record #2020-043).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) [Casual], 26 August – 15 September 2020, Land of Memories City Park, Mankato, Blue Earth County (record #2020-046, vote 7-0). Numerous photographs were taken. As many as four birds were seen. Some of the same birds were also observed in adjoining Nicollet County. There were at least 128 observers alleging differing numbers of adults and juveniles making it very difficult to discern what actually transpired over this time span (but see *The Loon* 93:105-106). This assortment of adults and juveniles at this location may be an indication of possible nesting nearby. Parenthetically, an adult was seen at this exact same location 21 May 2014 (*The Loon* 86:107).

Mississippi Kite, 9 September 2020, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2020-077, vote 6-1). Apparent juvenile, photographed.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) [Casual], 22 December 2019, Shakopee, Scott County (record #2019-067, vote 7-0). Juvenile gray morph, photographed and video recorded.

Tropical/Couch's kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*), [Accidental], 25 September 2020, Big Stone N.W.R., Odessa, Lac qui Parle County (record #2020-058, vote 6-1). Photographed. First county record. Not Accepted at either species level (vote 0-7). MOURC has accepted three Tropical/Couch's kingbird records since the first was documented in 2011. All are fall records from the following counties: Lac qui Parle, Stearns, and St. Louis. A fourth fall record from Lake County is pending MOURC consideration. The chronological dates by month for all of the



Record #2020-065, Painted Redstart, 21 October 2020, St. Paul, Ramsey County. Photo by Anthony X. Hertz.

above-mentioned Accepted observations are 16 August 2020, 25 September 2020, 30 September 2020 (pending), and 28 October 2011.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*T. forficatus*) [Casual], 4 September 2020, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2020-051, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) [Accidental], 4-5 October 2020, Scott County (record #2020-063, vote 7-0). Photographed. First county record.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) [Casual], 24 October 2020, Alseth Road, Stony Point, St. Louis County (record #2020-068, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

Mountain Bluebird, 10 November 2020, Walker Wastewater Treatment Plant, Cass County (record #2020-070, vote 7-0). Immature male, photographed. First county record.

Mountain Bluebird, 27 November 2020 – 6 March 2021, Falcon Heights, Ramsey County (record #2020-072, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. Originally found at Les Bolestad Golf Course, University of Minnesota, then it relocated to nearby Como Regional Park where it overwintered with a group of Eastern Bluebirds.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) [Casual], 5 October 2020 – 28 April 2021, Windom, Cottonwood County (record #2020-062, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, 13 November 2020 –

16 March 2021, private residence, Dakota County (record #2020-074, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) [Casual], 26-30 November 2020, Lake Winona, Winona County (record #2020-073, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) [Accidental], 26 October – 19 December 2020, private residence in Coleraine, Itasca County (record #2020-066, vote 7-0). Immature male, photographed. Possibly present since mid-October according to the homeowners. First county and sixth state record. Interestingly, five of the six records have occurred since 2013. The first was recorded in 1968.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) [Casual], 30 May 2020, Lawrence Creek Scientific and Natural Area, near Shafer, Chisago County (record #2020-042, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record..

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*S. nigrescens*) [Accidental], 3-4 September 2020, Sucker Lake, Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County (record #2020-047, vote 7-0). Adult female, photographed. First county and tenth state record.

Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*) [Accidental], 21-22 October 2020, St. Paul, Ramsey County (record #2020-065, vote 10-0). Adult, photographed. First county and second state record.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) [Casual], 26 May 2013, Corcoran, Hennepin County (record #2020-050, vote 7-0). Immature male, photographed. One of ten records from the spring of 2013

Painted Bunting (*P. ciris*) [Casual], 10-11 May 2020, Rochester, Olmsted County (record #2020-080, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

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 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.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) [Accidental], 22–23 November 2020, Specialized Environmental Technologies, Inc., Empire Dump and 140th St. Marsh, Dakota County (record #2020-071, vote 2–5). Photographed. Opinions of independent gull experts were considered by MOURC. The Committee voted (5–2) to Accept the observation as an unknown hybrid gull. Among the many hybrid possibilities, both Western/Glaucous-winged and Herring/Glaucous-winged were specifically considered but were unanimously Not Accepted (vote 0–7 for each specifically considered hybrid).

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) [Casual], 10 September 2020, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2020-078, vote 0–7). Distance was estimated at 1.5 to 3.0 miles under hazy conditions making sufficient details indiscernible. The bird was seen flying with an American White Pelican and should have been noticeably smaller, yet the observer commented that “it was hard to confirm any real size difference.”

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), 20 November 2020, Private residence on Bartlett Boulevard in Mound, Hennepin County (record #2020-083, vote 1–9). While this bird may very well have been a Phainopepla, most members felt that there were not enough specific details to meet the high bar of documentation needed to establish a first state record.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) [Accidental], 23 September 2020, Golden Valley, Hennepin County (record #2020-079, vote 0–7). Photographed. Found dead on a sidewalk in a residential neighborhood. The photograph appears to depict a Nashville Warbler.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) [Casual], 14 September 2020, Bloomington, Hennepin County (record #2020-075, vote 2–5). Photographed. The photograph appears to be overexposed and the coloration of the bird blurry. The written details don't offer much by way of diagnostic features needed to separate it from a Rose-breasted Grosbeak or a grosbeak hybrid.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) [Casual], 29 August 2020, St. Paul, Ramsey County (record #2020-052, vote 0–7). Neither of the two birds were accepted. Most of the remarks in the description were conclusory while offering no real details of what was observed, especially of the male. The description of the female was too limited to rule out other possibilities.

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: Brad Abendroth, Lon Baumgardt, Paul E. Budde, Thomas Burns, Steve Carlson, Mark Chichester, Philip C. Chu, Shawn Conrad, Cara L. Cox, Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus, Robert M. Dunlap, Kimberly A. Emerson, Becca Engdahl, Rebecca Engdahl, Frank Fabbro, Bruce A. Fall, Gregory Garmer, Tom Gilde, Linnae Halvorsen, Bethany Hawkwatch, Bonnie Heinecke, Michael Henry, Anthony X. Hertz, Gerald Hoekstra, Ezra Hosch, Isaac Hosch, Douglas P. Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Rochelle Karp, Douglas W. Kieser, Sarah Lane, Andrew B. Longtin, Craig R. Mandel, William C. Marengo, David Mather, Joshua McMahon, Nolan Meyer, Todd Mitchell, David Moffat, Andrew Nyhus, Aaron Oppelt, Dan Orr, Douglas L. Pierzina, Aaron Pietsch, John Richardson, Roger J. Schroeder, Vicky Seymour, Neil Skoog, Kevin D. Smith, Alex Sundvall, Peder H. Svingen, Matthew Thompson, Joshua G. Watson, Justin Watts, Garrett Wee, Neil Wingert, Julie Zempel, 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: 44 records voted on – 35 Accepted, 9 Not Accepted.

Edina, MN.