

# Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2003

Adam M. Byrne  
11771 Rachel Lane  
DeWitt, MI 48820

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee, covering the Committee's actions in 2003. The members of the Committee in 2003 were Adam M. Byrne (Clinton Co.), Allen Chartier (Wayne Co.), Philip C. Chu (Minnesota), Louis Dombroski (Chippewa Co.), James Granlund (Kalamazoo Co.), Joe Kaplan (Houghton Co.), and Scott Terry (Isabella Co.), with alternate members Brad Murphy (Oakland Co.) and Jack Reinoehl (Hillsdale Co.). Byrne was Chairman and Reinoehl was Secretary.

The records discussed below are the 88 reports for which a final decision was reached during the calendar year 2003. Of these, 55 (63%) 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 necessarily stating that the identification was incorrect, only that the supporting evidence was not conclusive.

The state list increased by three during 2003, to 422.

## Changes to Michigan Bird List of January 2003

### Casual to Accidental:

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

### New species (Accidental):

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)

### Bylaws amendment:

In addition to reviewing new documentation, the Committee voted on an amendment to the Voting Criteria section of its bylaws (Byrne 2000). According to the bylaws, records previously reviewed could be re-evaluated on the basis of new evidence or additional information. However, there was no direction on

what constituted new evidence or additional information, and the process did not require discussion prior to a record's re-evaluation. For these reasons, a bylaws change was passed (vote: 6-0) that allows any Committee member to request reconsideration of any record, with the stipulation that a vote supported by a simple majority is needed to approve the request.

### Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*)

Byrne submitted a request to re-evaluate the Harlan's Hawk records from 13 April 2002 (Byrne 2004) and 24 April 2003 (see below). Both records were reviewed using a 10% criterion set forth by Mindell (1983): if the tail is over 10% red, then a pure Harlan's is not indicated. However, recent correspondence with Bill Clark and Brian Wheeler suggested that Mindell's criterion is too strict. Clark summarized "Mindell's work was great at the time, but we know much more now. Adult Harlan's usually have some rufous in the tail, and it can be more than 10% and still be pure Harlan's". With admonitions like these in mind, Committee members supported Byrne's request with votes of 6-1-1 for both records.

### Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*)

Reinoehl submitted a request to re-evaluate Michigan's Black-capped Vireo record from 22 May 2002 in Benzie Co. The request was narrowly rejected by a 4-4-1 vote. Reinoehl suggested that the original description incorrectly described the distribution of white around the eyes, yet several Committee members felt that they had taken this feature into account during the initial review, making re-evaluation unnecessary.

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://umd.umich.edu/dept/rouge\\_river/MBRChome.html](http://umd.umich.edu/dept/rouge_river/MBRChome.html)>

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

## Records Accepted

### Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

vote: 7-0

description: Laurence C. Binford

One adult on 22 – 26 September 2002 at Lake Linden, Houghton Co. (10<sup>th</sup> state record/2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

### Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

vote: 6-1

photograph: Matthew Hysell

One on 29 – 30 November 2002 east of Saline, Washtenaw Co. (11<sup>th</sup> state record/2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

### Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

vote: 6-0-1

descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu

One adult, with another goose showing intermediate traits, on 24

December 2002 at Allegan State Game Area, Allegan Co. (12<sup>th</sup> state record/4<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **David J. Peters**

One on 26 December 2002 at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. (13<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

**Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)**

vote: 6-0

photographs: **Tim Baerwald, Kip Miller**

One on 7-13 November 2003 at Lake Michigan College, Berrien Co. (14<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

**Brant (*Branta bernicla*)**

vote: 6-1

description: **William Grigg**

Six on 28 May 2002 near Alpena, Alpena Co. (first county record). The birds were about half the size of nearby Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), and were similar in shape to the Canadas; they had black heads, necks, and upper breasts with "narrow white neck collar[s]", dark brownish backs, "darkish white color" on the underparts, and black feet and bills. The dissenting Committee member was bothered by the description of "white at the undertail and tail", interpreting this to indicate that the tails may have been white.

**Brant (*Branta bernicla*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **William Grigg**

One on 10 September 2002 at Thunder Bay, Alpena Co. (2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

**Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Adam M. Byrne, Brad Murphy**

One male on 12 April 2003 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. was the first county and Lower Peninsula record since 1998.

**Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)**

vote: 6-0-1

descriptions: **Philip C. Chu, Scott Jennex, Darrin O'Brien**  
photographs: **Adam M. Byrne, Scott Terry, Will Weber**

One adult female on 17 May – 9 November 2003 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (3<sup>rd</sup> state record/first county record). This is the first record for both the summer and fall seasons (both previous records were from the spring).

**Arctic/Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica/pacifica*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Ken Mettje, Jr.**

One on 9 May 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.

**Arctic/Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica/pacifica*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Karl Bardon**

One on 8 October 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.

**Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)**

vote: 7-0 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

description: **Joseph M. Soehnel**

One on 20-21 February 2003 in Hampton Twp., Bay Co. (2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

**Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)**

vote: 6-0

descriptions: **Zach Gayk, Scott Hickman**

One on 18-20 October 2003 at Munising, Alger Co. (first county record).

**Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)**

vote: 5-2 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

description: **Calvin Brennan**

One on 14 November 2002 at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne Co. (9<sup>th</sup> state record/3<sup>rd</sup> county record).

**Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)**

vote: 6-0

photograph: **Gene Maddox**

One present on 5 – 19 July 1999 in Berrien Co. was photographed at St. Joseph on 5 July (first county record). This record was rejected in 2001 (Byrne 2002), but was re-evaluated and accepted after Maddox's photograph was located. Michigan now has 10 accepted records of this species.

**Frigatebird sp. (*Fregata* sp.)**

vote: 6-1

description: **Russell Emmons**

One on 28 July 2002 in Casco Twp., St. Clair Co. The dissenting Committee member was troubled by the observer's naked-eye views and the lack of information about how long the bird was observed. This record was rejected as a Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), and then was resubmitted and accepted as a frigatebird sp. (Byrne 2004). As such, it is the 7<sup>th</sup> *Fregata* record for Michigan and the 2<sup>nd</sup> county record; five of the seven (including one of the

two from St. Clair Co.) cannot be identified to species.

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

vote: 6-0

photograph: **Scott Jennex**  
videotape: **Chuck Bradford**

One adult from mid-May to 27 June 2003 at Parma, Jackson Co. (first county record).

**White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Jonathan T. Wuepper**  
photographs: **Tim Baerwald, Kip Miller, Scott Terry**

One on 13 – 16 May 2003 in Berrien Co. (9<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

**Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Jeff Schultz**

One on 15 May 2003 in Monroe Co. (10<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

**Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Wayne and Devora Gleiber, Melvin and Nancy Johnson, Kirk D. Schrader, Jonathan T. Wuepper**  
photographs: **Tim Baerwald, Mary Creager**  
video: **Dick Sowler**

One on 2 – 16 May 2003 near Warren Woods State Park, Berrien Co. (5<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)**

vote: 6-0

descriptions: **Scott Jennex, Russ Schipper**



photographs: **Russ Schipper**

One adult on 12-26 July 2003 in Oshemo Twp., Kalamazoo Co. (20<sup>th</sup> state record/2<sup>nd</sup> county record) was at the same location that hosted one Swallow-tailed and two Mississippi Kites last fall (Chartier 2003, Byrne 2004).  
**King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)**

vote: 6-0

videotape: **Kathy Colby**

One found on 8 May 2003 lingered into June at Petoskey, Emmet Co. (first county record).

**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)**

vote: 6-0-1

descriptions: **Philip C. Chu, Scott Jennex**

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne, Allen T. Chartier**

One pair was discovered on 11 May 2003 and a 2<sup>nd</sup> pair was present by 8 June 2003 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co.; each pair built a nest and hatched four eggs, and of the eight young thus produced, seven fledged. The last report was of three on 30 August 2003. These birds represent Michigan's 3<sup>rd</sup> record, its first nesting, spring, and fall records, and the first record for Monroe Co.

**Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)**

vote: 6-1 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

description: **Dave Slager**

One on 29 November 2002 at the Kalamazoo River mouth, Allegan Co. (first county record). The bird's back was described as "dark gray in color with somewhat of a scaling effect", yet basic/juvenile plumaged Red

Phalaropes have rather uniform gray backs compared to the more patterned upperparts of the Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). Thus, the dissenting Committee member wondered if a Red-necked had been properly eliminated from consideration.

**Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Allen T. Chartier**

photographs: **Allen T. Chartier, Scott Terry**

One on 7 October 2003 at Metro Beach Metropark, Macomb Co. (first county record).

**Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)**

vote: 6-1

description: **Ken Mettje, Jr.**

One in its first summer on 8 July 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (2<sup>nd</sup> summer record).

**Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*)**

vote: 7-0 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

description: **Ken Mettje, Jr.**

One on 30 May 2002 at Aronson Island, Escanaba, Delta Co. (9<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record) was Michigan's first spring and Upper Peninsula record.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)**

vote: 7-0 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

descriptions: **Allen T. Chartier, Philip C. Chu**

video: **James Granlund**

Two on 13-24 June 2002 in Alamo Twp., Kalamazoo Co. (first state record). There were no dissenting

votes in the first round (5-0-2 vote), but one abstaining member was aware of, and requested an opportunity to evaluate, video footage that had not been provided for review. The video footage, which included audio recordings of the vocalizations, was accepted with an additional 7-0 vote as physical evidence substantiating the collared-doves occurrence.

Romagos and McEneaney (1999) discussed the key characteristics that distinguish Eurasian Collared-Doves from Ringed Turtle-Doves (*Streptopelia risoria*), a domesticated form of the African Collared-Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea* and Eurasian Collared-Dove x Ringed Turtle-Dove hybrids; all of these characteristics were carefully noted on the Kalamazoo Co. birds. The birds's plumage was "pale buff-gray with a faint pinkish purple tinge" with "light-medium gray" under tail-coverts and primaries that were "conspicuously darker than the body or upper secondary-coverts". The tails had black on the outer webs of the outer rectrices that extended "closer to the tail-tip than did the black of the inner web[s]". Both birds had a similar vocalization, "a mellow, hooting hooHOO hoo".

**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Allen T. Chartier**

photographs: **Allen T. Chartier**

One adult male, photographed in the hand, on 15 August – 24 October 2003 near Battle Creek, Calhoun Co.

(13<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).  
**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Allen T. Chartier**

photographs: **Allen T. Chartier**

One juvenile male, photographed in the hand, on 14 September – 8 November 2003 near Stockbridge, Ingham Co. (14<sup>th</sup> state record/2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Allen T. Chartier, Edward G. Lewis**

photographs: **Allen T. Chartier**

One immature female on 20 October – 26 December 2003 at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. (15<sup>th</sup> state record/3<sup>rd</sup> county record).

**American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides albolarvatus*)**

vote: 5-2 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

description: **Ken Mettje, Jr.**

One on 3 February 2002 near Grand Marais, Alger Co. (19<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record). The dissenting Committee members were troubled because the observer claimed that he "never did" take field notes, and because his report was undated; thus, they reasoned, the report could have been written from memory long after the fact.

**Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)**

vote: 7-0

photographs: **Scott Terry**

One on 25 April 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (11<sup>th</sup> state record/5<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)**

vote: 6-0

description: **Karl Bardon**

photographs: **John Baumgartner**

One on 23 September 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (13<sup>th</sup> state record/7<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Chris M. Schumacher**

One on 22 October 2002 at Verona State Game Area, Huron Co. (20<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Dee Miller**

One on 29 November 2002 at Escanaba Harbor, Delta Co. (21<sup>st</sup> state record/first county record).

**Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)**

vote: 6-1

description: **Robert E. Preston**

One on 15 December 2002 in Rogers Twp., Presque Isle Co.

**Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)**

vote: 6-1 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

description: **James C. Dawe**

One on 1 June 2002 at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. (first county record). The bird had an olive back, wings with two "very thin, indistinct wing bars", "obvious, if somewhat indistinct" white spectacles, and "white-gray" underparts with pale yellow sides. The dissenting Committee member was troubled by the lack of detail on bill shape, wondering if the report excluded a Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*).

**Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Laurence C. Binford**

One on 29 July 2003 near Pelkie, Baraga Co. (6<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

**Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)**

vote: 6-0

photographs: **Myles Willard**

One on 20 October 2003 at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. (5<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

**Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*)**

vote: 6-0

photographs: **Julie Craves**

One "Yellow" Palm Warbler on 1 November 2003 at University of Michigan-Dearborn, Wayne Co. While this subspecies has been reported from Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., and the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kalamazoo Co., the present record is the first Michigan record to be voted on and accepted.

**Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **William Grigg**

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne**

One on 15-16 November 2002 at Rogers City, Presque Isle Co. (3<sup>rd</sup> state record/first county record).

**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Philip C. Chu,**

**Jonathan T. Wuepper**

photographs: **Tim Baerwald, Jeff McCoy**

One on 6 December 2002 - 22

January 2003 in Berrien Township, Berrien Co. (13<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record) was Michigan's 2<sup>nd</sup> winter record.

**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)**

vote: 7-0 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

description: **Lila Godfrey**

One on 26 May 2003 in Lincoln Twp., Berrien Co. (14<sup>th</sup> state record/2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

**Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)**

vote: 6-0-1

descriptions: **Allen T. Chartier,**

**Philip C. Chu**

photographs: **Allen T. Chartier,**

**Scott Terry, Myles Willard**

One male on 4-16 January 2003 at Grindstone City, Huron Co. (first state record).

**Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*)**

vote: 6-0

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne,**

**John McDaniel, Kevin Thomas**

One on 24-29 September 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

**Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)**

vote: 7-0

photograph: **Carl Manning**

One on 27 April 2003 at Newberry, Luce Co. (2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

**Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)**

vote: 6-0

photographs: **Alan Ryff**

One adult male on 11 June 2003 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area,

Monroe Co. (16<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: **Louis Taccolini**

One on 6 - 8 October 2002 at Marquette, Marquette Co. This record was rejected as a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (see below), but was then resubmitted and accepted as a Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

**Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)**

vote: 6-0

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne, Jeff McCoy, Brad Murphy**

One on 9-12 October 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (13<sup>th</sup> state record/9<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)**

vote: 6-0-1

photographs: **Adam M. Byrne,**

**John McDaniel, Scott Terry**

One female on 15 - 18 May 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (7<sup>th</sup> state record/3<sup>rd</sup> county record).

**Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: **Kenneth and Gail**

**Good, Cynthia Mead, Al Turner**

photographs: **Kenneth and Gail**

**Good and Al Turner**

One first year male on 17 - 19 May 2003 in Ogemaw Co. The bird was similar in shape to an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) and had a light blue head and neck with some intermixed gray-brown, black lores, a gray-brown back and scapulars with



some intermixed light blue, a rufous buff breast, white posterior underparts, and blackish wings with two white wingbars.

The only question was whether these features eliminated a Lazuli Bunting x Indigo Bunting hybrid. Sibley and Short (1959), Kroodsmas (1975), and Emlen et al. (1975) all provided hybrid indices that assign numerical scores to each of a series of plumage characteristics. For each index, birds with the lowest possible score are pure Indigo Buntings, those with the highest possible score are pure Lazuli Buntings, and those with intermediate scores may have genes from both species.

After reviewing the various hybrid indices, all Committee members felt the photographs provided conclusive support for Michigan's first Lazuli Bunting.

**Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Brian Allen**

One female or first spring male on 16 May 2003 in Manistee Twp., Manistee Co. (11<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

**Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)**

vote: 7-0

description: **Scott Hickman**

One male on 19-20 May 2003 near L'Anse, Baraga Co. (12<sup>th</sup> state record/first county record).

### Records Not Accepted

**Brant (*Branta bernicla*)**

vote: 2-5 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round  
one description

One, seen in flight only, was reported on 14 October 2002 near Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. It was "noticeably different [in] size" compared to nearby Canada Geese, with shorter and more pointed wings. The bill, head, and neck were black, but "There was no white on the face ... there was white on neck"; the belly was pale and "There was a marked contrast where black stopped @ the breast and white/buff color began". These details fit not only a Brant, but also an alternate-plumaged Common Loon.

**Brant (*Branta bernicla*)**

vote: 2-5 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round  
one description

One was reported on 10 May 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The plumage description was appropriate for a Brant; however, the bird in question was stated to be "not much larger than the Greater Scaup [*Aythya marila*] it was flying with", and Brant are considerably larger than Greater Scaup – averaging, for example, 40 to 50% larger in wing length. Given this discrepancy, most Committee members found it difficult to confidently endorse the record.

**Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)**

vote: 1-6

photograph: **Myles Willard**

One on 12 October 2002 at Linwood Beach, Bay Co. The photo clearly supported the identification, but most Committee members felt that the bird had escaped from captivity.

**Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

Two, a male and a female, were reported on 12 May 2001 at Calumet Sewage Ponds, Houghton Co. The male had a "rusty head", gray sides and back, black in the tail, and a bluish bill; moreover, it had no "green stripe on head as does the American Wigeon [*Anas americana*], and didn't have black neck as does the redhead [*sic*"]". The female was "quite drab", "less distinct" than the male, and blue-billed. Regarding the female, the observed characteristics describe an American Wigeon as well as they describe a Eurasian. As for the male, concerns included the failure to note a creamy forehead patch, despite rather close views (~80 yards); the absence of information about upwing pattern, even though the birds were seen in flight; and the lack of enough detail to eliminate a Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrid.

**King/Common Eider (*Somateria spectabilis/mollissima*)**

vote: 2-5 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

one description

Two, seen in flight only, were reported on 8 November 2002 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The report describes brownish ducks with dark bills and indistinct wing patterns, but does not provide any details on bill shape. Several Committee members felt that views allowing accurate determination of bill color and wing pattern should have allowed assessment of bill structure and that the

identification could not be supported without this information.

**Arctic/Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica/pacifica*)**

vote: 1-5-1 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

one description

One adult in alternate plumage was reported on 29 April 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The observer described a loon with white ovals at the base of each wing, otherwise dark upperparts, and a plain gray head and neck. However, a uniformly gray head and neck is not appropriate for either Arctic or Pacific Loon, leading most Committee members to vote against acceptance.

**Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)**

vote: 3-4 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

one description

One was reported on 26 June 2002 in Fraser Twp., Bay Co. The brief description indicated only that the bird had a grayish blue bill with a black tip, "blue to blue-gray" upperparts, white head plumes, streaked neck, and white underparts. However, a probable Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) x Tricolored Heron hybrid from Bay Co. in 1997 (Byrne 2001, 2002) shared all of these features but one (bill color, which was black in the probable hybrid). Given that a probable hybrid can closely match the features described, some Committee members were uncomfortable voting for acceptance. Additional details on plumage and bare-part coloration would have helped to eliminate the possibility of a hybrid.

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

vote: 0-7 for the adult, 1-6 for the juvenile  
one description

Two, an adult and a juvenile, were reported on 22 June 2002 at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. The description of the adult indicated only that the bird in question was slender and long-necked with a white cheek patch and white crown, features that are suggestive but that could also be used to describe a Great Blue Heron. The juvenile had a long neck, stout and dark bill, long and yellow legs, and a dark back with small white spots. These features could easily fit a young Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).

**Black Vulture (Coragyps atratus)**

vote: 1-5-1 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round  
one description

One was reported on 30 April 2002 in Calhoun Co. The observer described a vulture with a short tail, gray head and neck, and blacker plumage than nearby Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), yet no mention was made of pale areas on the primaries, even though the bird was seen in flight. The failure to note this highly conspicuous field mark caused most Committee members to vote against this record.

**Black Vulture (Coragyps atratus)**

vote: 0-7  
one description

One was reported on 6 June 2003 at Clarkston, Oakland Co. The observer

described a raptor that was about the size of a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) with a short, squared-off tail, flap-and-glide flight, and wings that were held flat while gliding. The observer added "Due to its height in the air and the poor lighting combined with the fact that I was driving on I-75 and it was flying in the opposite direction, I was not able to see any color". Considering these less-than-ideal circumstances and the fact that the details do not eliminate a Red-tailed Hawk, all Committee members voted against acceptance.

**Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)**

vote: 1-6  
one description

One subadult was reported on 17 May 2003 at Warren Dunes State Park, Berrien Co. Its plumage was described as "Dark overall ... dorsal and ventral surfaces of both wings, body, and tail were evenly dark (no whites or creams of any kind were noticed anywhere)"; however, wholly dark plumage is inconsistent with a Mississippi Kite of any age. Adult kites have pale secondaries and upper greater secondary coverts, and first-spring kites have whitish under secondary coverts with dark checkering, pale bases to the underside of the primaries, (in most cases) narrow pale bands on the tail, and (in some cases) a whitish underbody with dark streaks. Because appearance of the bird in question is inconsistent with any Mississippi Kite plumage, most Committee members voted against acceptance.

**White-tailed Eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla)**

vote: 1-6  
two descriptions

One non-adult (Basic I) was reported on 17 and 20 September 2002 at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne Co. The bird was identified as a White-tailed Eagle for three main reasons.

It showed no white on the belly or upper back, and very little white on the underwings; one observer described an "apparent lack of pale feathering on the underwing coverts" with pale areas being "restricted more or less to the axillaries" and the other observer described "two small, diffused whitish spots on the axillaries", "paler markings on the inner most secondaries", and "a narrow pale line running along the inner (median) coverts".

Both observers noted a white-spiked appearance to the tail.

Both commented on the bird's larger size and different shape in direct comparison to a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The larger size was attributed to "broader and bigger handed" wings, and both observers stated that the bird's head and bill were smaller and its tail was shorter and more wedge-shaped than those of a Bald.

The reduced white on body and underwings can be duplicated by Bald Eagles. Clark (2001:26) states that "Some Basic I and Basic II eagles appear overall dark, with belly and back...that show little or no white". Not surprisingly, birds that are

unusually dark on the belly and back also tend to be unusually dark on the underwings (W. S. Clark, personal communication).

In Basic I and Basic II plumages, both White-tailed and Bald Eagles have whitish rectrices with dark tips on both webs and, proximal to the dark tip on the outer web, some additional dark coloration. The White-tailed is distinguished by the triangular shape of the dark area at the tip of each inner web; it is the dark triangle at the inner-web tip that creates the white-spiked appearance of each tail feather (Clark and Wheeler 1987, Wheeler and Clark 1995). For the Wayne Co. bird, one observer credited the white-spiked appearance to "the outline of dark on the rectrices [*sic*] with pale areas that tapered to a point near the tip of each feather", a description that incorrectly describes each rectrix as being dark with a white central area. The other observer stated that "the outer webs were dark on each feather with whitish inner webs", a pattern that incorrectly omits the dark at the inner-web tips. Thus, neither observer correctly described the tail pattern of a Basic I White-tailed.

Most of the size and shape features noted are appropriate for a White-tailed Eagle, except that both observers described the head as smaller than that of a Bald Eagle, when in fact it is the Bald that has the smaller head (Beaman and Madge 1998, Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001).

In summary, the bird was identi-



fied as a Basic I White-tailed Eagle for three main reasons – (1) reduced white in the body and underwings, (2) the white-spiked appearance of the tail, and (3) size and shape that were unlike those of a Bald Eagle – and each of the three was found to be insufficient. Expert commentary from Bill Clark provided this summation: “while I feel there is a small possibility that this eagle could have been a White-tailed Eagle, there is a greater likelihood that it was a dark immature Bald Eagle”.

#### Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*)

vote: 1-5-1

one description and one photograph

One “Harlan’s” form was photographed on 24 April 2003 at Brockway Mountain, Keweenaw Co. The photograph, taken from beneath, shows a Harlan’s-like individual with blackish underbody and wing linings, except for an area on the chest that was whitish with black streaking; light shining through the rectrices revealed the tail to be pale grayish with a narrow, indistinct blackish subterminal band and an even narrower white tip.

The main issue was whether an intergrade between *harlani* and the western *B. j. calurus* could be eliminated. Mindell (1983) provided a criterion for separating pure Harlan’s from intergrades – birds with  $\leq 10\%$  red on the uppersurface of the tail are treated as pure and birds with  $> 10\%$  red are treated as intergrades. Considering that the bird in question was photographed from underneath, most Committee members felt the photo did

not provide enough information about the uppertail to exclude the possibility of slightly more than 10% red there.

After review of this record had been completed, additional information was obtained through communications with Bill Clark and Brian Wheeler; with this additional information at hand, Byrne requested that the record be re-evaluated, and that request was approved by a majority of Committee members (see above). The re-evaluation will be completed in 2004, and will be described in the Committee’s report of its 2004 actions.

#### Baird’s Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 2-5 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

one description

One was reported on 24 May 2002 near Alpena, Alpena Co. The bird was significantly larger than a Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) and had folded wings that extended beyond the tail-tip, a black bill and black feet, a “buffy brown, gray” head and upper breast, a brown-gray back with “distinct, separate spots”, a white lower breast and belly, a rump bisected by “a darker line extending from the back down to the tail”, and, in flight, white at the base of the primaries. These details do not eliminate a Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) from consideration; the Sanderling’s wings often project a short distance beyond the tip of its tail, and in alternate plumage the ground color of a Sanderling’s head, neck, and upperparts can range from grayish white through brown-gray to bright rufous.

#### Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

vote: 0-7

one description

Two were reported on 9 May 2003 at the Olivet City Sanitation Ponds, Eaton Co. The brief report described shorebirds that had dark bills with yellowish bases, yellowish legs, gray-brown backs and wings that were “somewhat mottled”, gray-brown necks and breasts that were “lightly streaked”, and bellies and under tail coverts that were “tight with some streaking along the sides”. These details do not eliminate species such as Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) and Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*); nor do they fit alternate-plumaged Purple Sandpipers, which are heavily streaked/mottled with black both above and below.

#### Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One immature was reported on 26 October 2002 at the Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon Co. The brief report described a mix of gray and black feathers on the back and a “thick & short” black bill – details that could fit not only a Red Phalarope but also, for example, a Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) or a Semipalmated Sandpiper.

#### Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One, seen in flight only, was

reported on 26 November 2002 at the Whiting Plant, Monroe Co. The observer described an “entirely gray” back with no markings and white wingbars that “did not appear striking enough for Sanderling”, adding that “It was not a terrifically close look”. Some Committee members questioned whether a Red-necked Phalarope could be eliminated under such circumstances, a pertinent question because the white-marked gray back of a winter Red-necked Phalarope is not dramatically different from the plain gray back of a winter Red. Other members felt the details did not even fully establish that the bird was a phalarope.

#### Mew Gull (*Larus canus canus*)

vote: 1-5-1

one description

One first winter “Common Gull” was reported on 2 October 2003 at Port Huron, St. Clair Co. The observer used several field marks to differentiate this bird from a Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*): pattern on the upper-secondary-covert feathers, overall size, bill size, and upper-tail-covert pattern.

The upper secondary-coverts were depicted as having rounded dark centers that were invaded by a pale U-shaped mark, but the centers of those feathers should be wholly dark with no pale internal markings. In fact, the pattern described is inappropriate for any form of *L. canus*.

The bird in question was said to be only 10 to 20% larger than a Bonaparte’s Gull (*Larus*

philadelphia); however, according to Olsen and Larsson (2003) the lowest mass for a Common Gull is within 1 g of the lowest mass for a Ring-billed Gull. Thus, some Ring-billed Gulls can be as lightly built as the lightest Common Gull.

The Port Huron bird was said to differ from a Ring-billed Gull in that its bill was "perhaps only 3 times longer than it was deep", but measurement tables in Olsen and Larsson (2003) show that average bill-length-to-bill-depth ratios are between 3.2 and 3.4 for both first-year Ring-billed and first-year Common Gulls. Common Gulls are shorter-billed than Ring-billed Gulls, but they are thinner-billed, too, a fact that explains why the two forms differ little in length-to-depth ratio of the bill.

Finally, the observer felt that the bird's unmarked upper tail-coverts distinguished it from Ring-billed Gull; however, Tove (1993) states that first-year Ring-billed Gulls can have whitish upper tail-coverts, a statement that is supported by photographs in Olsen and Larsson (2003).

In sum, three of the four characters used to eliminate the Ring-billed Gull can in fact be shown by a Ring-billed, and though the fourth character is inappropriate for a Ring-billed Gull it is inappropriate for a Common Gull, too. With this information in mind, most Committee members were not confident about the identity of the bird in question.

#### Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One, in its 3<sup>rd</sup> winter, was reported on 14 December 2002 along the Saginaw River, Saginaw Co. The bird had a "Charcoal-gray back (very similar color to LBBG [Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)])", yet it had "very pink legs/feet" and was the same size as several adjacent Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*). Because of the bird's leg color and overall size, the observers concluded that it was not a Lesser Black-backed; however, a fraction of third-winter Lessers retain the pinkish feet that characterize younger subadults - even some adults do (Grant 1997) - and some male Lessers are as large as some female Herring Gulls (Cramp 1983, Evans et al. 1995). So, one could argue that the bird was a pink-legged male Lesser Black-backed standing near several female Herring Gulls.

#### Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One, seen in flight only, was reported on 5 July 2002 at Sharonville State Game Area, Washtenaw Co. The bird was judged to be relatively large ("seemed maybe Broad-winged [Hawk] [*Buteo platypterus*] size"), had a large, rounded head, and was almost white with some light brown areas in its plumage. Most Committee members found these details to be suggestive, but were also concerned about whether another species of owl or "a pigment-deficient individual of some

more common species" could be excluded by the few details provided.

The bird in question was reportedly seen by numerous observers and there are even rumors that some feathers were collected at the site, yet the available documentation consists of just one description. The Committee would welcome additional documentation, in the form of field notes or information about the possible whereabouts of any feathers.

#### Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 14 May 2003 in Livingston Co. The report consisted of a second-hand account of a "WILL-WEEDOW!!" call heard repeatedly. Committee members were troubled by the observer's lack of familiarity with the species reported, and especially by the second-hand nature of the report. The difficulty with a second-hand report is that one never knows how faithfully an observer's words were reported, or how those words might have been influenced by the interaction between reporter and observer.

#### Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One, seen in flight only, was reported on 19 May 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The report described a nightjar with a "more robust" body and longer wings than a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter*

*striatus*). The bird was a "dark rufous-brown" overall, including its underbody which was "very dark...from chest to undertail coverts". Its tail showed "dark rufous" central tail feathers and a contrasting "lighter yellowish color" on the outer tail feathers that "was not limited to the tail corners but extended the length of the tail".

Committee members voted not to accept this report because some of its details do not match a Chuck-will's-widow. The underbody of this species is not uniformly dark; its breast is dark brown to blackish, but the rest of its underbody is a paler buff or cinnamon with narrow dark barring. Further, its outer tail feathers are not yellowish. In males, the outer webs of rectrices 3-5 are similar in color to rectrices 1-2, while the inner webs are mostly white. In females, both webs of rectrices 3-5 are similar to those of rectrices 1-2, but have buff to cinnamon tips.

#### Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

vote: 1-5-1

two descriptions

One adult male, described by two observers, was reported on 7-9 May 2003 near Ray Center, Macomb Co. The first observer described a dark throat, a "deep indigo" color band (exact location not specified), and a "jet black" head. The 2<sup>nd</sup> observer described a black throat, an "all dark" crown and nape, "a duller, less brilliant green" back compared to nearby Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*), blunter



wingtips, and a short tail that projected minimally beyond the wingtips and exhibited a "double-rounded, not as pointedly forked" shape. According to the 2<sup>nd</sup> observer, the bird was "rather vehemently pumping its tail upward both when perched and when feeding" and on one brief occasion "a distinct wing whir, similar to a Rufous Hummingbird [*Selasphorus rufus*] but not as loud, but noticeably louder than...on Ruby-throats [*sic*]" was heard.

Regrettably, these characteristics do not make a case that is compelling.

Both observers described the head as all dark, when in fact the forehead, crown, and hindneck of a Black-chinned should be dull brown-gray to metallic green. Recognizing this discrepancy, the 2<sup>nd</sup> observer wrote that the head's dark appearance, "[wasn't] surprising given the lighting conditions".

The 2<sup>nd</sup> observer stated that back coloration was noticeably different from the nearby Ruby-throateds, a statement that several Committee members found perplexing. If lighting had affected the 2<sup>nd</sup> observer's ability to accurately determine head color, then should it not also have affected his ability to accurately determine the color of the back?

Wingtip and tail shape, as described, are appropriate for a Black-chinned, but Committee members were not convinced that such characters could be confidently assessed with binocular views from 50 feet.

The wing whir was heard briefly

on only one occasion, and Committee members were reluctant to put much weight on a single briefly heard sound.

Howell (2002:136, 138) states that, "Male Black-chinned often wags its tail strongly, while Ruby-throated's tail is usually held more stiffly and quivered rather than wagged or pumped, but this is not diagnostic", and again, "While persistent tail-wagging suggests Black-chinned, any identification should be confirmed by unequivocal structural features."

#### **Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)**

vote: 2-5 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round  
one description

One was reported on 20 May 2002 in Pavilion Twp., Kalamazoo Co. The bird had a "gray/green" back, two white wingbars, white spectacles, white underparts with a yellow wash on the flanks, and a large "heavy and blunt" bill. The eye-ring portion of the spectacles was said to be "bold white" compared to the "indistinct eye ring" of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) and the wingbars were reported without qualification.

Committee members were troubled by the boldness of the eye ring, which in a Bell's Vireo should be indistinct, and the lack of detail on the wingbars. One member, anticipating that a Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*) record will sooner or later be submitted to the Committee, also noted that the description fails to eliminate Cassin's.

#### **Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)**

vote: 1-6  
one description

One was reported on 30 August

2002 at Berrien Center, Berrien Co. The "stout" bill, the greenish upperparts, the dark eye bordered above by a "small white eye line" and below by a "small pale line/spot", the single "small white wingbar", the gray-white throat, and the yellow flanks are all appropriate for a Bell's Vireo. However, the "drab yellow-green" neck, back, wings, and tail and the yellow rump are inappropriate – the Bell's is rather gray-green above and does not have yellow on the rump. With this discrepancy in mind, most Committee members voted against acceptance.

#### **Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)**

vote: 1-6  
one description

One was reported on 1 September 2002 at Love Creek Nature Center, Berrien Co. This bird exhibited many Bell's Vireo traits – a "stout" bill, a dark eye bordered above by a "small white eye line" and below by a "small pale spot", a white wingbar, a gray-white throat, and yellow flanks. However, the back and wings were a "drab yellow-green" and the rump was yellow, characteristics that do not match the gray-green upperparts (rump included) of a Bell's.

#### **Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)**

vote: 3-4  
one description

One was reported on 17 May 2003 in Lincoln Twp., Berrien Co. The report included many details appropriate for a Bell's Vireo, but was imprecise or incorrect with respect to some critical field marks. For example, the head was described as "yellow gray"

and the back as "yellow-green", both of which suggest a more yellowish hue than expected for a Bell's. The observer also stated that "The wings lacked any distinct wing bars" and that "There were no large yellow spectacles [*sic*]", statements leaving open the possibility that both wings and face were plain. Confronted with the possibility of a yellowish bird with a plain face and plain wings, most Committee members felt that they could not confidently support identification as a Bell's Vireo.

#### **Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)**

vote: 0-7  
one description

One was reported on 12 July 2003 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. The observer described a bird with a plain buff-colored face, a streaked breast, a mottled back and wings, and a tail with white outer feathers; additionally, the bill was black, becoming yellow on the proximal portion of the mandible, the eyes were dark, and leg color was not noted.

Committee members were concerned that the above details do not adequately eliminate a juvenile Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). The juvenile Horned Lark does have a face that is weakly patterned, with an ill-defined paler supercilium and eye ring, but the face of the Sprague's Pipit is weakly patterned in much the same way. Moreover, juvenile Horned Larks – similar to the bird in question – appear mottled above, have blackish mottling on the breast, and show white

outer tail feathers. Finally, a juvenile Horned Lark can duplicate the bill pattern described – in young larks the bill starts out yellowish and darkens as the bird ages (Beason 1995) with the proximal portion of the mandible remaining yellow the longest (Cramp 1988).

#### Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

vote: 2-5

one description

One was reported on 19 November 2002 at Alpena, Alpena Co. The bird was similar in size to an American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) and had a bright yellow throat, "Black and white border around cheek and throat", white "eyebrow", "Dark gray black" back, and two white wingbars. While most of these details fit a Yellow-throated Warbler, one does not – the Yellow-throated has a back that is plain gray, not "Dark gray black" – and this discrepancy led most Committee members to vote against acceptance.

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

vote: 2-5

one description

One was reported on 6 – 8 October 2002 at Marquette, Marquette Co. The details provided – a "gray cheek patch, and orangish stripes surrounding it", a gray central crown stripe and nape, and whitish streaks on the back – did not eliminate the highly unlikely Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Therefore, the record was rejected and resubmitted as a

Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, a category under which it was eventually accepted (see above).

#### Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One male was reported on 3 May 2003 at Niles, Berrien Co. The bird was estimated to be "closer to the size of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak [*Pheucticus ludovicianus*]", though "there were no other birds present to compare size", and it "was all a dark blue color with brownish or rusty wing bars and a large beak".

Some Committee members wondered how accurate the body- and bill-size estimates could be in the absence of any direct comparisons, and that question is an important one – without reliable information about size, the overall blue color and rusty wingbars are not enough to eliminate a male Indigo Bunting from consideration.

#### European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

vote: 0-7

one description and photographs

One on 12 – 17 December 2002 at Spruce, Alcona Co. The identification was correct, but Committee members felt this bird was almost certainly an escapee.

#### European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

vote: 0-7

photographs

One on 2 – 22 January 2003 at Atlantic Mine, Houghton Co. Again, the decision was based on origin concerns, not identification.

#### Literature Cited

- Beaman, M., and S. Madge. 1998. *The handbook of bird identification for Europe and the western Palearctic*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Beason, R. C. 1995. Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*. In Poole, A., and F. Gill, eds. *The Birds of North America*, No. 195. Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and American Ornithologists' Union, Washington.
- Byrne, A. M. 2001. Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2000. *Michigan Birds and Natural History* 8:225-241.
- Byrne, A. M. 2002. Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2001. *Michigan Birds and Natural History* 9:245-266.
- Byrne, A. M. 2004. Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2002. *Michigan Birds and Natural History* 11:62-85.
- Chartier, A. 2003. Michigan Bird Survey: Fall 2002 (Aug-Nov). *Michigan Birds and Natural History* 10:57-90.
- Clark, W. S. 2001. Aging Bald Eagles. *Birding* 33:18-28.
- Clark, W. S., and B. K. Wheeler. 1987. *A field guide to hawks: North America*. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.
- Cramp, S. (chief ed.). 1983. *Handbook of the birds of Europe the Middle East and North Africa, vol. III. Waders to gulls*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Evans, D. R., P. M. Cavanagh, T. W. French, and B. G. Blodgett. 1995. Identifying the sex of Massachusetts—Herring Gulls by linear measurements. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 66:128-132.
- Ferguson-Lees, J., and D. A. Christie. 2001. *Raptors of the world*. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York.
- Grant, P. J. 1997. *Gulls: a guide to identification* (2nd ed.). Academic Press, San Diego.
- Howell, S. N. G. 2002. *Hummingbirds of North America: the photographic guide*. Academic Press, San Diego.
- Mindell, D. P. 1983. Harlan's Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*): a valid subspecies. *Auk* 100:161-169.
- Olsen, K. M., and H. Larsson. 2003. *Gulls of North America, Europe, and Asia*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Romagos, C. M., and T. McEneaney. 1999. Eurasian Collared-Dove in North America and the Caribbean. *North American Birds* 53:348-353.
- Tove, M. H. 1993. Field separation of Ring-billed, Mew, Common, and Kamchatka gulls. *Birding* 25:386-401.
- Wheeler, B. K., and W. S. Clark. 1995. *A photographic guide to North American raptors*. Academic Press, San Diego.