

Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2002

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This is the 13th report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee, covering the Committee's actions in 2002. The members of the Committee in 2002 were Brian Allen (Manistee Co.), Adam M. Byrne (Clinton Co.), Allen Chartier (Wayne Co.), Philip C. Chu (Minnesota), Louis Dombroski (Chippewa Co.), Chip Francke (Ottawa Co.), and James Granlund (Kalamazoo Co.), with alternate members Kip Miller (Berrien Co.) and Jack Reinoehl (Hillsdale Co.). Byrne was Chairman and Reinoehl was Secretary.

The records discussed below are the 115 reports for which a final decision was reached during the calendar year 2002. Of these, 83 (72%) were accepted. Names of contributors of written descriptions or material evidence appear in the heading for accepted records. In voting totals, the first number represents votes for acceptance and the second, votes for rejection; a third number, if present, represents members abstaining from voting (Committee bylaws require members to abstain from voting on records for which they have submitted documentation).

It is important to emphasize that all actions made by the Committee are based on the written and physical evidence provided. For rejected records, the Committee is not stating that the identification was incorrect, only that the supporting evidence was not conclusive.

The state list increased by one during 2002, to 419.

Changes to Michigan Bird List of January 2002:

Casual to Regular:

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Accidental to Casual:

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

White-winged Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*)

Casual to Accidental:

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

New species (Accidental):

Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*)

In addition to reviewing new documentation, the Committee voted on two other issues in 2002: 1) the addition of Western Grebe and Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) to the review list, and 2) an amendment to the Voting Criteria section of the Bylaws (Byrne 2000).

Additions to the review list

The official review list consists of all species that have casual or accidental status in the state, possible first state records, and species deemed necessary by seasonal compilers or the Committee (Byrne 2000). The Committee voted to add Western Grebe (vote 6-0) and Pomarine Jaeger (vote 7-0) to that list because of the identification difficulties posed by the Western/Clark's Grebe and jaeger complexes.

Bylaws amendment

According to the Committee bylaws, records that receive an initial vote of 5-2 or 4-3 are resubmitted for a second round of voting, with the second vote being preceded by discussion at a Committee meeting. However, the policy presented at least two difficulties. First, if an observer is present at the meeting when the resubmission of his or her record is being discussed, then the observer's presence is likely to influence the discussion, if only by constraining it. Second, Committee members are expected to attend Committee meetings whereas nonmembers almost never choose to do so; thus Committee members get to influence the resubmission discussions for their records and nonmembers do not, giving Committee members an unfair advantage in the resubmission process. For these reasons a bylaws change was passed that requires observers (whether Committee members or not) to dismiss themselves from meetings during discussions of their own resubmitted records.

To find information on more recent rounds, view previous annual reports, or read the bylaws in full, visit the Michigan Bird Records Committee web site at: http://www.umd.umich.edu/dept/rouge_river/MBRChome.html.

The author thanks Phil Chu for reviewing this manuscript and Jack Reinoehl for compiling and organizing the documentation.

Records Accepted

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

vote: 6-0-1

descriptions: Adam M. Byrne,
Philip C. Chu, James Granlund,
Russ Schipper

photographs: James Granlund

Two, an adult and immature, on 8 December 2001-9 February 2002 at Allegan State Game Area, Allegan Co. (6th state record/3rd county record).

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Christopher G. Haas,
Brad Murphy

Two on 13 March 2002 at Kensington Metropark, Oakland Co. (7th state record/2nd county record).

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Adam M. Byrne,
Brad Murphy

One on 16 March 2002 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (8th state record/first county record).

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

vote: 6-1

description: Laurence C. Binford
photograph: Joe Kaplan

One on 29-30 May 2002 at the Atlantic Mine sewage ponds, Houghton Co. (9th state record/first

county record). The dissenting Committee member felt that the bill's shape and its interface with the facial feathering appeared intermediate between Snow (*Chen caerulescens*) and Ross's Geese.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: Christopher G. Haas
One on 19-20 May 2002 at St. Ignace, Mackinac Co. (first county record).

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Christopher G. Haas,
Scott Hickman
photographs: Rick Brigham,
Thomas R. Wheeler

One on 25 October-22 November 2002 at Marquette, Marquette Co. (2nd county record).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 7-0

description: Ken Mettje, Jr.
One adult in alternate plumage on 20 September 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (13th state record/9th county record).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 7-0

description: Christopher G. Haas
One adult in alternate plumage on 16 October 2001 at Whitefish Point,

Chippewa Co. (14th state record/10th county record).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 7-0

description: Joe Kaplan

Two were present on 26-27 December 2001 with one remaining to 7 January 2002 at Keweenaw Bay, Baraga Co. (15th state record/first county record).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Brad Murphy, Scott Terry

One on 2 February 2002 at Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa Co. (16th state record/11th county record).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 6-1

description: Christopher G. Haas

Two in basic and/or juvenal plumage on 19 September 2002 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (17th state record/12th county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 6-1

description: Martin T. Auer,
Joseph Youngman

One on 26 October-2 November 2001 at the head of Keweenaw Bay, Baraga Co. The lone dissenting Committee member felt that the description wasn't detailed enough to differentiate between Western and Clark's (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) Grebes. However, the rest of the Committee

was content with details that include a "yellowish green" or "pale yellowish" bill and "dark coloration on cap [that] goes through and below red eye".

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 6-1

description: Kip Miller

One on 16 December 2001 at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. The bird was a "large, slender-necked grebe with a long, thin bill", "dark upperparts", white underparts, and a "black cap [that] extended below the red eye and to the base of the bill"; bill color was "dull yellowish". The lone dissenting Committee member felt that these details were too brief to adequately eliminate a Clark's Grebe.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Chip Francke, James Granlund

photographs: James Granlund

One was found in February and lingered to 5 April 2002 at South Haven, Van Buren Co.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0

photograph: Gary Navarre, Nancy Navarre

One adult on 7-11 August 2002 at the River Raisin mouth, Monroe Co. (8th state record/2nd county record).

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **Debra Lauri, Brad Murphy, Jerry Ziarno**

One immature on 17 August-2 September 2002 at Lake Michigamme, Marquette Co. (9th state record/2nd county record).

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Don Sherwood**

One adult on 11 November 2001 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe and Wayne Cos. (8th state record/2nd record for both counties).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Adam M. Byrne**

One immature on 1 September 2001 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Frank E. Apsey**

One adult on 11 May 2002 at Wyoming, Kent Co. (1st county record).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

vote: 5-2 in the 2nd round

descriptions: **Dan Duso, Jerry Ziarno**

One on 26-30 May 2001 at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. (8th state record/2nd county

record). The observers described a dark ibis with "deep red facial patch", irises that "appeared to be red", and legs that were "a definite red, not really bright, but a dull, light red shade". However, there was "no white border" around the facial skin. Some Committee members were concerned that this combination of characteristics was inappropriate for a late May White-faced Ibis, but an experienced observer from Texas indicated that "it is not at all rare" to see such individuals in late May. Given this information, most members voted for acceptance.

Glossy/White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus/chihi*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Gordon Atkins**

One adult on 18 May 2001 at Andrew's University, Berrien Co. This record was rejected as a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (Byrne 2002) and resubmitted as a Glossy/White-faced.

Glossy/White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus/chihi*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Christopher G. Haas**

One on 11 November-2 December 2001 at Metrobeach Metropark, Macomb Co.

Glossy/White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus/chihi*)

vote: 7-0

video recording: **Jonathan Miller**
One in May (exact dates unknown) at Engadine, Mackinac Co. The video footage clearly shows a dark ibis, but distance makes specific identification impossible.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 6-1

description: **Owen P. Mills**

One on 18 January 2002 near Dodgeville, Houghton Co. (7th state record/first county record). The dissenting Committee member was troubled by the observer's estimate of size ("about the same size" as a Common Raven *Corvus corax*) and by the absence of optical equipment. The remaining members were comfortable with features that included black plumage, "white wing patches under the wing tips", "stubby tail", and "featherless black head".

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **Derek Lovitch**

One on 5-9 April 2002 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (8th state record/2nd county record).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Joseph Youngman**

One on 16 July 2002 at Manitou Island, Keweenaw Co. (9th state record/2nd county record).

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Philip C. Chu, Russ Schipper**

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne, Allen Chartier, John McDaniel, Brad Murphy**

One subadult on 6-19 August 2002 in Oshtemo Twp., Kalamazoo Co. (4th state record/first county record).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

vote: 5-2 in the 2nd round

description: **Rick Simek**

One adult on 9-10 May 2002 at University of Michigan Dearborn campus, Wayne Co. (18th state record/2nd county record). The description was very brief, indicating "white, black, grey" color pattern, "very pale" underparts, "slate gray" shoulders, "dark" wingtips, and a "white patch on [the] trailing edge of each hindwing". Some Committee members were concerned by the pallor of the underbody and by the absence of any mention of the species' whitish head.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Philip C. Chu, Russ Schipper**

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne, Allen Chartier, John McDaniel, Brad Murphy**

Two, an adult and subadult, on 6-19 August 2002 in Oshtemo Twp.,

Kalamazoo Co. (19th state record/first county record).

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 7-0

audio recordings: **Daryl Aspery**,

Philip C. Chu

One on 12-21 May 2002 at Crosswinds Marsh, Wayne Co. (3rd county record).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrola martinica*)

vote: 7-0

photographs of a specimen: **Bruce McLean**

One from the late-summer-to-fall period in 1983 (exact dates unknown) in Presque Isle Co. (7th state record/first county record).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrola martinica*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **James E. Stevens**

One immature on 14-20 September 2000 at Tuttle Marsh, Iosco Co. (8th state record/first county record).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

vote: 6-1

description: **David J. Peters**

One on 30 May 2002 at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. (11th state record/first county record). The bird was "very similar in size and stature" to nearby Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) with a "black, gently de-curved bill" and "burnt rust"

plumage coloration. The lone dissenting Committee member was concerned that the description did not fully eliminate a Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **Walter Booth**

One on 9-14 July 1972 in Lincoln Twp., Berrien Co. (first county record).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne**

One adult reeve in alternate plumage on 20-24 July 2001 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (20th county record).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Allen Chartier**

photographs: **Allen Chartier, Hein Prinsen**

One from 3-6 May 2002 in Washtenaw Co. (first county record).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Jeff Buecking,**

Jeanne Raffin

photographs: **Brad Murphy**

One male on 11-20 May 2002 in Argentine Twp., Genesee Co. (first county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus*

fulicarius)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: **James Granlund,**
Russ Schipper

One on 27-28 October 2001 at South Haven, Van Buren Co. (2nd county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 6-1

description: **James Ponschair**

One on 27-29 October 2001 at Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon Co. (17th county record). Although brief, the report describes a swimming shorebird with an all-gray back, short bill, black spot behind the eye, and black on the crown and hindneck. The dissenting Committee member felt that these details were not sufficient to eliminate a Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Joseph Youngman**

photographs: **Martin T. Auer**

One on 29 November-1 December 2001 at Keweenaw Bay, Baraga Co. (2nd county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 6-1

description: **James Granlund, Russ Schipper**

One on 1-2 December 2001 at South Haven, Van Buren Co. (3rd county record). The dissenting Committee

member was troubled by a discrepancy between the two descriptions: one observer described juvenal plumage for the back and scapular regions (dark-centered feathers without pale striping) whereas the other observer described basic plumage in those areas (plain gray).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

description: **LaRue Wells**

One on 27-28 January 2002 at Holland, Ottawa Co. (6th county record).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Cory Gregory**

One juvenile on 9 September 2001 at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. (4th county record).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Christopher G. Haas**

One adult on 9 October 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 6-1

descriptions: **James Lesser, David Stinac**

One juvenile on 27 October 2001 at Port Huron, St. Clair Co. (4th county record). With one exception, Commit-

tee members felt that this bird's larger size, broader wings, and shorter tail, in direct comparison with four Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), provided sufficient detail to support the identification.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **Jerry Megison**

One adult on 11 June 2002 at Fisherman's Island, Charlevoix Co. (first county record/first summer record).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 6-1

descriptions: **Christopher G. Haas, Rod Planck**

One juvenile on 30 August 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (20th state record/11th county record). The bird was noticeably smaller than a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) and was gray-brown with darker secondaries; pale feather shafts on the upper surface of the primaries were not seen, despite prolonged and relatively close views. The dissenting Committee member felt that these details did not eliminate other jaeger species.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Kip Miller**

One juvenile on 10 September 2001 at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. (21st state record/3rd county record).

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*)

vote: 5-2 in the 2nd round

descriptions: **Cory Gregory, Kip Miller**

One on 1 September 2001 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (8th state record/6th county record). The bird was a small white tern with black outermost primaries, "partial black cap", and a bill that was "DISTINCTLY YELLOW but somewhat blotchy" or "bright yellow" on the "basal half to two thirds" with a dark tip. It was seen flying "in loose association with two other smallish white terns" and was detected by its "odd ... call". Two Committee members were bothered that neither observer was struck by the bird's size, which should have been very small in comparison to other terns, and so voted against acceptance.

Ancient Murrelet

(*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

vote: 6-1

descriptions: **Christopher G. Haas, Ken Mettje Jr.**

One on 14 November 2001 at Whitefish Bay, 1.5 miles north of Paradise, Chippewa Co. (4th state record/3rd county record). One observer described a small alcid with a yellow bill, white throat curving up behind

the eye, and black crown and hindneck that contrasted with a paler gray back. The other observer, however, did not report any contrast between the head/neck and back, despite being within 5 feet of the bird. This discrepancy led to the lone dissenting vote.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Zachary Gayk**

One on 14 October 2001 at Point Isabelle, Keweenaw County (6th state record/2nd county record).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne**
video recording: **Erma Beattie, Connie Koster**

One on 1 December 2001-10 March 2002 in DeWitt Twp., Clinton Co. (7th state record/first county record).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 7-0

photograph: **Joe Kaplan**

One on 12-17 May 2002 in Houghton Co. (8th state record/2nd county record).

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Laurence C. Binford**
photographs: **Joe Kaplan, Robert Seasor**

One on 11-14 August 2002 at Topaz,

Ontonagon Co. (2nd state record/first county record).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **James Granlund**
photographs: **Adam M. Byrne, Allen Chartier, James Granlund**

One adult male on 4 October-2 November 2001 at Paw Paw, Van Buren Co. (10th state record/first county record).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **Allen Chartier, David Durkee, Candy Hirshlieb, Gary Hirshlieb**

One adult male on 26 October-31 December 2001 at Ortonville, Oakland Co. (11th state record/first county record).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Allen Chartier**
photographs: **Allen Chartier**

One adult male from late August to 29 November 2002 at Berrien Springs, Berrien Co. (12th state record/2nd county record).

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Ken Mettje Jr.**

One female on 15 December 2001

along Doe Lake Road, 4 miles south of Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

vote: 5-2 in the 2nd round

description: **Ralph Czerepinski, Donna Czerepinski**

One on 15 September 2001 at Bay City State Park, Bay Co. (2nd state record/first county record). The bird had a black head, a white neck that "went all the way around", and a white breast; its back was gray, it had "two, black, almost glossy tail feathers nearly twice the length of the body", and its body was estimated to be "the size of a small sparrow". Two Committee members voted against acceptance, arguing that a Fork-tailed Flycatcher's body should be significantly larger than that of a small sparrow and that hindneck color should be gray instead of white; however, the other members felt that the plumage details were convincing and that the very long tail may have led to the small-body impression.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Laurence C. Binford**

One on 30 May 2002 in Eagle Harbor Twp., Keweenaw Co. (19th state record/3rd county record).

Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*)

vote: 6-1

description: **Joan Wolfe**

One on 22 May 2002 in Blaine Twp., Benzie Co. The bird had a "bright black head and contrasting greenish back", "notably squarish or angular" and "notably large" spectacles for which the white of the eye ring blended into the white of the lores, "red eye", white throat and breast, and "white wing bars". One Committee member was bothered by the white wing bars, feeling that a Black-capped Vireo's wing bars should be yellowish; however, the rest of the Committee felt that the combination of greenish back, black head, white throat and breast, red eyes, and "angular, large" white spectacles made this record hard to dismiss.

While this very rare species was unexpected in Michigan, it is not unprecedented for the region. There is one record from Long Point, Ontario, a female banded on 27 April 1991 (Hough 1991).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Katie Higgins, Ken Mettie, Jr.**

One on 29 March 2002 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (5th state record/first county record).

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **Rick Brigham, Adam**

M. Byrne, Joe Kaplan

One on 21-30 October 2002 at L'Anse, Baraga Co. (4th state record/first county record).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Rick Brigham**

One adult male on 24 May 1999 near Paradise, Chippewa Co. (2nd state record/first county record).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **James Granlund**

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne, James Granlund, John McDaniel, Ken Mettie Jr., Brad Murphy**

One on 30 September-3 October 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (2nd state record/2nd county record).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Allen Chartier, Philip C. Chu**

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne, Allen Chartier, Darlene Friedman**

One on 25-30 December 2001 at Gladwin, Gladwin Co. (3rd state record/first county record).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne**

One on 23 March-5 April 2002 at

Marquette, Marquette Co. (4th state record/first county record).

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Allen Chartier, Tim Peterson**

photographs: **Rick Brigham, Adam M. Byrne, John Cassidy, Allen Chartier, Brad Murphy**

One on 15 December 2001-13 April 2002 at Centreville, St. Joseph Co. (5th state record/first county record).

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*)

vote: 6-1

description: **Ken Mettie Jr.**

One on 4 September 2001 near Paradise, Chippewa Co. represents the first fall record for the Upper Peninsula.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

vote: 7-0

description: **Jonathan Wuepper**
photographs: **Adam M. Byrne, Allen Chartier**

One on 28 April-5 May 2002 at Parchment, Kalamazoo Co. (11th state record/first county record).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Russ Hanson, Dana Richter**

One male on 22 May 2002 in Hancock

Twp., Houghton Co. (12th state record/
first county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)
vote: 7-0

description: **Craig Lipski**
One first summer male on 12 May
2002 at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco
Co. (6th state record/first county
record).

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)
vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Philip C. Chu, James
Granlund, Bill Grigg**
photographs: **Allen Chartier,
James Granlund, Bill Grigg, Brad
Murphy**

One immature on 21 February-21
March 2002 at Rogers City, Presque
Isle Co. (9th state record/first county
record).

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)
vote: 7-0

photographs: **Martin T. Auer,
Christopher G. Haas, Joe Kaplan**
One male on 12-16 May 2002 at
Paavola, Houghton Co. (10th state
record/first county record).

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo
chlorurus*)

vote: 7-0
descriptions: **Brian Allen, Donald
W. Jennette, Keith Westphal**

One on 6 April 2002 at Elberta,
Benzie Co. (6th state record/first
county record).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes*

grammacus)
vote: 7-0
descriptions: **Laurence C. Binford,
Mary Lou Wercinski**

One on 5-7 May 2002 at Lake Linden,
Houghton Co. (first county record).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes
grammacus*)

vote: 7-0
photograph: **Myra Mason**
One on 12 May 2002 in Interior Twp.,
Ontonagon Co. (2nd county record).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes
grammacus*)

vote: 7-0
photograph: **Derek Lovitch**

One on 5-6 September 2002 at
Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (22nd
county record).

Grasshopper Sparrow
(*Ammodramus savannarum*)

vote: 7-0
photograph: **Rod Planck**
One on 2-6 November 2001 at
Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
(*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 7-0
description: **Brian Johnson**
One on 9-10 June 2001 at Munuscong
Wildlife Management Area, Chippewa
Co. (16th state record/first county
record).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
(*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 7-0

photographs: **source unknown, but
obtained and submitted by
Jeannette Morss**

One adult male was banded on 14
June 2001 at Vermillion, Chippewa
Co. (17th state record/2nd county
record).

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)
vote: 6-1

descriptions: **Sacha Mkheidze,
Karley Moore**
One on 15 October 2002 at Whitefish
Point, Chippewa Co. (11th state record/
7th county record).

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)
vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Christopher G. Haas,
Ken Mettie Jr.**
One female on 22 May 2002 at
Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.

Records Not Accepted
Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccina-
tor*)

vote: 0-7
one description
A lone adult, seen in flight only, was
reported on 22 October 2001 at
Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The
bird was identified on the basis of its
large size and proportionately large
all-black bill. Unfortunately, Commit-
tee members felt that the size estimate,
made without comparison to other
swans, was unreliable. In addition,
many Tundra Swans (*Cygnus*

columbianus) lack yellow on the bill
(Patten and Heindel 1994) and the
Committee did not trust judgments
about relative bill size made on a fly-
by at 350 yards.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)
vote: 1-6 in the 2nd round
one description

One male was reported on 12 May
2001 at Nayanquing Point State
Wildlife Area, Bay Co. The bird had a
"uniform, orange-reddish" head with
"a small creamy-buff area on the
forehead to the crown", a "light gray"
body above the waterline and "very
light gray or white" underparts,
upperwings with a "dark gray and
white" pattern, and a bill that "ap-
peared to be dark". The gray or white
underparts, gray and white upperwing
surface, and dark bill troubled most
Committee members; male Eurasian
Wigeons have a pinkish breast, green
speculum, and pale blue-gray or gray-
blue bill, all features not noted on the
bird in question. Given these discrep-
ancies, most members were unable to
vote for acceptance.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)
vote: 2-5
one description

One male, seen in flight only, was
reported on 12 April 2002 at Whitefish
Point, Chippewa Co. The bird had a
"chestnut head, neck, chest, and
underparts" along with a "large light

blue patch on the upperwing from the bend of the wing to where the wing meets the back". Given this description, all Committee members felt the observer saw either a Cinnamon Teal or a Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) x Cinnamon Teal hybrid. However, most did not believe that a hybrid could be fully eliminated with brief in-flight views: the number of hybrids in the Great Lakes region has increased in recent years (Reinoehl 2000, Chu 2001, Svingen 2002) and these hybrids can strongly resemble Cinnamon Teal, requiring close and prolonged views to see the subtle signs of hybridization.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One male was reported on 16 December 2001 at the mouth of the Platte River, Benzie Co. The bird had a black head with a white crescent between the eye and bill, a black back, black upper sides, and a "horizontal white stripe on [the] upper part of [the] wing". Unfortunately, these details do not eliminate the possibility of a Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) x Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid (Gochfeld and Tudor 1976).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One male was reported on 27 December 2001 at Sutton's Bay, Leelanau Co. The bird was described as "a duck with a white body and dark head and back ... white crescent was present on the face". These few details do not eliminate a Common Goldeneye x Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid. In fact, male hybrids are most often misidentified as Barrow's Goldeneyes (Martin and Di Labio 1994).

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

vote: 1-6 in the 2nd round

one description

One in basic plumage on 12 May 2001 at Oval Beach Park, Allegan Co. The observer described a small loon (in direct comparison to a Common Loon [*Gavia immer*]) with a thin neck, small head and bill, "very small trailing feet and legs", "uniformly dark" upperparts, and "uniformly light" underparts. The delineation between the dark upperparts and white underparts was "very even, particularly in the face where the demarcation appeared to be about mid-way through". A face in which the dorsal half is dark and the ventral half is white fits a basic-plumaged Arctic/Pacific Loon better than a Red-throated Loon, which typically looks more white-faced because of its extensively white cheeks. As for the remaining features, they are suggestive but could also fit

an Arctic/Pacific Loon.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 2-5

one description

One in basic plumage was reported on 20 September 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The bird was slightly larger than nearby Red-throated Loons, had small feet, a two-toned neck that was brown above and white beneath, a large head with "a very noticeable [sic] white cheek patch", and a "very stout" bill. Many Committee members felt the description of the head and neck pattern was not sufficient to eliminate other loon species, with the large white cheek region in particular being more suggestive of a Red-throated. Further, impressions of size and shape are too subjective to be of much use – for example, it is not uncommon to discern obvious size differences between loons of the same species.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 7 September 2002 at Warren Dunes State Park, Berrien Co. The bird was described as large with a "long neck", "pointed beak", white underparts, and "legs very far back on the body". Regrettably, these field marks fit not only a Western Grebe but also, for example, a

Common Loon in basic plumage.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

vote: 0-7

one photograph

One was reported on 15-17 or 15-18 August 1996 in Cass Co. The photograph was very poor, showing only a vague pelican silhouette and so providing no way to differentiate between American White (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) and Brown Pelicans.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 28 July 2002 in Casco Twp., St. Clair Co. The bird was very large with "LONG THIN wings with the tips pointed back", a "long forked tail", a "Cormorant looking" bill, and "all dark" plumage. Most Committee members believed this bird to be a Fregata, but felt that the details did not allow differentiation between Magnificent and Great (*Fregata minor*) Frigatebirds, both of which have been recorded in North America. As a result of this feeling, in 2003, the record was resubmitted as frigatebird sp. and accepted.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

vote: 4-3 in the 2nd round

one description

One was reported on 22 December 2001 at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne

Co. The bird was seen flying with Tundra Swans and came as close as 20-30 feet offshore; it was "smaller [than the swans] and quite dark", with "long pointy wings", dark upperparts, "dusky gray or dusky white" underparts, tail feathers that tapered from rump to tip, and a bill "that tapered from a thick base to a sharper tip, with a sloping look to its head". Some Committee members believed that these details adequately described a juvenile gannet, whereas others felt that – especially given the close views – the observer should have noted white uppertail coverts and speckling on the upperparts.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 1-6
two descriptions
photographs
one newspaper article

One albino on 21-27 November 2001 at Cedar Springs, Kent Co. The photographs clearly show an albino Black Vulture; however, the vulture's behavior was curious. The first observer to encounter it wrote that it "tried to go into the garage and I shooed him out so I could close the door". The observer also reported that "whenever I got within 2 or 3 ft. of him, he would flap his wings and run away" and that "The bird ... did not seem to have the wild instinct that most wild creatures have. If I had had

a fishing net, I could have caught the bird myself". The bird was eventually captured and transferred to a rehabilitator, who also indicated that it was quite tame, stating "He readily ate out of my hand". Given this very tame behavior, most Committee members were concerned that the bird was not of wild origin; whatever its origin, the bird was ultimately transferred to the World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis, MO.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*)

vote: 2-5 in the 2nd round
two descriptions

One adult Harlan's Hawk was reported on 13 April 2002 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The bird had a whitish chest with black streaking, an otherwise black underbody, pale undersurfaces of the remiges with fine dark barring on the under primaries that extended nearly to the feather tips, and a whitish undertail with an ill-defined gray terminal band. While the bird was clearly Harlan's-like, Committee members were concerned about the possibility of an intergrade between harlani and the western B. j. calurus. Mindell (1983) provided a criterion for separating pure Harlan's from intergrades – birds with – 10% red on the uppersurface of the tail were treated as pure and birds with > 10% red were treated as intergrades –

but the observers were not able to see the uppersurface of the tail, making it impossible for them to assess the amount of red present.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*)

vote: 0-7
photographs of a specimen

One specimen from the 1970's was reportedly collected in southwestern Michigan. The identification of the specimen (housed at Sarett Nature Center, Berrien Co.) is unquestioned, but Committee members were unwilling to accept the record since the locality of collection was not recorded.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 1-6
one description

One was reported on 15 August 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The bird had rufous scapulars, "rufous on the crown as well as on the cheek", a "very white" breast, black legs, and a long, curved bill – a combination of characteristics that generated confusion. If the bird was an adult wearing alternate plumage, retaining only rufous scapulars but also rufous on the crown and cheek, then its breast should not be "very white", but should instead show heavy black streaking or remnants thereof. If the bird was a juvenile with rufous scapulars and a white breast, then its crown and cheek

should not be rufous. Given a combination of characters that does not match either an adult Western or a juvenile, most Committee members voted against acceptance.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 0-7 in the 2nd round
one description

One was reported on 9 September 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The observer described a black-legged peep that was similar in size and bill length to nearby Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*), but with the bill being more drooped and finer-tipped. The bird had "pale fringes on the scapulars, tertials, upperwing coverts, and mantle", except for the upper scapulars which were described as "rufous ... with ... black spots ... covering the outer (tip) third of each feather". While many of these features are appropriate for a Western Sandpiper in juvenal plumage, the upper scapulars were like those of alternate plumage. Because it is not possible to combine alternate-plumage upper scapulars with plumage that is otherwise juvenile, Committee members felt that something was amiss and voted not to accept.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodramus scolopaceus*)

vote: 1-6 in the 2nd round
one description

One dowitcher, seen in flight only,

was reported on 9 May 2002 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. Identification as a Long-billed was based solely on vocalizations, "a high pitch prrip ...repeated a few times"; unfortunately, most Committee members felt that this vocalization did not fit the typical Long-billed "keek" call.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 1-6 in the 2nd round
two descriptions

One dark morph was reported on 30 August 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. Its identification was based on size (larger than a nearby Ring-billed Gull), the extent of the white under-primary patches (thought by one observer to be notably extensive), and the shape of the central rectrices (one observer stated that they were "twisted and broad from the side, although I was never able to get on the rounded tips", and the other said that they "seemed rounded"). Committee members were troubled by the lack of certainty about central-rectrix shape – neither observer was confident that R1 was rounded – and the one observer's inability to ascertain rectrix shape raised questions about his assertion of rectrix twisting. As for the other features mentioned, size and large white flashes on the underwing surface, neither is particularly helpful:

both Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers can be larger than a Ring-billed Gull, and both can have large white areas at the bases of the under-primaries.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 0-7 in the 2nd round
two descriptions

One was reported on 27 October 2001 at Port Huron, St. Clair Co. A distant jaeger was seen chasing a Ring-billed Gull "for about 20 seconds and looked to be the same size or slightly larger"; otherwise, it was "very dark with large white patches at the base of the primaries" and no discernable tail projection or barring. It was called a Pomarine on the basis of its size relative to the Ring-billed Gull it was chasing, but that is not sufficient to distinguish between Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers since both can be as big or bigger than a Ring-billed.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 4-3 in the 2nd round
one description

One juvenile was reported on 6 October 2001 at South Haven, Van Buren Co. This bird was seen roosting and in flight, providing several very close views (within 100 yards). While roosting it was smaller than nearby Ring-billed Gulls, had "a boldly barred rump and paler nape", a "suggestion of a dark cap", "two blunt

central rectrices that extended perhaps 2 to 3 cm beyond the end of the tail", a "dark gray to brown" breast, a rounded head, and a bill that "was about the same as the width of the head" in length and "quite thin with a hooked tip". In flight the "two outermost shafts of the primaries ... were white", "the primaries and secondaries looked slightly darker than the wing coverts and saddle", "the underwing coverts were uniformly barred", and the "white flash on the underwing was confined to the base of the primaries". Most of these features favor a Long-tailed Jaeger, and for that reason the majority of the Committee members supported this record in both rounds of voting; however, a minority was bothered by the bill description – the Long-tailed has the shortest bill of any jaeger, less than half as long as the head, and so is less likely than the other two jaeger species to appear long billed.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 1-6
one description

One adult was reported on 14 October 2001 at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. The bird was intermediate in size between nearby Ring-billed and Herring (*Larus argentatus*) Gulls, had a "red gonydeal spot ... with limited black more towards the [bill] tip", dark eyes, "pinkish yellow" legs, and mantle

coloration that "WAS NOT obviously darker than the Herring Gulls nearby". The observer correctly noted that pink-yellow leg color is wrong for a Herring Gull. However, this leg color is also atypical for an adult California Gull, and the other characteristics listed – smallish size, red and black markings on the bill, dark eyes, and pale mantle color – can all be seen in at least some adult Herring Gulls.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

vote: 1-6
one description

One adult was reported on 18 May 2002 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The bird had dark eyes and a "light gray" mantle that was "somewhat lighter" than that of a nearby Herring Gull; relative to a Herring, the dark color on its outer primaries was reduced in area and paler. Most Committee members felt that the pale mantle was more appropriate for an Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) than for a Thayer's, and that the dark eyes and wingtip description might fit either species.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

vote: 3-4
one description

One was reported on 16 May 2002 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The observer described a 2nd year gull with a pale gray mantle that was "much lighter than the Herring Gulls it stood

next to", a broad "dark grey/brown" terminal band on the tail, "greyish brown" outer webs to the primaries that were as dark or darker than the tail band, and secondaries that were whitish with "very fine light brown markings". An Iceland Gull can be rather heavily pigmented on the outer primaries and tail, but such an individual should be heavily pigmented on the secondaries as well; the combination of dark outer primaries and dark tail with pale secondaries prompted one Committee member to say, "confronted by a bird with such features, I'd be reluctant to assign it to any species".

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)

vote: 2-5

one description

One juvenile was reported on 20 September 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The report describes a small gull with a white triangle on the upperwing bordered by black outer primaries and paler coverts, white underparts, a darker back, and a partial hood. Though this description is correct for a Sabine's, most Committee members were convinced that it did not eliminate a Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) from consideration.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*)

vote: 0-7

two descriptions

One was reported on 5 September 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The reporter described a tern, seen in flight only, that was "no smaller than a R. B. [= Ring-billed] Gull" with an orange bill, "heavy but not quite as broad at the base as a Caspian's [*Sterna caspia*]"; its tail was forked "but with no tail streamers like a Common [*Sterna hirundo*] or Forster's [*Sterna forsteri*] Tern; it had "white between [the] bill and eyes" and an otherwise black crown whose "feathers stuck out in a shaggy crest past the head"; its upperwings were gray, except that the "Uppersides of the primaries were tipped in black"; and the "Undersides of the wing showed NO BLACK". This description of upper- and underwing patterns is incorrect for a Royal Tern: on the upperwing a Royal has older and duskier outer primaries that contrast with newer and paler inner primaries, and on the underwing it has a black line along the trailing edge of the hand. These inaccuracies, coupled with a report from a second observer who asserted that the bird in question was not a Royal Tern because it was "the size of a Common or Forster's" Tern and because its "crown was fully black" on this early-September date, made it impossible for Committee members to vote for acceptance.

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)

vote: 1-6 in the 2nd round

one photograph

One was reported in October 1997 near Paradise, Chippewa Co. The photograph clearly showed a wood-pewee, but differentiating between Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) and Eastern Wood-Pewee was not possible.

Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One male was reported on 25 May 2002 at Beulah, Benzie Co. The observer obtained naked-eye views of a bird with a "black beak and black line from [the] beak through the eye and head", a "brilliant red breast and head", and "black wings and tail"; the observer also stated "I assume I saw other characteristics such as the black back, but didn't write them down". Excepting the black line through the eye, the field marks that were observed could fit not only a Vermillion Flycatcher but also a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*); in fact, the description of the head (all red with a dark line through the eye) isn't exactly right for a Vermillion Flycatcher, as the flycatcher's nape should be dark. These unresolved issues, combined with the lack of optics and the absence

of information about back color, led a majority of Committee members to vote against acceptance.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 19 May 2002 in Hampton Twp., Bay Co. The observer described "a small bird (about warbler size)" with a "uniform olive" back, "one faint yellow wing bar", and "yellow-greenish" underparts with no areas of white. Unfortunately this description does not match a Bell's Vireo, which should have white underparts with yellowish flanks and undertail coverts (rather than all-yellow underparts) and a white (not yellow) wing bar.

Black-backed Wagtail (*Motacilla lugens*)

vote: 0-7

one video recording

One was reported in December 2001 in Wexford Co. The bird – videotaped as it fed on the ground – was not a wagtail, but instead was a leucistic Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) with whitish cheeks.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One was reported on 16 June 2001 at Saginaw, Saginaw Co. The observer described a small wren with a "warm

brown" back, "whitish" throat "turning to gray in the chest and belly area", "white eye stripe", "dark, appearing grayish" legs, and "white flecking under the tail". This record was initially accepted, receiving a 6-1 vote after two rounds of voting and much discussion dealing with separation from a juvenile Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*); later, one Committee member requested reevaluation of the record based on newly obtained photos of a juvenile Carolina Wren with dark legs, pale underparts, and some white barring on the undertail coverts. Evidence of dark legs and pale underparts on juvenile Carolina Wrens was enough to convince some members to change their stance on this record.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

vote: 4-3 in the 2nd round
one description

One was reported on 15 November 2001 at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. The observer described a "pale tannish gray wren with a few fine streaks on the upper breast", "buffy pink flanks", paler "tannish white" underparts, "long, slender, sharp and slightly curved" bill, black legs, dark eyes, "faint eye line", and upperparts that "appeared unmarked". The bird was seen several times during a 20-minute period at rather short distances (20-90 feet). Dissenting Committee members

were concerned because the observer failed to note the fine speckling on the back, rusty rump, and distinctive pale buffy tips to the outer rectrices – characters that, they thought, should have been evident given the close views.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 3-4
one description

One immature male was reported on 22 May 2002 at Niles, Berrien Co. The bird was described as "deep blue on the head and around the face" becoming "black/dark by bill"; on the body it was "mousy-brown" with blue from the head extending down onto the upper back and upper breast, and it had "two very distinct and large rusty-brown wing bars". The bill was described only as "short, fat and dark". Most Committee members were concerned that these details could fit not only a first-spring Blue Grosbeak but also a first-spring Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*): young Indigo Buntings are mixed blue and brown, have blackish lores, and often have buffy wingbars (Payne 1990).

Corrigenda to the Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2001 (Byrne 2002)

Several errors were introduced by the editorial staff.

- 1) On page 246, the word "reevaluation" was changed to "re-evaluation" in the subheadings but not the text.
- 2) On page 248, the words "third" and "fourth" were changed to "3rd" and "4th", but the words "first" and "second" were not changed to "1st" and "2nd".
- 3) On page 252, "Hummingbird (*Selasphorus* spp.)" should have read "Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)".
- 4) In the first Brown Pelican account on page 253, the word "two" was changed to "2"; however, the "two" was within part of a quotation and so should have been left unchanged.
- 5) In the first complete Ross's Goose account on page 256, another quotation was altered, with the word "one" being inappropriately changed to "1".
- 6) On page 261, "Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)" should have read "Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)".

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