
Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2010

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This is the 21st report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee, covering the Committee's actions in 2010. The regular members of the Committee in 2010 were Adam M. Byrne (Clinton Co.), Philip C. Chu (St. Cloud, MN), Latham Claflin (Jackson Co.), James Dawe (Oscoda Co.), Louie Dombroski (Bay Co.), Skye Haas (Marquette Co.), and Caleb G. Putnam (Kent Co.), with alternate members Scott Hickman (Alger Co.) and Dave Slager (Columbus, OH). Putnam was chairman and Byrne was secretary.

During 2010, the committee made 165 decisions on 143 records, with 98 (68.5%) of the decisions being to accept. Ninety (62.9%) of the records resulted in the acceptance of at least one individual. The discrepancy between the number of decisions and the number of records resulted from two circumstances. First, numerous records involved multiple birds, each individual requiring a separate decision. Second, several records were re-reviewed as a different species group following initial rejection. For example, a Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) which was initially rejected was then re-reviewed as an Arctic/Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica/pacifica*).

During 2010 the committee approved (by majority vote) six requests for reconsideration: a Pacific Loon, a Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*), a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), a Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*), a Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*), and an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*). All were subsequently reevaluated in 2010 (voting on the Fish Crow, however, was not completed during 2010, as two of the individuals reported were resubmitted and finalized in 2011 (Chu, in prep.)).

Four species (Yellow-billed Loon [*G. adamsii*], Long-billed Curlew [*Numenius americanus*], Royal Tern [*Thalasseus maximus*], and Fish Crow) were added to the Michigan state checklist during 2010, each with accidental status.



This brings the state total to 439 species, from 435 in 2009. Two additional species were upgraded in status, Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) (from Casual to Regular) and Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) (from Accidental to Casual).

Per Bylaw E.5, the votes of nine past committee members were used during 2010. The members were: Brian Allen, Rick Brigham, Jeff Buecking, Chip Francke, Joe Kaplan, Brad Murphy, Jack Reinoehl, and Scott Terry.

Taxonomic Changes

Several nomenclatural and taxonomic changes were made during 2010 to bring the state checklist into concordance with the fifty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Checklist of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2010). Namely, the common name of Black Scoter was briefly changed to American Scoter before immediately being returned to the former (AOU 2010), apparently the result of a publication error; Whip-poor-will becomes Eastern Whip-poor-will and retains its scientific name; Winter Wren was split from the Palearctic and western American forms of that species, retaining its common name and genus but changing to the specific epithet *hiemalis*; McCown's Longspur was moved from the genus *Calcarius* to the monotypic genus *Rhynchophanes* and placed within the new family Calcariidae (longspurs), which is placed prior to the Parulidae; Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) is given the new specific epithet *cyanoptera*; Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, and Virginia's Warblers were moved from the genus *Vermivora* to *Oreothlypis*; Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes were moved from the genus *Seiurus* to *Parkesia*; Cassin's and Bachman's Sparrows were moved from the genus *Aimophila* to *Peucaea*. Two new orders, the Suliformes (containing frigatebirds, gannets, cormorants, and Anhinga) and the Accipitriformes (containing vultures, Osprey, hawks, and eagles), and three new families, Pandionidae (Osprey), Polioptilidae (gnatchatchers), and Calcariidae (longspurs) were created and reordered; Ardeidae and Threskiornithidae were transferred from Ciconiiformes to Pelecaniformes; and the Pelecaniformes, Ciconiiformes, and Falconiformes were reordered. A current version of the checklist and review list may be downloaded at the committee's website: <http://www.michiganaudubon.org/research/recordscommittee/records_committee.html>.

Corrigenda

This correction pertains to “Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2009” (Putnam 2010).

For the Lark Sparrow accepted from Barry Co., the proper date range should be 28 May–7 June and Greg Bodker should also be credited for submitting a photograph.

Bylaws Amendments

None were made during 2010.

Requests for Reconsideration

Six requests for reconsideration of old records were received during 2010: a Pacific Loon, a Purple Gallinule, a Barn Owl, a Black-billed Magpie, a Fish Crow, and an “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler. The Purple Gallinule and Black-billed Magpie were reconsidered due to new questions as to the origin of the specimens, whereas the remaining four records were reconsidered due to new documentation coming to light. While five of these requests were approved unanimously, the Fish Crow request was only approved by 8-1 vote, with the dissenter arguing that the new evidence being presented (in this case a new audio file) was insufficient to warrant acceptance of the record, and thus that a re-review was not warranted. The remainder of the committee, however, argued that regardless of his own opinion on the acceptability of the new evidence presented, that the new evidence merited a new review of the entire Committee in each case.



Records Accepted

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
(*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Shirley Odette

One individual was observed at Indian River, Cheboygan Co., on 8–25 July 2010.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Tim Baerwald

One individual, a white morph adult, was observed at Berrien Springs, Berrien Co., on 16 December 2009–4 January 2010. The winter 2009 – 2010 seasonal survey report lists two different records from Berrien Co. (Wuepper 2010), however, the committee treats all the observations as one record.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 6-1, in the second round

Description: Roger Wykes

One individual, a juvenile, was reported at the Huron River, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Co., on 17 December 2009.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Tom Dennis, Scott Jennex

One individual, a juvenile, was observed at Port Huron, St. Clair Co., on 4–6 December 2010.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Jim VanAllen

Photographs: Roger Eriksson

One individual, a male in basic plumage (per the amended terminology of Pyle 2005), was observed at Tobico Marsh, Bay Co., on 22–27 October 2010.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Caleb G. Putnam

Photographs: Adam M. Byrne, Brad Murphy, Caleb G. Putnam

One individual, a male wearing basic plumage (per the amended terminology of Pyle 2005), was observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 22–27 May 2010.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

Vote: 7-0, for one of two individuals

Description: Nick Ilnicky

Photographs: Nick Ilnicky

Two individuals, reported to be females, were reported at Marquette, Marquette Co., on 19 December 1970–9 January 1971. Initially reviewed as Common

Eider (*S. mollissima*), resulting in the rejection of both individuals (Chu 1992), this record was here given reconsideration as King Eider, due to the unusual circumstance that the photos, which showed only one individual, showed what appeared to be a young male of this species.

This individual was indeed accepted as such, but the second individual, which was not visible in the photos, but was described in writing, was resubmitted and accepted as King/Common Eider (see below under "Records Accepted").

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

Vote: 7-0

Photograph: Walter Booth

One individual, a female, was observed at St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 4 January 1981. Initially submitted and rejected as Common Eider (Chu 1992), the record was here given reconsideration as King Eider, because of the unanimous opinion of the committee that the photo showed a clear King Eider.

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

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

Description: Nick Ilnicky

Photographs: Nick Ilnicky

Two individuals, reported to be female King Eiders, were reported at Marquette, Marquette Co., on 19 December 1970–9 January 1971. The first was accepted as King Eider (see above under "Records Accepted"), while the second, which was not included in the photographs, was described as having a lobe extending high on the forehead.

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

Vote: 7-0, for one of two individuals

Description: Alan Ryff

Photographs: Nick Ilnicky

Two individuals, reported to include at least one first alternate male, were observed at Marquette, Marquette Co., on 19 November 1975–6 February 1976. Initially reviewed as Common Eider (resulting in the rejection of both individuals) (Chu 1992), this record was here given reconsideration as King/Common Eider per MBRC policy, resulting in acceptance of the one bird visible in the photos.

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

Vote: 6-1

Description: Tom Prestby

One individual, apparently a female, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 26 October 2009.

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

Vote: 7-0

Description: Tom Prestby

Photographs: Chris Neri

One individual, a female, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 27 October 2009.



Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

Vote: 7-0, in the second round

Description: Tom Prestby

One individual, in alternate or transitional plumage, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 25 September 2009.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Philip C. Chu

One individual, wearing alternate plumage, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 31 May 2010.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Scott Schuette

One individual, wearing alternate plumage, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 9 October 2010.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Philip C. Chu, Latham

Clafin, Louie Dombroski, Don Martin, Brad Murphy, Caleb G. Putnam

Photographs: Rick Brigham, Adam M. Byrne, Skye Haas, Don Martin, Caleb G. Putnam, Jeff Schultz
One individual, a juvenile and a first state record, was observed at Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa Co., on 31 December 2009–2 January 2010.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Skye Haas, Morty Harwood, David Pavlik, J.D. Phillips

Photographs: Skye Haas, Mark Hubinger, David Pavlik

One individual, in basic or formative plumage, was observed at Marquette, Marquette Co., on 16–20 November 2009.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Philip C. Chu, Latham Clafin, Matthew Hysell, Joseph Lipar, Michael L.P. Retter, Dave Slager, Phil Vreeman

Photographs: Tim Baerwald, Rick Brigham, James Fox, Matthew Hysell, Andre Moncrieff, Dave Slager

One individual was observed at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 21 November–8 December 2009.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Vote: 7-0, for two individuals

Descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Caleb G. Putnam, Jim VanAllen, Carolyn Weng

Photographs: Mike Boston, Rick Brigham, Charlie DeWitt, Brian Johnson, Ric Pedler, Caleb G. Putnam, Jim VanAllen

Two individuals were observed at Muskegon Lake, Muskegon Co., on 15-29 January 2010. This is the first Michigan record involving more than one individual.

Aechmophorus grebe (Aechmophorus sp.)

Vote: 7-0, in the second round
Description: Chip Francke
One individual was observed at Pere Marquette Park, Muskegon Co., on 22 November 2009.

Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga)

Vote: 7-0
Description: Kirk Zufelt
One individual, a female, was observed at Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa Co., on 1 May 2010.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (Nyctanassa violacea)

Vote: 7-0
Photograph: Lisa S. Brown
One individual, an adult, was observed at Grosse Pointe Shores, Macomb Co., on 8 May 2010.

White Ibis (Eudocimus albus)

Vote: 7-0
Description: David J. Peters
One individual, a juvenile, was observed at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co., on 29 September 2010.

Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)

Vote: 7-0
Description: Adam M. Byrne
Photographs: Adam M. Byrne, Brad Murphy
One individual, an adult, was observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 22 May 2010.

Plegadis ibis (Plegadis sp.)

Vote: 7-0
Description: Philip C. Chu
Photographs: Allen T. Chartier, Karl Overman
One individual was observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 19 May–early June 1989. Initially accepted as Glossy Ibis (Chu 1991), this record was subsequently reconsidered and rejected as Glossy Ibis following a request for reconsideration by one of the observers (see below under “Records Not Accepted”). It was here given additional reconsideration and accepted under the broader grouping per MBRC practice.

Plegadis ibis (Plegadis sp.)

Vote: 7-0, for two individuals in the second round
Description: Robert Morman
Two individuals were observed at Ludington Wastewater Treatment Plant, Mason Co., on 24 April 2010.



Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Jonathan T. Wuepper
Photograph: Jonathan T. Wuepper
One individual was observed in Jefferson Twp., Cass Co., on 30 March 2010.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Vote: 6-1

Description: Monica Essenmacher
One individual was observed at Port Crescent State Park, Huron Co., on 15 May 2010.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Vote: 6-1

Descriptions: Jason Bojczyk, Joanie Hubinger
One individual, a subadult, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 28 May 2010.

“Richardson’s” Merlin (*Falco columbarius richardsoni*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Louie Dombroski
Photographs: Adam M. Byrne
One individual was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 20 May 1997. Initially accepted with a 5-0-1 vote (Reinoehl 1998), a tally which would not connote acceptance currently, the record was here reconsidered to bring it up to the current standard.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Jonathan Lautenbach, Caleb G. Putnam
Photographs: Caleb G. Putnam
Audio Recordings: Brad Murphy, Caleb G. Putnam
One individual, an adult, was observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 6 May–14 August 2010.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Philip C. Chu, Latham Claflin, James Dawe, Robert Lawshe, Caleb G. Putnam
Photographs: Adam M. Byrne, Mark Hubinger, Brad Murphy, Arno Poerner, Caleb G. Putnam
One individual, an adult, was observed at Tuttle Marsh Wildlife Area, Iosco Co., on 13–28 May 2010.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Steven Joyner
One individual, a juvenile, was observed at Boyne City, Charlevoix Co., on 3 October 2010.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Brad Bumgardner, Adam M. Byrne, Caleb G. Putnam
 Photographs: Rick Brigham, Adam M. Byrne, Matthew Hysell, Jim Lynch, Brad Murphy, Caleb G. Putnam

One individual, an adult (probably female), was observed at the South Haven Area Regional Airport, Van Buren Co., on 20–22 July 2010. This represents Michigan's first state record.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Kevin Welsh
 Photographs: Brian Zwiebel
 One individual, an adult in worn alternate plumage, was observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 26 August–4 September 2010.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: David C. Dister
 One individual, a Reeve, was observed at Ludington Wastewater Treatment Plant, Mason Co., on 8 May 2010.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

Vote: 6-1

Descriptions: Skye Haas, Tom Prestby
 Photographs: Chris Neri

One individual, transitioning from juvenal to formative plumage, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 8 October 2009.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Jonathan Lautenbach
 Photographs: Jonathan Lautenbach
 One individual, transitioning from juvenal to formative plumage, was observed at the outlet of White Lake, Muskegon Co., on 23 October 2010.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Scott Schuette
 One individual, age unknown, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 2 November 2010.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Laurence C. Binford
 Photographs: Joseph Youngman
 One individual, a juvenile, was observed at L'Anse Bay and Baraga Sewage Ponds, Baraga Co., on 8–10 October 1998. This record was initially accepted with a 5-0 vote (Reinoehl 1999), a tally insufficient for acceptance under the current bylaws. In order to bring it up to the current standard, the record was here given reconsideration.



Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Philip C. Chu, Latham Clafin, James Fox, Caleb G.

Putnam, Dave Slager

Photographs: Tim Baerwald, Rick

Brigham, Adam M. Byrne, Robert

Epstein, James Fox, Darlene

Friedman, Max Henschell, Kip Miller,

Andre Moncrieff, Caleb G. Putnam,

Dave Slager

One individual, in worn juvenal plumage, was observed at Three Oaks Sewage Ponds, Berrien Co., on 27 November–6 December 2009.

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Matthew Hysell

Photographs: Tim Baerwald, Matthew Hysell

One individual, an adult beginning the transition from alternate to basic plumage, was observed at Jean Klock Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 30 June 2010. This represents Michigan's first state record of this normally marine species.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Joshua Rose

Photographs: Joshua Rose

One individual, a juvenile dark or intermediate morph, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 5 November 1996. Initially accepted with a first round vote of

5-2 (a tally which would not connote acceptance currently) (Reinoehl 1998), the record was here given reconsideration to bring it up to the current standard.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Tom Prestby

Photographs: Darlene Friedman, Chris Neri

One individual, a juvenile dark morph, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 22 September 2009.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Alison Világ

Photographs: Tim Baerwald

One individual, a juvenile pale morph, was observed at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 8 September 2010.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Vote: 6-1

Description: Scott Schuette

One individual, either adult or subadult, was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 13 September 2010.

Dovekie (*Alle alle*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Latham Clafin, Bill Stewart

Specimen: Bill Stewart (UMMZ 240000)

One individual was found deceased at South Haven, Van Buren Co., on 21 November 2009.

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Philip C. Chu, Latham Clafin, James Dawe, Matthew Hysell, Brad Murphy, Jonathan T. Wuepper

Photographs: Rick Brigham, Adam M. Byrne, Robert Epstein, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Lyle Hamilton, Matt Hysell, Andy Johnson, John Kendall, Andre Moncrieff, Caleb G. Putnam, Jeff Schultz

One individual was observed at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 14–25 November 2009. This is by far Michigan's longest-staying individual, the previous record lasting only two days.

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Scott Schuette

One individual was observed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 8 November 2010.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Vote: 6-1

Photographs: Tim Baerwald, Matthew Hysell

One individual was observed at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 1 May 2010; Reinoehl (2010) erroneously lists the date as 30 April 2010.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Vote: 6-1

Description: Bob Arthurs

Photographs: Bob Arthurs

One individual was observed at Christmas, Alger Co., on 30 May 2010.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Vote: 7-0

Photograph: Kay Walkner

One individual was captured in a private barn at Cornell, Delta Co., on 25 November 1992.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Mark Dettling

Photographs: Jim Hewitt

One individual was observed in a barn at Sharonville State Game Area, Washtenaw Co., on 5 July 2002. This record was first reviewed and rejected from a single description received in 2003 (Byrne 2004). New evidence subsequently came to light in the form of pellets and feathers collected from the



site by staff of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the winter following the sighting (L. Sargent, pers. comm.). Photographs of these feathers and pellets were obtained by Jim Hewitt, leading to acceptance of the record.

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

Vote: 7-0

Audio recordings: Rhoda Johnson, Jonathan T. Wuepper

One individual was observed at Berrien Twp., Berrien Co., at the same vicinity of consecutive annual records since 2005, on 5 May–30 July 2010.

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

Vote: 7-0

Photograph: Chris Neri

One individual was mist-netted at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 16 May 2010.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Allen T. Chartier

Photographs: Allen T. Chartier

One individual, an adult female in suspended prebasic molt, was mist-netted and banded at a private residence in Hartford, Van Buren Co., on 14 November 2009, it being present in total from late September–21 December 2009.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Allen T. Chartier

Photographs: Allen T. Chartier

One individual, an adult female in suspended prebasic molt, was mist-netted and banded at a private residence in Flushing, Genesee Co., on 6 December 2009, it being present in full from late September–29 December 2009.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: John Cassady

One individual, an adult, was observed at Union, Cass Co., on 4 June 2010. On 5 June 2010, it was found a short distance south, just over the Indiana state line.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Ed and Lise Schools

One individual, possibly a juvenile (judged by the lack of pink coloration on the flanks), was observed north of Chatham, Alger Co., on 7 July 2010.

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

Vote: 7-0

Photograph: Tom Allen

One individual was observed “south of” Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa Co., on 4–23 October 1993. Initially rejected as Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Chu 1996), it was here given reconsideration under the broader grouping, per MBRC practice.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: Jessica Marquardt

One individual was observed in Royalton Twp., Berrien Co., on 17–18 April 2010; Byrne (2010) erroneously lists the dates as 16–17 April 2010.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Scott Hickman

Photographs: Scott Hickman, Mark Hubinger

One individual was observed at 47N 21W, Alger Co., on 24 May 2010.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

Vote: 7-0 for one individual, 6-1 for two additional individuals

Descriptions: Rick Brigham, Ken Brock, Brad Bumgardner, Adam M. Byrne, Allen T. Chartier, Philip C. Chu, Latham Clafin, James Dawe, Louie Dombroski, Skye Haas, Matthew Hysell, Joseph Lautenbach, Brad Murphy, Caleb G. Putnam, Alison Világ, Phil Vreeman

Photographs: Tim Baerwald, Warren Whaley

Audio Recordings: Brad Bumgardner, Allen T. Chartier, Latham Clafin, Matthew Hysell, Caleb G. Putnam

Up to six individuals, a first state record, were reported at Forest Lawn Landfill (and surroundings), Berrien Co., on 16 May 2009–28 October 2009. Three of the individuals were accepted in the first round of voting, as most felt that was the maximum number confirmed by the documentation. The other three individuals were rejected (see below under “Records Not Accepted”). Subsequent to this review, the record was accepted for reconsideration due to omitted audio evidence during the first review (see below under “Records Accepted” and “Records Not Accepted”).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

Vote: 7-0 for three individuals

Descriptions: Rick Brigham, Ken Brock, Brad Bumgardner, Adam M. Byrne, Allen T. Chartier, Philip C. Chu, Latham Clafin, James Dawe, Louie Dombroski, Skye Haas, Matthew Hysell, Joseph Lautenbach, Brad Murphy, Caleb G. Putnam, Alison Világ, Phil Vreeman

Photographs: Tim Baerwald, Warren Whaley

Audio Recordings: Brad Bumgardner, Allen T. Chartier, Latham Clafin, Matthew Hysell, Caleb G. Putnam



Up to six individuals, a first state record, were reported at Forest Lawn Landfill (and surroundings), Berrien Co., on 16 May 2009–28 October 2009. This record was acted upon earlier in 2010, with three individuals accepted and three rejected (see above under “Records Accepted” and below under “Records Not Accepted”). This duplicative review was brought on because additional audio evidence was brought to light after the first review ended. Again, three of the individuals were accepted in the first round of voting. Two additional individuals were resubmitted and voted upon in 2011 (Chu, *in prep.*), and the final, sixth individual was again rejected (see below under “Records Not Accepted”).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Scott Terry

One individual, believed to be an adult, was observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Wayne and Monroe Cos., on 29 October 2010.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Vote: 7-0

Specimen: David R. Sommer (UMMZ 242284)

One individual, age unknown, was found deceased Bridgeport Twp., Saginaw Co., on 1 November 2010.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

Vote: 6-1

Description: Skye Haas

One individual, a female, was observed in Twp. 38N 22W, Delta Co., on 20 October 2006. Initially rejected (Putnam 2007), the record was rereviewed following a request for reconsideration which was approved by majority vote of the committee.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Max Henschell

Photographs: Max Henschell

One individual, a female, was observed at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co., on 13 April 2010.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Steve Baker

Photographs: Steve Baker

One individual, a female, was observed near Pickford, Chippewa Co., on 17 November 2010.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: David J. Peters

One individual was observed at Saginaw, Saginaw Co., on 6 December 2009, one of very few winter records for the state.

Chestnut-collared Longspur
(*Calcarius ornatus*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Tom Prestby

Photographs: Cynthia Bridge

One very dull individual, likely a formative female, was observed at Au Sable Lighthouse, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Alger Co., on 29 October 2009.

Chestnut-collared Longspur
(*Calcarius ornatus*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Scott Hickman, Zach Gayk

One individual, age and sex unknown, was observed at Grand Sable Dunes, Alger Co., on 9 October 2010.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

Vote: 7-0

Photograph: Tim Baerwald

One individual, a male, was observed at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 1 May 2010.

McCown's Longspur
(*Rhynchophanes mccownii*)

Vote: 7-0

Photographs: David Flaspohler, Skye Haas, Max Henschell

One individual, an alternate male, was observed at Bete Grise, Keweenaw Co., on 16 May 2010 and subsequently again at Hermit's Cove, Keweenaw Co., on 17 May 2010.

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

Vote: 6-1

Descriptions: Zach Gayk, Scott Hickman

One individual was observed at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co., on 3 May 2009. Initially rejected (Putnam 2010), a request for reconsideration was approved due to the appearance of Gayk's description.

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

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

Description: Joe Kaplan

Photographs: Joe Kaplan

Two individuals were observed at Aronson Island, Escanaba, Delta Co., on 18 November; the individual accepted with a 6-1 vote was observed only on this date, while the unanimously accepted individual remained until 7 December 2009.

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

Vote: 6-1 for one individual in the first round, 5-2 for a second individual in the second round

Description: Skye Haas, Joe Kaplan

Photographs: Skye Haas, Joe Kaplan, Alec Lindsay



Two individuals were observed at Gladstone, Delta Co., on 8–11 December 2009. There was some concern regarding the second individual, which appeared in some photos to have a slight amount of white pigmentation at the rear border of the throat patch that extended posteriorly underneath the auricular. Some felt this could indicate the bird was an intergrade “Myrtle” (*D. c. coronota*) X “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler. Not all were convinced that this apparent trait wasn’t the result of a photographic artifact, however, or that even if it weren’t, that it wasn’t within bounds of normal variation for an “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler.

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

Vote: 7-0
 Photographs: Richard Keith
 One individual was mist-netted in Pavilion Twp., Kalamazoo Co., on 16 November 1990.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Vote: 7-0
 Description: Matthew Hysell
 One individual was observed at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 30 April 2010.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Vote: 7-0
 Description: Priscilla Chappell
 One individual was observed at Marquette, Marquette Co., on 2 May 2010.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Vote: 7-0
 Photograph: Chris Neri
 One individual was observed at Paradise, Chippewa Co., on 4–7 May 2010.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Vote: 7-0
 Description: Andre Moncrieff
 One individual was observed at Floral Lane, Warren Dunes State Park, Berrien Co., on 5 May 2010.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Vote: 7-0
 Photographs: Skye Haas, Max Henschell
 One individual was observed at Bete Grise, Keweenaw Co., on 16 May 2010.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Vote: 7-0
 Description: Jan Wilson
 One individual was observed at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co., on 20 May 2010.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: Brian Allen

Photographs: Carl Freeman

One individual was observed at Arcadia Marsh, Manistee Co., on 25 September 1994. Initially accepted as Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Chu 1996), this record had not been given reconsideration as Nelson's Sparrow since the splitting of Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows (*A. caudacutus*) into separate species by the American Ornithologists' Union in 1995.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

Vote: 7-0

Specimen: Zach Gayk (UMMZ 242463)

One individual was found deceased at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co., on 3 October 2010.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

Vote: 7-0

Description: David J. Peters

One individual was observed at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co., on 12 October 2010.

Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelson/caudacutus*)

Vote: 6-1

Descriptions: Bruce Robertson, Jim VanAllen

One individual was observed at Verona State Game Area, Huron Co., on 5 October 2009. Initially rejected as Nelson's Sparrow (Putnam 2010), the record here received reconsideration under the broader grouping per MBRC practice.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

Vote: 7-0

Descriptions: Kip Miller, Andre Moncrieff

One individual, a female, was observed at Floral Lane, Warren Dunes State Park, Berrien Co., on 5 May 2010.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

Vote: 7-0

Specimen: Bill and Phyllis Rose (UMMZ 242417)

One individual, an adult male, was found deceased at Berrien Center, Berrien Co., on 15 November 2010, after having been viewed alive at the same location on 12–13 November 2010.



Records Not Accepted

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, age unclear, was reported at Allegan State Game Area, Allegan Co., on 14 March 2008. It was described as being "noticeably smaller [than accompanying Snow Geese (*C. caeulescens*)]" and as having "the little, short bill." All agreed that this description is insufficient to rule out Snow Goose X Ross's Goose hybrids and backcrosses. In order to do so, one must assess the verticality of the bill base/facial junction, the color of the bill base/caruncles, and the extent of any tomial "grin" patch, among other traits. Although Ross's Goose is no longer on the MBRC review list, records from prior to its coming off the list in 2010 (like this one and the next entries in this article) continue to be reviewed.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 3-4

Description

One individual was reported at the mouth of the Whitefish River, Delta Co., on 17 April 2009. This record was initially accepted (Putnam 2010), but was revoted upon following a successful request for reconsideration by a committee member. Members cited the lack of information on optics and viewing distance, as well as the lack of

written corroboration of apparent bill base verticality as judged from the sketch, as reasons for uncertainty.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)

Vote: 1-6, in the second round

Description

One individual was reported at Allegan State Game Area, Allegan Co., on 28 November 2009. Most members agreed that almost all of the prerequisite field marks of the species claimed were included, with one exception: bill color. The bill was described as orange, not pink, which served as grounds for rejection by most. A final concern was the lack of information on viewing distance and optics.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

Vote: 4-3, in the second round, for the third of three individuals

Description

Three individuals, age unknown, were reported at Big Bay lighthouse, Marquette Co., on 29 September 2009. Two of the three birds were accepted in the first round (Putnam 2010), but the third bird was resubmitted. Dissenting members were concerned that the description oscillated between the singular and plural, making it unclear how many of the three individuals possessed each feature offered, meriting the acceptance of only the two individuals which

unambiguously could not have been any other species. The committee was split on this argument.

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

Vote: 0-7, for one of two individuals

Description

Photographs

Two individuals, reported to include at least one first alternate male Common Eider, were reported at Marquette, Marquette Co., on 19 November 1975–6 February 1976. Initially both birds were rejected as Common Eiders (Chu 1992). Here this record was given reconsideration as King/Common Eider, resulting in acceptance of the one bird visible in the photos (see above under “Records Accepted”). The second bird, which was neither described in the description nor photographed, was rejected.

Barrow’s Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

Vote: 1-6

Photographs

One individual, a male in definitive basic plumage (per the amended terminology of Pyle 2005), was reported at Grand Rapids, Kent Co., on 10 March 1963. All agreed that the bird in the photographs was not a Common Goldeneye (*B. clangula*), but most also agreed that a Barrow’s X Common Goldeneye hybrid or backcross could not be ruled out. Most felt the facial

spot, although not round, did not appear long and thin enough for a pure Barrow’s, and that the lateral breast spur characteristic of adult male Barrow’s was not visible in the photos. A final concern of at least one member was that the scapular pattern appeared a better match for Common Goldeneye than Barrow’s.

Barrow’s Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

Vote: 0-7, for two individuals

Description

Two individuals, a male and a female, were reported at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 8 February 2010. The female “had very yellow bill throughout” and the male was “darker than other goldeneyes present.” No additional description was offered. All felt that neither Common Goldeneye nor Common X Barrow’s Goldeneye hybrids and backcrosses could be addressed by the sparse description, without details on facial crescent shape and extent, lateral breast spur, scapular pattern (male) or a very detailed description of bill and head shape (female). Finally, an all-yellow bill is not diagnostic of female Barrow’s Goldeneyes, as this trait is shared by a small percentage of female Common Goldeneyes (Tobish 1986).

**Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*)**

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, believed to be in definitive basic plumage, was reported at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 26 October 2009. The observer described a flying loon accompanying a Red-throated Loon (*G. stellata*), “slightly bigger...and heavier [than] the [Red-throated Loon],” not as large as a Common Loon (*G. immer*), with a “thin black strap under the wing,” white flanks, dark chinstrap, darker upperparts than the Red-throated Loon, and a rounder head than either Red-throated or Common Loon. There were three main concerns: first, the lack of description of the presence/absence of an upward bulge in the rear flank (the most important field mark for separating Arctic Loon from Pacific Loon); second, most felt that the presence of a chinstrap favored Pacific Loon over Arctic Loon (eg. Birch and Lee 1997, Pyle 2008); third, there was no mention of optics, distance of observation, or viewing conditions. All agreed these were insurmountable difficulties for any purported sighting of this species. The record later received reconsideration under Arctic/Pacific Loon (see below under “Records Not Accepted”).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

Vote: 2-5, in the second round

Descriptions

One individual, an adult in alternate plumage, was reported at Manitou Island, Keweenaw Co., on 18 May 2009. This record has a tumultuous history, being rejected as Pacific Loon and subsequently accepted as Arctic/Pacific Loon in 2009 (Putnam 2010). However, based on new documentation which surfaced after this review, the record was given reconsideration again as Pacific Loon. The observers described a flyby loon with a silvery nape, stripes along the throat, white underwing and belly, dark upperparts with “small white back patches,” and the new documentation specifically mentioned a “straight” line on the lateral part of the rump dividing the white below from the black above. This latter mark, if taken at face value, would eliminate Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*) from contention. However, many argued, there was no mention of whether optics were used for the sighting, nor from what distance the bird was observed. If, they argued, the bird was observed from 1/2 mile or more, without the aid of optics, such judgments would not be realistic. Given that the record was previously accepted as an Arctic/Pacific Loon (Putnam 2010), there was no reason to again reconsider under this more encompassing category.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

Photographs

One individual, in definitive basic plumage, was reported at Harbor Springs, Emmet Co., on 4–14 November 2009. Members unanimously argued that the photos showed Common Loons, and that the description failed to offer diagnostic field marks in favor of the identification claimed. This record subsequently received reconsideration as Arctic/Pacific Loon (see below under “Records Not Accepted”).

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

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, believed to be a definitive basic plumage Arctic Loon, was reported at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 26 October 2009. This record was initially rejected as Arctic Loon (see above under “Records Not Accepted”). Members cited similar concerns as during the initial review (details above). Other species were mentioned as not being eliminated by the documentation, especially Red-throated Loons (in particular the uncommon to rare dark-backed juvenile form, which is very similar to Arctic Loon), and even Common Loon. The only trait mentioned that members felt was thought wrong for

Common Loon was the chinstrap, but this was overshadowed by the lack of description of neck sides pattern, which should have been much more easily viewable. The rounder head and body size impressions were not taken as diagnostic by most members. Finally, the lack of information on optics, viewing distance, and lighting conditions further weakened the report.

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

Vote: 0-7

Description

Photographs

One individual, in definitive basic plumage, was reported at Harbor Springs, Emmet Co., on 4–14 November 2009. This record was initially rejected as Pacific Loon (See above under “Records Not Accepted”). Because most members still maintained that Common Loon was not ruled out by the written description or photographs, this record was not accepted as Arctic/Pacific Loon.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, apparently in alternate plumage, was reported at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 23 April 2010. It was seen in flight from underneath and described as having a “full yellow bill (manibiles) [sic]... [and an]... all black head.”



Members unanimously argued that many other species match this very brief description, including Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), first alternate male King Eider, first alternate male Common Eider, various domesticated duck varieties, and even European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

Vote: 0-7, for two individuals

Description

Two individuals, believed to be second year birds, were reported at Mackinaw City, Emmet Co., on 26 May 2010. The birds were seen in flight from a moving vehicle approximately half way across the span of the Mackinaw bridge. The birds were seen flying from east to west at approximately 50 yards range, without the aid of optics. The birds were described as two-toned blackish-brown above and pure white below, with narrow, sharply-pointed wings, short, pointed tails, with pointed, pale cream-colored bills. The wingbeats were described as steady and deliberate. A booby of any species was said to have been eliminated by the white upper tail coverts of the birds. Members were troubled by the circumstances of the observation as well as several apparent inconsistencies in the description. First, it is not clear whether the birds flew over or under the bridge, and the effect

had on the observer's view (they were apparently seen from both above and below). If seen from 50 feet, the view would also have been exceedingly short (at most a few seconds). Several members were concerned this may have compromised the ability of the observer to accurately assess the birds' traits. Many traits, assuming they were taken at value, were also judged inconsistent with the species claimed including cream-colored bills (should be blackish or gray), pure white underparts (should be mottled on the underwing), and two-toned blackish-brown upperparts (should be all white in the head). This record was given reconsideration as Sulid species (see below under "Records Not Accepted").

Sulid species (*Morus/Sula* sp.)

Vote: 0-7, for two individuals

Description

Two individuals, believed to be second year Northern Gannets, were reported at Mackinaw City, Emmet Co., on 26 May 2010. Initially rejected as Northern Gannets (see above under "Records Not Accepted"), this record was here given reconsideration under the broader grouping. Like in the initial review, the lack of clarity regarding the circumstances of the observation led many to question the reliability of the traits reported.

Others had specific concerns with some of the traits mentioned, assuming they were taken at face value. Specifically, all of the regularly-occurring Sulids should have some amount of dark mottling or coloration underneath, at odds with the description of "pure white below." Finally, none felt comfortable relying on judgments of shape, gestalt, and flight style in identifying the birds as Sulids.

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

Vote: 2-5

Description

One individual, believed to be an adult, was reported at Robert H. Long Park, Oakland Co., on 21 September 2010. It was described as mostly gray and black, with yellow legs, white on top of the head, and a white mark below the eye. Dissenting members felt the description did not fully rule out Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) and/or Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), without further elaboration of these traits.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Vote: 2-5

Description

Photographs

One individual was observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 24 May 1989. Initially accepted as a Glossy Ibis (Chu 1991), this record was again

granted reconsideration as Glossy Ibis following a request by the observer, who wished to recant the claim based on a perceived inconsistency in the description. Specifically, the mention of white feathering bordering the facial skin both above and below, was deemed inconsistent with Glossy Ibises of any age. Most members agreed. The record was subsequently reviewed as *Plegadis* ibis and accepted (see above under "Records Accepted").

Ibis species (*Eudocimus/Plegadis* sp.)

Vote: 0-7, in the second round
Photograph

One individual was photographed at an unknown location in Superior Twp., Washtenaw Co., on 19 October 2009. Though all members agreed that the photograph clearly shows an ibis (species unknown), the circumstances surrounding this report are confusing. The photographer and location are unknown, and thus must be based on secondhand information. The entire committee agreed that since second hand reports are usually considered unacceptable to the committee, that this record should be treated no differently.



Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual was reported at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 23 April 2010. The observer described a bird with a complete black tail with no markings and a pale head and body, and offered no additional description. The committee unanimously agreed that many other species match the description, from a first cycle Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) to an immature Double-crested Cormorant, and many other species.

“Krider’s” Red-tailed Hawk (pale morph of *Buteo jamaicensis borealis*)

Vote: 3-4

Description

One individual was reported at Port Crescent State Park, Huron Co., on 31 March 2010. The observer described a bird with a “white, white, white head,” white underbody, no belly band, no streaking or mottling on body or wings, “perfect dark commas,” white tail with dark subterminal band “(maybe pinkish),” no patagial contrast, and on the small end of the Red-tailed Hawk size spectrum. The committee split nearly down the middle on the record, with several of the opinion that leucistic/albinistic eastern Red-tailed Hawks (*B. j. borealis*) were ruled out by the obvious commas and

dark subterminal bands (which would have been asymmetrical or irregular on a leucistic bird, or pure white on a true albino, and that Ferruginous Hawk (*B. regalis*) was ruled out by the complete lack of spotting underneath. However, the majority felt that a variant, pale *borealis* Red-tailed Hawk could fit the description, or that the current definition of a Krider’s Red-tailed Hawk does not allow for the complete lack of a contrastingly dark patagium, as described for this bird. The previous definition of Krider’s (Clark and Wheeler 1987), it was argued, did allow for this, but the current one does not (eg. Liguori 2005, Liguori and Sullivan 2010, Wheeler 2003).

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual was reported at Port Crescent State Park, Huron Co., on 3 May 2009. The observer described a big raptor with a “shimmering cinnamon” back, “points of light” on the upperside of the primaries, “light blotches adjacent to the primary area,” dark head, white tail, “commas” on the wing, and a dark “underbody” with heavy brownish-black mottling. The observer elaborates that the tail, seen at close range, had a “very faint pinkish-orange barring throughout ... but not a terminal band.” No dark leggings were

observed, but the feathering in that area was described as “dark brown,” negating the observer’s ability to see contrastingly dark legs. Most members agreed that overall the description sounded suggestive of a dark or intermediate Ferruginous Hawk. However, most also agreed that several details offered seemed incongruous. Specifically, several mentioned that the rufous on the upperparts should not be present on the back, but instead only on the upperwing coverts if it were a Ferruginous Hawk. Second, the description of “light blotches adjacent to the primary area” does not rule out that the dorsal primary coverts were pale (a field mark in conflict with all Ferruginous Hawks). Finally, the description of the tail pattern was judged by some to be at odds with the species claimed, and consistent with some Harlan’s Hawks (Clark 2009). As a result of these and other concerns, most felt that Harlan’s Hawk (*B. jamaicensis harlani*), Harlan’s X Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, or even a 3rd year Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) could not be ruled out.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual was reported at Port Crescent State Park, Huron Co., on 30 May 2010. The observer

described a *Buteo* gliding with a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), with a dihedral angle (during glide), a heavier wing-loading and larger body size than a Rough-legged Hawk (*B. lagopus*), with “3 points of light,” a big head with “lots of white,” a “ferruginous-colored back,” dark mottling and white background on the underwing linings, and “a dark area in the vicinity of the legs” contrasting with the whiteness of the belly/chest. No detail on patagium or “commas” was seen. Most members did not consider the information on shape, proportions, and gestalt conclusive. In terms of the other traits, most were confused by the term “3 points of light,” which is nebulous and was not clarified. This left the ferruginous back, pale head, and dark area near the legs as potential clinching features. These traits were not judged to rule out Red-tailed Hawks, including the “Kriger’s” morph of that species.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, unaged, was reported at Rockford, Kent Co., on 26 September 2010. The bird was described as at least 30 inches in length, as having white underparts with grayish spots on the breast, a bright white tail, and “head with darker markings.” The bird was viewed from approximately 100



yds with 15 power binoculars. All agreed the documentation was insufficient to nail down the identification to Ferruginous Hawk. Many felt that normally-plumaged Red-tailed Hawks, especially juveniles (seen only below, like this bird) could appear to have a white tail. Others pointed out that leucistic or “Krider’s” Red-tailed Hawks would also fit this description in all regards.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*)

Vote: 0-7

Specimen (UMMZ 28562/1161b/299)

One individual was reportedly collected at “southeast Michigan” as part of the Abram Sager 1837–1838 State Natural History Survey, on an unknown date in 1837. This record was reconsidered following a successful request for reconsideration. The request was made because the specimen, reputed (according to the UMMZ catalog entries and specimen label) to have been collected during the Sager expedition, was found to be absent from Sager’s (1839) publication detailing all of the bird specimens he collected during that time. This raised the likelihood that the specimen was not collected on the date and at the location mentioned in the catalog and on the specimen label. It was also

discovered that the current specimen tag is not original, increasing the odds that mislabeling might have occurred long after the collection of the specimen. All agreed that this possibility was troubling enough to cast doubt onto the veracity of the collection locality and date. This record had been accepted by the MBRC in 1992 (Chu 1993).

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, unaged, was reported at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 23 August 2009. It was described as having the gestalt of a Western Sandpiper, with a “slightly ruddy back,” and as being “a bit bigger than the peeps around it.” All felt much more description of the bird was necessary to secure the identification. For starters, some argued, the species of peep this bird was with should be established, as well as the location and hue of the “ruddy” color on the back. Correct aging of the bird would also be an important prerequisite of the identification.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

Vote: 0-7

Photograph

One individual, a juvenile, was reported at Muskegon Wastewater Management System, Muskegon

Co., on 31 July 2010. Most argued that the photograph clearly showed a juvenile Least Sandpiper (*C. minutilla*), while all agreed that the photo certainly was insufficient to support the species claimed.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

Vote: 3-4

Photographs

Description

One individual was observed at Baraga Sewage Ponds, Baraga Co., on 23 May 2010. The committee was split on the record, roughly half arguing that the description and photographs eliminated all other species. Dissenters focused on two perceived problems. First, it was unclear the relative position of the wingtip to the tail tip at rest, yet this should have been easily apparent at the distance of observation (25-50 yards) and in those conditions (i.e. with a 20X spotting scope). Additionally, at least one member felt one of the photos seemed to show shorter-than-normal primaries for the species claimed. Second, many felt that the photographs appeared to show an upperparts pattern at odds with alternate plumaged Baird's Sandpiper: "snipe-lines" in the mantle and scapular area. This species should instead, they argued, show a buff-gray coloration lacking such stripes.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

Vote: 0-7

Photograph

One individual of unknown age was observed at St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 27 October–1 November 1969. All agreed that the photo was so distant that it was not clear the bird in question was a gull, let alone the species claimed.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

Photographs

One individual, in its first cycle, was observed at Boyne City, Charlevoix Co., on 3 November 2009–17 February 2010. Most of the Committee agreed that the bird in the photographs appeared to be a typical late winter 1st cycle Herring Gull, with a bicolored bill which may have suggested the identification as California Gull.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, believed to be an adult, was reported at Dafter Landfill, Chippewa Co., on 29 December 2009. The bird was described as smaller than Herring Gulls, with a red and black spot on the lower bill, a black spot on the upper bill, and a dark iris. Most members felt that a description



of mantle coloration and leg color would be prerequisite to the identification of this species. Most also felt that a 3rd cycle (or perhaps even an older individual) Herring Gull could not be ruled out, as some individuals are much smaller than others, often have both red and black on the bill in winter, and dark eyes, although rare, are found on a small percentage of Herrings.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, apparently an adult, was observed at Tri-City Recycling and Disposal Facility, Carsonville, Sanilac Co., on 5–8 February 2010. The bird was described as similar in size to Herring Gulls, “though perhaps bulkier,” and clearly smaller than adjacent Glaucous Gulls. It had uniform gray upperparts with the adjacent adult Herring Gulls, lacked black on the wingtips, and “appeared solid gray to the tip of [the] wing.” A grayish trailing edge to the wing was noted, as were a yellow bill and a different flight style compared to that of the many Herring Gulls. The bird was seen in flight only, from about 500 yards. Members were not in favor of the record, citing several concerns. The description of wingtip is incorrect for the species claimed—there

should be several areas of white (tongue tips, apical spots, and mirrors) in the outer primaries in adult Glaucous-winged Gulls, not pure gray. Others were concerned that *kumlieni* Iceland Gulls (*L. glaucooides kumlieni*), Nelson’s Gulls (Glaucous [*L. hyperboreus*] X Herring), as well as various hybrid combinations involving Glaucous-winged Gulls (with Western [*L. occidentalis*], Glaucous, and Herring Gulls), could not be eliminated without considerably more detail on the exact pigmentation pattern of the outer primaries and other field marks.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, age unknown, was observed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 29 April 2010. The observer described a gull larger than a Thayer’s Gull (*L. thayeri*), with a “full gray body with grayer [sic] wing tips above and below,” and a “large body and bill.” No additional description was offered. All agreed that without an ability to correctly age the bird, no proper application of field marks would be possible. Further, the traits provided are not sufficient to eliminate any of several other species of gull including at the very least Thayer’s, Nelson’s (Herring X Glaucous), and

the various hybrid combinations involving Glaucous-winged Gulls (with Herring, Western, Glaucous, and Slaty-backed [*L. schistisagus*], etc.).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, believed to be an adult or subadult, was reported at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 17 November 2009. The bird, seen at “300+ meters,” was described as having a dark head and upperparts, white belly and lower breast, large white wing patches in the primaries, and relatively wide wings at the base, a bulky, barrel-chested body, with direct and languid flight. No tail streamers were seen, though they were checked for. The committee unanimously felt that no definitive plumage traits were offered, and furthermore that the gestalt was suggestive but not diagnostic of the species claimed.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Vote: 1-6

Descriptions

One individual, believed to be transitioning into adulthood, was reported at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 20 November 2009. The observers described the bird as having

strongly barred undertail coverts and “wing coverts,” with a cap and mask lacking yellowish tones, a double white flash in the outer underprimaries and under primary coverts, and adult-like central tail feathers appearing “long and club-like” or as a “mid tail outward notch” or “tail bump.” Nearly all members argued that the central rectrix shape, the only potentially diagnostic trait offered, were described in mutually exclusive ways by the two observers. One mentioned that they appeared adult-like (long and club-like), while the other mentions a “tail bump.” The latter description is incorrect for an adult Pomarine Jaeger, but consistent with a younger bird. As a result, most members felt uncertain what these feathers actually looked like. The double under primary flash is not unique to Pomarine Jaeger, rather it is shared by some Parasitics (Olsen and Larsson 1997).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Vote: 0-7

Descriptions

One individual, an adult in alternate plumage, was reported at Meinert Park, Muskegon Co., on 4 July 2004. The observers described a bird standing on the beach allowing approach to six feet, with a “long tail about 6 inches (give or take),” a jet black cap that did not connect to the brown of the mantle, a clean or



creamy underside, and a brownish mantle and wings. There were two primary concerns shared by most members. First, the time lapse of five years was considered too long for reliable recall of field mark details. Second, the description of 6 inch long tail streamers, a mark which would be diagnostic if granted credence, was questioned. Members wondered how such a measurement was made, and how much error was introduced by “give or take.” If this estimate was off by only 2 inches, they argued, Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*) would not be eliminated. No other diagnostic traits were offered.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Vote: 2-5

Description

One individual, presumably an adult in alternate plumage, was reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 27 August 2010. The bird was described as “a small, agile jaeger [with] two long central tail streamers, ... a sandy-brown back and underwing, ... dark primaries/secondaries, and no visible white along the primary shafts.” Additionally, “it had a dark cap and light yellow on the sides of the neck, with the remainder of the underparts being white to the vent.” Dissenters shared several main themes. First, the upperwing description was

insufficiently detailed to rule out alternate Parasitic Jaegers, which do show some contrast between darker primaries/secondaries and paler dorsal forewing (Olsen and Larsson 1997). The critical difference, members argued, is that on adult Long-tailed Jaegers, this contrast is marked and distinct, while on Parasitics it is considerably less obvious. Second, most felt it was insufficient to say that the central rectrices were “long,” but rather that to distinguish the bird from adult Parasitic Jaegers one would need to assess whether the central rectrix projection beyond the other rectrices was longer than the projection of the other rectrices from the body. Parasitics are even in this respect while in Long-taileds the former is longer than the latter (Olsen and Larsson 1997). Third, several shared the concern that at the distance claimed (400 m), that proper assessment of the number of white dorsal primary shafts could be difficult, negating the potential value of this trait (admittedly, since Parasitics can have as few as two pale shafts (Olsen and Larsson 1997, p. 127), this trait is of limited value regardless). At this distance, some also argued, assessment of the presence/absence of white at the base of the underprimaries (not allowable for any adult Long-tailed Jaegers, present on Parasitics) would also be difficult.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Vote: 2-5

Description

One individual, age uncertain but either a juvenile or subadult, was reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 18 September 2010. The bird was described as a small, pale jaeger with a sandy gray-brown body and darker wings, "quite pale" head and underparts, a very pale belly that appeared completely unmarked just below the chest, boldly marked (black-and-white) barred undertail coverts, boldly marked (black-and-white) underwing coverts, a strong white flash at the base of the primaries, two white primary shafts dorsally, with the remainder of the upperwings and back appearing darker gray than the underparts. Finally, the uppertail coverts were patterned much like the undertail coverts and underwings, and the bird "showed longer central tail feathers than the rest of the tail but they did not project very far and appeared only as a short 'rectangle.'" Most members felt that a young Parasitic Jaeger, especially like that illustrated on Plate 7 (illustration 1) of Olsen and Larsson (1997) was not eliminated by the description, and that accurate assessment of some of these traits would be difficult to impossible at the distance of observation

(900 m). Specifically, the lack of rusty body tones (mentioned as eliminating juvenile Parasitics) is not diagnostic of Long-tailed, as "a minority [of juvenile Parasitics] have some parts of the plumage, especially head and underbody, colder greyish brown" (Olsen and Larsson 1997, p. 129). The observer also mentions the presence of only two white primary shafts dorsally as eliminating Parasitic, but typical Parasitics often have as few as three, and occasionally even two white shafts (Olsen and Larsson 1997, p. 127-128). Further, most felt that at 900 m, accurate assessment of this trait is unrealistic. Finally, the best remaining character for eliminating Parasitic Jaeger is arguably the combination of a pale head with an unmarked white belly. But again, some pale juvenile Parasitics possess a pale head and an "almost whitish belly" (eg. Plate 7, illustration 1 in Olsen and Larsson 1997), and the distinction between a completely white belly and an almost white belly at 900 m would be impossible, argued most members.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Vote: 2-5

Description

One individual, age uncertain but either a juvenile or subadult, was reported at Whitefish Point,



Chippewa Co., on 22 September 2010. The bird was described practically identically to another reported on 18 September 2010 at this location (see above under “Records Not Accepted”), as a small, pale jaeger with a light gray-brown body, dark wings, pale head and underparts, a very pale belly that appeared completely unmarked just below the chest, boldly black-and-white barred undertail coverts and underwings, a strong white flash at the base of the primaries, one or two primaries “visible on the upperwing,” with the remainder of the upperwings and back appearing darker gray than the underparts. The uppertail coverts were patterned much like the undertail coverts and underwings with black-and-white barring. Finally, the bird showed longer central tail feathers than the rest of the tail but they only projected a short distance beyond the other tail feathers. As in the case of the 18 September 2010 Long-tailed Jaeger report from this location, members shared almost exactly the same concerns about this record even though the observation distance was 750 m in this case, rather than 900 m. These concerns are not repeated here.

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

Vote: 2-5

Description

One carcass of an apparent alternate individual was salvaged from the Lake Michigan beachfront of Holland State Park, Ottawa Co., on 7 July 1965. The observer described salvaging the specimen, but then subsequently inadvertently losing it prior to its preparation for the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. No photos of the specimen exist. The description of the specimen consists of the following details. The bird was black-and-white overall, with webbed feet, “a band of prominent black-and-white bars or stripes ... on the hind and side neck, and a white band immediately anterior to it.” While many felt the description was highly suggestive of the species claimed, most were unwilling to grant the field marks credence since it was first written more than 40 years after the specimen was last handled, and there were no field notes. In such circumstances, most members felt that accurate recall of such details would be impossible. Still, a small minority were satisfied that such details as those confirming the presence of an alcid in the Great Lakes in July (webbed

feet, small size, black-and-white coloration) could be accurately remembered since the significance of the find was fully realized at the outset and the observer set out specifically to verify that the specimen was indeed an alcid. This record was subsequently rejected as murrelet species (see below under "Records Not Accepted").

murrelet species (*Brachyramphus/Synthliboramphus* sp.)

Vote: 2-5

Description

One carcass of what was believed to be an alternate plumage Ancient Murrelet, was salvaged from the Lake Michigan beachfront of Holland State Park, Ottawa Co., on 7 July 1965. The observer described salvaging the specimen, but then subsequently inadvertently losing it prior to its preparation for the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. This record was rejected as Ancient Murrelet (see above under "Records Not Accepted"), and was here given reconsideration under the broader grouping per MBRC practice. Most members, though they remained in agreement that the description, if taken at face value, felt it was highly suggestive of an alcid, continued to be unwilling to grant the field marks credence since the description was first written more than 40

years after the specimen was last handled. Additionally, there were no original notes or field notes to corroborate the field marks.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Vote: 2-5 for one individual, 0-7 for 2 additional individuals

Descriptions

Photographs

Three individuals were reported at Three Oaks, Berrien Co., from 31 March–16 December 2010. All agreed that the photographs and description clearly assigned all three individuals to the African (*S. roseogrisea*)/Eurasian Collared-Dove complex. However, most also agreed that the undertail patterns and undertail covert coloration documented failed to eliminate African Collared-Dove X Eurasian Collared-Dove hybrids and backcrosses from contention. Specifically, most of the photos showed birds with the black on the ventral surface of the sixth rectrix (R6) not extending distally beyond the undertail coverts, and, on at least some of the individuals, not extending laterally to the feather's outer web. These are prerequisite traits for the species claimed. One photo did seem to show this trait adequately on one bird's right side, but not its left (whether the left R6 may have been missing is unknown).

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

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual was reported at Caro, Tuscola Co., on 19 June 2010. The bird was described as “dusky-white,” with a thin black collar on the back of its neck, a black beak, and as being “at least a head taller” than the Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*). No additional description was offered. All agreed that while the report suggested that the bird was in the African Collared-Dove/Eurasian Collared-Dove group, that without information on the contrast between the primaries and the rest of the folded wing, the color of the undertail coverts, and especially the pattern of pigmentation on the ventral surface of the outermost rectrix, that African Collared-Dove and African X Eurasian Collared-Dove hybrids and backcrosses could not be eliminated.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)Vote: 0-7, in the second round
Descriptions

One individual was reported at Saline, Washtenaw Co., on 10–11 November 2009. The bird was described as a dove/pigeon-like bird standing on the roadside and flushing, actually “brushing” the antenna of the vehicle on 10 November as it flew. It was grayish-

brown on the body with noticeable large white patches appearing as crescents on the wing (in flight) or as a white line along the front edge of the wing (perched). The tail was short and “more roundish [than those of accompanying Mourning Doves],” and one observer indirectly indicated that it had a “white band at the tip,” seeming to imply that the first rectrices (R1) also shared this white band (no clarification is offered). Although most of the committee felt the report was suggestive of the species claimed, most were concerned with the unclear circumstances of the sightings, especially the duration of each sighting. The first sighting occurred from a moving vehicle (at unstated speed) as the bird flushed from the roadside. The second sighting was in flight only, without the aid of optics. Most felt that if both sightings were exceedingly short (eg. 1-2 seconds or less), there was the possibility of mistaken impressions, something most members have personally experienced. In such circumstances, later, better views of such birds often prove that the first impressions were incorrect. A second concern shared by some members was the implied pattern of R1. If the bird actually had a black terminal band on these feathers (as implied), it would not fit the species claimed.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird**(*Selasphorus platycercus*)**

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, unsexed, was reported at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 2 June 2010. The observer described a hummingbird larger than a Ruby-throated (*Archilochus colubris*), with a very wide and broad tail that was not deeply forked. No other details were offered. Most members felt that this report could not be confirmed as pertaining to a hummingbird, due to the lack of description of anything except tail size and shape. Most also felt that even if a hummingbird was granted, that the species claimed could not be confirmed without additional description of many more traits including gorget pattern, primary width, facial coloration, underparts coloration, and wingtip vs. tail tip projection. This record was subsequently given reconsideration as *Selasphorus* hummingbird (see below under "Records Not Accepted").

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, unaged and unsexed, was reported at Mackinac Island, Mackinac Co., in "early summer 2010." The documentation provided consists solely of an article

in the Mackinaw Island Town Crier published 10 July 2010. The article claims (via an unidentified second person), that a Rufous Hummingbird was observed, but no description of the bird is offered. All agreed that without at least a basic description of the bird, that no attempt to evaluate the record could be made. Most also agreed that a second hand description is insufficient to confirm any of the basic attributes of an observation (date, location, description, etc.).

***Selasphorus* hummingbird (*Selasphorus* sp.)**

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, unsexed, was reported at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 2 June 2010. The observer believed the bird to be a Broad-tailed Hummingbird, but the record was rejected as such (see above under "Records Not Accepted"), and was here given reconsideration under a broader grouping, per MBRC practice. Again, the entire committee felt that the description ("a hummingbird larger than a Ruby-throated, with a very wide and broad tail which was not deeply forked") was insufficient to rule out any of several other genera of hummingbirds.



Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)

Vote: 0-7

Specimen (UMMZ 19607)

One individual was reportedly collected in “southeast Michigan” as part of the Abram Sager 1837–1838 State Natural History Survey, on an unknown date in 1837 or 1838. This record was reconsidered following a successful request for reconsideration. The request was made because the specimen, reputed (according to the UMMZ catalog entries and specimen label) to have been collected during the Sager expedition, was found to be absent from Sager’s (1839) publication detailing all of the bird specimens he collected during that time. This raised the likelihood that the specimen was not collected on the date and at the location mentioned in the catalog and on the specimen label. It was also discovered that the current specimen tag is not original, increasing the odds that mislabeling might have occurred long after the collection of the specimen. All agreed that this possibility was troubling enough to cast doubt onto the veracity of the collection locality and date. This record had been accepted by the MBRC in 1992 (Chu 1993).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

Vote: 3-4 for the sixth of six individuals, in the first round; 2-5 for two individuals, in the second round

Descriptions

Photographs

Audio Recordings

Up to six individuals, a first state record, were reported at Forest Lawn Landfill (and surroundings), Berrien Co., from 16 May 2009–28 October 2009. Three of the individuals were accepted in the first round of voting (see above under “Records Accepted”). The remaining three individuals, claimed by only one of the observers, was not adequately substantiated by the recordings or written documentation, most of the committee argued. Subsequent to this review, the record was accepted for reconsideration due to new audio evidence coming to light (see above under “Records Accepted” and below under “Records Not Accepted”).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

Vote: 2-5, for the sixth of six individuals

Descriptions

Photographs

Audio Recordings

Up to six individuals, a first state record, were reported at Forest Lawn Landfill (and surroundings), Berrien Co., from 16 May 2009–28 October 2009. This record was acted upon earlier in 2010, with three individuals accepted and three rejected (see above under “Records Accepted” and “Records

Not Accepted”). This duplicative review was brought on because additional audio evidence was brought to light after the first review ended. Again, three of the individuals were accepted in the first round of voting (see above under “Records Accepted”). Two additional individuals were resubmitted and voted upon in 2011 (Chu, *in prep.*), and the final individual was here rejected, as the majority of the committee felt nothing in the new audio evidence conclusively established the bird.

Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual was reported at Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co., on 20 December 2009. The observer described a small bird perhaps 4-4.5 inches in length, with a white belly and throat, even-toned medium-gray back and sides, no wingbars, a narrow but distinct black line separating the gray back from the white belly, and “a whiter belly than the depiction of the Pygmy Nuthatch (*S. pygmaea*) [in an unidentified field guide].” Though all members voted not to accept the record, responses varied. Some felt that female, gray-capped, White-breasted Nuthatches (*S. carolinensis*) could not be ruled out. Others argued that Pygmy Nuthatch could not be ruled out without a fuller

description of its crown. A final argument was that Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) could not be ruled out, despite at least two apparent inconsistencies with this species.

Bewick’s Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

Vote: 2-5

Description

One individual was reported at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne Co., on 14 May 2010. The observer described a bird seen and heard from about 25 yards range, in excellent light. It had brownish upperparts with a reddish tint that was not as reddish as that of Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), a long tail of a “flat looking grayish brown” with numerous dark bars, no visible whitish spots in the upperwing coverts, white underparts “not the strong buff color ... of Carolina Wrens,” a long white eyebrow, a pale whitish/gray undertail, and undertail coverts with dark bars. The song, which was at first not recognized, was said to be similar to that of a Song Sparrow overall, but different from that species in several regards. Specifically, there were “no slurs, no changes in cadence, and nothing resembling a trill,” but rather five repeated notes: the second the highest, followed by three descending notes. The committee was split, with a



minority arguing that no Carolina Wren could be described with these plumage traits and song details. However, the majority argued that the song as described does not match the song of Bewick's Wren from several recordings in the Macaulay Library of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and other sources, in that all such songs change cadence. Furthermore, most felt that the perceived absence of buff below could be accounted for on Carolina Wren by wear, wetness of feathers, lighting conditions, and individual variation, and that with such a good view of the tail pattern, that white outer rectrix tips should have been visible.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, a male, was reported at Buffalo Rd., Three Oaks, Berrien Co., on 25–29 April 2010. It was described as having “a bright yellowish-orange belly” by an observer who did not author the report. The author of the report did not observe a Smith's Longspur. All agreed that the description was insufficient to confirm the species claimed, as many other species share a yellowish-orange belly. Many were unwilling to grant the secondhand claim credence without a first-person report from the observer.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual was reported at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 24 May 2009. The bird was heard only, and described as singing “sort of like Northern Waterthrush [*Parkesia noveboracensis*], but [with] longer notes...as high as [the notes of] a Louisiana Warbler [sic] [*P. motacilla*].” All agreed that such a description is insufficient to eliminate any of several other species of birds, even though Swainson's Warbler can be readily identified by song with experience. However, its song is not like that of Northern Waterthrush, but is rather similar to that of Louisiana Waterthrush.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

Vote: 2-5

Description

One individual was reported at Stony Creek Metropark, Macomb Co., on 19 December 2009. The observer described a towhee with a black head and chest, rufous sides, black back, and white belly. Furthermore, it was said to have two white wingbars and a “liberal amount of white spots on the black back.” Though the presence or absence of white in the basal primaries was not directly addressed, the observer did mention that “according to [the Sibley guide] the amount of

white on the wings and back of [my bird] eliminates any hybrid." Some felt this latter phrase indirectly established that the bird lacked white on the basal primaries, but the majority felt this critical field mark needed to be directly addressed in order to fully eliminate an Eastern (*P. erythrophthalmus*) X Spotted Towhee hybrid or backcross.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual was reported in Summit Twp., Mason Co., on 8 May 2010. The observer described a robin (*Turdus migratorius*)-sized bird with a "rufus [sic] side," black back and head, white outer tail feathers, spotting "on the body where [the] wings meet," and white, distinct wingbars. All agreed that without a detailed discussion of the amount of spotting on the upperparts, and especially the presence/absence and extent of any white on the bases of the primaries, that an Eastern X Spotted Towhee hybrid or backcross could not be eliminated.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Vote: 0-7, for two individuals

Description

Two individuals were reported in Barry Co., on 6 April 2010. The birds were described as having dark markings on their head, white on their tails, and as

walking rather than running. No further description was offered. All agreed that several other species match this description, including at least Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) and Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*).

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

Vote: 2-5

Description

Photographs

One individual, a male (age uncertain), was reported at a private feeder in Stambaugh Twp., Iron Co., from mid-December 2009–14 April 2010. All agreed that the bird was either a pure Black-headed Grosbeak or a Rose-breasted (*P. ludovicianus*) X Black-headed Grosbeak hybrid or backcross, due to the solidly orange breast and yellow vent, black head, black wings with white markings, orange rump, and black tail. However, most also shared the opinion that the nape pattern shown by the bird (heavily patterned centrally) would certainly score as an intermediate on Kroodsma's (1974) hybrid index for adult males. This index mentions the Rose-breasted condition as "black" and the Black-headed condition as "brown with little or no black spotting." The possibility that the bird was a young male (i.e. in its first winter), and that its immaturity was thus responsible for this nape



streaking (rather than introgression of Rose-breasted genes) was considered, but there was no way to preclude this latter possibility, so the record did not rise to the level of acceptance for most members. An additional trait that raised some concern was the color of the rump, which could not be satisfactorily assessed in the photos and was not addressed in the description. To be indicative of Black-headed, it would need to be solidly brown. But since only a small part of the rump is visible in one of the photos, it was not possible to be sure of the bird's expression of this trait.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

Vote: 0-7

Description

One individual, apparently an adult male, was reported at Ludington, Mason Co., on 30 August 2010. It was described as like Rose-breasted Grosbeak in size and shape, with a dark orange breast lacking streaks, a dark head lacking white markings, and dark wings with two white wingbars. All agreed

that an intergrade Rose-breasted X Black-headed Grosbeak couldn't be eliminated without a description of several additional features including the color of the hindneck, the color of the back, the color of the rump, the color of the medial upper belly and wing linings, and the color of the flanks, as defined by Anderson and Daugherty (1974), Kroodsmma (1974), and West (1962) to score hybrids.

Eurasian Siskin (*Spinus spinus*)

Vote: 1-6

Photograph

One individual was reported near Paynesville, Ontonagon Co., on 14 December 2009. The identification of the bird in the photograph is unequivocally that of a Eurasian Siskin. However, as in previous years, most committee members continue to treat records of this species as likely stemming from a ca. 2004 release of Eurasian Fringillids and other passerines in the Chicago area (Craves 2008), pending better evidence of the wild occurrence of this taxon in the interior of North America.

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