

# 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 electronically via Microsoft Teams on 24 August 2024. In attendance and voting at this meeting were MOURC members Robert M. Dunlap (alternate), Ann E. Kessen, Andrew D. Smith, Steven P. Stucker, Howard C. Towle (alternate), Joshua G. Watson (alternate), Thomas A. Tustison (chair).

The status of all species on the 2024 Checklist was reviewed by the Committee this past year and 28 species were acknowledged as having status changes.

All ten Committee members have discussed and voted on the status of these species, and the following changes were endorsed:

From **Casual** to **Regular** (five species):

- Red Knot (*Calidris canuatus*)
- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)
- Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*)
- Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

From **Regular** to **Casual** (four species):

- Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)
- Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus rosea*)
- Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)
- Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)

From **Accidental** to **Casual** (thirteen species):

- Black-bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)
- Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
- King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)
- Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)
- Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)
- Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)
- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)
- Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)
- Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)
- Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)
- Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)
- Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)
- Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)

From **Casual** to **Accidental** (six species):

- Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)
- Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)
- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
- Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)
- Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)
- Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)

There were 28 species that have undergone status changes in the 2024 Checklist compared to only 14 species in the prior 2019 Checklist.

Finally, Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) and Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) have been lumped into a single species, now called Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*).

The following records were voted on and were Accepted (a species' status — shown in brackets [ ] — reflects its current classification as of this publication):

**Garganey** (*Spatula querquedula*) [Accidental], 24–30 April 2024, Long Lake, Cottonwood County (record #2024-006, vote 7–0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

**Eurasian Wigeon** (*Mareca penelope*) [Casual], 24–28 April 2024, Crookston Sewage Lagoons, Polk County (record #2024-008, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

**Limpkin** (*Aramus guarauna*) [Casual], 30 May 2021, Paul Hugo Farms WMA, Washington County (record #2021-045, vote that the physical evidence, standing alone, was sufficient to confirm the identification 10–0).

**Ruff** (*Calidris pugnax*) [Casual], 13 April 2024, undisclosed wetland, Traverse County (record #2024-003, vote 7–0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

**Ruff**, 16–17 May 2024, Watermark, Ponds, Centerville, Anoka County (record #2024-023, vote 7–0). Female, photographed and video recorded.

**Western Sandpiper** (*Calidris mauri*) [Casual], 1 May 2024, Long Lake Waterfall Production Area, Cottonwood County (record #2024-009, vote 7–0). Single adult, photographed and

video recorded. Parenthetically, as many as two or three additional undocumented Western Sandpipers were reported from this location, covering a span from 30 April – 13 May 2024.

**Ancient Murrelet** (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) [Accidental], 9 December 2023. Agate Bay, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2023-115, vote 7-0). Adult photographed. First county record.

**California Gull** (*Larus californicus*) [Casual], 16–17 March 2024, the sand pit south of the Clay County Landfill, Clay County (record #2024-002, vote 6-1). Apparent second-cycle.

**Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*) [Accidental], marina concourse, Lake City, Wabasha County (record #2023-114, vote 7-0). Age/sex undetermined, photographed.

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) [Casual], 22–24 April 2024, Black Rush Lake Waterfowl Production Area, Lyon County (record #2024-005, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

**Glossy Ibis**, 27–30 April 2024, Cottonwood County (record #2024-007, vote 7-0). Two adults, photographed. First county record.

**Glossy Ibis**, 5–6 May 2024, Fletcher Sod Farm (about one mile south of Fletcher on Hennepin County Road 116), Hassan Township, Hennepin County (record #2024-011, vote 7-0). Adult photographed. First county record.

**Glossy Ibis**, 11 May 2024, northwest quadrant of the intersection of county roads 28 and 61, Big Stone County (record #2024-017, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

**Crested Caracara** (*Caracara plancus*) [Accidental], 9 June 2023, Lake County (record #2023-072, identification vote 10-0, vote that the physical evidence, standing alone, was sufficient to confirm the identification 10-0). The identification vote was taken to correct a procedural error on the initial vote because only 7 members voted when 10 were required.

**Western Wood-Pewee** (*Contopus sordidulus*) [Accidental], 26 May 2024, Lake Bronson State Park, Kittson County (record #2024-027, vote 7-0). Vocalizing adult, photographed and audio recorded. First county record.

**White-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo griseus*) [Regular], 11 May 2024, Sand Point, Frontenac State Park, Goodhue County (record #2024-020, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

**White-eyed Vireo**, 11 May 2024, Schwerin Creek WMA, Mower County (record #2024-016, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

**Phainopepla** (*Phainopepla nitens*) [Accidental], 29 October 2022, St. Louis County (record #2022-090, vote that the physical evidence, standing alone, was sufficient to confirm the identification 10-0).

**Sage Thrasher** (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) [Casual], 6–8 May 2024, Sherburne County (record #2024-014, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*) [Regular], 25–27 November 2023, Morris, Stevens County (record #2023-125, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, 10 December 2023 – 28 January 2024, private residence, Cottonwood, Lyon County (record #2023-135, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. First county record.

**Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*) [Casual], 17–18 April 2024, private residence, Perham, Otter Tail County (record #2024-004, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) [Casual], 15 January – 17 March 2024, Itasca County (record #2024-001, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed.

**Lesser Goldfinch** (*Spinus psaltria*) [Accidental], 11 December 2019, Agassiz Audubon Sanctuary, Polk County (record #2019-059, vote that the physical evidence, standing alone, was sufficient to confirm the identification 10-0).

**Cassin's Sparrow** (*Peucaea cassinii*) [Accidental], 27 September 2019, near Edna G tugboat parking area, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2019-048, vote that the physical evidence, standing alone, was sufficient to confirm the identification 10-0).

**Cassin's Sparrow**, 20 May 2024, Hartman Park, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2024-025, vote 7-0). Adult, photographed. Second state and first county record.

**Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) [Casual], 21 May 2013, behind The Crooked Spoon, Cook County (record #2013-075, vote 6-1). Adult male.

**Lark Bunting**, 28 September 2019, Two Harbors, Lake County (record #2019-049, vote 7-0). Female/immature, photographed.

**Lark Bunting**, 18 May 2024, Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2024-024, vote 7-0). Adult male.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) [Casual], 25–30 April 2024, private residence, Hermantown, St. Louis County (re-



**Crested Caracara, 9 June 2023, Castle Danger, Lake County. Photo by Maria Bauman.**



**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, 17 January 2024, Deer River, Itasca County. Photo by Kathy Carroll.**

cord #2024-012, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

**Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*) [Casual], 6-11 May 2024, 180th Street Northwest, Warren, Polk County (record #2024-015, vote 7-0). Immature male, photographed. First county record.

**Bullock's Oriole**, 13-14 May 2024, private residence, Grant, Washington County (record #2024-021, vote 7-0). Immature male, photographed. First county record.

**Painted Redstart** (*Myioborus pictus*) [Accidental], 21 October 2020, Ramsey County (record #2020-065, vote that the physical evidence, standing alone, was sufficient to confirm the identification 10-0).

**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) [Casual], 9 May 2024, private residence, Greenwood/Shorewood, Hennepin County (record #2024-019, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

**Lazuli Bunting** (*Passerina amoena*) [Casual], 4-5 May 2024, private property, Excelsior, Hennepin County (record #2024-013, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed.

**Lazuli Bunting**, 9 May 2024, Anoka County (record #2024-018, vote 7-0). Adult male, photographed. First county record.

**Lazuli Bunting**, 23-25 May 2024, private residence, Hawley, Clay County (record #2024-026, 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.)

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) [Casual], 30 June 2021, Minneopa State Park, Blue Earth County (record #2021-055, vote 1-6). The description is brief, lacking detail. Because the standard form (RQD) was not used, the distance to the bird and the length of the observation are unknown.

**Western Sandpiper**, 21 May 2024, Rice County (record #2024-031, vote 3-4). A majority of the Committee did not feel that the photo was diagnostic.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, 17 December 2023, about 0.7 miles south of South Saratoga Street along 250th Avenue, Lyon County (record #2023-134, vote 7-0). Photographed. Most Committee members thought this was a hybrid.

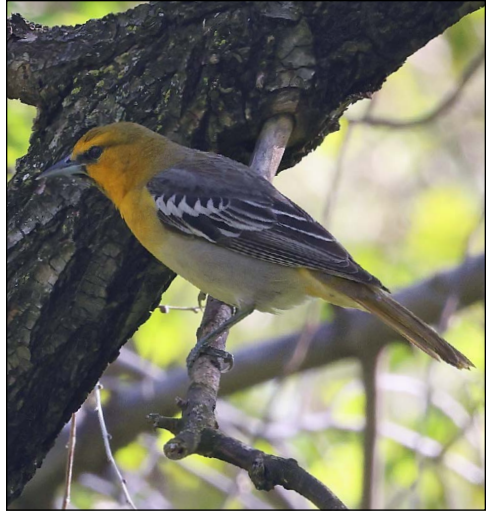


**Cassin's Sparrow, 20 May 2024, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Scott Wolff.**

**Brewer's Sparrow** (*Spizella breweri*) [Accidental], 5 October 2023, private residence, Duluth, St. Louis County (record #2023-136). This record previously accepted by a vote of 7–0 (see *The Loon* 95:118) has been withdrawn at the request of the observer and agreed to by the Chairperson of MOURC. Consequently, the previously Accepted record is now null and void.

**Bullock's Oriole**, 13 May 2024, Cass County (record #2024-022, vote 0–7). Most members felt that the description and photos were inadequate to clinch the identification. Many thought it was possibly an aberrant-plumaged Baltimore Oriole.

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, Maria Bauman, Lon Baumgardt, Patrick B. Beauzay, Paul E. Budde, Thomas Burns, Kathy Carroll, Philip C. Chu, Shawn Conrad, Jane Cullen, Robert M. Dunlap, Darlene Dvorak, Kim R. Eckert, Kimberly A. Emerson, Paul and Koni Fank, Les Gunder-



**Bullock's Oriole, 13 May 2024, Grant, Washington County. Photo by Darcy Pinotti.**

son, Liz Harper, David Harrington, Bonnie Heinecke, Anthony X. Hertzell, Thomas Benjamin Hertzell, Henry Hinchcliffe, Pete Hoeger, Ezra Hosch, Isaac Hosch, Heidi Hughes, Paul E. Jantscher, Hunter Kasprowicz, Douglas W. Kieser, Amy Kolan, Tony Lau, Brandon Lentz, James W. Lind, Craig R. Mandel, William C. Marengo, Nolan Meyer, Michael W. Sack and Molly Misfeldt, Vince Moxon, Peter Mundale, Penny Munson, David F. Neitzel, Andrew Nyhus, Lynn and August Palmer, Emily Patterson, Jan Peterson, Aaron Pietsch, Darcy Pinotti, Tate Putman, Kenneth M. Schumacher, Susan Schumacher, Dana Sterner, Dawn Johnson Stromquist, Alex Sundvall, Peder H. Svingen, Jack Sweno, Howard Towle, Amy Wasson, Joshua G. Watson, Justin Watts, Trey Weaver, Rebecca Whatley, 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: 42 records voted on — 37 Accepted, 5 Not Accepted.

**Edina, MN.**