

Birder's Corner

Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 1990 AND 1991

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This is the second report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee (MBRC). It covers the committee's actions during 1990 and 1991. During those years, MBRC reviewed the documentation for 147 records, 91 of which were accepted; rules for the acceptance or rejection of documentation are given by Granlund (1988). Records were reviewed by MBRC members Bill Bouton (Kent Co.), Philip Chu (Washtenaw Co.; Chairperson, 1991), Jim Fowler, Jr. (Wayne Co.), David Powell (Kalamazoo Co.; Chairperson, 1990), Jack Reineohl (Hillsdale Co.), C. Roy Smith (Berrien Co.) and Terry Walsh (Midland Co.), and alternates Jim Granlund (Kalamazoo Co.; Secretary, 1990 and 1991) and Karl Overman (Wayne Co.).

For all 147 records the following information is given: dates, location, an indication of the documentation submitted and a vote tally. Dates and locations are sometimes different from those published previously; in such cases, it is the information given here that is correct. In addition, for accepted records only, each observer who provided documentation is listed, and the name of the person who found the documented bird is given in boldface, whether that individual submitted documentation or not.

Many of the accounts below include information about sex and age. Unless otherwise noted I used the terminology of Humphrey and Parkes (1959) to describe plumages. A discussion of plumage terminology is beyond the scope of this paper, but in many cases alternate and basic plumages correspond to summer and winter plumages, respectively. Interested readers are urged to consult Humphrey and Parkes, or, for a less technical discussion, Wilds (1989).

In addition to reviewing bird records, MBRC made two changes to its bylaws; both changes concerned the way in which species are categorized on the Michigan bird list. First, species statuses were redefined. Under the old bylaws, status was determined by the total number of Michigan records: accidental species had ten or fewer, while casual species had more, but were not reported every year. Conversely, the modified bylaws define status in terms of the number of records in the last ten years. Accidental species are those that were recorded three times or less during that period; casual species were recorded more often, but were missed in at least one of the ten.

The committee's goal in using a ten-year criterion was to make the state list more responsive to changes in status. For example, under the old bylaws, Bewick's Wren was considered to be of casual occurrence in Michigan, with at least 27 records. However, only three have been recorded since 1971,

and none since 1983; thus the species is now very rare here. Under the modified bylaws, it is considered accidental, more accurately reflecting its current status.

The second bylaw-change concerns the designation of species of questionable origin. Previously, species of questionable origin were placed in a category called Accidental C. However, some of them, e.g., Eurasian Wigeon, occur nearly every year and so are not accidental. Thus the name "Accidental C" was replaced with a new name, "Category C."

Records accepted

ARCTIC/PACIFIC LOON (description: K. Durham): one in adult alternate plumage, 18 May 1983, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (6-1).

ARCTIC/PACIFIC LOON (description: R. Sawicki): one in adult alternate plumage, 26 May 1984, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

ARCTIC/PACIFIC LOON (description: L. Dombroski): one in adult alternate plumage, 13 June 1989, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (6-1).

EARED GREBE (descriptions: L. Dombroski, T. Leukering, R. Planck): one leucistic or partially albinistic individual in basic plumage, 5 May 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (6-1).

WESTERN/CLARK'S GREBE (photographs: G. Peterson): one, 15 Aug. 1985, Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Schoolcraft Co. (7-0). This bird was first submitted to MBRC as a Clark's Grebe (though not by the original observer, who made no claims about the bird's specific identity). Rejected as a Clark's (Chu 1991), the record was resubmitted as a Western/Clark's and accepted.

WESTERN/CLARK'S GREBE (J. Markham; description: P. Chu): one, 4 to 11 Dec. 1985, Reeds L., East Grand Rapids, Kent Co. (7-0).

NORTHERN GANNET (UMMZ 42189, J. Case, collector): one female in juvenal plumage, 19 Oct. 1911, Walker L., Livingston Co. (7-0).

NORTHERN GANNET (Mrs. T. Miller; photograph: W. Nickell): one in juvenal plumage, found on 29 Nov. 1942 in Detroit, Wayne Co. (7-0). The bird remained alive in captivity through at least 30 Dec. of that year (Nickell 1943).

NORTHERN GANNET (description: A. Rider): one in juvenal plumage, 13 Oct. 1978, Port Huron, St. Clair Co. (7-0).

BROWN PELICAN (photograph: S. Grinczel): one adult, 13 June 1978, L. Macatawa, Holland, Ottawa Co. (7-0).

WHITE IBIS (photograph: L. Pospichal): one in juvenal plumage, for about two weeks in 1970 including the period 19 to 26 Sept., Harsen's I., St. Clair Co. (7-0).

WHITE IBIS (description: C. Francke): one adult, 26 Sept. 1983, Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. (7-0).

GLOSSY IBIS (R. Putman; description: P. Chu): one in juvenal or first basic plumage, 23 to 25 Oct. 1990, Metrobeach Metropark, Macomb Co. (6-1).

GLOSSY IBIS (description: D. McWhirter): one, 30 May 1991, Nayanquing Point Wildlife Area, Bay Co. (6-1).

GLOSSY IBIS (C. Powell; description: P. Chu): four, 29 June to 28 July 1991, Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (7-0). One was in adult alternate plumage; the others were either



in first alternate plumage or molting into basic plumage. According to R. Ainslie, the game-area manager, a single ibis appeared sometime in late April or early May (pers. comm.). Sporadic unconfirmed reports of two ibises from late May through June were followed by Powell's discovery of four on 29 June; subsequently, the birds were seen easily by many observers. The number of birds decreased to two on 27 July, with those two birds departing shortly thereafter.

WHITE-FACED IBIS (UMMZ 55261, F. Miller, collector): one male in juvenal or first basic plumage, 15 Oct. 1916, Blackman Twp., Jackson Co. (7-0).

WHITE-FACED IBIS (description and photograph: R. Simcox): one in alternate plumage, 4 May 1969, L. LaGrange, LaGrange Twp., Cass Co. (5-2).

WHITE-FACED IBIS (D. Young; descriptions: P. Chu, J. Granlund; photographs: R. Putman): one in alternate plumage, 19 to 21 June 1990, Nayanquing Point Wildlife Area, Bay Co. (7-0).

WOOD STORK (Mrs. Moore; description: V. Janson; photograph: L. Ryel): one immature bird with a yellow bill and blackish feathers on the neck and back of the head, 31 May to 10 Aug. 1963, Aurelius Twp., Ingham Co. (7-0). The early date is that given by Mrs. Moore, owner of the land on which the bird was found; Janson, Ryel and all other observers did not learn of the bird's presence until 31 July.

WOOD STORK (photograph: F. Cuthbert, L. Kinkel, S. Patton and W. Southern): two, an adult and an immature, 29 May 1975, South Manitou I., Leelanau Co. (7-0).

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK (UMMZ 157798 and 157799, E. Sobota and G. Schwalbe, collectors): two females in adult plumage shot from a group of ten, 14 Oct. 1962, Erie Twp., Monroe Co. (7-0).

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK (photograph from an unidentified observer): two adults, from about 29 May to at least 16 July 1974 (*fide* notes in UMMZ), Bloomfield Twp., Oakland Co. (7-0).

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK (UMMZ 204767, T. Weise, collector): one adult female, 29 Sept. 1979, Drummond I., Chippewa Co. (7-0).

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK (description: P. Young): one adult, 3 May 1981, Erie Twp., Monroe Co. (6-1).

ROSS' GOOSE (description: J. Fowler, Jr.; photographs: B. Bouton): two, an adult and a juvenal, 27 Oct. to 12 Nov. 1979, Allegan State Game Area, Clyde and Ganges Twps., Allegan Co. (7-0).

ROSS' GOOSE (J. Johnson; description: P. Chu): 5 to 17 Oct. 1986, Kalamazoo Co. (7-0). Johnson discovered two individuals in Ross Twp. Both birds disappeared, but one of them (an adult) was relocated in Richland Twp.; the other was thought to have been shot (D. Powell, pers. comm.).

ROSS' GOOSE (description: R. Weeks): 15 to 21 Mar. 1990, Fish Point Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. (7-0). Three adults were observed on the first date; however, all subsequent observations were of single individuals.

GARGANEY (descriptions: L. Abraham, J. and M. Hubinger): one alternate-plumaged male, 24 Apr. 1991, Bridgeport, Saginaw Co. (7-0).

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (UMMZ 55075, H. Burke, collector): one immature (in the plumage described by Palmer (1988) as either first basic or fully-developed juvenal), 4 Oct. 1924, Superior Twp., Washtenaw Co. (7-0).

MISSISSIPPI KITE (description: M. Jorae): one in first basic plumage, 24 May 1981, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (6-1).

MISSISSIPPI KITE (J. and W. Wolfe; photographs: T. Smythe): one in adult plumage, 25 to 27 May 1986, Muskegon State Game Area, Muskegon Co. (7-0).

MISSISSIPPI KITE (UMMZ 228363, found alive by D. Evered): one male in first basic plumage, 19 May 1990, Trout Lake, Chippewa Co. (7-0). The bird died after several days in captivity, emaciated despite repeated attempts to feed it.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (descriptions: P. Chu, J. Granlund, D. Powell; photograph: K. Overman): one light-phase bird in juvenal plumage, 25 Dec. 1989 to 27 Jan. 1990, Allegan State Game Area, Clyde and Ganges Twps., Allegan Co. (7-0).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (descriptions: K. Metcalf, R. Plank): one light-phase adult, 11 May 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (description: P. Chu; photographs: J. Granlund): one light-phase adult, 3 Nov. 1990 to 11 Feb. 1991, Allegan State Game Area, Clyde and Ganges Twps., Allegan Co. (7-0).

BLACK RAIL (UMMZ 119882, R. Butsch, collector): one immature female, 12 Sept. 1951, Portage L., Jackson Co. (7-0).

PURPLE GALLINULE (UMMZ 208197, salvaged by R. Sylvester): one female in adult plumage, 10 May 1964, Grand Marais, Alger Co. (7-0).

PURPLE GALLINULE (UMMZ 209703, salvaged by K. Overman): one female in adult plumage, 29 May 1965, Flint Twp., Genesee Co. (7-0).

PURPLE GALLINULE (J. Potter; photograph: L. Ryel): one adult, 2 to 4 May 1969, Maple River State Game Area, Washington Twp., Gratiot Co. (7-0).

BLACK-NECKED STILT (descriptions: J. Goeman, E. Rybak): 6 to 13 June 1980, Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. (6-1). Two individuals were observed on 6 and 9 June; on 13 June, only one remained.

BLACK-NECKED STILT (photograph: P. Ridgeway): one adult, 13 June 1988, Au Sable R. mouth, Iosco Co. (7-0).

ESKIMO CURLEW (UMMZ 99731, B. Sykes, collector): one female in juvenal plumage, 28 Oct. 1879, Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Co. (7-0).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (W. Falk; photograph: W. Behling): one in alternate plumage, 5-8 May 1975, Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (6-1).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (description: P. Chu): one in alternate plumage, beginning the prebasic molt, 4 to 7 Sept. 1990, Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (7-0).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (description: P. Chu): one in alternate plumage, 20 July to 6 Aug. 1991, Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (7-0).

POMARINE JAAGER (UMMZ 106957, E. Tormala, collector): one post-juvenal immature female, closest in appearance to the barred phase of Cramp (1983), 7 Jan. 1941, two miles offshore of Granite Point, Marquette Co. (7-0).



POMARINE JAEGER (description: D. Rupert): one light-phase bird in adult basic plumage, 27 Dec. 1987, Port Huron, St. Clair Co. (6-1).

POMARINE JAEGER (description: J. Kaplan): one juvenile or subadult, 7 Sept. 1989, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (5-2).

POMARINE JAEGER (description: L. Dombroski): one, 28 Sept. 1989, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (5-2).

POMARINE JAEGER (description: T. Leukering): one light-phase bird thought to be in adult alternate plumage, 10 Sept. 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (6-1).

POMARINE JAEGER (description: J. Granlund): one light-phase bird old enough to have elongate, twisted central tail feathers, 21 Sept. 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (6-1).

POMARINE JAEGER (description: T. Leukering): one individual without elongated central tail feathers, thought to be dark-phase, 22 Sept. 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (6-1).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (UMMZ 158417, salvaged by J. Jehl, Jr., and J. Ligon): one, 21 Sept. 1963, North Cape, Erie Twp., Monroe Co. (7-0). The carcass was partially decomposed, so a skeletal specimen was prepared from it; in addition, a few feathers were saved, including the four outer primaries from each wing, nine rectrices and several body feathers.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (description: W. Booth; photographs: R. Gustin): one alternate-plumaged adult, 16 to 19 Sept. 1965, St. Joseph, Berrien Co. (7-0).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (description and photographs: M. Brown): one thought to be molting into second basic plumage (K. M. Olsen, pers. comm.), 16 Aug. 1981, Nyanquing Point Wildlife Area, Bay Co. (7-0).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (descriptions: L. Dombroski, R. Planck): one adult or older subadult in alternate plumage, 15 Sept. 1989, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (6-1).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (description: L. Dombroski): one thought to be in juvenile plumage, 18 Sept. 1989, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (5-2).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (UMMZ 232205, salvaged by J. Kaplan): one female in juvenile plumage, closest in appearance to the barred phase of Cramp (1983), 19 Sept. 1989, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (description: L. Dombroski): one in adult alternate plumage, 5 June 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (5-2).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (descriptions: B. Johnson, P. Sykes): one adult in alternate plumage, 8 Sept. 1991, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (5-2).

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL (description: P. Chu; photographs: K. Lebo, K. Overman): one in first alternate plumage, 22 to 29 June 1991, Erie Marsh Preserve, Monroe Co. (7-0).

CALIFORNIA GULL (description and photographs: J. Granlund): one in juvenile or first basic plumage, 16 Sept. 1990, Benton Harbor, Berrien Co. (6-1).

THAYER'S GULL (description: R. Planck): one in juvenile or first basic plumage, 21 Oct. 1989, Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. (7-0).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (description: T. Leukering): one in adult alternate plumage, 5 June 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (descriptions: L. Dombroski, T. Leukering): one in adult alternate plumage, 21 Oct. 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (descriptions: L. Dombroski, T. Leukering): one adult in basic plumage, 8 Nov. 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (description: J. Granlund): one in first basic or first alternate plumage, 13 Apr. 1991, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

SABINE'S GULL (description: P. Chu): one in juvenile plumage, 22 Sept. 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

ARCTIC TERN (descriptions: L. Dombroski, J. Kaplan): one in transition from juvenile to first basic plumage, 19 Oct. 1989, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (6-1).

ARCTIC TERN (description: P. Chu): one in first basic plumage, 14 and 15 July 1990, Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (7-0).

LEAST TERN (description: D. McWhirter): two, 29 July 1989, Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (7-0). One of the two was in adult alternate plumage; the other was similar, but showed white mottling on the forecrown and a more extensive dark tip to the bill, suggesting either an adult starting the prebasic molt or a bird in the summer of its third calendar year.

ANCIENT MURRELET (description: J. Granlund; photograph: R. French): one in adult basic plumage, 25-26 Nov. 1989, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

COMMON GROUND DOVE (descriptions: B. and J. Stout): one, 25 Oct. 1991, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER (UMMZ 228865, netted by R. Adams, Jr., and P. Dziepak): one juvenile male, 24 Oct. 1990, Cooper Twp., Kalamazoo Co. (7-0).

SAY'S PHOEBE (description: written jointly by J. and M. Hubinger; photographs: M. Hubinger): one, 5 May 1990, Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. (7-0).

SAY'S PHOEBE (description: B. Stout): one, 11 May 1991, Petoskey, Emmet Co. (5-2).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (description: W. Hill): one adult male, 8 Oct. 1944, Mackinac I., Mackinac Co. (7-0).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (description: written jointly by J. and J. Hewins): one male, 12 Nov. 1972, Fraser, Macomb Co. (5-2 in round two).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (photographs: B. Grigg): two, 20 Oct. 1986, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0); only one bird, an adult, was photographed. One of the two birds present was flycatching and then feeding the other (B. Grigg, pers. comm.), suggesting that the adult was accompanied by a juvenile.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (descriptions: P. Dziepak, B. Stout): one adult, 24 Oct. 1991, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

ROCK WREN (L. Dombroski; description: T. Leukering; photographs: T. Smart): one adult, 8 to 19 Nov. 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (G. Wickstrom; description: P. Chu): one in basic plumage, 20 to 23 Oct. 1989, Fremont Sewage ponds, Sheridan Twp., Newaygo Co. (7-0).

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (descriptions: R. Adams, Jr., P. Chu, J. Granlund; photographs: J. Granlund):



one female, 21 to 26 Apr. 1991, Kleinstuck Preserve, Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Co. (7-0).

CERULEAN WARBLER (description: J. Spars): one male, 20 May 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

BLUE GROSBEAK (descriptions: R. Adams, Jr., K. Lebo): one male in first alternate plumage, 18 May 1991, St. Joseph Twp., Berrien Co. (7-0).

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW (description: P. Dziepak): one in basic plumage, 20 Nov. 1989, Hope Twp., Barry Co. (5-2 in round two).

LARK BUNTING (description: B. Bouton): one male in alternate plumage, 9 Apr. 1991, Saugatuck Dunes State Park, Allegan Co. (7-0).

LARK BUNTING (P. Dziepak; description and photograph: J. Granlund): one arriving in juvenal plumage and molting into first basic plumage, 18 Oct. to 18 Dec. 1991, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (descriptions: L. Dombroski, T. Leukering): one, 9 June 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7-0).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (W. Edmonds; description: P. Chu; photographs: R. Putman): one adult, 1 to 3 May 1991, Barry Twp., Barry Co. (7-0).

ROSY FINCH (T. Beachy; description: P. Chu; photographs: R. Putman): one belonging to one of the gray-crowned forms (*tephrocotis* group of A.O.U. 1983), 24 to 27 Feb. 1991, McKinley Twp., Huron Co. (7-0).

Name changes

WHITE WAGTAIL to WHITE/BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL (photograph: J. Ponshair): one in alternate plumage, 14 to 24 Apr. 1985, Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon Co. (5-2). The Muskegon bird had dark wings, a dark chin and a gray back, all features indicative of White Wagtail. However,

(1) First-year Black-backed Wagtails (more properly, Black-backed) in first alternate plumage also have dark wings. Black-backed are often depicted as having pale wings, but the whitish primaries and secondaries that are responsible for the pale-winged appearance are not acquired until the young bird molts into its second winter plumage (Howell 1990), i.e., until the second prebasic molt.

(2) In addition, first-year female Black-backed can have a dark chin; Howell examined 12 of them, and found five in which the chin was either black or blackish.

(3) Finally, first-year female Black-backed have an all- or mostly-gray back; among the 12 first-year females examined, the percentage of black in the back ranged from 0 to 15%. Howell (1990:44) states, "Only three [of the Black-backed] females . . . examined (two first-year, one adult) had an all-gray back but six others had so little black, always in the scapulars, that it might be difficult to see in the field."

Thus the features indicative of White Wagtail (dark wings, dark chin and gray back) can also indicate a first-year female Black-backed. MBRC welcomes the submission of any photographs or field notes that might help to resolve this identification; according to Howell, the most useful material would provide information about the scapulars, rump and upper tail coverts.

Records not accepted

PACIFIC/ARCTIC LOON (description): one in basic plumage, 6 Nov. 1990, Pere Marquette Park, Muskegon, Muskegon Co. (0-7).

RED-NECKED GREBE (description): several families, each comprised of chicks and alternate-plumaged adults, 15 to 31 July 1985, Bois Blanc I., Mackinac Co. (1-6 in round two).

WESTERN/CLARK'S GREBE (description): one, 18 Apr. 1988, Lima Twp., Washtenaw Co. (0-7 in round two).

GLOSSY IBIS (description): one, 29 Apr. 1962, Thumb L., Hudson Twp., Charlevoix Co. (0-7 in round two).

GLOSSY IBIS (description): one, 1 and 2 May 1971, Phyllis Haehnle Sanctuary, Jackson Co. (2-5 in round two). For both this ibis record and the preceding one, identification was based on the restricted amount of white in the face; however, as one committee member pointed out, "limited white on the face may imply Glossy Ibis, but it may also imply a White-faced Ibis in transition from basic to alternate plumage." Observers documenting a Glossy or White-faced Ibis should include information not only about the amount and distribution of white on the face, but also about the color of the facial skin, iris and legs. Useful discussions of these features are provided by Howell and de Montes (1989) and Kaufman (1990).

WOOD STORK (description): one in August, year unspecified (Barrows 1912), Port Huron, St. Clair Co. (2-5).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (photograph): one adult, 25 July 1981, Alamo Twp., Kalamazoo Co. (4-3 in round two). This action removes Black-bellied Whistling-Duck from the state list. MBRC members were unanimous in agreeing that the single photograph was diagnostic; however, they also agreed that the bird was of questionable origin. Five records exist for the western Great Lakes, one from Illinois (15 Sept. 1930; Moyer 1931) and four from Minnesota: 19 May 1980 (Eckert 1988), 19 Oct. 1984 (Janssen 1986), 7 Aug. to 3 Oct. 1987 (Janssen 1987a) and 1 June 1989 (Tveten 1989); the last of these was later found to be an escapee from a nearby waterfowl collection (Backstrom 1990). Noting this spread of dates, one committee member wrote, "There has been no pattern established for this species this far north. If such a pattern is established I would like to reassess the disposition. But at this time I feel the record's origin is suspicious."

BARNACLE GOOSE (description, photograph): one female in juvenal or first basic plumage, 25 Oct. 1974, Shiawase National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. (5-2 in round two).

BARNACLE GOOSE (photograph): one, 22 Oct. to 6 Nov. 1983, Allegan State Game Area, Clyde and Ganges Twp., Allegan Co. (4-3 in round two). For both this record and the previous one, photographs showed the identification to be correct. However, MBRC was divided on the question of origin, as shown by the comments below.

(1) "If origin is unknown, and it seems wild, count it."

(2) "The correct time of year and behavior. It is difficult to guarantee this individual as wild but there is a pattern established." As this reviewer observed, Michigan's nine Barnacle Goose records fall within two fairly well-defined time periods: in autumn, from 18 Oct. to 12 Nov.; and in spring, from 7 Mar. to 19 Apr.,



with one outlier on 21 May. However, these time periods also coincide with the migration of large numbers of Canada Geese, and it is not difficult to construct scenarios in which escapees join flocks of Canadas, thence to migrate back and forth with them for years to come.

- (3) "Interior Barnacle Goose records probably deserve to be rejected out of hand." This is the conclusion reached by Ryff (1984).

With this range of opinions, it is not surprising that MBRC was unable to reach a consensus.

TUFTED DUCK (description, photographs): one male, 10 Jan. to at least 12 Feb. 1989, Belle Isle, Wayne Co. (upon initial review, accepted 7-0; after a motion for resubmission, unaccepted, 2-5). This duck had a short crest that was thick-based and tapering. Its back and scapulars were black with very fine pale barring; in strong sunlight, the upperparts appeared dark silvery-gray rather than black, but even then they contrasted strongly with the whitish flanks and sides. Finally, the right flank showed a few brownish feathers. Based on these features, MBRC accepted this record as a male Tufted Duck in first or second alternate plumage.

Subsequently, MBRC learned that the Ohio Bird Records Committee had reviewed and rejected a Tufted Duck on the basis of hybrid origin, and that at least one Ohio committee member considered the Ohio and Michigan birds to be one and the same (K. Overman, pers. comm.). This prompted a re-examination of photographs of the Belle Isle Tufted Duck. Comparison with a photograph of the Ohio hybrid revealed that the two were different individuals; however, it also led MBRC to consider for the first time the possibility of hybrid origin. One committee member wrote,

The Belle Isle bird did show several features that are not absolutely typical of Tufted Duck.

- (1) Photographs show that its back was clearly (and, in some cases, strikingly) paler than was its head, neck and breast.
(2) Its bill had a narrow pale area where the bill and head met (reminiscent of the bill pattern in Ring-necked Duck).

In addition, some features of the Belle Isle bird that we took as signs of immaturity—the short crest and the brown in the flanks—may, according to Gillham *et al.* (1966), be signs of hybrid origin. In sum, the Belle Isle bird may have been a Tufted Duck. However, it looked unusual enough that the possibility of hybrid origin cannot be ruled out.

COMMON EIDER (description, photographs): two thought to be females, 26 Dec. 1970 to 9 Jan. 1971, Marquette, Marquette Co. (0-7); the correct early date may be 19 Dec., when an observer saw a duck with a "Canvasback profile" at this site. The photographs show only one of the two birds well, but that bird is a male King Eider in first alternate plumage, or in transition from first basic to first alternate plumage.

COMMON EIDER (description): two, 19 and 20 Nov. 1975, with one remaining to 6 Feb. 1976, Marquette, Marquette Co. (1-6). The bird described was a male that was either in or molting into first alternate plumage. It was identified as a Common Eider because it had a long lobe extending from the

bill nearly to the eye, and because, "The lateral bill structure . . . is identical to the diagram on plate thirteen of Peterson's eastern guide." However, as one committee member wrote, "The long lobe described is . . . a general mark for eiders." In addition, MBRC seldom looks favorably on comparisons to a field guide illustration; statements like, "It looked just like the picture in the book," are much less informative than is a detailed description of what the observer actually saw.

COMMON EIDER (description): one female, 8-12 Apr. 1978, Port Huron, St. Clair Co. (4-3 in round two). Documentation for this report, although brief, includes several field sketches; referring to these sketches, one reviewer said, "the feather pattern on the bill is drawn so precisely that it absolutely characterizes a Common Eider." However, the observer who provided documentation saw the bird in Canadian, not American, waters; and while other observers did see an eider in American waters during this time period, none of them documented it. Given the absence of documentation from American waters, several committee members felt that the most conservative approach would be to vote against acceptance.

COMMON EIDER (photograph): one female or first-year male, 4 Jan. 1981, St. Joseph, Berrien Co. (0-7). The photograph depicts a King Eider.

With the rejection of these four Common Eider records, the species is removed from the Michigan list; four to six additional records exist, but none of them appear to be documented. Convincing eider documentation requires a detailed description of the pattern of feathering at the base of the bill, and it is particularly important to address two questions: first, which extends farther forwards, the feathering on the sides of the bill or the feathering on top of the bill; and second, where is the nostril relative to the bill-side feathering? In Common Eider, it is the feathering on the sides of the bill that extends farther, reaching to, or nearly to the nostril; in King, the feathering on top of the bill extends farther, and the bill-side feathering is often restricted enough that the nostril appears to be one-third to one-half of the way between the feathering and the bill tip. Madge and Burn (1988) provide a good discussion of other features to look for.

BLACK VULTURE (description): one, 7 July 1984, T 50 N, R 6 W, Chippewa Co. (6-1 in round two).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (description): one, 15 Dec. 1990, Macomb Twp., Macomb Co. (1-6).

SWAINSON'S HAWK (description): one dark-phase bird, 28 Apr. 1989, Pte. La Barbe, Mackinac Co. (1-6).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (description): one light-phase adult, 14 Apr. 1973, Saugatuck Twp., Allegan Co. (0-7).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (two descriptions): one adult, 21 Apr. 1990, Fennville, Allegan Co. (2-5).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (description): one dark-phase bird, 20 Apr. 1991, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (1-6).

CRESTED CARACARA (description): one described as black and white with a red face, suggesting an adult, 3 Sept. 1977, Muskegon State Park, Muskegon Co. (3-4 in round two).

GYRFALCON (description): one dark-phase bird, 22 and 23 Aug. 1989, Diamond L., Sherman Twp., Osceola Co. (0-7).

GYRFALCON (description): one white-phase bird, 23 Aug. 1989, Isle Royale, Keweenaw Co. (0-7).



GRAY PARTRIDGE: introduced (0-7). The 0-7 vote removes Gray Partridge from the state list. Since 1910 over 12000 Gray Partridges have been released in Michigan (Dale 1943; Janson 1977); nearly 11000 of these were part of a statewide release program conducted by the Michigan Department of Conservation between 1928 and 1950 (VanDien 1952). In addition, several southern Michigan counties were invaded by partridges from release programs in Ohio and Indiana (Dale 1943). However, none of the populations thus introduced were self-sustaining, and Gray Partridge is now gone from not only Michigan but also Ohio (Peterjohn 1989) and Indiana (K. Brock, pers. comm.).

WILLOW PTARMIGAN: historical (4-3 in round two). With this vote, Willow Ptarmigan is removed from the state list.

There is ample regional precedent for this species' occurrence around the Great Lakes. Minnesota has four Willow Ptarmigan specimens (Janssen 1987b), and southern Ontario, at least one (Speirs 1985). In addition, there are undocumented nineteenth-century reports of Willow Ptarmigan from both Wisconsin (Robbins 1991) and Illinois (Bohlen 1989).

In Michigan, evidence for the occurrence of Willow Ptarmigan consists largely of anecdotal nineteenth-century statements about white grouse in the Upper Peninsula (summarized in Barrows 1912). There is also a single description of two birds near Ironwood, Gogebic Co., in Dec. 1921; the description indicates "white partridges" that were heard to "chirp in this manner—que-que-que" (a vocalization that is not referable to any published Willow Ptarmigan calls).

One committee member spoke for the majority when he stated that, "Based on records in nearby states, and anecdotal evidence, there is virtually no doubt that Willow Ptarmigan occurred in the state during the previous century." However, a minority were of the opinion that, "we have little more than rumor to go on and that is not enough." After two rounds the committee remained divided.

CARIBBEAN COOT (description and photographs): one male, 20 Apr. to at least 4 June 1982, Metrobeach Metropark, Macomb Co. (1-6). This white-shielded bird nested with a red-shielded American Coot, hatching three eggs (Payne and Master 1983). It was identified as a Caribbean Coot on the basis of its white shield; however, Gill (1964), Payne and Master (1983) and Roberson and Baptista (1988) question the utility of the white shield for identifying coots to species: all three suggest that there is variation in shield color among American Coots, including some variants in which the shield is mostly or entirely white. This variation is documented by Gill in the Andes and by Roberson and Baptista in California.

WHOOPIING CRANE (description): one adult, 10 Sept. 1989, Isle Royale, Keweenaw Co. (5-1, with one abstention, in round two).

SNOWY PLOVER (description): one, 23 May 1963, Escanaba, Delta Co. (2-5).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER (description): one, 13 May 1976, Watton, Baraga Co. (0-7).

SPOTTED REDSHANK (description): one in alternate plumage, 9 Aug. 1976, Sterling State Park, Monroe Co. (5-2 in round two).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (description): one, 4 July 1990, Grand Mere State Park, Berrien Co. (3-4 in round two).

LONG-TOED STINT (description): one, 11 Oct. 1987, Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne Co. (0-7).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (description): one thought to be in juvenal plumage, 6 Nov. 1966, Erie Twp., Monroe Co. (2-5).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (description): one thought to be in juvenal plumage, 27 Oct. 1984, Erie Twp., Monroe Co. (2-5).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (description): one with the underparts described as "about 50% molted" from red to whitish, 1 Nov. 1991, Hampton Twp. Park, Bay Co. (1-6 in round two).

POMARINE JAEGER (description): one light-phase bird, 11 Aug. 1965, Portage L., Houghton Co. (0-7).

HEERMANN'S GULL (description): one, 17 and 18 Apr. 1968, St. Joseph, Berrien Co. (1-6 in round two).

CALIFORNIA GULL (description): maximum of five birds in juvenal or first basic plumage, 6 to 12 Sept. 1968, Grand Marais, Alger Co. (1-6).

CALIFORNIA GULL (description): three individuals in juvenal or first basic plumage, 17 Sept. 1968, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (1-6).

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL (description): one, 19 Dec. 1970, St. Joseph, Berrien Co. (0-7).

IVORY GULL (description): one, 12 Jan. 1949, Trenton Channel, Wayne Co. (6-1 in round two). The observer described a white-winged gull with black legs and dark spots on the body and wings. It was smaller than a Ring-billed Gull and more pigeon-like. The reviewer voting against acceptance stated, "For such a rare bird, the description needs to be more detailed . . . 'Dusky spots on the body and wings' is not sufficient to conclusively identify an immature Ivory. What about bill color, dusky face patch [and] etc? The size and comparison with a pigeon are very good indicators but not strong enough for acceptance."

IVORY GULL (description): one, 31 Dec. 1973, Holland State Park, Ottawa Co. (2-5). The rejection of this record and the preceding one removes Ivory Gull from the Michigan list.

An all-white gull with black legs was observed with Ring-billed and Herring Gulls; it was slightly smaller than a Ring-billed in size, but more pigeon-like in shape. These features are fully consistent with an adult Ivory Gull; however, bill color was described as an atypical "black with a yellow tint at the base." One reviewer summarized the majority view as follows: "It is my feeling, after looking fairly carefully at thousands of gulls, that gull soft part colors are relatively plastic, and that an adult Ivory Gull could have the bill color described. Nonetheless, it seems to me that exceptional records should be approached from a conservative standpoint, and that everything, including bill color, should be 'right' before one of those exceptional records is accepted."

ARCTIC TERN (description): one in adult alternate plumage, 23 May 1990, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (0-7).

ARCTIC TERN (description): one in juvenal or first basic plumage, 28 July 1990, Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (3-4 in round two).

ARCTIC TERN (description): one thought to be in first basic plumage, 25 Sept. 1991, Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (2-5).

MARBLED MURRELET (description): one, 17 Nov. 1990, Holland State Park, Ottawa Co. (0-7).



CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW (description): one, 7 July 1989, North Point, Alpena Co. (2-5 in round two).

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER (description): one, 19 Apr. 1962, Berrien Springs, Berrien Co. (1-6).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (description): one, 24 May 1989, Tahquamenon R. mouth, Chippewa Co. (upon initial review, accepted 5-2; after a motion for resubmission, unaccepted, 2-5). The observer described a beige- or peach-colored, pipit-like bird; it had a pale eye stripe and a dark line through the eye, and its rump was white. The bird was skittish, bobbing its tail and making short flights from rock to rock. Based on this description, MBRC voted to accept this record as a female Northern Wheatear.

The record was resubmitted at the urging of several Whitefish Point Bird Observatory staff members, who, upon hearing of a Wheatear, immediately rushed out to see it (J. Kaplan, pers. comm.). Instead of a Wheatear, they found another bird with prominent areas of peach coloration, a white rump and a dark line through the eye—a dull male Wilson's Phalarope! This plumage similarity may or may not have been coincidental, but it created enough doubt to result in a vote against acceptance.

SUMMER TANAGER (description): one adult male, 16 May 1991, Sleepy Hollow State Park, Clinton Co. (0-7).

WESTERN TANAGER (description): one male in alternate plumage, 6 to 13 May 1990, Marquette, Marquette Co. (3-4 in round two).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (description): one female or hatch-year male, 25 Nov. to 3 Dec. 1990, T 41 N, R 15 W, Schoolcraft Co. (2-5 in round two).

BLUE GROSBEAK (description): one female, 9 June 1990, Big Prairie Twp., Newaygo Co. (3-4 in round two).

BLUE GROSBEAK (description): one adult male, 22 May 1991, Victor Twp., Clinton Co. (0-7).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW (description): one, 20 May 1989, Saugatuck Dunes State Park, Allegan Co. (0-7).

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