

Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2006

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This is the 17th report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee (MBRC), covering the committee's actions in 2006. In 2006, regular committee members were Rick Brigham (Allegan Co.), Jeff Buecking (Genesee Co.), Adam M. Byrne (Clinton Co.), Joe Kaplan (Houghton Co.), Brad Murphy (Oakland Co.), Caleb G. Putnam (Kent Co.), and Scott Terry (Oakland Co.), with alternate members Lathe Claffin (Jackson Co.) and Louis Dombroski (Bay Co.). Putnam was chairman and Byrne was secretary.

During 2006, the committee made 220 decisions on 155 records, with 68 (43.9%) of the records resulting in acceptance. The discrepancy between the number of decisions and the number of records resulted from two circumstances. First, 16 records involved multiple birds, with each individual requiring a separate decision. Second, 12 records were reevaluated under a more inclusive species grouping following initial rejection (e.g., a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) rejected was reevaluated as Glossy/White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus/chihii*)).

Rules governing documentation review are detailed in the committee's bylaws, as described by Byrne (2000) and subsequently amended (Byrne 2004a, 2004b; Chu 2005).

For each record, the following information is provided: a vote tally, a summary of the documentation submitted, and the date and location of the record. In addition, for accepted records, the observers who submitted documentation are listed, and the name of the persons who discovered the bird are listed and underlined, whether those persons submitted documentation or not. If it is unknown who discovered a bird, no names are underlined.

Three species were added to the Michigan state checklist during 2006: the Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*), and Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*). All three species were added with Accidental status, bringing the Michigan list to 430 species. One species, the White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihii*), was downgraded from Casual to Accidental, whereas seven species were upgraded in status: the Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*), Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*), Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), and Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) from Accidental to Casual, and the Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), and Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) from Casual to Regular. Due to the identification difficulties of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds and due to the fact that there are so few rare hummingbird records each year, the committee

voted to retain the Rufous Hummingbird on the state's review list, despite its newly attained Regular status.

Several nomenclatural and taxonomic changes to the checklist were made during 2006 to bring it into concordance with the 47th supplement to the American Ornithologists Union *Checklist of North American Birds* (Banks et al. 2006). Namely, the Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) was moved to the genus *Tringa* and placed after the Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*); the Stercorariinae (the subfamily containing skuas and jaegers) was elevated to full family status (Stercorariidae) and placed after the Laridae; the Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) was moved to the genus *Sternula* and placed immediately following gulls; the Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) was moved to the genus *Gelochelidon* and placed after the Least Tern; the Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) was moved to the genus *Hydroprogne* and placed after the Gull-billed Tern; and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) was placed before the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*).

At the spring meeting, a discrepancy between past and current voting standards was discussed. Approximately 30-40 records in the MBRC database were accepted based on standards less stringent than our current practice. The old standard was to accept records with a 7-0, 6-1, or 5-2 vote in the first round; now a 5-2 vote in the first round would require resubmission. When our voting procedures were changed (Byrne 2000), the Committee had to reevaluate potential first state records, but did not handle these records. The committee voted unanimously to begin re-reviewing all such reports against the new standard; nine such reports were voted upon in 2006.

In 1995, the Sharp-tailed Sparrow (formerly *Ammodramus caudacutus*) was split into Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (currently *A. caudacutus*) (Monroe et al. 1995). In 1998 the committee began recirculating previously accepted Sharp-tailed Sparrow records as Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, so that each record could be properly assigned to its highest possible taxonomic level (Reinoehl 1999). Continuing this effort, in 2006, the committee re-reviewed six previously accepted Sharp-tailed Sparrow records; five of these six records were accepted as Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Bylaws amendments

Ten bylaws changes were accepted during 2006 (all unanimously). The first was to change section A.3 to "To determine the acceptability of written documentation, photographs, audio recordings, or specimens of birds unusual to Michigan for inclusion in the permanent list of records." This new wording inserted "written documentation" for the word "sightings", and added "audio recordings."

Next, section A.5 was changed to “To educate birders in methods of keeping records and documenting observations of birds, especially of unusual species, and to encourage such record keeping and documentation.” This was done to make the wording more comfortable, not to qualitatively change its meaning.

The third bylaws proposal modified section A.3 in two ways. First, it struck the following verbiage altogether: “and familiarity with Michigan birders and birding locations.” This was deemed necessary as most committee members felt that such knowledge was not a prerequisite to review records. Indeed, some even argued that such observer bias should be consciously excluded from the review process. Second was a rewording of the ending of section A.3 to: “Terms will last three years, with a new member’s first term beginning when they become a regular member. After a member has served two full consecutive terms, one year must pass before they are eligible to again serve on the committee.”

The fourth bylaws change modified section B.6 to conform with the current MBRC practice of including audio recordings and photographs, not just written documentation, in the regular voting rounds. The new wording is: “Written documentation, photographs, and/or audio recordings will be submitted to members quarterly, corresponding to the Michigan Seasonal Survey periods; at meetings; or as the need arises.”

The fifth bylaws change clarified what material would be evaluated at meetings. The new wording is “Specimens and some physical evidence will be considered at meetings.”

The sixth and seventh bylaws amendments changed the word “which” to “that” in sections C.1.d and C.1.e for grammatical reasons.

The eighth bylaws change negated a loophole in section D.1 that allowed seasonal survey compilers to make changes to the review list. The new wording specifies that only the committee may make such changes.

The ninth bylaws change clarified that MBRC members must abstain from voting on records for which he/she has submitted documentation of any kind, not just written documentation (under section E.5). Most members felt that the same bias which may be present when voting on one’s own written documentation is likely to also be operative when voting on one’s audio recordings or photographs.

Lastly, the preceding change to section E.5 will occasionally result in records that will require three or more abstentions, preventing the committee from achieving seven votes on that record. Thus, an additional amendment to section E.5 offers a solution for this problem, by utilizing willing and eligible (also not submitting documentation) ex-committee members to reach seven votes on such records.

To view a current version of the committee’s bylaws, a searchable database of accepted records, and other information, visit the committee’s website at:

http://www.michiganaudubon.org/mbrc/mbrc_home.html



Records Accepted

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Christopher G. Haas

One was observed at the south portion of the Todd Farm Unit of the Allegan State Game Area, Allegan County on 21 December 2005.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

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

Description: Christopher G. Haas

A pair was observed at the northern portion of the Todd Farm Unit of the Allegan State Game Area, Allegan County on 21 December 2005. These two individuals were seen about thirty minutes after the individual accepted above, and are considered separate individuals from that bird.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: for two individuals, 7-0; for a third individual, 6-1

Descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Kip Miller, Andre Moncrieff, Jonathan T. Wuepper

Photographs: Tim Baerwald, Chris Barrigar, Craig Bateman, Erik Enbody, Matthew Hysell, Andre Moncrieff

Three individuals were observed at various sites in the areas of St. Joseph and Coloma, Berrien County on 17 February – 5 March 2006.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 6-1

Description: James Dawe

One was observed at Harbor Beach, Huron County on 26 February – 6 March 2006 (33rd state record, 2nd county record).

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: for one individual, 7-0; for a second individual 6-1, both in the second round

Descriptions: Bruce Bowman, Scott Jennex, Margaret S. Jewett, LaRue Wells

Photographs: Deaver Armstrong, Scott Jennex

Two birds were observed at Mirage Lake, Washtenaw County on 3-6 March 2006 (34th state record, 4th county record).

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

Vote: 6-1, in the second round

Description: Steve Minard

One "immature male" was observed at Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon, Muskegon County on 20 December 1997 (43rd state record, 3rd state record). This record was originally accepted with a 5-2 vote (Reinoehl 1999), but was reevaluated using the current standard of acceptance, as described in the introduction.

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

Vote: 5-2, in the second round

Description: Janie Stout

One hen was observed at Petoskey, Emmet County on 2 January 1999.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Marlin Bussey, Adam M. Byrne

Photographs: Marlin Bussey, Adam M. Byrne

One drake was observed repeatedly between 28 October – 11 December 2005 at Omena Point,

Leelanau County (11th state record, first county record).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

Vote: for two individuals, 7-0, in the second round

Video footage: Joe Kaplan

Two individuals were at lower Keweenaw Bay, Baraga County first on 10 January 2006 (two birds), and subsequently 14 January – 3 February 2006 (one bird) (26th state record, 2nd county record).

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

Vote: 7-0

Description and sketch: Zach G. Gayk

One individual, reported by Gayk and Greg Cleary, was at Burn's Landing, Marquette County on 22 October 2005. This record was originally rejected as a Pacific Loon (see below under "Records Not Accepted").

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Louis Taccolini

One was observed at the lower harbor at Marquette, Marquette County on 14 November 1997. This record was originally accepted with a 5-2 vote, and was re-reviewed using the current standard of acceptance, as described in the introduction (8th state record, first county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Chip Francke

One was observed on 1 December 2005 at Grand Haven, Ottawa County (17th state record, first county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Scott Hickman,

Photographs: Christopher G. Haas, Scott Hickman

One was observed at Munising Bay, Alger County on 8-9 December 2005 (18th state record, 2nd county record).

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

Vote: 6-1

Descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Joseph Youngman

Photographs: Christopher G. Haas

One individual was on Keweenaw Bay "between L'Anse and Baraga," Baraga County on 2-8 November 2005. After unanimous rejection as Western Grebe (see below under "Records Not Accepted"), this record was re-reviewed as Western/Clark's Grebe.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: William Rapai

One juvenile, found moribund on Lake St. Clair, Wayne County on 8 December 2005, later succumbed in rehabilitation (10th state record, 4th county record).

Sulid species (*Sula/Morus spp.*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Calvin Brennan, Walter Pawlowski

One individual, initially rejected as a Northern Gannet (see below under "Records Not Accepted"), was reported at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County on 8 November 2005.



Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Rick Brigham, Erik Embody

Photographs: Chuck Owens

One individual, a first state record, was observed on 18 September 2005 at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Louis Taccolini

Photographs: Christopher G. Haas, Scott Hickman

One individual was found by Chris and Rob Yuill at Chocolate Bayou near Harvey, Marquette County on 13-27 April 2006 (42nd state record, first county record).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Joe Agius, Rob Poniatowski

One was observed on 8 May 2006 at Metro Beach Metropark, Macomb County (43rd state record, 2nd county record).

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

Vote: 7-0, in the second round

Description: Elizabeth Loesch

One was observed on 17 April 2006 along the Huron River in west Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County (98th state record, first county record).

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

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Carl Manning

One adult was at Holland, Allegan County on 20-21 April 2006 (99th state record, 2nd county record).

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

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Christopher G. Haas, Scott Jennex

One adult, found by Chuck and Sue Bradford, was at Parma, Jackson County on 5-12 June 2006 (100th state record, 4th county record).

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

vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Allen Chartier, Caleb G. Putnam

Photographs: Allen Chartier, Scott Jennex, Caleb G. Putnam

One individual reported at Metro Beach Metropark, Macomb County on 15-16 October 2005. This report was initially rejected as a Glossy Ibis (see under "Records Not Accepted").

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

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Jed Fulkerson, Myles Willard

Photograph: Myles Willard

One individual reported at Pinconning Park, Bay County on 1-6 November 2005. Originally rejected as a Glossy Ibis (see below under "Records Not Accepted"), this record was recirculated as Glossy/White-faced Ibis and accepted as such.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Vote: 6-1, in the second round

Description: David Flaspohler

One individual at Lake Fannie Hooe Resort in Copper Harbor, Keweenaw County on 3 August 2002 (10th state record, 3rd county record).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Kip Miller

One individual at Warren Dunes State Park in Berrien County on 11 May 1993 (8th state record, 2nd county record). This record was originally accepted with a 5-2 vote, and was re-reviewed using the current standard of acceptance, as described in the introduction.

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Karl Bardon

Photographs: Karl Bardon, Adam M. Byrne, Scott Jennex

One individual, a first state record, on 19-20 November 2005 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County. This very unexpected bird, found by Bardon and Kenneth Mettie, Jr., is all the more astounding in that it apparently represents the first eastern North American record north of Alabama!

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Joe Kaplan

Photographs: Tom Auer, Joe Kaplan

One adult was observed at Swedetown Marsh, Calumet, Houghton County on 6 April 2006 (7th state record, first county record).

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)

Vote: 6-1

Description: Jeffrey R. Schultz

One individual on 14 October 2005 at Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown Township, Wayne County (2nd state record, first county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Jack H. Reinoehl

One individual at the intersection of Burt and Cambria Roads, Hillsdale County on 14 April 2006 (5th state record, first county record).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Caleb G. Putnam

Field sketch: Erik Enbody

Photographs: Caleb G. Putnam, Scott Terry, Kevin Thomas

One individual, a worn adult in alternate plumage, on 20-21 July 2005 at the Lake Odessa Sewage Lagoons, Ionia County (13th state record, first county record).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: David Peters

Photographs: David Peters

One individual observed at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw County on 17 May 2006 (46th state record, 3rd county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Chip Francke

Photographs: Erik Enbody, Caleb G. Putnam

One individual on 20 November 2005 at Grand Haven, Ottawa County (77th state record, 7th county record).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Brian JohnsonPhotographs: Brian Johnson

One adult on 6 May 2006 at the eastern tip of North Manitou Island,



Keweenaw County (16th state record, first county record).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Chris Barrigar

Photographs: Chris Barrigar

One adult on 1 November 2006 at Tiscornia Park Beach in St. Joseph, Berrien County (17th state record, 9th county record).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Philip C. Chu

One individual on 24 May 2006 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County (18th state record, 8th county record).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Adam M. Byrne

One individual, a juvenile, was observed by Glenn Belyea, Byrne, Blake Mann, and LaRue Wells on 25 October 2005 at Port Huron, St. Clair County (23rd state record, 4th county record).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Vote: for three individuals, 7-0

Description: Adam M. Byrne

Three juveniles were observed by Maris Apse and Byrne on 22 November 2005 at Port Huron, St. Clair County (24th state record, 5th county record).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Alan J. Ryff

One dark juvenile or second calendar year bird was observed at Belle Isle, Wayne County on 11

November 2006 (26th state record, first county record).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Vote: 6-1

Descriptions: Tom Auer, Donald W. Jennette

One juvenile light morph was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 23 September 2006 (21st state record, 9th county record).

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Karl Bardon, Christopher G. Haas

One individual was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 14 October 2005 (5th state record, 4th county record).

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Tom Auer

Photographs: Tom Auer, Adam M. Byrne

One individual was observed at the mouth of the Tahquamenon River, Chippewa County on 29 October 2006 (6th state record, 5th county record).

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Christopher G. Haas, Scott Hickman

Photographs: Bill Davis, Christopher G. Haas

One individual visited feeders at Evelyn Wood's resort in Grand Marais, Luce County on 28 August – 6 September 2005 (4th state record, first county record).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

Vote: for two individuals, 7-0

Description: Tom Auer

Photographs: Tom Auer, Erik Enbody, Scott Jennex, Kirk Zufelt

One individual was found on 1 November 2006, a second individual joined it on 4-11 November, and one of them was last reported on 12 November, all at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County (11th state record, 4th county record).

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

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Lyle Hamilton, Richard A. Wolinski

One individual, heard only, at Camp Innisfree, Marion Township, Livingston County on 4 May 2006 (4th state record, first county record).

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

Vote: 7-0

Description: Jonathan Wuepper

Audio recordings: Marvin Budd, Caleb G. Putnam, Dick Sowler

One individual, heard only, at the intersection of Long Lake and Jones Roads, Berrien Township, Berrien County on 7 May – 13 July 2006 (5th state record, 2nd county record).

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Kris Houdek

One individual, seen at Interlochen, Grand Traverse County on 30 July – 3 August 2006.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Joseph Youngman

One individual, found by Zach G.

Gayk, was photographed at Manitou Island in Keweenaw County on 11 June 2006 (15th state record, 2nd county record).

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Joe KaplanPhotographs: Joe Kaplan

One individual, observed foraging along the US-2 roadside near Naubinway, Mackinac County on 22 October 2005. The identification of this well-documented individual was complicated, compelling at least one member to do an extensive review of characters useful in separating the very similar Nutting's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nuttingi*). Most felt that all characters except one were suggestive of Ash-throated. The exception was the coloration of the edging to the outer web of secondary 1 (i.e. rufous, concolorous with the edgings of the adjacent secondaries), which according to Lanyon (1961) is diagnostic for Nutting's. Subsequent commentary with and specimen analysis by Steven W. Cardiff of the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (pers. comm.), however, established that the pattern shown by this bird is acceptable for some Ash-throateds (in fresh formative plumage). Since no other field marks were inconsistent with that species, the record was unanimously accepted.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Keith Saylor

One individual at Alpena, Alpena County on 6-7 July 2006 (27th state record, first county record).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Joe Kaplan, Joseph Youngman

One individual, found by Kaplan and Keren Tischler, was photographed at Manitou Island in Keweenaw County on 30 September 2006 (28th state record, 4th county record).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

Vote: 6-1

Descriptions: Julie Craves, Darrin O'Brien

Audio recording: Julie Craves

One individual at Romulus, Wayne County on 27 June – 3 Jul 2005 (41st state record, first county record).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Nancy Auer, Tom Auer

One individual was observed at Allouez, Keweenaw County on 30 March 2006 (7th state record, first county record).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: 6-1

Description: Jeffrey R. Schultz

One individual was observed at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area headquarters, Wayne County on 16 October 2005 (5th state record, 2nd county record).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: for one individual, 7-0

Descriptions: Calvin Brennan, Adam M. Byrne, Scott Jennex

Two individuals were reported at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County and Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe County on 12-13 November 2005. One was deemed acceptable

but the second individual was not (See below under "Records Not Accepted") (6th state record, 3rd Wayne County record, 2nd Monroe County record).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: for one individual, 7-0

Descriptions: Calvin Brennan, Adam M. Byrne, Scott Jennex

Due to a mix-up in the documentation provided for review, the two individuals described in the previous summary were reevaluated, the second time with the proper set of descriptions. The result was the same, one individual was accepted unanimously and the second individual was again rejected (See below under "Records Not Accepted").

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: 6-1

Photographs: Andrew Dettling

One individual was photographed along Campau Rd near the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area headquarters, Wayne County on 14 November 2005 (7th state record, 4th county record).

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Tom Auer, Jude Holloway, Amanda Ingraham, David Pavlik

One individual photographed at Sand Point, Alger County on 15 October 2006 (7th state record, first county record).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Calvin Brennan

Photographs: Chris Neri

One male at Whitefish Point,



Chippewa County on 31 March 2005 (3rd state record, 2nd county record).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Christopher G. Haas, Scott Jennex, Jeffrey R. Schultz

One individual found by Joyce Peterson on County Road 421 northwest of McMillan in Luce County was present from 28 June – 13 July 2006 (5th state record, first county record).

Virginia’s Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Richard Keith

One second year female was banded and photographed at the Pitsfield Banding Station, Kalamazoo County on 25 June 2006 (3rd state record, first county record).

“Yellow” Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*)

Vote: 6-1, in the second round

Description: Cathy Carroll

One individual was observed at Dearborn, Wayne County on 5 April 2006 (3rd state record, 2nd county record).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Chris Neri

One adult male was found by Calvin Brennan at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 17 May 2005 (18th state record, 4th county record).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Christopher G. Haas, Joe

Kaplan, Kathy Wadaga

One adult male was west of the Village of Baraga in Baraga County on 9-15 May 2006 (19th state record, first county record).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Jeffrey R. Schultz

One female was observed at Willis, Washtenaw County on 13 May 2006 (20th state record, 2nd county record).

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Owen Mills, Dana Richter

Photographs: Adam M. Byrne, Joe Kaplan, Owen Mills, Mike Shupe

One individual visited feeders at Hancock, Houghton County on 17 December 2005 – 27 January 2006 (4th state record, first county record).

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Damon McCormick

One individual photographed at Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Schoolcraft County on 27 May 2006 (77th state record, 2nd county record).

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Adam M. Byrne, Zach G. Gayk, Christopher G. Haas, Joe Kaplan

One individual was found by Lynn Murphy at the Arnheim Unit of the Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Area, along the border between Baraga and Houghton Counties on 2-6 October 2005 (17th state record, first county record).



Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Aaron Givens

One individual at Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Schoolcraft County on 20-21 June 2006 (18th state record, 2nd county record).

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

Vote: 7-0, in the second round

Description: William Bouton

One individual observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 24 June 1989 (15th state record, first county record). This record was submitted and accepted as Sharp-tailed Sparrow prior to the splitting of Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and is one of several records being voted upon as Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Reinoehl 1999).

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

Vote: 6-1, in the second round

Descriptions: Louis Dombroski, Tony Leukering

One individual observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 9 June 1990 (16th state record, 2nd county record). This record was submitted and accepted as Sharp-tailed Sparrow prior to the splitting of Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and is one of several records being voted upon as Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Reinoehl 1999).

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

Vote: 6-1, in the second round

Description: Raymond J. Adams, Jr.

One individual observed at the Highbanks Unit of the Allegan State

Game Area, Allegan County on 23 April 1992. This record was submitted and accepted as Sharp-tailed Sparrow prior to the splitting of Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and is one of several records being voted upon as Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Reinoehl 1999).

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

Vote: 6-1

Description: Laurence C. Binford

One individual at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw County on 10 October 1993 (18th state record, first county record). This record was submitted and accepted as Sharp-tailed Sparrow prior to the splitting of Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and is one of several records being voted upon as Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Reinoehl 1999).

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

Vote: 6-1

Description: Philip C. Chu

One individual, found by Joe Kaplan, at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 30 May 1994 (19th state record, 3rd county record). This record was submitted and accepted as Sharp-tailed Sparrow prior to the splitting of Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and is one of several records being voted upon as Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Reinoehl 1999).

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

Vote: 5-2, in the second round

Description: Steve Minard

One individual observed at Lane's Landing, Muskegon State Game Area, Muskegon County on 29 May 2006

(24th state record, first county record).

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Joseph Youngman

One male photographed at Manitou Island, Keweenaw County on 23 April 2006 (14th state record, 3rd county record).

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Louis Taccolini

Photographs: Gail Junkkari

One male photographed at a residence in Marquette, Marquette County on 10 May 2006 (17th state record, 3rd county record).

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Philip C. Chu, Christopher D. Hensick, Caleb G.

Putnam, Macklin Smith

Photographs: Joe Agius, Craig Bateman, Robert Epstein, Darlene Friedman, Neil Gilbert, Lyle Hamilton, Matthew Hysell, John McDaniel, Caleb G. Putnam

One male coming to a private feeder in Genoa Township, Livingston County on 15 February – 5 March 2006 (4th state record, first county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Allen Chartier, Philip C. Chu

Video: Minu Johnson

Photographs: Minu Johnson, Caleb G. Putnam

One individual, a first state record found by David Johnson, frequented several residences 3.5 miles southwest of Cassopolis, Cass County on 2 November 2005 to at least 4 May 2007.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Robert Seazor

One individual present at the feeders of Robert Seazor and Kitt Wulf at Topaz, Ontonagon County on 18 April – 6 May 2006 (2nd state record, first county record).

Records Not Accepted

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 1-6

Photographs

One individual was reported along the Saginaw Bay shoreline, Bay County on 5 November 2005. Rejecting members cited a lack of written description and inability to discern details of face and bill pattern in the photos, making it difficult to eliminate Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) or a Snow Goose X Ross's Goose hybrid.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 0-7, in the second round

One description

Photographs

One individual was reported at Muskegon Wastewater Management System, Muskegon County on 8 November 2005. Although suggestive of the species claimed, this report failed to conclusively establish the presence of bluish or grayish at the base of the bill. Also disconcerting was the description of the bird as 20% larger than a nearby Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*); it should be nearly the same size as Mallard. These concerns, coupled with the rather distant images, prevented members from eliminating



a Snow Goose X Ross's Goose hybrid from consideration.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 1-6

Photographs

One individual was reported at Lake Chapin, Berrien County on 21 February 2006. Rejecting members cited the appearance of a grin patch and curvature to the facial feathering/bill base interface as concerns. One member also felt it might not be safely assumed that this wasn't one of the three individuals reported nearby in space and time, from another report.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: for six birds, 0-7

Photographs

Six individuals were reported at Paw Paw Lake, Berrien County on 22 February 2006. Members found the photos insufficient to distinguish the requisite characters for separating the birds from Snow Goose X Ross's Goose hybrids, and were concerned over the lack of any field notes or description.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 0-7

Three descriptions

One individual was reported at Eau Claire Sewage Ponds, Berrien County on 18-21 March 2006. Members cited the bird's size as too large and its head proportions wrong for the species claimed, a concern shared by one of the observers.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported at Asylum Lake, Kalamazoo County on 7

October 2006. The observer described a brown duck with a "large black area near the rump," a "large white [sic] in front of it," and "a prominent tan or cream forehead." Members unanimously considered the field marks inconclusive for the identification claimed. Some questioned why the cream-colored forehead was reported yet the rusty-colored head and colorful underparts were not mentioned.

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

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County, on 28 October 1999. This report was initially rejected as King Eider (Byrne 2002), but, until now, was never reevaluated as a King/Common Eider. The observer described a large dark brown duck with pale wing linings and "head and bill [shape] consistent with an eider." Members unanimously felt that the limited description did not rule out a hen Mallard, let alone many other duck species.

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

Vote: 1-6

One description

One male wearing basic plumage (per the amended terminology of Pyle 2005) was reported at Cheboygan, Cheboygan County on 15 December 2003. This record was initially submitted and rejected as Common Eider (Chu 2005), and so was reviewed again, this time under the more inclusive designation of King/Common Eider. The bird was described as having a black cap, cream color on

nape, white “sides of head,” black on its “sides,” and a “yellow-orange” bill. Members argued that the description never clearly places this bird in the waterfowl camp, let alone eliminate other ducks including domestic Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and associated hybrids. Of serious concern are the lack of description of the face and bill structure, and confusion over what is meant by “black on sides.”

Barrow’s Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

Vote: 1-6

Two descriptions

One female was reported at Port Huron, St. Clair County on 7 & 10 November 1991. This record was originally accepted with a 5-2 vote (Chu 1993), but was re-reviewed using the current standard of acceptance, as described in the introduction. The observers reported a medium-sized female diving duck with solid yellow-orange bill, dark brown head, “buffy gray brown” sides and back, and “steep forehead and little bill” compared to nearby Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*). There were several concerns with this report, stemming from the very difficult task of identifying female goldeneyes. Several members pointed out that the reliance on bill color is problematical, as many female Common Goldeneyes can match this pattern. Further, none of the additional features noted were conclusive for Barrow’s Goldeneye, making it impossible to be certain of this bird’s identity.

Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported at Brethren, Manistee County on 17 May 2006. The observer reported a “mostly all white” bird with feathers on its legs, milling about the edges of a field and subsequently retreating into a bushy area. Members were unanimously concerned about the overall lack of description and felt that a Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus muta*), a partially leucistic Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), or a piebald Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) could not be ruled out by the report. This report was subsequently recirculated and rejected as ptarmigan species (see below).

White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported at Vicksburg, Kalamazoo County on 15 April 2006. The observer reported an all-white bird with feathered legs. Rejecting members cited a lack of detailed written description and subsequent inability to rule out white Rock Pigeon or even Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiaca*) based on the description. This report was subsequently recirculated and rejected as ptarmigan species (see below).

Ptarmigan species (*Lagopus spp.*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual, initially rejected as White-tailed Ptarmigan (see above) was reported at Vicksburg, Kalamazoo County on 15 April 2006. Members relayed the same concerns as with its initial review, including a general lack of description placing the bird in the Galliformes and a feeling of hesitation



to rely solely on the feathered legs to identify this bird as a ptarmigan.

Ptarmigan species (*Lagopus spp.*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual, initially rejected as Willow Ptarmigan (see above), was reported at Brethren, Manistee County on 17 May 2006. Members voiced the same concerns as with its first review: namely, the scant description never clearly places it in the Galliformes or eliminates unusual plumages of common Galliform birds such as a leucistic Ruffed Grouse.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

Vote: 3-4

One description and sketch

One individual was reported at Burn's Landing, Marquette County on 22 October 2005. Rejecting members cited the concern that Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) could not be eliminated based on the limited observation of flank pattern. This record was recirculated as Arctic/Pacific Loon in the subsequent round and accepted as such (see above under "Records Accepted").

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

Vote: 1-6

Photographs

One individual was reported at Grand Mere State Park, Berrien County on 25 April 2004. This record was reported and rejected as Pacific Loon (Chu 2005), and was reviewed again, this time under the more general designation of Arctic/Pacific Loon. Several members expressed concern that the photos did not rule out Common Loon (*Gavia immer*).

Specifically, the following problems were mentioned by multiple members:

1) in some of the photos the neck pattern appears to be "jagged" and irregular, not vertical and even, 2) the bill appears to be proportionately large, and 3) there appears to be white in front of the eye. The quality of the photos was poor enough that other members felt unable to accurately assess these features, and subsequently were also unable to rule out Common Loon.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported at Asylum Lake, Kalamazoo County on 7 October 2006. The observer described a bird with an all-light yellow pointed bill, a black smoothly-rounded head and neck, a dark back, and "a strange asymmetrical bulge on the lower mandible." Members felt that a variety of waterbirds, including Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), Western Grebe, and Common Loon, matched the description fairly well. Even if one granted that the bird was indeed a loon, Common Loon still could not be ruled out, as it often shows a pale bill, apparently the main feature used to identify this bird.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual on Keweenaw Bay "between L'Anse and Baraga", Baraga County, on 7-8 November 2005. Members agreed that details of bill color, extent of white on the face, and other relevant field marks were

not established with certainty based on the documentation provided, but most members argued that the record was acceptable as an *Aechmophorus* spp., a designation under which it was accepted in the subsequent round (see Western/Clark's Grebe in "Records Accepted").

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Vote: 2-5

One description

One was reported at Lake Belair, Hillsdale County on 12-13 November 1995. This record was originally accepted with a 5-1-1 vote, and was re-reviewed using the current standard of acceptance, as described in the introduction. The observer reported a black or dark gray back, black hindneck and white foreneck that were separated by a straight delineation, and black that extended down from the crown to encompass the eyes. The bird was also described as larger than nearby Hooded Mergansers. Common concerns were the lack of description of bill color and the overall consistency of the report with a Common Loon or even an Arctic/Pacific Loon.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

Vote: 2-5, in the second round

Two descriptions

One juvenile was reported at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County on 8 November 2005. There were two primary concerns among dissenting voters. First, a discrepancy between the reports in terms of the upperparts coloration led to uncertainty as to whom was right. Second, the overall terse descriptions were insufficient to rule out other sulids, which

although unknown from Michigan, are nevertheless possible. This record was recirculated as "Sulid species" (see above in "Records Accepted").

Brown Pelican (*Pelicanus occidentalis*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported along Interstate 75 near Saginaw, Saginaw County on 30 April 1993. This record was originally accepted with a 5-2 vote (Chu 1995), and was re-reviewed using the current standard of acceptance, as described in the introduction. The observer described a bird with an "obvious pelican bill, large bulky body, [and] brown-gray in color." Members shared concerns over accepting a record based only on assertion ("pelican bill") rather than an actual description. Others argued that a soiled American White Pelican (*Pelicanus erythrorhynchos*) could not be ruled out.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

Vote: 2-5

One description

One individual was reported at Point LaBarbe, Mackinac County on 3 July 2006. The observer described a thin heron with "dark back, neck and breast" and "white belly," which was actively chasing prey in shallow water. Rejecting members pointed out that neither Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) nor Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) X Tricolored Heron hybrid could be conclusively ruled out. Individuals of the latter are now well-documented (Meeks et al. 1996), including one bird from Bay County initially misidentified as a Tricolored Heron (Byrne 2001).



Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

Vote: for two individuals, 1-6, in the second round

One description

Two individuals were reported at the Karn Power Plant, Bay City, Bay County on 31 July – 21 August 1996. This record was originally accepted with a 5-0-2 vote (Reinoehl 1997), but was re-reviewed using the current standard of acceptance, as described in the introduction. The observer described two “smallish herons with white bellies and white forenecks” with the remainder of the body being “purplish blue.” The legs and bill were reported to be “greenish yellow.” Rejecting members unanimously cited the concern that the brief description offered could not rule out a Snowy Egret X Tricolored Heron hybrid. One individual presumed to be of this combination was present at this location about a year prior to this sighting and appeared much like a pure Tricolored Heron with odd patches of paleness and aberrant soft parts coloration (Byrne 2001).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Vote: for four birds, 3-4; for a fifth bird, 0-7

One description

Five individuals were reported at Erie Marsh Preserve, Monroe County on 2 October 1993. This record was originally accepted with a 5-2 vote (Chu 1995), but was re-reviewed using the current standard of acceptance, as described in the introduction. The observer offered the following details: “facial skin (apparent on only four individuals) bluish or grayish [with] line looking thin from eye to bill” and “plumage bronzy/brown all over”

with greenish iridescence on mantle. Rejecting members cited confusion over the observer’s comments regarding the color of the facial skin and loreal area, and whether any red or pink tones could have been seen from the distance of observation (100-150 yards). They also felt that White-faced Ibis could not reliably be ruled out.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Vote: 1-6, in the second round

Two descriptions

Photographs

One individual was reported at Metro Beach Metropark, Macomb County on 15-16 October 2005. Concerns over the exact color pattern of the facial skin and surrounding feathering, due in part to distance and lighting, left most members unable to rule out White-faced Ibis or a Glossy Ibis X White-faced Ibis hybrid. This individual was recirculated as a Glossy/White-faced Ibis and accepted as such (see above under “Records Accepted”).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Vote: 1-6

One description

One photograph

One individual was reported along the Saginaw Bay shoreline, Arenac and Bay Counties on 1-6 November 2005. Members felt the documentation provided did not provide the requisite details on the pattern of the facial skin and adjacent feathering necessary to eliminate White-faced Ibis or a Glossy Ibis X White-faced Ibis hybrid from contention. This record was recirculated as Glossy/White-faced Ibis and accepted as such (see above under “Records Accepted”).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

Vote: 1-6

One description

One photograph

One individual was reported at Lake La Grange, Cassopolis, Cass County on 4 May 1969. This record was originally accepted with a 5-2 vote (Chu 1992), but was re-reviewed using the current standard of acceptance, as described in the introduction. The observer reported a large dark bird with a decurved bill, and a "broad white band around the face". Dissenting members cited the concern that the photo failed to show any white behind the eye (contra the observer's above statement), and felt that the photo was of a Glossy Ibis.

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

Vote: 4-3, in the second round

One description

One individual reported near Mount Pleasant, Isabella County on 15-16 May 1962. This brief report consisted of a historical sighting by three observers written by a well-respected ornithologist but containing almost no description of the bird. Most rejecting members felt that the MBRC, in order to retain consistency in its approach, must utilize only the description and any accompanying physical evidence, rather than the reputation of the observer. Because there was insufficient description, few other species could be ruled out.

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

Vote: 4-3, in the second round

One description

One individual was reported at

Phyllis Haehnle Sanctuary, Jackson County on 1-2 May 1971. This brief report consisted of a historical observation by a well-respected ornithologist. Unfortunately, the report included almost no description of the bird, just a recounting of the sighting. Most rejecting members felt that the MBRC, in order to retain consistency in its approach, must utilize only the description and any accompanying physical evidence, rather than the reputation of the observer. Because there was almost no description, no other species could be ruled out.

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

Vote: 4-3, in the second round

One description

One individual reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 1 November 1999. This brief report described a bird seen in flight only with red and green iridescence and a gray bill, but no description of bill shape. Some members felt that the red and green iridescence was a sufficient amount of detail, but most felt that the brevity of the report precluded accurate assessment of the bird in question.

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

Vote: for two individuals, 3-4, in the second round

One description

Two individuals were observed while driving along Interstate 94, Wayne County on 3 July 2005. This report described two large dark birds with slow deep wingbeats, small heads, long decurved bills, and legs that extended out behind the tail. Rejecting members cited several concerns



centering on the inability to rule out Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*), or even a red-pigment-lacking Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*) (this species is known from captivity at the Detroit Zoo and other regional facilities), especially while driving down a high-speed interstate. At least one member was also concerned by the 4.5 month time lapse between the sighting and the writing of the report, which could have led to inaccuracies in the description.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Vote: 4-3, in the second round

One description

One individual was reported along US-127 near Townline Lake Road, Clare County on 6 April 2006. This individual was described as having black plumage, head and part of neck bare of feathers and grayish-black, and a relatively short tail. Dissenting members were concerned about the brevity of the observation (not specified directly in the report) and description, which apparently was made solely from a moving vehicle on a major expressway, without the aid of optics.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Vote: 0-7, in the second round

Two descriptions

One individual was reported at Metro Beach Metropark, Macomb County on 3 June 2006. Two descriptions reported a “somewhat falcon-shaped” bird with fairly pointed wings, a square tail with at least four pale bands, “grayish-brown” underparts and underwings, and

streaking on the breast and belly. The patterning to the head, underparts, and tail place this bird in the subadult (not adult) category. Thus, members were unanimously concerned over the lack of observation of mottled underwing coverts (despite picking up streaking on the breast and belly, both observers failed to mention this), and the lack of description of a short tenth primary (the observers described a straight trailing edge to the wing and closely assessed the “pointedness” of the wingtip, so should have been able to see this feature). Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) could not be ruled out without invoking subjective characters such as flight style, which members were not comfortable using.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Vote: for two individuals, 0-7

One description

Two individuals were reported at Sturgeon River Sloughs, Houghton County on 12 August 2006. The observer described two Peregrine Falcon sized birds with dark gray back and wings, “lighter breast,” and a “white band on the upper part of the tail.” Voting members unanimously agreed that this description better fit a pair of Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*).

Swainson’s Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Vote: 1-6

One description

One individual was reported six miles south of Saline, Washtenaw County on 16 October 2005. Members expressed concerns over the description of the upper wing as white “like in an osprey [sic],” since this is incorrect for

the species claimed. Although most expressed that the report seemed to have some merit, it was not complete enough to rule out Short-tailed Hawk or Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), with at least one member adding Northern Harrier and Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) to that list.

“Krider’s” Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis krideri*)

Vote: 2-5

One description/field sketch

One individual was reported at the Muskegon Wastewater Management System, Muskegon County on 11 September 2005. Dissenting members cited the inability to rule out unusually pale or leucistic *borealis* Red-tailed Hawks. There were at least two inconsistencies with *krideri*: the lack of a dark malar and a back/mantle being the normal *borealis* shade of brown, rather than paler, were both mentioned.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Vote: for two individuals, 0-7

One description

Two individuals were reported 1 mile south of Olivet, Calhoun County on 8 January 2006. Members unanimously felt the report was too vague and incomplete to rule out Red-tailed Hawks, including those with leucistic or albinistic plumage or a “Krider’s” form, and at least one member pointed out that the description of the underparts as “pure white underneath from chin to tip of tail with no markings” was incorrect for Ferruginous Hawks.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Vote: 1-6

One description

One individual was reported in Monroe County, during the Monroe Christmas Bird Count, on 17 December 2005. Rejecting members were uncomfortable with the brevity of the observation and description, citing an inability to rule out Red-tailed Hawk from consideration. One member mentioned that at least some *krideri* Red-tailed Hawks can have rufous on the scapulars and lesser coverts (Wheeler 2003), a field mark touted as diagnostic of Ferruginous by the observer and observed on the bird in question.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

Vote: for two birds, 3-4

One description

Two individuals were reported from the mouth of Lake Huron, Port Huron, St. Clair County on 11 November 2006. The observer reported two shorebirds at least 8 inches in length with mouse gray backs and mantles, white necks and underparts, black marks through the eye, some black smudging on the back of the heads, an “almost black color to the forewing or covert area” in flight, a “fairly wide white wing stripe,” and a short bill “a little longer than the width of [the] head”. The birds were also observed to alight on the water several times. Rejecting members expressed skepticism that details such as bill thickness, bulk of body, and width of wing stripe could be assessed well enough at a distance of 350 to 600 yards in windy conditions to eliminate Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) from contention.



Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

Vote: 1-6

One description

One presumed second winter individual was reported at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area DNR headquarters, Wayne County on 15 February 2006. All rejecting members cited one common concern: that the mantle was not observed to be darker than those of the surrounding Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). Additionally, several of the field marks mentioned are not wrong for at least some Ring-billed Gulls including large white tertial crescents, dark bill with pale outer half, and small body size.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

Vote: 3-4

One description

One first winter individual reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 23 December 2005. Although most of the committee felt that this very detailed record was suggestive of this species, dissenting members had concerns over the lag time of several months between the sighting and its writeup, an apparent lack of field notes, the description of the legs as pink rather than fleshy, and the subjectivity involved in identification of first and second cycle large white-headed gulls, which relies heavily on judgment of size, shape, and proportions.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

Vote: 3-4

One description

One first winter individual reported at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County on 21 February 2006. The bird was described as

smaller than a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) with double dark trailing edge to the upperwing surface, first winter Glaucous (*Larus hyperboreus*) Gull-like bill pattern, and lack of a pale window to the inner primaries, among other features. This report was considered suggestive of California Gull by most of the committee, but deemed to fall short of acceptance for the following reasons: the inability to rule out similar immature plumages of Herring and Ring-billed Gull and a reported faint window on the underwing (which should not be present).

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

Vote: 0-7

One photograph

One individual was photographed in Bay County on 3 December 2003. Members argued that the photo appeared to show a Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), or that that species and any of several hybrids could not be eliminated based on the photo alone.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

Vote: 1-6

One description

One presumed third winter individual was reported at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area DNR headquarters, Wayne County on 27 January 2006. Members cited the lack of sufficient description of the underwing and primary pattern, an over-reliance on subjective judgments such as shape and proportions, a viewing distance of over 500 yards, a viewing time of only 5 minutes, and a

lack of clarity over whether field notes were taken and to what extent they contributed to the details provided. In the end, Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*), and Great Black-backed Gull X Herring Gull hybrid could not be eliminated.

Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported at Finn Road Park, Bay County on 6 October 2005. Members argued that the description was inconsistent with the species claimed, in particular, white at the base of the tail and smudges on the terminal tail band were marks perhaps more consistent with a gull. At least two observers felt Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) and Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) could not be eliminated, and another felt that Little Gull (*Larus minutus*), Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*), and even Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) were not inconsistent with the description of size and wing and tail pattern.

Sooty/Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus/anaethetus*)

Vote: 1-6

One description

One individual was reported at Finn Road Park, Bay County on 6 October 2005. Initially claimed and rejected as Bridled Tern, this record was reconsidered as Sooty/Bridled Tern. Most members cited the same concerns as in its previous review: the inability to rule out other terns and

gulls, and the inconsistency in tail pattern with the species claimed.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Vote: 3-4

One description

One individual was reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 7-8 September 2006. Dissenting members argued that the differing description of the head pattern for each day led to uncertainty whether it was the same individual both days. Other common concerns with this report were as follows: 1) an over-reliance on gestalt and other subjective features in ruling out the extremely similar Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), 2) uncertainty as to whether the bird's size (described as larger than a Ring-billed Gull) refers to bulk or length and the consequent inability to rule out Parasitic Jaegers, females of which can be larger in bulk and wingspan than small Pomarines and Ring-billed Gulls (Olsen and Larsson 1997), 3) confusion over the bird's actual head pattern, 4) confusion over how long the bird was present under the closest viewing conditions and what features were assessed during this time, and 5) lack of certainty that the central rectrix shape was accurately assessed given other inconsistencies in the report.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Vote: 3-4

One description

One juvenile was reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 12 September 2006. This report had much in common with the previous



report, and was rejected for many of the same reasons. Discrepancies were as follows: 1) this bird was reported to have a strikingly pale nape blending darker toward the anterior head (never shown in juvenile Pomarine according to Olsen and Larsson 1997), 2) this report mentions buffness in the underwing, a feature that seemed inconsistent by at least one member, and 3) this bird's central rectrices are sketched in a manner deemed too long for a juvenile Pomarine.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Vote: 1-6

One description

Photographs

One dark morph third-calendar year individual was reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 11 October 2006. The observer described a mainly dark chocolate-brown jaeger with a "few white primary shafts," "some paleness" at the base of the tail, undertail coverts paler than mantle with non-white barring, a "deep tawny" nape, double white underwing flash on the underprimary coverts, central rectrices extending "longer than typical extensions" but with shape not noted, and "thick bases of wing, compared to short tail." Rejecting members were concerned that the most important character: the shape of the central rectrix tips, was not noted. That left the committee with only plumage and shape/proportions. Some expressed concerns that the pale tawny collar is a better match and perhaps diagnostic for Parasitic Jaeger, which can also show most of the other features noted.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Vote: 1-6, in the second round

One description

One individual reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County on 10 September 2006. The observer reported a juvenile light-morph with rounded central rectrices extending one inch and appearing to have a similar wingspan as nearby Ring-billed Gull. Members expressed several recurring concerns including: 1) the mantle was reported to be the darkest part of the upperparts rather than the outer wing and secondaries, 2) the wingspan was reported to be similar to that of Ring-billed Gull (this is a better fit for Parasitic or Pomarine Jaeger [Olsen and Larsson 1997]), 3) the mention of buff in the uppertail coverts is suggestive of Parasitic Jaeger, and 4) an over-reliance on subjective characters such as flight style and shape.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Vote: 1-6, in the second round

One description

One individual was reported in Delhi Township, Ingham County on 10 March 2002. The observer reported a very pale owl with "tawny yellowish brown coloration...with small, white dots throughout" on the back and wings, white tail with tawny terminal band, and a heart-shaped face with ring of dark or tawny brown feathers. Most members felt this was suggestive of Barn Owl, but expressed concern that if the upperparts were seen well enough to detect the small white spots it would be very strange not to note barring on the flight feathers. The tail description was also noted

as strange for the species claimed. Additional uncertainties were raised by the unknown lighting conditions at the time of the observation (dusk) and the lack of description of distance of observation. Lastly, given the inconsistencies presented, there was some concern that a Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) could not be fully eliminated from consideration.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual reported at Lansing, Ingham County on 11 April 2006 was described as follows: “Slightly smaller than a great horned owl [sic], face was a very light tan, heart shaped, breast was same color, slightly darker. Rather slim for his height, very ruffled appearance.” Members argued that juveniles of the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), or even Short-eared Owl, could not be ruled out based on the description provided.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported at a private residence in Wyoming, Kent County on 30 December 1999. The observer reported a woodpecker with “a black-and-white zebra-striped back, with the stripes extending across the back and wings” and a “black head with a white cheek patch [with] little or no red ... visible.” Members cited several problems with this report; namely, 1) there was a seven year gap between the sighting and the first documentation, 2) that a field guide

was consulted after the sighting but prior to the documentation, potentially confusing what was actually seen in the field with what “should” have been seen, and 3) the inability to rule out Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) and other ladder-backed woodpeckers based on the incomplete description (e.g., it lacks a description of overall body size and extent of white on the cheek).

Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*)

Vote: for two individuals, 0-7

One description

Two individuals were reported opposite Johnson Park on the banks of the Grand River in Grandville, Kent County on 23 December 2005. The observer described two small woodpeckers with chickadee-like head pattern, striped back, and hint of buffy coloration on the underparts on at least one individual. The observer made the observation from twenty to fifty feet without the aid of optics, yet claimed to see a small red spot on the face. At least three members felt that Yellow-bellied Sapsucker could not be eliminated, and was perhaps more likely in the context of deciduous trees in southern Michigan in December. The lack of description of barring on the flanks (prerequisite for the species claimed), and the two weeks elapsed since the sighting before the description was written also concerned at least two members.

“Pacific” Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus harrisi* Group)

Vote: 1-6

Photographs

One individual was reported in Ogemaw County on 14 May 2006.



The photographs appear to show an otherwise typical eastern Hairy Woodpecker (*P. v. villosus* Group) with a brownish wash to all of the white areas of the plumage. Rejecting members cited two primary concerns: 1) the amount of white spotting in the primaries and mantle was more consistent in size and number with those of an eastern Hairy Woodpecker than a Pacific, and 2) the bird displayed a wet, disheveled appearance which included a similarly-colored substance on the bill. It was agreed that a tannin-stained eastern Hairy Woodpecker could not be eliminated.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*)

Vote: 1-6

One description

One individual was reported at Negaunee, Marquette County on 28-29 July 2006. The observer reported a bird similar in size to a Hairy Woodpecker, with a yellow cap with “black striations” and a “ladder pattern on back, sides.” Members felt uncomfortable with the sparse description, mentioning that without more information an aberrant or xanthochroistic Hairy Woodpecker could not be eliminated.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Vote: 2-5, in the second round

One description

One individual was reported at Milan, Washtenaw County on 29 March 2006. The observer described a robin-sized bird with large gray head and black mask extending “across the forehead above the beak”. The bill was described as “all black”.

Although considered suggestive by most committee members, this report lacked sufficient detail for acceptance. Specifically, the description of the mask and bill are correct for Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) in addition to Loggerhead, and there was additional confusion over the presence or absence of contrast between the rump and the mantle.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported near Frankenmuth, Saginaw County on 12 August 2006. The observer briefly described a shrike-like bird with a black mask extending over the base of the bill. Most members were satisfied that the observer did indeed observe a shrike, and most agreed that a shrike in August in Michigan is more likely to be a Loggerhead than a Northern. However, several members pointed out that multiple Snowy Owls were present in Michigan during the summer of 2006 (Dombroski 2007), and that it was not unreasonable that a Northern Shrike might do the same. Members also unanimously argued that the description of plumage features was insufficient to rule out Northern Shrike, especially given there was no information provided on the distance of the observation and whether optics were used.

Bell’s Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

Vote: 3-4

One description

One individual was reported at Van Buren Park, Wayne County on 6 May 2006. The observer described a

vireo with a whitish eyeline, broken spectacle, two wing bars, and gray flanks. The lack of discussion of similar species was a concern for two dissenting members, while the others cited the inability to rule out Plumbeous (*Vireo plumbeus*), Cassin's (*Vireo cassinii*), and Warbling Vireos (*Vireo gilvus*) based on the information provided.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: for one individual, 1-6

Two descriptions

Two individuals were reported ranging from Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County to Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe County on 12-13 November 2005. One was deemed acceptable (See above under "Records Accepted") but the second individual was not. Neither of the descriptions provided enough detail to conclusively identify either swallow. Indeed, the accepted individual described above was detailed in a third report, but that observer did not definitively see a second individual.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: for one individual, 0-7

Two descriptions

Two individuals were reported ranging from Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County to Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe County on 12-13 November 2005. Due to a mix-up in the documentation, this individual (same as previous record) was reevaluated with the proper set of reports and was rejected again, this time unanimously.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: for one individual, 3-4; for six

additional individuals, 1-6

One description

Seven individuals were reported at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County on 7 November 2005. The report lumps multiple sightings of this species which occurred during fall 2005 into one description without specifying to which individuals the one brief description applies. The lack of effort to document the various sightings left most members uncertain which, if any, of the individuals claimed corresponded to the single description provided.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: for one individual, 3-4; for three additional individuals, 1-6

One description

Four individuals were reported at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County on 9 November 2005. Like the previous Cave Swallow report, this record was lumped into the same brief description, without specifying to which individuals the one description applies. This approach made it very unclear how carefully each individual was actually studied, leading most members to be uncertain whether the individuals claimed applied to the single description or not.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: for one individual, 3-4 in the second round; for the additional 29 individuals, 1-6 in the first round

Four descriptions

About 30 individuals were reported at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne County on 10 November 2005. There was significant confusion associated with this record stemming from three sources: 1) one report



lumped these records with the previously described records (see above), leaving it very unclear what, if any, of the brief details provided applied to these birds, 2) uncertainty as to the pattern of the rump and auriculars on any of the birds, and 3) uncertainty as to the date and location to which two of these four reports applied. There were also discrepancies between the various reports for this sighting, one observer described the birds as directly overhead, while another described them as being very distant from the observation point. Either way, none of the reports provided a clear description of the face patterns, making it impossible to conclusively eliminate Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) from consideration.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: for three individuals, 2-5, in the second round

One description

Three individuals were reported along Campau Road near the entrance to the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area DNR headquarters, Wayne County on 13 November 2005. The observer reported three swallows with dark upperparts, buffy throats, collars and rumps, and squarish tails. Concerns centered around the lack of description of the auricular region and the subsequent inability to rule out juvenile Cliff Swallows, which can fit the observer’s description. Additional concern was raised by the finding that this report was essentially an exact duplicate of a report from a different date for a different record, leading to uncertainty as to which record the verbiage truly applied.

Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported at a private residence in Wyoming, Kent County on 30 December 1999. This bird was described as a nuthatch with a “gray back and brown head.” Body size and the presence or absence of a white spot on the back of the neck were not noted. Members were troubled by the seven year period between the sighting and its documentation and the fact that the observer consulted a field guide prior to writing down the bird’s description. Lastly, the plumage details provided were insufficient to rule out Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), or even other passerines.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

Vote: 2-5

One description

One female was reported north of Peninsula Point, Delta County on 20 October 2006. The bird was described as having “little contrast between the ventral and dorsal surfaces”, both being largely grayish. It also had turquoise blue present in the primary bases, the rump, the dorsal surface of the tail, and possibly the undertail coverts. Other details included: 1) different posture from nearby Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*), 2) whitish chin and malar, 3) complete white eye ring thicker toward the rear, and 4) brownish-gray breast with a “diffuse reddish or peach-colored blush” restricted to the upper breast. Rejecting members cited the inability to rule out a hybrid Eastern Bluebird X Mountain Bluebird,

females of which are well-documented in the Great Plains and are described as like female Mountain Bluebirds with scattered chestnut feathers in the flank and breast (Rounds and Munro 1981). The observer's description of the upper breast thus gave some members pause, and few other characters were available for this difficult identification.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

Vote: 1-6, in the second round

One description

One individual was reported at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco County on 26-28 May 2006. The bird was described as "robin-sized" with "olive green upperparts", "grayish" back and wings, yellowish rump, two yellowish to white wingbars, and yellowish underparts with a pale belly. Several members pointed out that the contradicting description of the upperparts as both "olive green" and "grayish" led to confusion over which description was correct. Further, the lack of information on the breadth of the wingbars led several members to question whether Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), which occasionally show slight wingbars and always show green backs (in spring females), could be ruled out.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Vote: for three birds, 0-7

One description

"Two or three" individuals were reported at Asylum Lake Preserve, Kalamazoo County on 7 October 2006. The birds were described as "large" sparrows with "entire heads [having a] clearly contrasted very

heavy bill-to-back-of-head brown and white or black, brown, and white striping." Members were confused by the description of the head, and some argued that a sparrow with white, black, and brown striping on the head could be one of many species. Additional concerns were voiced over the lack of tail description and breast pattern, the brevity of the observation (approximately 15 seconds), and the fact that field guides were consulted prior to writing up the description.

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

Vote: 2-5

One description

One individual was reported at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe County on 27 December 1975. This record was submitted and accepted as "Sharp-tailed Sparrow" prior to the splitting of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and is one of several records being voted upon as "Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow" (Reinoehl 1999). In this case, members felt there wasn't enough information on breast streaking and background color, or throat color, to eliminate Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Thus, the record will remain accepted as a Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

Vote: 3-4

One description

One individual was reported at Lexington, Sanilac County on 22 September 2006. The report consisted of a few small sketches and very brief annotation, rather than an actual report detailing the observation. It was



reported as a small bird with two white outer rectrices, obvious “wingbars” in flight and at rest, and “buff color[ed]” underparts. Several members were concerned about the representation of the wingbars in the sketch as paralleling the body (incorrect for any passerine), rather than being a single patch located on the lesser coverts as in all male Smith’s. Any time features are represented so inaccurately, it is impossible to know whether the additional features were also properly assessed. The observer did report a “white shoulder patch”, but only at rest, when this should have been more obvious in flight than the slight wingbars. The lack of description of primary tip spacing and greater covert pattern, two of the most important characters for identifying this species, were additional concerns. Given that the observation was for less than 30 seconds, some of which included the bird flying away from the observer, and that some of the features presented were incorrect, at least one member felt there was no way to be sure a Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) could be eliminated from consideration.

Smith’s Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

Vote: 2-5

One description

One individual was reported at Fox County Park south of Escanaba, Delta County on 12 October 2006. The bird was described as “more robust” than a warbler, with a buff-colored ventral surface, a lack of rufous in the wing, streaks on the breast and flanks, a “sparrow-like” bill, drab facial features, and “white outer tail feathers.” The observer also mentioned they “could

not distinguish an eye ring.” Rejecting members were concerned that an eye ring was not noted, as it should appear obvious in all plumages of this species. Some felt that certain plumages of Lapland Longspur and Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) could not be ruled out without more information on the exact amount of white in the outer tail feathers, the precise extent of buffiness on the underparts, and a description of primary tip spacing.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)

Vote: 2-5

One description

One individual was reported six miles north of Kent City in the Rogue River State Game Area, Kent County on 5 March 2006. The observer described a bird the size of an Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) with blue head and back, wings with bars like a “Tree Sparrow” (*Spizella arborea*), and white underbelly with orange chest. Nearly all members felt that a towhee-sized bird was far too large for a Lazuli Bunting, which should be several inches shorter and much less bulky than the former. Other members expressed concern that Eastern Bluebird, second calendar year male Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*), and hybrid Lazuli Bunting X Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) could not be ruled out by the description.

Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major/mexicanus*)

Vote: 3-4, in the second round

One description

One individual was reported at South Haven, Van Buren County on 19 April 1992. This individual

was observed in direct comparison to Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) (sex unknown) and was said to be larger, longer tailed, longer legged, with an “elegant” gait “like a waterbird,” and sounding parrot-like with several different vocalizations described as “unbelievable.” Rejecting members felt that it may have been a male Common Grackle among female Common Grackles, and that the subjective descriptions of gait and vocalizations are simply insufficient to rule out that species.

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*)

Vote: 0-7

One description

One individual was reported at the Muskegon Wastewater Management System, Muskegon County on 15 October 2006. The bird was described as between seven and eight inches in length, uniformly dark brown, with dark eyes, dark legs, and a “larger bill.” The observer also mentions a musical, squeaky, mechanical song which sounded exactly like the Bronzed Cowbird recording on an unidentified Peterson’s CD-ROM. Members felt that the limited description did not rule out Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*).

Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Vote: for two individuals, 0-7

Photographs

Two individuals were photographed at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw County on 29 April 2006. The identification of these two individuals was not disputed, all members rejected on the basis of

equivocal origin. These birds were assumed to be an extension of the exotic Eurasian songbird explosion in the Midwest over the past few years (Chu 2005).

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