

## Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2005

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This is the 16th report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee (MBRC). It covers the committee's actions during 2005.

At the start of 2005, the MBRC's regular members were Rick Brigham (Allegan Co.), Jeff Buecking (Genesee Co.), Philip Chu (Minnesota), James Granlund (Kalamazoo Co.), Joseph Kaplan (Houghton Co.), Brad Murphy (Oakland Co.), and Scott Terry (Isabella Co.), whereas its alternate members were Adam Byrne (Clinton Co.) and Caleb Putnam (Kent Co.); however, in September Granlund's untimely death (Reinoehl 2005) created a vacancy in the regular membership. As stipulated by committee bylaws, the vacant regular-member position was filled by the first alternate, in this case Putnam; the first-alternate position vacated by Putnam was filled by the second alternate, Byrne; and the second-alternate position vacated by Byrne was filled by election, with Latham Claflin (Jackson Co.) being elected. Throughout, Chu chaired the committee and Byrne was its secretary.

During 2005, the committee made 201 decisions on 146 records, with 132 (65.7%) of the decisions being to accept. The large discrepancy between number of records and number of decisions, with there being 55 extra decisions, is consequent primarily from records with multiple individuals: for example, a single record of eight Ross's Geese (*Chen rossii*) required eight decisions, one for each individual reported. In addition, three records were reviewed not once but twice: a Ross's Goose, reviewed once and not accepted, was reviewed again after additional documentation was submitted; an aggregation of up to four eiders was reviewed initially as Kings (*Somateria spectabilis*), and the two not accepted were reviewed again as Kings/Commons (*S. spectabilis/mollissima*); and a sharp-tailed sparrow, reviewed once and not accepted as a Nelson's (*Ammodramus nelsoni*), was reviewed again as a Nelson's/Saltmarsh (*A. nelsoni/caudacutus*).

Rules for the acceptance or non-acceptance of documentation are given in the committee's bylaws, as

described by Byrne (2000) and subsequently amended (Byrne 2004b, 2004c; Chu 2005).

For each record, the following information is provided: a vote tally, an indication of the documentation submitted, dates, and location. In addition, for accepted records only, observers who contributed documentation are listed, and the name of the person who discovered the bird is listed and underlined, whether that person submitted documentation or not.

MBRC actions during 2005 resulted in the following changes to the Michigan bird list. Four species - the Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), the Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*), the White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*), and the Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) - were added, raising the Michigan list to 427 species; the Cackling Goose was added with Regular status, whereas the other three were added with Accidental status. In addition, six species were upgraded, status-wise: the Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*), and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) from Accidental to Casual, and the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) from Casual to Regular. Finally, two species were downgraded: the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) from Regular to Casual, and the Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) from Casual to Accidental.

During 2005, the MBRC also approved two changes to the "Structure of the Committee" portion of its bylaws. The first change (accepted by a vote of 7-0) addressed the election of committee officers: it formalized long-standing MBRC practice by stipulating that committee members will elect a Chairperson and a Secretary each year, and replaced the committee's more restrictive eligibility rules with a rule that extended eligibility for office to (1) all MBRC members and (2) any member-elect with prior MBRC experience. As for the second bylaws change (accepted 9-0), it concerned the bylaws-change process itself, specifying that all proposed changes must be presented to the committee no less than 14 days before a meeting, and that votes on the resulting motions must be cast within 30 days of the meeting's close.

To see a current version of the committee's bylaws, a searchable database of records accepted by the MBRC, the MBRC review list, and other information, visit the committee's website at

[http://www.michiganaudubon.org/mbrc/mbrc\\_home.html](http://www.michiganaudubon.org/mbrc/mbrc_home.html).

## Cackling Goose

In 2004, the American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Classification and Nomenclature divided the forms of the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) into two species - a group of larger forms that retained the name *Branta canadensis* and a group of smaller forms collectively called the Cackling Goose, *Branta hutchinsii* (Banks et al. 2004). Comprising the latter are the subspecies *hutchinsii*, *asiatica*, *leucopareia*, *taverneri*, and *minima*.

To evaluate occurrence of the Cackling Goose in Michigan, the MBRC considered the following evidence.

- (1) Housed in the collections at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology are nine Michigan specimens assigned to the subspecies *hutchinsii* and one Michigan specimen assigned to the subspecies *taverneri*.
- (2) Inman et al. (2003) - on the basis of DNA from 481 geese taken by hunters in Michigan between September 1998 and February 1999 - estimated that *hutchinsii* made up  $3.8 \pm 1.2\%$  of Michigan's 1998-1999 fall goose harvest.
- (3) The Bird Banding Laboratory (2004) listed nine records of "small Canada Geese" (i.e., *hutchinsii* and *taverneri*) that were banded as chicks and subsequently encountered in Michigan. In all nine cases the chicks had been banded on Baffin Island in a region called the Great Plain of the Koukdjuak, a known *hutchinsii* breeding location (Mowbray et al. 2002).

Based on the above, MBRC members voted 9-0 to add the Cackling Goose to the Michigan bird list.

As for the status of this new addition, MBRC bylaws designate as Regular any species with more than 30 records in the last 10 years; because Chartier (2005) listed a minimum of 30 Cackling Goose records for the fall-2004 season - the very first season in which that taxon was "countable" as a species - the Cackling Goose was added with Regular status.

## Records Accepted

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

vote: for one individual, 7-0; for a second individual, 5-1-1 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

descriptions: James Granlund, Christopher Haas

photographs: James Granlund

One was observed on 28 February 2004 at the Farm Unit of the Allegan State Game Area, Allegan Co.; the number increased to two on 29 February and then decreased to one again on 7 March (19<sup>th</sup> state record, 5<sup>th</sup> county record). Both birds were adults.

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

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Allen Chartier, Latham Claflin, Gary Siegrist

photographs: Scott Jennex

One was observed in March 2004 at Watkins Lake, Jackson and Washtenaw cos. (20<sup>th</sup> state record, first record for Jackson Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> record for Washtenaw Co.). Reinoehl (2004) gives a date range of 18-22 March, but Siegrist, who provided documentation on 18 March, indicated that the bird in question had been seen earlier - "this last weekend," i.e., 13 or 14 March - and attributed that earlier observation to Donald Brooks.

In fact, not one but two reviews of this record were completed in 2005. The first, completed in the middle of the year, was based on photographs and two descriptions, and on the basis of that evidence the record was not accepted (see "Records Not Accepted" below). Subsequently, however, a third observer submitted a description, and because that third description contained additional information the record was re-reviewed late in 2005, this time with a positive result.

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

vote: for eight individuals, 6-1

description: Karl Bardon

photographs: Christopher Neri

Eight adults on 12 September 2004 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (22<sup>nd</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: for one individual, 7-0; for a second individual, 6-1

descriptions: Steven Santner, Walter Pawloski

photographs: Jerome Jourdan

Two adults on 18-19 February 2005 in Trenton, Wayne Co. (23<sup>rd</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: Russell Schipper

One adult was found by Schipper and Jan Shillito on 19 February 2005 in Three Rivers, St. Joseph Co. (24<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 6-1

description: Allen Chartier

photographs: Allen Chartier

One adult on 15-16 March 2005 at Belle Isle, Wayne Co. (25<sup>th</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: David Peters

One adult on 17 March 2005 at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. (26<sup>th</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: James Dawe

One on 30 March 2005 at Fish Point State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. (27<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: for three individuals, 6-1

description: David Peters

Three adults on 5-7 April 2005 at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. (28<sup>th</sup> state record, 3<sup>rd</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: David Peters

One adult on 21 November 2005 at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. (29<sup>th</sup> state record, 4<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Brant (*Branta bernicla*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Scott Hickman

One on 13 September 2004 at Munising, Alger Co. (60<sup>th</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record), can be assigned to the form *hrota* on the basis of its whitish belly.

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

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

photographs: Adam Byrne, Erik Enbody

One was observed on 6-8 April 2005 at the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (39<sup>th</sup> state record, 6<sup>th</sup> county record). Perhaps not coincidentally, one was recorded at this same site during April in each of the two preceding years, on 9 April 2004 (Reinoehl 2004) and 12 April 2003 (Reinoehl 2003).

The 2005 record, like those in 2004 and 2003, involved an adult male in colorful plumage. The colorful plumage worn by male ducks for much of the year is - following the influential work of Humphrey and Parkes (1959) - commonly

called an alternate plumage; however, Pyle (2005) argues persuasively that it is a basic plumage.

**King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)**

vote: for two individuals, 7-0

descriptions: Allen Chartier, Russell Emmons, John Lowry, Blake Mann, Carl Manning, Karl Overman

photographs: Allen Chartier, Robert Epstein, Lyle Hamilton, Carl Manning

Two King Eiders, a female and a first-fall male, were found by Darlene Friedman, Sharon Johnson, and Overman on 11 November 2004 at Port Huron, St. Clair Co. (48<sup>th</sup> state record, 8<sup>th</sup> county record); reports of Kings at this location continued through at least 2 December (an extension of two days from the 30 November last date given by Chartier [2005]).

In fact, the maximum number of King Eiders reported was not two but four. The third individual, an additional female reported from 14 through 21 November, was documented in three of the written reports and one of the photographs listed above. None of that documentation addressed the distribution of feathering about the bill - specifically, the relative extent of the feathering on the forehead versus that on the foreface - and consequently most MBRC members could not accept the bird in question as a King Eider; however, it was unanimously agreed to be acceptable as a King/Common. As for the fourth individual, reported on 14 November only and said to be an additional male, it was noted in just one of the written reports listed above, and that report simply mentioned its presence without describing it; thus the fourth bird could not be accepted either as a King Eider or as a King/Common.

Committee actions on the third and fourth individuals are briefly noted in a King/Common Eider account three entries below this one, and in separate King and King/Common accounts under "Records Not Accepted."

**King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)**

vote: 7-0

photographs: Adam Byrne, Christopher Neri

One female, first located by Kenneth Mettie, Jr., was present on 3 June 2005 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (49<sup>th</sup> state record, 12<sup>th</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Timothy Hicks, Jason Hoeksema

One female - present on 3-23 November 1991 at Muskegon State Park, Muskegon Co. - was reported as a Common Eider;

in 1992 it was reviewed as a Common but not accepted (Chu 1993).

Having not been accepted as a Common in 1992, this bird was reviewed as a King/Common Eider in 2005, and under that less-specific designation it was accepted.

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

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Russell Emmons, John Lowry, Carl Manning  
photograph: Carl Manning

Three eiders were reported on 14-21 November 2004 at Port Huron, St. Clair Co., and four were reported on 14 November; of these, one female was accepted as a King/Common. See the first King Eider account above.

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

vote: 7-0

description: Christopher Haas

One female or first-fall male on 5 October 2005 in Marquette, Marquette Co.

**Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)**

vote: 7-0

photographs: Jeffrey Schultz

One adult male in colorful plumage - basic plumage, according to Pyle (2005) - on 6-15 March 2005 at an undisclosed location in Washtenaw Co. (10<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Karl Bardon, Christopher Neri

One adult flew past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., at about 0710 EST on 1 October 2004 (20<sup>th</sup> state record, 13<sup>th</sup> county record). The bird, though wearing alternate plumage, showed mottling on the head, indicating that it was acquiring basic feathers there.

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Karl Bardon, Christopher Neri

One adult - seen by Bardon, Kenneth Mettjie, Jr., and Neri - flew past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., at about 1105 EST on 1 October 2004 (21<sup>st</sup> state record, 14<sup>th</sup> county record). Like the previous individual the present bird was wearing alternate plumage; however, unlike the former it showed no evidence of incoming basic feathers on the head.

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Christopher Haas

One in juvenal plumage, basic plumage, or a combination of the two was found by Zachary Gayk and Haas

on 18 October 2004 at Sand Point, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Alger Co. (22<sup>nd</sup> state record, first county record).

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

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

description: Karl Bardon

One in transition from alternate to basic plumage was recorded by Bardon and Christopher Neri on 20 October 2004 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (23<sup>rd</sup> state record, 15<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

vote: 6-1

description: Karl Bardon

One adult in alternate plumage was observed by Bardon and Donald Jennette on 19 September 2005 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (24<sup>th</sup> state record, 16<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Karl Bardon, Erik Enbody, Christopher Haas

One adult in alternate plumage was seen by the observers listed above, plus Kenneth Mettie, Jr., on 24 September 2005 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (25<sup>th</sup> state record, 17<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Karl Bardon, Adam Byrne, Erik Enbody

One adult in alternate plumage on 2 October 2005 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (26<sup>th</sup> state record, 18<sup>th</sup> county record).

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

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

description: Lynn Murphy, Joseph Youngman

One in juvenal plumage, basic, plumage, or a combination of the two - observed on 16-30 November 1999 at the head of Keweenaw Bay, Baraga Co. - was reviewed but not accepted as a Pacific Loon in 2000 (Byrne 2001b).

Because the above bird was not accepted as a Pacific in 2000 it was reviewed again in 2005 as an Arctic/Pacific Loon, and under this more-general designation it was accepted.

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

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

description: Scott Jennex

One in its first fall on 25 August 2004 at the Erie Marsh Preserve, Monroe Co. (94<sup>th</sup> state record, 22<sup>nd</sup> county record).



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

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Scott Jennex, Era Woods

photographs: Jeff Buecking

One first-fall bird on 3-16 September 2004 in Mount Morris Twp., Genesee Co. (95<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Ilse Gebhard, Vera Wallach

One adult on 28 October 2004 in Barry Twp., Barry Co. (96<sup>th</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

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

vote: for two individuals, 6-0-1

photographs: Adam Byrne, Scott Jennex

Two adults, first reported by Chuck and Sue Bradford, were present on 1-30 July 2005 in Spring Arbor Twp., Jackson Co. (97<sup>th</sup> state record, 3<sup>rd</sup> county record). This is the same location that hosted an adult in spring and summer 2003 (Reinoehl 2003; Byrne 2004a) and an adult and a second-summer individual in spring and summer 2004 (Reinoehl 2004; Byrne 2005).

**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Adam Byrne, Jerome Jourdan

photographs: Scott Jennex, Jerome Jourdan

Two adults, found by Tom Jere, on July 1-2 2005 at the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (14<sup>th</sup> state record, 4<sup>th</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: William Babbitt

One Glossy Ibis - found by Jim Barnes, Eber Sherman, and Gay Yund - was reported on 29 April 1962 at Thumb Lake, Charlevoix Co.; the ibis was reviewed as a Glossy in 1991 (Chu 1992), but was not accepted.

Because the ibis was not accepted as a Glossy in 1991, it was reviewed as a Glossy/White-faced in 2005, and under this less-specific designation it was accepted.

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

vote: 6-1

description: Ellie Cox

One adult Glossy Ibis was reported on 26 July 1982 at the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co.; reviewed as a Glossy in 1992 (Chu 1993), it was not accepted.

Having been reviewed as a Glossy in 1992 and not accepted, the bird in question was reviewed again as a

Glossy/White-faced in 2005, a more-inclusive designation under which it was accepted.

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

vote: 7-0

description: LaRue Wells

One first-fall bird on 24 August 2004 at the Erie Marsh Preserve, Monroe Co.

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

vote: for eight individuals, 7-0

description: Adam Byrne

Eight Glossy/White-faced Ibises were observed by Byrne, Brad Murphy, and Christopher Neri on 24 October 2004 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. Given the distances involved - "500-700 yards at closest approach," according to Byrne - and the foggy conditions, neither aging nor identification to species was possible.

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

vote: 7-0

description: Alison Village, David Vinnedge, Jonathan Wuepper

photographs: Alison Village

One on 9-12 April 2005 in Oronoko Twp., Berrien Co. (14<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 6-1

description: Douglas McWhirter

One on 1 May 2005 in Shiawassee Twp., Shiawassee Co. (15<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

**"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Victor Fazio

One adult, an intermediate or dark-intermediate individual by the criteria of Wheeler (2003), was recorded on 4 April 1987 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. This, the first record for Chippewa Co., predates Michigan's only other accepted record (24 April 2003, Keweenaw Co.); therefore, it replaces the latter as the state's first.

**Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeffrey Johnson, Caleb Putnam

One juvenile, a light individual by the criteria of Wheeler (2003), was observed on 23-24 September 2004 at Muskegon State Park, Muskegon Co. (7<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record). The first observers were Johnson and Carolyn Weng.

**King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)**

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

description: Thomas Wheeker

One on 2 August 2004 at Maple River State Game Area, Gratiot Co. (118<sup>th</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

**King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)**

vote: 7-0

description: David Vinnedge

photographs: David Vinnedge

One on 9 May 2005 in New Buffalo Twp., Berrien Co. (119<sup>th</sup> state record, 9<sup>th</sup> county record).

**King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)**

vote: for two individuals, 7-0; for a 3<sup>rd</sup> individual, 6-1

descriptions: Adam Byrne, Jerome Jourdan

photographs: Scott Jennex, Jerome Jourdan, Kevin Thomas

Three - two adults and a chick - were discovered by Byrne, Scott Jennex, Brad Murphy, and LaRue Wells on 1 July 2005 at the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co.; reports at this site continued through 23 July (120<sup>th</sup> state record, 28<sup>th</sup> county record).

During the above period, some observers reported seeing not two adult King Rails and one chick but two adults and two chicks; however, the second chick was noted in just one of the written reports listed above, and that report simply mentioned its presence without describing it. Thus the MBRC could not endorse the presence of an additional chick; see the King Rail account under "Records Not Accepted."

**Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Adam Byrne

One juvenile was found by Byrne, Brad Murphy, and LaRue Wells on 27 August 2005 at the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co.; the documentation for this Regular species was reviewed at the request of the fall-2005 seasonal-survey compiler for *Michigan Birds and Natural History*.

**Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Joanna Pease

photographs: Scott Jennex, Alan Ryff

Documentation for one juvenile of this Regular species - present on 10-11 September 2005 at Metro Beach Metropark, Macomb Co. - was reviewed at the request of the fall-2005 seasonal-survey compiler for *Michigan Birds and Natural History*.

**Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)**

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

description: Kip Miller

One wearing alternate plumage on 21 May 2005 in Benton Twp., Berrien Co., is just the 5<sup>th</sup> accepted spring record since 1993. (In 1993, the MBRC - concerned that the Baird's Sandpiper had been substantially over-reported in spring seasonal surveys - began reviewing all spring reports of the species.)

**Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)**

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

description: Tom Tucholski

One wearing alternate plumage on 4 June 2005 at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co., is the 6<sup>th</sup> accepted spring record since 1993.

**Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Matthew Hysell, Jerome Jourdan

photographs: Adam Byrne, Matthew Hysell, Jerome Jourdan, Kevin Thomas

One in its first summer, found by Catherine Carroll and Hysell, was present on 11-13 July 2005 at the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (12<sup>th</sup> state record, 10<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Christopher Haas

One female wearing alternate plumage was found by Zachary Gayk and Haas on 28 July 2005 at Portage Point, Delta Co. (45<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

**California Gull (*Larus californicus*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Philip Chu

photographs: Adam Byrne

One, believed to be in its second fall, on 27 December 2004 in Three Oaks Twp., Berrien Co. (15<sup>th</sup> state record, 8<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Craig Bateman, Allen Chartier, Leroy Schlabach

photographs: Jonathan Jacoby, John McDaniel, Jeffrey Schultz

One in basic plumage on 17-20 September 2005 at the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe and Wayne cos. (first state record, first county record).

**Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Adam Byrne

One juvenile was observed by Byrne, Leonard Graf, and Christopher Neri on 26 September 2004 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (18<sup>th</sup> state record, 8<sup>th</sup> county record).

**Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Adam Byrne

One adult wearing alternate plumage on 28 August 2005 at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. (23<sup>rd</sup> state record, 4<sup>th</sup> county record).

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

vote: for one individual, 7-0; for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> individuals, 6-1

description: Caleb Putnam

photographs: Adam Byrne, Erik Enbody, Scott Jennex, David Pavlik, Caleb Putnam, Scott Terry

Eurasian Collared-Doves were present in Chums Corner, Grand Traverse Co., from at least 20 December 2003 (when reported by Barbara Graf and Stephany Podolad) through at least 1 January 2007 (2<sup>nd</sup> state record, first county record). The 20 December 2003 first date is not definite; in a 22 December 2003 conversation with a local homeowner, the latter indicated that the doves had been present for "about a month" (L. Graf, pers. comm.).

At Chums Corner the maximum number of collared-doves reported was seven, but only four of these were accepted as Eurasians; for information about the remaining three, see the second Eurasian Collared-Dove account under "Records Not Accepted."

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

vote: for two individuals, 6-0

description: Philip Chu

photographs: Adam Byrne, Kevin Thomas

Two, first noted by Kip Miller, were present from 15 May 2005 to at least 10 August 2006 in Three Oaks, Berrien Co. (3<sup>rd</sup> state record, first county record).

An additional individual present in 2005 was not accepted; see the third Eurasian Collared-Dove account under "Records Not Accepted."

**White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Allen Chartier, Scott Hickman

photographs: Adam Byrne, Allen Chartier, Bill Hurst

One on 12-16 June 2005 in Shelter Bay, Alger Co. (9<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

**White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Douglas Munson

photograph: Douglas Munson

One on 13 June 2005 at Brimley, Chippewa Co. (10<sup>th</sup> state record, 3<sup>rd</sup> county record).

**Smooth-billed/Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani/sulcirostris*)**

vote: 7-0

description: James Ponshair

One Smooth-billed Ani was reported on 25 October 1971 in Allendale Twp., Ottawa Co.

In 1993 this bird was reviewed as a Smooth-billed and not accepted (Chu 1995); having not been accepted as a Smooth-billed in 1993, it was reviewed again as a Smooth-billed/Groove-billed in 2005, and as such was accepted.

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

vote: 7-0

recordings: Marvin Budd, Philip Chu

One from 16 May to 3 July 2005 in Berrien Twp., Berrien Co. (3<sup>rd</sup> state record, first county record).

**White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Allen Chartier, Philip Chu

illustration: Erik Enbody

photographs: Allen Chartier, Roger Eriksson, Neil Gilbert, Matthew Hysell, John Lowry, Caleb Putnam

One, found by James and Melissa Pappas, on 18-20 August 2005 in Hamburg Twp., Livingston Co. (first state record, first county record).

A White-eared Hummingbird in Michigan was completely unexpected; however, 2005 was an exceptional year for White-eareds in the United States, with numbers peaking in June and July. During that period the species was said to be "far more numerous than usual" in Arizona, with up to 19 (Stevenson and Rosenberg 2005:638); two were in New Mexico (Williams 2005); 15, "an unprecedented number," were in Texas (Lockwood et al. 2005:624); and two were in Colorado (Wood et al. 2005). The two Colorado birds established the White-eared's northernmost records, until the Michigan bird appeared over 350 miles farther north.

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

vote: 7-0

description: Allen Chartier

photographs: Allen Chartier

One, first reported by Sharon Clark, was present from late September or early October through 24 November 2005 in Brighton, Livingston Co. (17<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

**Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Laurence Binford

photographs: Joseph Kaplan

One was found by M. Thomas Auer, Binford, and Jake Musser on 18 May 2004 at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co. (2<sup>nd</sup> state record, first county record). Some (e.g., Granlund 2004) have wondered if this individual is the same as the one that turned up at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. - as the woodpecker flies, about 140 miles to the east southeast - on 21-26 May 2004.

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

vote: 7-0

description: Joseph Kaplan

One male was observed by Kaplan and Keren Tischler on 28 May 2000 at Tobin Harbor, Isle Royale, Keweenaw Co. (17<sup>th</sup> state record, 3<sup>rd</sup> county record).

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

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

description: Philip Willemstein

One on 11 April 2005 in Ganges Twp., Allegan Co. (14<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

photographs: Cory Gregory, Joseph Kaplan

One, found by Louis Dombrowski, was present on 6-7 May 2005 in T46N R10W, Luce Co. (15<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

**Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Karl Bardon, Adam Byrne, Christopher Haas, Thomas Wheeler

photographs: Karl Bardon

One found by Christopher Neri on 22 September 2004 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (3<sup>rd</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

**Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)**

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

description: Sean Fitzgerald

Documentation for one individual of this Regular species - observed on 7 September 2005 in Grand Rapids, Kent Co. - was reviewed at the request of the fall-2005 seasonal-survey compiler for *Michigan Birds and Natural History*.

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

vote: 7-0

photographs: Christopher Haas

Zachary Gayk and Haas found one on 25 October 2004 in Marquette, Marquette Co. (24<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: Philip Chu

photographs: Andre Moncrieff, Kevin Thomas

One was found by Moncrieff, Marie Ostrander, and Alison Village on 15-16 May 2005 in Oronoko Twp., Berrien Co. (25<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jean Carpenter, Scott Hickman

photographs: Cory Gregory, Scott Hickman

One on 27-31 May 2005 at Grand Marais, Alger Co. (26<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

**Scissor-tailed/Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus/savana*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Louis Dombroski

One Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported on 22 May 1988 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.; however, when reviewed as a Scissor-tailed in 1988 it was not accepted (Chu 1991).

Because the bird was not accepted as a Scissor-tailed in 1988 it was reviewed again as a Scissor-tailed/Fork-tailed in 2005, and under this more-general designation it was accepted.

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

vote: 6-1

description: Cory Gregory

One on 3 August 2004 in Paw Paw Twp., Van Buren Co. (40<sup>th</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)**

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

descriptions: Karl Bardon, Christopher Neri

One was observed by Bardon, Scott Jennex, and Neri on 30 October 2004 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (2<sup>nd</sup> state record, first county record).

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)**

vote: for two individuals, 7-0

descriptions: Daryl Aspery, Calvin Brennan, Jeffrey Schultz

Cave Swallows were observed on 5-6 November 2004 at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne Co. (3<sup>rd</sup> state record, first county record). Number of individuals reported was one on 5 November and four on 6 November. However, the MBRC accepted



a total of just two; on 6 November the maximum at any one time was two, and MBRC members agreed that those two individuals could account for all of the 5-6 November reports. See the Cave Swallow account under "Records Not Accepted."

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)**

vote: for five individuals, 6-0-1; for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> individuals, 6-0-1 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

description: Adam Byrne, Brad Murphy, LaRue Wells

photographs: Adam Byrne

Eight - five adults and three of uncertain age - on 21 November 2004 at the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (4<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

**White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)**

vote: 6-0

description: Grant Soehnel

photographs: Adam Byrne, Joseph Kaplan

One on 27-28 April 2004 in T54N R33W, Houghton Co. (2<sup>nd</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: Adam Byrne

One was observed by Byrne and Greg Levandoski on 8 May 1997 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (first state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

photographs: Caitlin Woods

One was found by Matthew Hysell on 8 May 2005 in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co. (17<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: John Wertz

photographs: John Wertz

One was found by Barbara Davis, Wertz, and Katherine Wertz on 14 May 2004 at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. (69<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

photographs: Mike Boyd

One adult on 23 August 2004 at Vermilion, Chippewa Co. (71<sup>st</sup> state record, 23<sup>rd</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: M. Thomas Auer

One on 29 August 2004 at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co. (72<sup>nd</sup> state record, 9<sup>th</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

photographs: James McGrath

One, finder unknown, on 30 April 2005 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (74<sup>th</sup> state record, 25<sup>th</sup> county record).

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

vote: for one individual, 7-0; for a second individual, 7-0 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round

description: Gary Nelkie

videotape: Roger Eriksson

photograph: Gary Nelkie

One, found by Tess Nelkie on 7 May 2005 at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co., was joined by a second the next day; Lark Sparrow reports at this site continued until 24 May (75<sup>th</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

photographs: Cory Gregory

One, finder unknown, on 17 May 2005 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. (76<sup>th</sup> state record, 26<sup>th</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Martin Blagdurn, William Rapai

One on 14 September 2005 at Grosse Point Shores, Wayne Co. (23<sup>rd</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Laurence Binford, Steven Santner

photographs: Zachary Gayk, Christopher Haas, Joseph Kaplan

One adult female on 1-2 September 2005 at the South Unit of the Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Area, Baraga/Houghton cos. (14<sup>th</sup> state record, first record for Baraga Co. and 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Houghton Co.).

**McCown's/Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii/ornatus*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Karl Bardon

One McCown's Longspur was reported on 16 May 2004 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.; later in that same year it was reviewed as a McCown's and not accepted (Chu 2005).

Having been reviewed as a McCown's in 2004 and not accepted, the bird in question was reviewed again as a McCown's/Chestnut-collared in 2005, a more-inclusive designation under which it was accepted.

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

vote: for two individuals, 7-0

descriptions: Allen Chartier, James Granlund, Scott Jennex

photographs: James Granlund

Two - a male in its second calendar year and a female, both found by Raymond Adams, Jr. - were observed on 19-26 July 2004 in Constantine Twp., St. Joseph Co. (8<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: Julie Craves

One first-spring male on 12 May 2005 in Dearborn, Wayne Co. (9<sup>th</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: Laurence Binford

One female or first-spring male, initially reported by T. Catoni, was observed on 16-17 May 2004 in Eagle Harbor, Keweenaw Co. (13<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0

photograph: Michael Shupe

One female or first-spring male on 21 May 2004 in Hancock, Houghton Co. (14<sup>th</sup> state record, 2<sup>nd</sup> county record) was found by Joseph Kaplan and Keren Tischler.

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

vote: 7-0

photograph: Jeff Nakkula

One adult male was discovered by Jeff and Dan Nakkula on 9 May 2005 in T53N R36W, Houghton Co. (16<sup>th</sup> state record, 3<sup>rd</sup> county record).

**Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Roger Carey

photographs: Roger Carey

One male was present on 6-10 May 2005 at Lake George, Clare Co. (first state record, first county record); the Michigan male was followed by a male Hooded Oriole in Bruce Co., Ontario, on 12-19 May 2005 (Crins 2006).

Both the Michigan and Ontario males combined the orangey head and underbody, black upper primary-coverts, and blackish tail feathers of an adult with the conspicuous molt limits (Pyle 1997) of a bird in the spring of its second calendar year. That both shared this unexpected combination suggests that a single individual accounted for both the Michigan and Ontario records.

In fact, the Michigan and Ontario records - whether pertaining to one bird or two - are the third and fourth Hooded Oriole records for the Great Lakes area. They were preceded by an earlier Ontario record (19-20 May 1992: Boardman 1992) and by a record from Wisconsin (15-19 December 2004: Lange 2005).

**Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Joseph Kaplan

photographs: Joseph Kaplan

One first-spring male was found by Kaplan, Keren Tischler, and Joseph Youngman on 17 May 2005 in Hancock, Houghton Co. (3<sup>rd</sup> state record, first county record).

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*)**

vote: 7-0

photographs: Adam Byrne, Zachary Gayk, Joe Nault

One found by M. Elizabeth Maxson was present on 13-17 February 2005 in T49N R7W, Chippewa Co. (3<sup>rd</sup> state record, first county record). Like all of Michigan's records, the bird was a representative of one of the species's brown-cheeked forms.

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: one jointly by Barbara and Philip Quenzi

photographs: Michael Stockwell

One, again a representative of one of the brown-cheeked forms, on 30-31 March 2005 in Stanton Twp., Houghton Co. (4<sup>th</sup> state record, first county record).

**Records Not Accepted**

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

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

two descriptions

three photographs

One was reported from 13 or 14 to 22 March 2004 at Watkins Lake, Jackson and Washtenaw cos.

The existence of geese intermediate between the Ross's Goose and the Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) is now well known (Trauger et al. 1971; McLandress and McLandress 1979), as is the identification problem that intermediates pose (Roberson 1993); accordingly, MBRC members are reluctant to support Ross's Goose records unless the Ross's condition is shown for all of the size, shape, and color characters that bear on Ross's-versus-Snow identification. A list of these characters is provided by Byrne (2001a).

In the present case, the photographs (though received by the MBRC with gratitude) were taken from too great a distance to be useful; moreover, the most-detailed description - though correctly describing all of the relevant features - conceded that distance and "heat shimmer" made it difficult to see well the tomial region of the bill. This honest concession had the unfortunate effect of creating uncertainty about all of the bill features that the observer reported.

Note that, although this initial review resulted in non-acceptance, an additional description was submitted later in 2005, and with this newly available evidence the record was re-reviewed and accepted (see "Records Accepted" above).

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

vote: 1-6

five descriptions

12 photographs

One adult was reported on 18 October - 9 November 2004 at Watkins Lake, Jackson and Washtenaw cos.; however, two of the descriptions, along with the least-distant photograph, indicated that the bill/facial-feathering interface might be too strongly curved for a "pure" Ross's.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 17 March 2005 in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co.

When commenting on this record one MBRC member noted, "My feeling is that for a species pair such as this where very difficult hybrids exist, we must accept only those ROGO [Ross's Goose] reports that document all the classic field marks for the species;" regrettably, in the presence case one such mark, the bill/facial-feathering junction, was not described.

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

vote: 1-6

five photographs

One adult was reported on 27 April 2005 in Three Oaks Township, Berrien Co., but committee members were concerned that the bird's shape was atypical for a Ross's: its body appeared disproportionally large, its legs looked disproportionally long, and its bill seemed too long and deep relative to the head.

**King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)**

vote: for one individual, 2-5; for a second individual, 0-7

three descriptions

one photograph

Three King Eiders were reported on 14-21 November 2004 at Port Huron, St. Clair Co., and four were reported on 14 November; of these, two were not accepted as Kings. For an explanation, see the first King Eider account under "Records Accepted."

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

vote: 1-6

one description

One female or first-fall male King Eider was reported on 10 October 1996 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.; in 1997 it was reviewed as a King and not accepted (Reinoehl 1998).

Because the bird in question was not accepted as a King Eider in 1997, it was reviewed again in 2005 under the less-specific designation of "King/Common Eider;" however, the short description mentioned only brown coloration, white underwings, and a body that was "football-shaped, like a scoter but much larger" - characteristics that might apply not only to an eider but also to an American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) or a female Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*).

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

vote: 1-6

one description

One first-fall male King Eider was reported on 11 October 1999 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.; in 2001 it was reviewed as a King and not accepted (Byrne 2002).

Because the bird was not accepted as a King Eider in 2001 it was reviewed again in 2005 as a King/Common, but even under this more-general designation it garnered little support: as several committee members noted, the terse description - of a "large dark-brown duck with white breast, white on anterior portion of back, white lower neck" - could match both a young male eider and a domestic duck.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

Of the four King Eiders reported on 14 November 2004 at Port Huron, St. Clair Co., one was not accepted either as a King or (in the vote described here) as a King/Common. See the first King Eider account under "Records Accepted."

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

vote: 3-4

one description

One Pacific Loon in juvenal plumage, basic plumage, or a combination of the two was reported on 20 September 2001 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.

During 2002 the loon was reviewed as a Pacific and not accepted (Byrne 2004b); having been reviewed and not accepted as a Pacific in 2002, it was reviewed again in 2005 as an Arctic/Pacific.

The 2005 review, like the 2002 review before it, resulted in non-acceptance. The bird in question, observed as it flew by with five Red-throated Loons (*Gavia stellata*), was identified on the basis of size and shape differences relative to the Red-throateds, in conjunction with dark coloration on its hindneck that was judged to be too extensive for *stellata*. However, MBRC members were concerned that these characteristics are inconclusive: size and shape are not fail-safe distinctions - observers at Whitefish Point have often noted that fly-by Red-throateds vary in these regards - and the too-dark neck of the bird in question could be consistent with, say, a Red-throated in its first fall.

**Western/Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis/charkii*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

A Western Grebe was reported on 7 September 2002 at Warren Dunes State Park, Berrien Co.; later that same year it was reviewed as a Western and not accepted (Byrne 2004b).

Having not been accepted as a Western in 2002, the above bird was reviewed again in 2005, this time under the less-specific designation of "Western/Clark's Grebe;" unfortunately, the descriptors provided - large size, long neck, pointed bill, dark back, and white neck and underbody - were too few to eliminate a loon in juvenal or basic plumage.

**Western/Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis/charkii*)**

vote: 3-4

one description

One was reported on 25 November 2002 from the head of Keweenaw Bay, Baraga Co.

The report was brief, but, so far as it went, accurate in describing the shape and plumage of a Western/Clark's Grebe; thus the MBRC was divided between those who felt that the few details could apply only to a member of the genus *Aechmophorus*, and those who felt that paucity of information rendered the report inconclusive. Committee members in the latter group noted that one of the most-important and easiest-to-see *Aechmophorus* characteristics,

a long yellowish bill, was not mentioned. They also raised concerns about the absence of any information regarding circumstances, which left open the possibility that observations were compromised by difficult conditions - e.g., views that were very brief, very distant, or both.

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

vote: for eight individuals, 0-7  
one description

A group of eight was reported on 12 July 2005 in St. Joseph, Berrien Co.

The report contains six elements - a wingspan of at least four feet, a long bill, a neck that was "curled," overall brown color, some paler areas near the head, and a flight style in which the birds "did not soar as a gull, but seemed to be flapping their wings most of the time they were in sight;" however, the last of these does not accurately describe a Brown Pelican. The Brown Pelican is a flap-and-glide flier, even when just a few feet above the water's surface, and so does not match the near-continuous flapping that the observer described.

Given that the description matches a Brown Pelican in five of six characteristics, one might note that it also matches a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) in five of six characteristics, i.e., the matches are equally close. Specifically, if overall color (brownish versus grayish) is ignored, then the description fits *herodias*.

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

vote: 2-5  
one description

One, reported on 31 July 2005 in Port Sheldon Twp., Ottawa Co., was said simply to be brown with a "typical pelican bill/throat" and "typical pelican wingspan;" however, most MBRC members - being hesitant to assume what was meant by the "typical pelican" condition - were reluctant to treat the above details as decisive.

**frigatebird (*Fregata*) species**

vote: 0-7  
one description

One Magnificent Frigatebird, said to be a female, was reported on 11 October 1998 in Ludington State Park, Mason Co.; a year later it was reviewed as a Magnificent and not accepted (Reinoehl 2000).

Because the above bird was not accepted as a Magnificent Frigatebird in 1999 it was reviewed again in 2005, this time under the designation of "frigatebird species;" however, committee members could not endorse even



this more-general designation because the only words used to describe the bird in question were "black blob."

**"Great White" Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)**

vote: 1-6

one description

This all-white heron - reported on 24 May 2004 at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. - was like a Great White in that it had a head plume; it was unlike a Great White in that its legs were dark.

**Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)**

vote: 3-4

one description

One adult was reported on 18 April 2005 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.; as it flew by at an estimated distance of one-half mile only its all-dark plumage was evident, and all-dark plumage is consistent not only with an adult Little Blue Heron but also with a dark Reddish Egret. (Michigan does have one Reddish Egret record, from Monroe Co. in 1993 [Wells 1994].)

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

vote: 3-4

one description

One was reported on 18 May 2005 at the Kawkawlin Creek Flooding, Midland Co.

Although the report is mostly favorable for a Tricolored, it does not describe the bare parts, face, or remiges; therefore, it does not eliminate a bird like the possible Tricolored Heron x Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) hybrid reported from Bay Co. in 1997 (Byrne 2001b). (The possible hybrid looked like a typical *tricolor* except for its *thula*-like bare-part colors, less-intense purple-blue on the upper back and sides of the head, and largely white primaries and secondaries.)

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

vote: 0-7

one photograph

The bird in question was photographed sometime during the period of 5-7 April 2005 in Leelanau Twp., Leelanau Co., and though similar to a Swallow-tailed Kite in plumage pattern it is clearly not that species. In fact, its identity remains unresolved - suggestions that have been offered, none of them fully satisfactory, range from a partial-albino cuckoo to a juvenile Yucatan Jay (*Cyanocorax yucatanicus*).

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

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 29 March 2005 in Oxford Twp., Oakland Co., but the bird was said to be larger than a Red-tailed Hawk and to have an unmarked whitish breast. Such characteristics are not consistent with a Mississippi Kite of any age.

**"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*)**

vote: 1-6

one description

One first-spring bird was reported on 6 May 1987 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co.

According to the report, the bird was blackish above and below, had pale under-primaries with "some dark barring," and had a pale, faintly barred tail that lacked rufous above. These characteristics are consistent with a "Harlan's" Red-tailed in dark juvenal plumage; however, they are also consistent with a dark juvenile Ferruginous Hawk.

**"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*)**

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

one description

One adult was reported on 25 April 1993 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., and MBRC members agreed that the report described well the head, underbody, underwings, and undertail of a "Harlan's;" however, because the bird was seen from below only, the appearance of its uppertail was not described.

Appearance of the uppertail is an important identification criterion for *harlani*. Specifically, for a putative *harlani* to be considered "pure," the amount of uppertail rufous must be limited; Wheeler (2003:323) asserts that, "If more than half of the tail is rufous, a bird is likely an intergrade with [*B. j.*] *calurus* or [*B. j.*] *alascensis*."

With this in mind, some MBRC members argued that the absence of information about the uppertail is an insuperable difficulty, because it means that the amount of uppertail rufous is unknown; others argued that if there had been substantial rufous in the uppertail then the observer would have been able to tell, even from below, so the fact that none is mentioned in the description means that little or none was present. In the end, this difference of opinion could not be unresolved.

**Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)**

vote: 3-4

one description

One light individual was reported on 30 May 1979 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. The bird was at least partly in basic plumage, as judged by the absence of barring on the upperside of its tail.

This record was initially considered in 1989 and not accepted (Chu 1991), with that initial review being based on a brief description that the observer had submitted to a seasonal-survey compiler for *The Jack-Pine Warbler*; however, in 2005 the observer provided the MBRC with copies of his field notes, and, because his notes were more detailed than the documentation previously considered, he asked the MBRC to re-evaluate the record.

Although the observer's notes described some features consistent with a Ferruginous Hawk, they also described some inconsistent features that made a vote for acceptance difficult. The bird's white underbody was marked only on the breast, whereas in Ferruginous Hawks the breast is less well-marked than the flanks. Moreover, the bird's remiges above were described as being "same as back - light brown;" that is, there was no mention of the pale panels on the dorsal surface of the primaries that are prominent in *regalis*.

**Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

One light adult was reported on 17 September 2003 in Wyoming, Kent Co.; the report was titled, "Ferruginous Hawk?", and the observer's uncertainty made MBRC members uncertain as well. One asked, "How can I endorse a record that the observer is unsure about?", and another wrote, "I'm reluctant to override an observer's own impulse toward caution."

**King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)**

vote: 1-6

one description

Of four King Rails reported between 1 and 23 July 2005 at the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., one, a chick, was not accepted. See the last King Rail account under "Records Accepted."

**Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 15 November 2005 at the mouth of Pere Marquette Lake in Mason Co. The report described the back as having a "scalloped pattern," a phrase that suggests juvenal feathers - though, given the mid-November

date, one suspects that basic feathers were present as well.

The size of the bird in question - slightly larger than a Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) - in addition to its long, black, droop-tipped bill and black legs, eliminate all species except for the Curlew Sandpiper and the Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*); however, to confirm a Curlew Sandpiper wearing a mix of juvenal and basic plumage, as this bird may have been, one should document the species' white rump, and the rump is not described in the present report.

**Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)**

vote: 1-6

one description

One adult in basic plumage was reported on 14 December 2004 at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne Co.

The bird in question was in a cluster of flying Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*), and was identified as a Black-headed because it looked Bonaparte's-like from above but was "substantially bigger...well outside of the Bonaparte's size range." (The gulls were below the observer, so their underwings could not be seen.)

Though size is an important difference between Bonaparte's and Black-headed gulls, MBRC members were reluctant to heavily weight phrases like "substantially bigger." Such phrases beg the question, "How much bigger is 'substantially'?" Further, they do not specify whether size differed with respect to mass, wingspan, or something else, an important consideration because differences in one measure may mean less than differences in another. A Bonaparte's Gull whose mass is one-and-a-quarter times greater than its companions would not be especially surprising; a Bonaparte's whose wings are one-and-a-quarter times longer would be quite unlikely.

**Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus cachinnans*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

One adult was reported on 23 August 2003 at the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System, Muskegon Co.

The report specified a mantle that was "a bit darker than adult Herring Gull" (*Larus argentatus*), "bright yellow" legs, and a red orbital ring; however, it also specified that size was larger than *argentatus*, and that the head was white whereas the hindneck was streaked. Yellow-legged Gulls are similar to *argentatus* in size and are streaked mainly on the crown and ear-coverts, not the hindneck.

**Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)**

vote: 2-5

one description

One dark individual was reported on 24 October 1994 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., and its identification was based entirely on shape and flight style - attributes that may be suggestive, but are not definitive.

**Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)**

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

one description

One was reported on 31 October 2004 at South Haven, Van Buren Co., and this dark individual was identified not only by shape and flight style but also by size: it was said to be "clearly larger than a Ring-billed Gull [*Larus delawarensis*] to which it was directly compared, particularly the wing length which was at minimum 10% longer."

Unfortunately, Pomarines are not the only jaegers that can be larger than a Ring-billed Gull; Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) can be larger as well. Mass of Parasitics can be as high as 697 g (Olsen and Larsson 1997), whereas Ring-billed mass can be as low as 289 g (Olsen and Larsson 2003). Similarly, wing length in Parasitics can be as high as 347 mm (Olsen and Larsson 1997), whereas Ring-billed wing length can be as low as 326 mm (Olsen and Larsson 2003); in other words, the largest Parasitics can have wings that are over six percent longer than those of the smallest Ring-billeds. Of course, one might argue that the present record describes a jaeger whose wing length "was at minimum 10% longer" than that of a Ring-billed Gull, but most MBRC members were not convinced that one can accurately tell a six percent difference from a 10 percent difference, especially when (as in this case) the birds being compared were in flight.

**Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)**

vote: 2-5

two descriptions

One, aged by one of the observers as an adult, was reported on 26-27 May 2004 at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co.

This record was reviewed and not accepted in 2004 (Chu 2005); however, in 2005, one of the observers sent the MBRC a letter expanding on the details in her original documentation, and asked that, on the basis of this additional information, the record be reconsidered. Unfortunately, the added information did not change the opinions of MBRC reviewers; thus, the opinions summarized by Chu (2005) still apply.

**Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)**

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

one description

One was reported on 7 November 2004 at Port Huron, St. Clair Co., and its identification - based on close, prolonged views in nearby Canatara Park, Point Edward, Ontario - was never in doubt; what was in doubt was whether or not it crossed the Ontario/Michigan border to enter Michigan waters. The observer stated that when the bird left Canatara Park it flew in the direction of Michigan, eventually "flying right along the [Michigan] shore north of the lighthouse;" however, at the time he himself was standing in Canatara Park, as much as 1.1 miles from the lighthouse mentioned previously. A majority of committee members were concerned that, from such a distance, he may not have been able to accurately judge how close the murrelet was to the Michigan shore.

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

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

one description

two photographs

One was reported on 7 May 2004 at Bridgman, Berrien Co.

Hybridization between Eurasian Collared-Doves and domestic collared-doves - the latter believed to be descended from the African Collared-Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea* (e.g., Shelley 1883; Hartert 1916) - was first documented when Eurasians invaded Denmark (Fisher 1953). Subsequently, known or suspected hybrids have been described by Smith (1987) and Romagosa and McEneaney (1999).

Because of interbreeding between Eurasian Collared-Doves and domestics, MBRC members are reluctant to support *decaocto* records unless the Eurasian condition is shown for all of the color characters relevant to Eurasian-versus-domestic identification.

- (1) The primaries should be blackish or dark brownish, conspicuously darker than the upper secondary-coverts.
- (2) The under tail-coverts should be gray.
- (3) On the underside of rectrix 6, the outermost tail feather, the black at the base of the outer web should extend closer to the tail-tip than the black at the base of the inner web.

For the present record, the relative extent of black on the outer and inner webs of rectrix 6 was not described, and is not clearly apparent in the observer's photographs;

thus, MBRC members felt that they could not confidently eliminate the possibility of a hybrid.

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

vote: for one individual, 3-4; for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> individuals, 2-5  
one description  
seven photographs

Of the seven Eurasian Collared-Doves reported in Chums Corner, Grand Traverse Co., from 20 December 2003 to at least 28 February 2006, three were not accepted. For those three, photographs either depict an incorrect tail pattern (no black visible on the outer web of rectrix 6) or fail to show the primaries.

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

vote: 0-6  
one description  
one photograph

Of the three Eurasian Collared-Doves reported from 15 May 2005 to at least 1 March 2006 in Three Oaks, Berrien Co., one was not accepted. That individual had the blackish brown primaries and gray under tail-coverts of a "pure" Eurasian. However, its outer tail feathers appeared to be missing, so that their appearance could not be assessed.

**White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)**

vote: 1-6  
one description

One was reported on 6 May 2005 at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co., and the report described a total of three characteristics - the "silhouette of a Mourning Dove" (*Zenaida macroura*), a "charcoal"-colored upperbody, and black upperwings with white patches.

Regrettably, none of these characteristics is an exact match for the White-winged Dove condition. The phrase "silhouette of a Mourning Dove" may imply a long and pointed tail, whereas White-wingeds have a much shorter squared-off tail. A White-winged's upperbody is not the color of charcoal, but is brownish on the back/scapulars and grayish on the rump. And in *asiatica* the upperwings are not black with white patches; instead they are black on the remiges, brown on the inner and middle upper secondary-coverts, and white in between.

Considering the white wing patches alone, one might argue, "What could the bird in question be, other than a White-winged Dove?" In this regard, note that experienced Minnesota observers, trying to find a reported White-winged, encountered a Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) with

white wing patches that closely matched those of *asiatica* (M. Hendrickson, pers. comm.).

**Smooth-billed/Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani/sulcirostris*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

One Smooth-billed Ani was reported on 1 October 1992 in Bruce Crossing, Ontonagon Co.; a year later, it was reviewed as such and not accepted (Chu 1995).

Because the above bird was not accepted as a Smooth-billed Ani in 1993 it was reviewed again in 2005, this time under the more-inclusive designation of "Smooth-billed/Groove-billed Ani;" however, MBRC members were concerned that the description - of an "odd-looking blackbird" with a "broad" bill, long tail, and "cuckoo-like posture" - did not unequivocally indicate an ani.

**White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 18 August 2005 at Port Crescent State Park, Huron Co.

Although the observer did describe a bird that was blackish on the head and underbody and that had a white collar below, the description contains several elements that are inappropriate for a White-collared Swift. The bird's head was said to have a "possible rise or crest," whereas the swift's head is uncrested. The underbody feathers of the bird in question "appeared blue/black, definitely a different color than the head, with a sheen similar to a grackle," but the swift's underbody is no more glossy than its head. And the bird was seen "clutching a branch that curved slightly upward, so that the bird was almost parallel with the trunk of the tree;" with few exceptions (e.g., Holmgren 1993; Dinsmore and Farnsworth 2006), swifts do not perch in trees.

**White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 4 September 2005 in Pullman, Allegan Co., and, according to the report, the bird had "what looked like [a] mask with the white ear patches on either side;" additionally, its throat "had a greenish coloring with some other markings" and its bill was black and dark red.

Although any Michigan report of a hummingbird with a black-and-red bill sparks interest, the MBRC unanimously agreed that it could not endorse this identification



without more information, especially information regarding the color and definition of the mask and the location, shape, and definition of the "white ear patches."

**Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 3 June 2004 at the Muskegon State Game Area, Muskegon Co., but several aspects of the report raised questions. The bird was described as being the size of an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*); its throat was said to be "white and tinged with gray and well-defined;" and its tail was described simply as "reddish brown." In contrast, the Ash-throated Flycatcher is roughly a third again the mass of a phoebe. Its throat could indeed be described as grayish white, but is not well-defined relative to, i.e., sharply demarcated from, either the pale gray of the breast or the brown-gray of the face. Finally, regarding color of the tail, differentiating among *Myiarchus* flycatchers requires noting not just the presence of rufous but also how that rufous is distributed on the inner web of rectrix 6 (the outermost tail feather).

**Scissor-tailed/Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus/savana*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

One "VERY long-tailed flycatcher," reported on 27 May 2005 in Christmas, Alger Co., was seen with the naked eye from a car traveling at "approx. 60 MPH;" in flight at an estimated 500 feet away, it was lost from view by the time the observers had pulled their car over to the side of the road. Under such less-than-ideal conditions MBRC members themselves have often made incorrect identifications, so they were concerned that the observers might be similarly fallible.

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

vote: 3-4

one description

One was reported on 28 December 2004 in Metamora Twp., Lapeer Co., and though the bill was said to be black both above and below and the mask "wrapped around [the] face" so that it was "visible above [the] bill," three elements of the description generated uncertainty. First, the bird was said to be "Nearly Blue Jay [*Cyanocitta cristata*] sized," and the jay is closer in size to a Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) than to a Loggerhead. Second, the bill was said to be "heavier (shorter)" than that of a Northern Shrike, and though Loggerheads are shorter-billed than Northerns

they are also slimmer-billed, not heavier-billed. And third, "Thin white above the mask and eye" was noted, but Loggerheads typically show just a trace of white there, if they show any; Northerns, in contrast, have noticeable white above the mask.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 28 April 2004 in Indian River, Cheboygan Co., and the report's description stated only that the bird looked "exactly" like a picture of an Eastern Bell's Vireo.

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)**

vote: for one individual, 2-5; for a 2<sup>nd</sup> individual, 1-6

one description

Of the four Cave Swallows reported on 6 November 2004 at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne Co., two were not accepted. See the second Cave Swallow account under "Records Accepted."

**Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*)**

vote: 0-7.

one written account

According to Atkins (1884) one was collected on 12 May 1875; Atkins did not state the locality of collection, but Barrows (1912) indicated it to be Locke Township, Ingham Co.

Atkins's (1884:81) account stated only that the bird in question "was sent in the flesh to Mr. W. H. Collins of Detroit, to be mounted, but on account of the warm weather, it spoiled before reaching him;" thus there was no description of the bird. The absence of descriptive or other evidence to document Atkins's claim insured that no MBRC member could support it.

In fact, typically the MBRC does not review undocumented records, as the absence of documentation means that there is nothing to review; however, Renfrow (2003) made the present case atypical. In the text of his publication, Renfrow (2003:423) referred to the Michigan record as one of "nine possible occurrences of vagrant Brown-headed Nuthatches," and he went on to correctly note that Barrows (1912) considered it to be doubtful. Unfortunately, Renfrow also listed the record in his Table 1, and his Table 1 was less circumspect: its sole comment on the Michigan record was "specimen lost/credible details" (Renfrow 2003:423). Given the bold (and wholly erroneous)

assertion of "credible details," the MBRC felt that it had no choice but to "weigh in."

**Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)**

vote: 0-7

one description

One, reported on 12 May 2005 in Saugatuck Twp., Allegan Co., was described as having "Bright blue plumage," an absence of brown coloration, and a "Thin bill;" however, the observer also stated that he had never before seen an all-blue bird "in this area" - a statement indicating lack of familiarity with the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), a common Michigan species - and the bird in question was said to be "eating wild birdseed from [a] feeder," a behavior unexpected for a bluebird.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported on 3 June 2004 at the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System, Muskegon Co.

Of the characteristics listed in the report, one, a buff-colored belly, is inconsistent with a Sprague's Pipit; as for the other characteristics noted - "very pale tan" color overall, thin bill, streaked crown, white in the tail, weakly streaked breast, and vocalizations that include "'tingling' notes" - they match not only *spragueii* but also a juvenile Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), with the minor exception that the lark's crown is finely spotted rather than streaked.

**"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*)**

vote: 1-6

one description

One male wearing alternate plumage was reported on 28 May 2005 in T46N R4W, Chippewa Co.

The bird in question was seen with two "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers (belonging to the *coronata* group of subspecies), and was described as being "much darker overall, especially in the face (lacking the eyebrow)," with an "extremely vibrant" yellow throat; the description is so economical, some MBRC members argued, that it could apply to any yellow-throated warbler without a supercilium - e.g., the Kirtland's (*Dendroica kirtlandii*), Pine (*Dendroica pinus*), or Canada (*Wilsonia canadensis*).

Even if one takes for granted that the warbler was a Yellow-rumped, then the characteristics listed are too few to eliminate an intergrade between an "Audubon's" and a "Myrtle." Convincing documentation of a "pure" *auduboni*

requires not only (1) a yellow throat and (2) the absence of a pale postocular supercilium but also (3) absence (rather than presence) of a pale supraloral spot, (4) grayish (rather than blackish) ear-coverts, and (5) greater upper secondary-coverts that have white on both the tips and outer-web margins (rather than just the tips).

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

vote: 3-4

one description

two photographs

One Palm Warbler, identified in the hand as a "Yellow" Palm, was banded on 28 April 1990 at Metro Beach Metropark, Macomb Co.

Of the few characteristics that allow field identification of "Yellow" Palms, one, a uniformly yellow underbody, is supported by the available documentation; however, another is not. Specifically, the few underbody streaks visible in the documenting photographs appear dusky, not rufous as they should be in *hypochrysea*.

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

vote: 1-6

one description

Two males were reported on 14 August 2005 at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co., and the report describes a total of six characteristics; unfortunately, one of these is incorrect for a Western. The description records wingbars that were white, whereas, as one MBRC member noted, "Westerns have one wing bar that is white and the other yellow and the yellow wing bar is the larger and more obvious one." With one of just six characteristics being incorrect, committee members were reluctant to endorse the identification.

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

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

one description

One was reported on 17 May 2005 in the Betsie River State Game Area, Benzie Co.

For this record, the description included just three items - white tail-corners, "very distinctive head markings," and a "black spot on an otherwise clear breast" - and this terse description provoked conflicting responses among MBRC reviewers. Some argued that the breast pattern and white tail-corners eliminate all sparrows except for the Lark. Conversely, others argued that with so few descriptors, i.e., with so much left unsaid, they could not confidently vote to accept.

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

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

One was reported on 28 May 2005 at the Farm Unit of the Allegan State Game Area, Allegan Co., and this report was much more detailed than the last. It indicated a clear breast with a dark central spot, a brown patch on the face, "brown/black/white stripes atop the head," and "black and white moustache stripes." It also noted that, "Although the bird did fly once, we did not notice the white outer tail feathers," and stated that the bird in question was "approximately the same size as" nearby Indigo Buntings and Vesper Sparrows (*Pooecetes gramineus*).

If one downweights the fact that no white was noticed in the tail - an easy thing to do, given the common tendency to focus on some characteristics to the exclusion of others - then the above features fit a Lark Sparrow; however, the Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) can sometimes show a dark central spot on its otherwise clear breast, and if a Clay-colored has a breast spot then it, too, fits all of the characteristics described above. Thus the report could match either a Lark Sparrow or a breast-spotted Clay-colored Sparrow, and cannot be accepted as pertaining unambiguously to a Lark.

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

vote: 0-7  
one description

One female or first-fall male was reported on 2 August 2005 at the Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Schoolcraft Co., and the report states that the bird was similar in size to a Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) with a heavy bill, a streaked chest, and grayish coloration overall - characteristics that, regrettably, apply to females or first-fall males of the Purple Finch or the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) at least as well as they apply to a Lark Bunting.

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

vote: 0-7  
one description

"More than one" was reported on 6 September 1997 at the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System, Muskegon Co., and the report lists just two characteristics, a "bright burnt orangish triangle on [the] face" and "striping on the breast which extended along [the] sides [for] almost [the] entire length of the bird." Such characteristics could match a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, but they could also match a non-sharp-tailed sparrow, the LeConte's (*Ammodramus leconteii*).

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

vote: 0-7

one description

Because the above record was not accepted as a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow it was reviewed again, this time as a Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed; however, even under this more-inclusive designation it could not be accepted. See the account immediately above.

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

vote: 3-4

one description

One, said to be a female, was reported on 3 April 2005 at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co., but several elements in the report do not "ring true" for a female Smith's Longspur.

- (1) According to the observer, the "First field mark noted was [a] complete white eyering," and there is no mention of a pale supercilium; however, the initial impression of a Smith's face is of a pale supercilium surmounting a strongly dark-bordered "cheek patch." The Smith's does have a narrow white eye-ring, but the eye-ring is not particularly obvious, partly because its upper half merges with the whitish supercilium and partly because it is so much narrower than the supercilium.
- (2) The throat was described as having a "small, square white patch with [a] long 'mustache' extending from throat to nape," but the Smith's has neither a discrete throat patch nor a "long 'mustache'." Instead, the color of its throat grades smoothly into the color of its underbody, and its dark submalar stripe is narrow and short.
- (3) The legs were said to be pink, but in a Smith's the legs are dark - a dull brownish-red color.

**McCown's/Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii/ornatus*)**

vote: 1-6

one description

A McCown's Longspur was reported on 19-20 October 1983 near Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co., and the report was brief, indicating that the bird in question had a gray nape, a "rusty patch on the wing," and more white in its tail than the accompanying Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*).

In 1988 the record was reviewed as a McCown's and not accepted (Chu 1991); because it was not accepted as a McCown's in 1988 it was reviewed again in 2005, this time

under the less-specific designation of "McCown's/Chestnut-collared Longspur." Again, however, it was not accepted.

This negative outcome resulted because the documentation did not conclusively eliminate another longspur, the Lapland. Laplands vary in the amount of white on rectrices 5 and 6, the two outermost tail feathers, with individuals at one extreme having no white on rectrix 5 and individuals at the other extreme having a 20-to-25-mm long white wedge on the inner web of that feather (Hussell and Montgomerie 2002); thus, one Lapland could appear whiter-tailed than others. Moreover, in Laplands the lateral margins of the greater upper secondary-coverts and tertials are rufous, so that Laplands have a rusty area on the folded upperwing. Finally, in female Laplands the species' characteristic rusty color on the hindneck can be absent, at least under field conditions, so that the hindneck appears gray-brown or brown-gray, about the same as the hindneck of a winter McCown's.

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

vote: 3-4

one description

One male, observed only as it flew an estimated 50 feet into the nearby woods, was reported on 8 June 2005 at the Sharonville State Game Area, Washtenaw Co.

The description - of a dark blue bird with "broad chestnut colored wing patches," slightly smaller than a Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) that was in the air at the same time - is consistent with a male Blue Grosbeak; however, as multiple MBRC members noted, a male grosbeak is not the only bird that could fit the plumage features described. Those features might also fit a first-summer male Indigo Bunting, mostly blue but with brown upper wing-coverts retained from earlier plumages.

Multiple committee members also noted that the time elapsed during a 50-foot flight is just a few seconds, i.e., that the observer's views were quite brief. This prompted one reviewer to write, "When views are brief I have doubts about the accuracy of my own observations; thus, I have reservations about the accuracy of others' brief views as well."

**Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)**

vote: 0-7

one photograph

One female was present on 3-5 June 2004 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., and, though its identification is certain, there are compelling reasons to question its origin. See the discussion in Chu (2005).

**Eurasian Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)**

vote: 1-6

multiple photographs

One male was photographed on 14 April 2005 in Bangor Twp., Bay Co.

As with the male Eurasian Siskin photographed 11 months earlier at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., the Bay Co. bird was correctly identified but of dubious origin.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)**

vote: 1-6

one description

One was reported on 31 January 1966 in Detroit, Wayne Co., and the report's description refers only to a "smaller black 'bib'," a "chestnut head," and a black spot on the cheek.

Though these three descriptors are suggestive of a Eurasian Tree Sparrow, none is conclusive. For example, the head of a Eurasian Tree Sparrow is not simply chestnut, and if the phrase "chestnut head" is instead taken to mean a "head that has some chestnut" then it applies not only to the Eurasian Tree Sparrow but also to a House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). Further, in winter male House Sparrows the bib can appear to be restricted to the chin and throat, just as in the Eurasian Tree, because the bib feathers of winter *domesticus* have pale tips that tend to obscure their black bases. Finally, winter male House Sparrows not infrequently appear to have a darker area on the ear-coverts that can, at least transiently, suggest a dark cheek spot.

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