

Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2013

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This is the 24th report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee (MBRC). It covers the committee's actions throughout 2013.

In 2013, the MBRC consisted of regular members Allen Chartier (Wayne Co.), Jim Dawe (Oscoda Co.), Louis Dombroski (Bay Co.), Brad Murphy (Oakland Co.), Dave Slager (Washington), and Scott Terry (Livingston Co.), and alternate members Adam Byrne (Clinton Co.) and Sean Williams (Ingham Co.). Scott Terry was the committee chair and Adam Byrne was the secretary.

In 2013, the committee made decisions on 214 records, with 126 (58.9%) resulting in acceptance, at some level. Accepted means that, for a given record, at least one individual reported was accepted, even if as something other than what was claimed. For example, a bird submitted as a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) was not accepted, but was later accepted as an *Aechmophorus* grebe.

The information provided for each of the following records is: vote tally, an inventory of the documentation provided, the number of birds claimed, and date(s) and location reported. For accepted records, the observers associated with the documentation are listed and, if known, the first person who found the bird(s) is listed and underlined, whether that person submitted documentation or not.

Due to MBRC decisions in 2013, the following changes occurred to the Michigan Bird List. First, two species moved from Casual to Regular: Chuckwill's-widow (*Antrastomus carolinensis*) and Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*); per MBRC bylaw D.1., both species will remain on the review list through 2016. Second, two species were moved from Regular to Casual: Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) and Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*). Third, three species were moved from Casual to Accidental: Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), and Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo*



chlorurus). Fourth, Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) was moved from Accidental to Casual. Additionally, one decision in 2013, on a record from 2012, affected the status of Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), which moved from accidental to casual.

At the summer MBRC meeting, the committee decided to designate “Oregon” Dark-eyed Junco as a regularly occurring subspecies. The committee had been gathering documentation on all claims for at least the past 10 years and that effort revealed enough sightings to fulfill the current definition for a regular species (recorded in at least nine of the past 10 years OR 30+ records in the same time period).

At the winter MBRC meeting, the committee decided to remove Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) and Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) from the official review list.

Records Accepted

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

vote: 7-0 for 62 individuals, 6-1 for 93 more, 6-1 in the second round for 98 more

descriptions: Allen Chartier, Brad Murphy, Sean Williams

photo files: Allen Chartier, Myles McNally, Sean Williams

video files: Brad Murphy

Up to 300 Brants were reported from Port Huron, St. Clair Co. from 30 October – 1 November 2012 (69th state record, 13th county record). There was some confusion on how many birds were actually present, with the final decision being to accept 253 individuals.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Walter Wehtje

One individual at Mackinac City, Cheboygan Co. on 28 May 2013 (71st state record, 2nd county record).

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Scott Jennex, Kathi Cavanaugh, Brandon Leddy

One individual hung around the waterfront parks in Port Huron, St. Clair Co., on 3-5 November 2013 (72nd state record, 14th county record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

vote: 7-0

description: Walter Pawloski

A male in basic plumage was found in Berlin Twp., Monroe Co. on 20 March 2012 (42nd state record, 7th county record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

vote: 7-0

description: G. Tom Hince

A male in basic plumage was found at Harsens Island, St. Clair Co., on 27 March 2013 (45th state record, 1st county record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

vote: 7-0

description: Lathe Clafin

photo files: Adam Byrne, Thomas Gass, Matty Hack, Patrick Jakel, David Jamison, Ben Lucking, Myles McNally, Marc North, Dan Sparks-Jackson, Scott Terry

A male in basic plumage at Trinkle Marsh, Washtenaw Co. on 4-7 May 2013 (46th state record, 1st county record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

vote: 7-0

description: Nathan DeBruine

photo files: Nathan DeBruine, James Fox, Thomas Gass, Karl Overman

A male in basic plumage at Maumee Bay, Monroe Co. on 9-14 May 2013 (47 state record, 8th county record).

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

vote: 7-0

description: Allen Chartier

photo files: Thomas Gass, Scott Jennex, Zak Pohlen, Craig Robson

One was observed at Port Huron, St. Clair Co., on 28 October – 10 November 2013 (58th state record, 10th county record).

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

vote: 5-2 in the second round

description: Jason St. Pierre

One female or first-fall male flew past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 22 October 2012.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 7-0

description: Monica Essenmacher, Jerry Ziarno

photo files: David Pavlik

One adult male on Sanford Lake, Midland Co., on 27-28 December 2012 (14th state record, 1st county record).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 6-1 in the second round

description: Scott Schuette

One was observed flying past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 21 September 2011 (42nd state record, 25th county record).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 7-0

description: Allen Chartier

photo files: Allen Chartier, Don & Robyn Henise, Scott Jennex, John Lowry, Brad Murphy, Sarah Toner, Jim VanAllen

One was at Portage lake, Livingston/Washtenaw cos., on 27 November – 17 December 2012 (45th state record, 2nd county record).



Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Tim Baerwald, Matt Hysell

One was at the Three Oaks sewage ponds, Berrien Co., on 13 April 2013 (46th state record, 2nd county record).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 6-1

description and photo files: Jason Bojczyk

One flew past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., at 2:15 pm on 22 September 2013 (47th state record, 27th county record).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

vote: 6-1

description: Jason Bojczyk

One flew past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., at 3:00 pm on 22 September 2013 (48th state record, 28th county record). This was the second Pacific Loon on the same day at this location.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Adam Byrne, Sean Williams

photo files: Greg Bodker, Bruce Cohen, Nathan Martineau, Sean Williams

One was at Lake Lansing, Ingham Co., on 24-27 November 2012 (38th state record, 2nd county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0 for one individual

descriptions: Laurie Johnson, J.D.

Phillips, Cody Porter

photo files: Beth Olson, J.D. Phillips

One, found by Cody Porter and Shannon Carvey, was at Marquette, Marquette Co., on 10 December 2012 – 15 January 2013. A second individual was also observed, but was rejected in the second round with a 3-4 vote. The photographs were too distant and blurry to confidently ascertain the location of black in respect to the eye, and bill color was not clearly apparent, preventing reviewers from eliminating the possibility of a Clark's Grebe or a hybrid. The second individual was accepted as an *Aechmophorus* grebe with a 6-1 vote.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0

description: Mike Mahler

photo files: Rick Brigham

One was at the mouth of the Kalamazoo River, Allegan Co., on 25 December 2012 – 2 January 2013 (40th state record, 3rd county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0

description: Adam Byrne, Phil Chu, Michael Overway

photo files: Rick Brigham, Myles McNally, Michael Overway, Chace Scholten

One was at Holland State Park, Ottawa Co., on 27 December 2012 – 6 January 2013 (41st state record, 3rd county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Mike Mahler, Tom Pavlik

photo files: Tim Baerwald, Myles McNally, Tom Pavlik

One was at Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 1-10 January 2013 (42nd state record, 11th county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Stan Lilley, Chris McCreedy, Ken Sapkowski

One was in the Muskegon channel, Muskegon Co., on 10-21 January 2013 (43rd state record, 2nd county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Adam Byrne, Louis Dombroski, Annette Huskin

photo files: Louie Dombroski, David Pavlik

One was at St. Ignace, Mackinac Co., on 13-16 January 2013 (44th state record, 1st county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 6-1 in the second round

description, photo files, and video

file: Tom Hince

One was at Port Huron, St. Clair Co., on 16-17 January 2013 (45th state record, 1st county record).

Aechmophorus grebe

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Joe Kaplan

One was at Manistique, Schoolcraft Co., on 25 November 2012. This record was originally submitted as a Western Grebe, but was rejected in the second round with a 2-5 vote. While the committee was confident the bird was not a Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), the images showed extensive white along the flanks, causing some uncertainty whether a hybrid could be eliminated from consideration.

Aechmophorus grebe

vote: 7-0 in the second round

descriptions: Greg Bodker, Jonathan Lautenbach

One was at Pere Marquette Park, Muskegon Co., on 14 December 2012. This record was originally reported as Western Grebe, but was rejected with a 3-4 vote. Although closely split, the majority of the committee felt a nonbreeding Clark's Grebe or a



hybrid could not be ruled out given the description of the lore region: “mostly dark gray but there was a slightly lighter gray area near the eye”.

Aechmophorus grebe

vote: 7-0 for two individuals

descriptions: Scott Hickman, Joe

Kaplan, Joseph Youngman

photo file: Joe Kaplan

Two individuals were on Keweenaw Bay, Baraga Co., on 17 December 2012 – 14 January 2013. These individuals were quite distant, preventing the observers from making a specific identification.

Anhinga (Anhinga anhinga)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Suzanne Vedder, Will Weber

One was observed soaring over Pittsfield Twp., Washtenaw Co., on 11 May 2013 (3rd state record, 1st county record).

Tricolored Heron (Egretta tricolor)

vote: 7-0

description: Allen Chartier

photo files: Adam Byrne, Allen

Chartier, James Fox, Thomas

Heatley, Myles McNally

One was at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Macomb Co., on 23-27 May 2013 (46th state record, 3rd county record).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

(Nyctanassa violacea)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Myles McNally, Marc North, Caleb Putnam, Jeff Stacey, Mary Trombley

One adult was at the Detroit Zoo, Oakland Co., on 27 April – 8 June 2013 (110th state record, 6th county record). This is the second year in a row a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron has been found nest building and displaying within the Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) colony.

Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)

vote: 6-1 in the second round

descriptions and photo files:

Zachary Branigan, Roger Eriksson

One Glossy Ibis was in a flock of eight ibis near Tower Beach and Townline roads, Bay Co., on 20-22 April 2013 (19th state record, 3rd county record). For the remaining seven birds, two were accepted as White-faced Ibis and five as *Plegadis* ibis. For an explanation of these birds, see below.

Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jerry Jourdan, Scott Terry

photo files: Kirby Adams, Adam Byrne, James Fox, Thomas Gass, Jerry Jourdan, Myles McNally, Scott Terry

One adult was seen at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 7-21 July 2013 (20th state record, 7th county record).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

vote: 7-0 for four individuals

descriptions: Adam Byrne, Scott Terry

photo files: Brian Allen, Adam Byrne, Brad Murphy, Scott Terry

Four adults were observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 2-28 September 2012 (24th state record, 9th county record).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

vote: 7-0 for 2 individuals

descriptions: Zachary Branigan, Jeff Buecking, Roger Eriksson, Stan Lilley, Mike Petrucha, Jerry Ziarno

photo files: Zachary Branigan, Roger Eriksson, Stan Lilley, Myles McNally, Marc North, Joseph Soehnel

A group of eight ibis, including the Glossy Ibis described above, were reported near Tower Beach and Townline roads, Bay Co., on 20-22 April 2013. Originally, seven of these ibis were claimed as White-faced Ibis, but only two individuals could be clearly identified as White-faced Ibis (25th state record, 3rd county record). The remaining five birds were rejected as White-faced Ibis (singles with 3-4 and 2-5 votes

and three birds with a 1-6 vote). Despite the many descriptions, they failed to supplement the photos with key details, including eye and facial skin coloration. These five ibis, however, were reconsidered and accepted as *Plegadis ibis* with a 7-0 vote.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

vote: 7-0 for three individuals

descriptions: Adam Byrne, Allen Chartier

photo files: Allen Chartier, Darlene Friedman, Patrick Jakel

Three individuals, found by Joseph Robison, were observed at the Erie State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 24-27 April 2013 (26th state record, 10th county record). These birds were accompanied by another ibis which could not be identified to species, but was accepted as a *Plegadis ibis* (see below).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

vote: 7-0 for three individuals

description and photo files: Nathan DeBruine

Three individuals were at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 14 May 2013 (27th state record, 11th county record).

Plegadis ibis

vote: 6-1

description: Joanie & Mark Hubinger



One individual was observed flying past Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co., on 20 May 2012. This bird was originally submitted as a White-faced Ibis, but rejected with a 0-7 vote in the second round, because the observers only noted "a broad white border against a red face." The committee felt a description of iris color was necessary to eliminate a possible hybrid.

Plegadis ibis

vote: 7-0

descriptions: [Shelley Green](#), [Linda Scribner](#)

photo files: [Linda Scribner](#)

One was at the Pentwater River State Game Area, Oceana Co., on 26-28 September 2012. This individual was initially claimed and rejected as a Glossy Ibis (Chu 2013).

Plegadis ibis

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Adam Byrne, Allen Chartier

photo files: Allen Chartier, Darlene Friedman, Patrick Jakel

One *Plegadis ibis*, found by [Joseph Robison](#), accompanied 3 White-faced Ibis (see above) at Erie State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 24-27 April 2013. While this individual had pink facial skin it lacked a red iris and a white feather border to the face, leading

at least one observer to suspect it was a Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrid.

Plegadis ibis

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: [Matt Hysell](#)

One was observed flying inland at New Buffalo beach, Berrien Co., on 30 April 2013. This record was originally submitted as a White-faced Ibis, however, it was rejected with a 3-4 vote. Since the observer was unable to see iris color, the majority of the committee was uncomfortable eliminating a hybrid ibis.

Plegadis ibis

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: [Ryan Dziedzic](#)

One was observed at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Management Area, Bay Co., on 3-5 May 2013. This record was originally submitted as a White-faced Ibis, however, it was rejected with a 2-5 vote. Iris color was not discernable in the photos or described in the report, causing most members concern that a hybrid ibis could not be safely eliminated from consideration.

Black Vulture (Coragyps atratus)

vote: 7-0

photo file: [Don Mittlesstat](#)

One was photographed at Mackinac City, Emmet Co., on 25 March 2012 (26th state record, 2nd county record).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Edward P. DeVries, Steven F. Kahl, Joseph

M. Soehnel, Jim VanAllen

photo files: Tim Baerwald, Jim VanAllen

One was observed in Saginaw Township, Saginaw Co., on 25-26 April 2013 (30th state record, 1st county record). The bird was observed going into a roost on the evening of the 25 April, and seen only again as it left the roost the following morning.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Steve Baker

One was photographed at Mackinaw City, Emmet Co., on 1 May 2013 (32nd state record, 4th county record).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 6-1

photo file: Steve Baker

One was photographed at Mackinaw City, Emmet Co., on 8 May 2013 (33rd state record, 5th county record).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Steve Baker

One was photographed at Cecil Bay, Emmet Co., on 14 May 2013 (34th state record, 6th county record).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 6-1

description: Brent Caperton

One was observed at Baroda, Berrien Co., on 20 May 2013 (35th state record, 4th county record).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Patrick Jakel

photo file: Greg Smith

One was observed flying over Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne Co., on 3 November 2013 (37th state record, 3rd county record).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

vote: 7-0

description: Rick Brigham

Found with Joan and Dick Brigham, one was observed at Allegan State Game Area, Allegan Co., on 4 August 1997 (15th state record, 2nd county record). The original field notes were found in the summer of 2013 and used to submit this record, explaining why the record was reviewed so long after the initial sighting.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

vote: 6-1 in the second round

description: Monica Essenmacher



One was observed on 15 May 2012 in Port Austin Twp., Huron Co. (9th state record, 3rd county record).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)

vote: 7-0

specimen: John Sterling

On 11 May 2011, John Sterling of Jerome, Hillsdale Co. found a deceased, adult bird on his property (10th state record, 1st county record). Fortunately, Gary Siegrist encouraged Sterling to preserve the specimen, which now resides at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (specimen # 242547).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals

description: David J. Peters

photo files: Bruce Cohen, Joseph Hammerle, Patrick Jakel, Tim Keinath, Stan Lilley, Myles McNally, Marc North, Karl Overman, David J. Peters, Ken Sapkowski, Kate Schill, Linda Scribner, Joe Soehnel, Jim VanAllen

Two individuals, a male and a female, were observed from 31 May – 15 August at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. (8th state record, 2nd county record).

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)

vote: 7-0

description: Gary Palmer

photo files: Gary Palmer,

Christopher Vogel

One was photographed at Peninsula Point, Delta Co., on 26 May 2013 (3rd state record, 1st county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Adam Byrne, Scott Terry

photo files: Brad Murphy

One was observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 8-9 July 2012 (54th state record, 25th county record).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Scott Jennex, Myles McNally, Marc North

One in alternate plumage was found by Rick Brigham at Wade's Bayou Park, Saugatuck, Allegan Co., on 25-26 July 2013 (15th state record, 1st county record).

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Matt Hysell

One was photographed at Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 26 April 2013 (15th state spring record, 5th county spring record).

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 6-1 in the second round

description: Brian Allen

One juvenile was observed on 16-20 September 2012 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (216th state record, 70th county record).

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals and 6-1 for one more

descriptions: Adam Byrne, Chris Wood

photo files: Brad Murphy, Chris Wood

Three were observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., from 28-30 September 2012 (217th state record, 71st county record). Only two birds were identified on the 28th, although the observers were suspicious of a third bird, and three were observed on the 30th.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Jerry Jourdan

One was observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 18 August 2013 (218th state record, 72nd county record).

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Tim Baerwald, Matt Hysell, Scott Jennex, Marc North, Ken Sapkowski

One was observed at Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 29 September – 1 October 2013 (219th state record, 26th county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 6-1 in the second round

description: Scott Hickman

One was briefly seen flying over Lake Superior at Munising, Alger Co., on 12 October 2012 (89th state record, 2nd county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Allen Chartier, Brad Murphy, Sean Williams

One was observed flying at the mouth of the St. Clair River, Port Huron, St. Clair Co., on 30 October 2012 (91st state record, 2nd county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

description: Phil Chu

photo files: Adam Byrne

One was observed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 23 December 2012 (92nd state record, 11th county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Joe Youngman

One was photographed at Ojibway Beach, Baraga Co., on 17 September 2013 (93rd state record, 3rd county record).



Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: [J.D. Phillips](#)

One was at Marquette's Lower Harbor, Marquette Co., on 22-23 September 2013 (94th state record, 1st county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Andy Dettling, Matty Hack, Scott Jennex, Chris McCreedy, Dan Sparks-Jackson, Cathy Thiesen, Sarah Toner

One was photographed at Schneider Rd. Pond, Washtenaw Co., on 5 October 2013 (95th state record, 1st county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Diane Garlick, Simon Kiacz, Carl Manning, Myles McNally, Marc North, Warren Whaley

One was photographed at Holland State Park, Ottawa Co., on 24-25 October 2013 (96th state record, 9th county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

description: Charlie Weaver
photo files: Kirby Adams, Brian

Allen, Charlie DeWitt, Travis Dewys, Diane Garlick, Thomas Gass, Jonathan Lautenbach, Stan Lilley, Myles McNally, Zak Pohlen, Ken Sapkowski, Chace Scholten, Dan Sparks-Jackson

One was observed at the Muskegon Wastewater Management System, Muskegon Co., on 26 October – 10 November 2013 (97th state record, 21st county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Dan Duso](#)

One was observed offshore at Bay City State Recreation Area, Bay Co., on 4 November 2013 (98th state record, 1st county record).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 7-0 for one individual
descriptions and photo files: [Joe Kaplan](#), Christopher Vogel

One individual was first seen on the evening of 30 July 2013 (25th state record, 1st county record) at Portage Point, Delta Co. On 31 July, this individual was reportedly joined by a second jaeger. The identification of the second bird was based solely on "flight action and wing shape." The lack of details for the second jaeger left members concerned that

other species of jaegers could not be eliminated from consideration, so it was rejected with a 0-7 vote.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions and photo files: Nathan Goldberg, Geoffrey A. Williamson

This individual was well-photographed during a Lake Michigan pelagic trip out of New Buffalo, Berrien Co., on 14 September 2013 (26th state record, 6th county record).

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

vote: 6-1

photo files: Tim Baerwald

One was photographed at Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 20 November 2012 (11th state record, 2nd county record).

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: David C. Dister, Sean Williams

photo files: David C. Dister, Scott Jennex, Myles McNally, Marc North, Zak Pohlen, Sean Williams

One was observed at Pentwater, Oceana Co., on 16-19 November 2013 (12th state record, 1st county record).

alcid species

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Jason St. Pierre, Chris Vogel

A lone bird was observed flying past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 1 November 2012. One of the observers felt this bird was identifiable as a Dovekie (*Alle alle*), while the others felt the observation was too brief and the conditions not conducive enough for seeing fine detail. It was originally reviewed and rejected as a Dovekie with a 1-6 vote. The committee felt the details did not rule out other alcid species, including the more likely Ancient Murrelet, as the Dovekie claim was based largely on flight style, body shape, and an overall dark wing.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Matt Hysell

One was observed by Matt Hysell and Tim Baerwald at the Forest Lawn Landfill, Berrien Co., on 7 January 2013 (22nd state record, 14th county record).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Scott Jennex, Marc North

Originally found by Amar Ayyash, one adult bird was photographed on the beach at



New Buffalo, Berrien Co., on 10-11 November 2013 (23rd state record, 15th county record).

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisaqus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Louis Dombroski, Jeremy Halka, Scott Hickman, J.D. Phillips

photo files: Louis Dombroski, Jeremy Halka, Skye Hass, Scott Jennex, Beth Olson, J.D. Phillips

One adult was at Marquette, Marquette Co., on 15 March – 8 April 2013 (3rd state record, 1st county record).

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Neal Miller, Leland Shaum

One was observed on 29 May 2013 at the Three Oaks sewage ponds, Berrien Co. (13th state record, 3rd county record).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

vote: 7-0 for one individual

description: Tom Hince

Two individuals were seen flying offshore of Port Huron, St. Clair Co., on 21-22 October 2013 (26th state record, 1st county record). There was some initial concern over which details applied to the second bird, resulting in a 4-3 vote for that individual; the second individual was eventually accepted in 2014.

Eurasian Collared-Dove

(*Streptopelia decaocto*)

vote: 7-0 in the second round

photo files: Myles McNally, Fred Zilch

One was observed at Montgomery, Branch Co. from 1 September – 26 December 2012 (10th state record, 1st county record).

Eurasian Collared-Dove

(*Streptopelia decaocto*)

vote: 7-0 for one individual, 6-1 for one more

description and photo files: Jim VanAllen

Two individuals were photographed on 19 October 2012 at Croswell, Sanilac Co. (11th state record, 1st county record).

Eurasian Collared-Dove

(*Streptopelia decaocto*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals

descriptions: Sean Fitzgerald, Chris McCreedy

photo files: Sean Fitzgerald, Matt Hysell, Scott Jennex, Stan Lilley, Myles McNally, Marc North

Up to eight individuals were reported from Bertrand Twp., Berrien Co., from 25 January 2013 – 5 July 2014 (12th state record, 4th county record). All members agreed that two individuals were adequately documented and that an additional five birds were not (they were mentioned, but not described or photographed). An

additional bird was resubmitted with a 4-3 vote and was eventually accepted in 2014. As there were no details pertaining to the additional five birds, they were rejected with a 0-7 vote.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

vote: 7-0 for one individual, 6-1 for one more

descriptions: Philip Chu, Mike Overway, David L. Slager

photo files: Rick Brigham, Thomas Gass, Joseph Hammerle, Patrick Jakel, Scott Jennex, Mike Overway, David L. Slager

Two were observed from 3 April – 13 August 2013 in Chester Twp., Ottawa Co. (13th state record, 1st county record).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Amber Roth

One was photographed at Houghton, Houghton Co., on 31 May – 2 June 2013 (19th state record, 3rd county record).

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

vote: 7-0

audio files: Don Henise, Myles McNally

One was heard on 3 May – 7 June 2013 in Norvell Twp., Jackson Co. (17th state record, 3rd county

record). A Chuck-will's-widow was at this same location in both 2011 and 2012.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Allen Chartier

photo files: Adam Byrne, Allen Chartier, Warren Whaley

An adult male was at the residence of JoAnne Smit in Cooper Twp., Kalamazoo Co., on 1 October – 18 December 2012 (34th state record, 3rd county record).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Allen Chartier

An adult female was at the residence of Walt Birchmeier and Lori Benson in Millington, Tuscola Co., on 1 October – 7 November 2012 (33rd state record, 1st county record).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Allen Chartier

photo files: Allen Chartier, Claire Labuta

An adult male was in White Lake Twp., Oakland Co., on 2 October – 28 December 2012 (35th state record, 2nd county record).



Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Allen Chartier, Charlie Weaver

photo files: Allen Chartier, Stan Lilley, Myles McNally

An immature female was at the residence of Dave and Margie Swayze near Lake Isabella, Isabella Co., on 5 October – 21 November 2012 (36th state record, 1st county record).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Allen Chartier

An adult female was at the residence of Kathy McGathy in Imlay City, Lapeer Co., on 10 October – 21 November 2012 (37th state record, 1st county record).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Allen Chartier

photo files: Tim Baerwald, Allen Chartier, Dick Schinkel

An immature female was at the residence of Elizabeth Gravitt Hosnedl in Sodus Twp., Berrien Co., on 15-24 October 2012 (38th state record, 6th county record). This individual was the last (based

on the date first reported) of six Rufous Hummingbirds in Michigan during the fall of 2012.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

vote: 6-1

photo files: Carl Freeman

An adult male was coming to a feeder in Frankfort, Benzie Co., on 21-22 September 2013 (41st state record, 1st county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: Allen Chartier

photo files: Caleb Putnam

One was at the residence of Kim Horan in Gowen, Montcalm Co., on 25 September – 4 November 2012.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Quentin Sprengelmeyer & Katie Koch

One was found along the Clowry Truck Trail, Marquette Co., on 14 December 2012 (35th state record, 6th county record). This was the first American Three-toed Woodpecker since 2009, the previous bird also coming from Marquette County.

“Red-shafted” Northern Flicker
(*Colaptes auratus cafer*)

vote: 6-1

photo files: [Skye Hass](#)

One was observed near the Dead Marshes, Marquette Co., on 4 May 2013 (1st state record, 1st county record).

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Christie Bleck, [Scott Hickman](#), J.D. Phillips, Jeff Smith, Scott Terry, Jim Van Allen,
photo files: [Scott Hickman](#), Myles McNally, Scott Terry, Jim Van Allen

An immature male was at Chatham, Alger Co., on 27 October – 17 November 2012 (5th state record, 1st county record).

Ash-throated Flycatcher
(*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

vote: 6-1 in the second round

description: [Ken Mettie Jr.](#)

One was at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 15 November 2012 (6th state record, 4th county record).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: [Ken Mettie, Jr.](#)

One was at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 9 October 2012 (43rd state record, 18th county record).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Scott Hickman](#)photo file: [Skye Hass](#)

One was at Chatham, Alger Co., on 18 July 2013 (44th state record, 3rd county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 6-1

description: [Darrell Lawson](#)photo files: [Steve Baker](#), [Darrell Lawson](#)

One was at Carp Lake, Emmet Co., on 11-16 May 2013 (155th state record, 2nd county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 6-1

photo files: [Christopher Vogel](#)

One was photographed at the Garden Peninsula, Delta Co., on 13 May 2013 (156th state record, 5th county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 6-1

description: [Zach Gayk](#)photo files: [Michael Schiewe](#)

One was at Bete Grise, Keweenaw Co., on 1-2 June 2013 (157th state record, 3rd county record).



Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0 for two adults and four nestlings

descriptions: Louis J. Dombroski, Evan Griffiths

photo files: Tim Baerwald, Louis J. Dombroski, Evan Griffiths, Skye Haas, Marc North

A nesting pair of Loggerhead Shrikes was observed with six young at Newberry, Luce Co., from 3 June – 8 September 2013 (158th state record, 2nd county record). Despite being an Endangered species in Michigan, one of the photographers managed to get a close photo of the nest. Even so, it was difficult to distinguish the number of nestlings in the tangle of bodies; the remaining two nestlings were accepted in 2014.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: David White

One was photographed at Shelter Bay, Alger Co., on 16 April 2013 (9th state record, 1st county record).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Louis J. Dombroski, Tom Reed

photo files: Louis J. Dombroski, Skye Hass, Nova Mackently, Myles McNally, Tom Reed, Scott Terry

One was at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 8-21 May 2013 (10th state record, 2nd county record).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals

descriptions: Robert Arthurs, Craig Bateman, Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Sean Williams

audio file: Sean Williams

photo files: Scott Jennex

Two have frequented the Forest Lawn Landfill, Berrien Co., from 9 April 2011 to at least 18 June 2014. In 2011, the committee accepted only one individual (Chu 2012). In 2013, based on new documentation, the committee reevaluated the record and accepted two individuals.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 6-1

description: John L. Trapp

One was heard calling on 27 April 2012 in Buchanan Twp., Berrien Co. (4th state record, 4th county record).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals, 5-2 for one more, all in the second round

photo files: Tim Baerwald, Matt Hysell

A flock of 22 were reported from Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 25 October 2012. Of those, 10 were photographed, but,

the committee felt the photos only provided enough detail to conclusively identify three birds (13th state record, 2nd county record). A fourth bird was rejected with a 1-6 vote in the second round, while the remaining 18 birds were rejected in the first round with 3-4 vote (6 birds), 2-5 vote (2 birds), and 1-6 vote (10 birds). Unfortunately, no written details accompanied the photos.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 6-1 for one individual

photo file: [Tim Baerwald](#)

Five individuals were claimed on 6 November 2012 at Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co. A composite photo with nine, separate, zoomed-in birds was evaluated, however there was no clarification as to how many individuals were represented in the photo file. Given this concern, the committee accepted only one individual (15th state record, 3rd county record). The additional four birds were rejected; two with a 2-5 vote and two with a 0-7 vote.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Tim Baerwald](#)

One was photographed at Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 9 November 2012 (16th state record, 4th county record).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 7-0 for one individual

photo files: [Tim Baerwald](#)

Seven individuals were reported from Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 10 November 2012. An enhanced photo file with a montage of six birds was evaluated. However, since individual birds were not labeled, members were uncertain if each pasted image represented different birds or duplicates of the same. As a result, only one bird was accepted (17th state record, 5th county record). The additional six individuals were rejected; one with a 3-4 vote, two with a 1-6 vote, and three with a 0-7 vote. This represents the third accepted record within four days from the same location!

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [John Baumgartner](#)

One was at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 8-10 May 1979 (2nd state record, 1st county record).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Karl Overman](#)

One female-type bird was photographed in Erie Twp., Monroe Co., on 1 November 2013 (8th state record, 1st county record).



Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals, 6-1 for one more

descriptions: Matt Hysell, Scott Terry

photo files: Tim Baerwald, Aaron Boone, Matt Hysell, Marc North, Scott Terry

Three were observed in corn fields along Buffalo Rd., Berrien Co., from 23 April – 6 May 2013 (22nd state record, 5th county record).

Black-throated Gray Warbler

(*Setophaga nigrescens*)

vote: 7-0

description: Louis J. Dombroski

One female was at Seul Choix Point, Schoolcraft Co., on 29 April 2013 (8th state record, 1st county record).

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Kevin Welsh

One was observed on 1 May 2013 at Rosy Mound Natural Area, Grand Haven, Ottawa Co. (12th state record, 2nd county record).

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

vote: 6-1

description: Calvin Brennan

One was observed on 20-21 May 2013 at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co. (13th state record, 2nd county record).

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo file: J.D.

Phillips

One was at Marquette, Marquette Co., on 26-27 October 2013 (13th state record, 1st county record).

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 6-1

description: Marc North

sketch: Matt Hysell & Rhoda Johnson

photo files: Tim Baerwald

One was at Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 9 October 2013 (43rd state record, 7th county record).

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 7-0

description: Brian Allen

An adult was at the Schneider Road pond, Washtenaw Co., on 12 October 2013 (44th state record, 1st county record).

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

vote: 7-0

photo file: Matt Hysell

One was observed in Berrien County on 12 May 2012. This bird was originally submitted as a Nelson's Sparrow, but committee members struggled with the lack of written details describing the areas

of the bird not visible in the lone photograph, eventually rejecting the claim of Nelson's Sparrow with a 4-3 vote in the second round.

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

vote: 5-2 in the second round

description: Sean Williams

One, originally reported as a Nelson's Sparrow, was in Leslie Twp., Ingham Co., on 5 October 2012. This bird was evaluated and rejected as a Nelson's Sparrow in 2012 (Chu 2013).

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

vote: 7-0 for one individual

description and photo files: Dave Dister

Two Nelson's Sparrows were reported on 19 May 2013 at Ludington State Park, Mason Co. The photographs clearly showed a Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sparrow, however, the second bird was not photographed and the written description failed to rule out other similar species. They were rejected as Nelson's Sparrows with 3-4 and 0-7 votes. Upon reconsideration, one was accepted and the second rejected with a 1-6 vote.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

vote: 7-0

description: Stan Lilley

photo files: Stan Lilley, Myles McNally

One adult male was photographed along the Peshekee Grade, Marquette Co., on 20 October 2013 (27th state record, 2nd county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Thomas Cadwalader

One was coming to a feeder in Cheboygan, Cheboygan Co., on 9-17 November 2012 (20th state record, 1st county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0 for one individual

(female)

photo files: Brad Anderson

A male and female were observed in Pokagon Twp., Cass Co., from 11 May – 17 August 2012 (17st state record, 2rd county record). The male was previously accepted (Chu 2013). In 2013, documentation for a female bird was submitted, and the committee unanimously agreed that the new evidence should be evaluated; this particular decision accepted the addition of the female. This is the second year in a row this site has hosted a Blue Grosbeak.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals

descriptions: Allen Chartier,

Jonathan T. Wuepper

photo files: Myles McNally, Marc North



A male and female returned to Pokagon Twp., Cass Co., from 16 May – 26 August 2013 (21st state record, 3rd county record). This is the third year in a row there have been Blue Grosbeaks at this location.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

vote: 7-0

description: Dana Richter

photo files: Audrey Erickson

One adult male was at Eagle River, Keweenaw Co., on 20-23 May 2013 (24th state record, 3rd county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0 for three individuals

description: J.D. Phillips

photo files: J.D. Phillips, Jason St.Pierre

Four individuals were found at Marquette, Marquette Co. on 29 April – 6 May 2013 (10th state record, 1st county record). Three individuals were accepted in the first round, however, the fourth individual was resubmitted with a 4-3 vote; this fourth individual was eventually accepted in 2014.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals

description: Philip C. Chu, Tom Reed

photo files: Alice Harbin, Dustin Holschuh, Myles McNally, Marc North, Karl Overman, Tom Reed, Patrick Wright

Two individuals were at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 19-24 May 2013 (11th state record, 5th county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Calvin Brennan

One was at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co., on 24 May 2013 (12th state record, 2nd county record).

Records Not Accepted

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

vote: 3-4 for 84 individuals
one description

Two Brant flocks (one of 26 birds and the other 58) were reported at the Karn Plant, Bay Co., on 30 October 2012. The birds were very distant and described as “all dark birds with a distinctive white rump.” Brant, however, are not actually all dark, but instead should show some pale contrast to both the underbody and upperwing surfaces, causing some members to question how well these birds were really seen. The committee was also concerned about the combination of viewing conditions (overcast and raining) and distance, likely making it difficult to accurately assess field marks.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

vote: 0-7

one description

one photo file

A flock of 100 Brants was claimed from Munising, Alger Co., on 3 November 2012. The photograph showed a very distant, blurry flock of birds. The description stated they had dark heads and shorter necks than Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), but failed to provide any details on distance or whether optics were used. All members felt the brief description and blurry photo failed to establish that the birds were Brant, with other possibilities including Cackling Geese (*Branta hutchinsii*) or even Long-tailed Ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*).

“Ridgway’s” Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii minima*)

vote: 0-7 in the second round

one description

six photo files

One was identified at Luna Pier, Monroe Co., on 12 November 1999. The description and photo files clearly established that the bird was a Cackling Goose, but determining its subspecific identity proved problematic. Many of the traits used to identify subspecies within the Cackling Goose complex are subjective and difficult to accurately assess in the absence of direct comparisons (Mlodinow et al. 2008). Unfortunately, this bird

was not accompanied by any other geese. So, while some members were intrigued by this individual, all agreed that it was not possible to rule out the more expected *B. hutchinsii hutchinsii*.

“Ridgway’s” Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii minima*)

vote: 0-7

one description

two photo files

One was identified at Thorn Lake, Jackson Co., on 8 December 2012. The photo files were rather dark and blurry and the bird was rather distant, making it difficult to ascertain details. In one photo file, the bird appears to have a slightly elongated bill, which does not eliminate *minima*, but is not typical. The description was very brief and indicated uncertainty of the subspecific identification. So, given the identification challenges laid out by Mlodinow et al. (2008), along with observer uncertainty and inconclusive photos, members unanimously agreed that there was not enough evidence to identify this individual to the subspecific level.

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

vote: 2-5

one description

One, originally claimed as a Common Eider, was at Lake Erie Metropark, Wayne Co., on 26 November 2012. This record was

first reviewed and rejected as a Common Eider with a 0-7 vote. The observer described a brown duck with a sloping bill and head shape, but was unable to note the distribution of feathering around the bill. They also noted the difficult viewing conditions created by both distance and poor lighting. As such, most members felt the details were too brief and could loosely fit several other large drab ducks.

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

vote: 1-6

one description

One, either a first-cycle bird or an adult in basic plumage, was claimed from LaSalle Twp., Monroe County, on 14 December 2011. This bird was originally reported and rejected as a Pacific Loon (Chu 2013). The bird was described as dark above and white below with no pale area around the eye and a sharp delineation where the white of the foreneck met the dark of the hindneck. As with the previous review, the committee felt these details were not complete enough to eliminate other species, such as a non-breeding Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) or a Western Grebe.

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

vote: 2-5

one description

One, originally identified as a Pacific Loon, was observed flying past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 13 October 2012. It was rejected as a Pacific Loon with a 3-4 vote. During both reviews, the committee was not comfortable with the identification, as it was mostly based on flight style and shape. There was no information on the bird's face pattern, leaving a juvenile Red-throated Loon, which can be quite black-and-white, as a distinct possibility.

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

vote: 1-6

one description

One bird, originally claimed as a Pacific Loon, was at Portage Lake, Washtenaw Co., on 6 November 2012. Initially, several observers claimed a Pacific Loon from this location, but scrutiny of both photos and the bird in the field revealed it was a Red-throated Loon. Then, a few weeks later, an actual Pacific Loon showed up on the same lake! While most observers acknowledged their confusion, and even admitted the photographed Red-throated Loon was the same bird they called a Pacific Loon, one took the stance that the original bird must have been a Pacific Loon. As a result, the committee reviewed the documentation provided for the early observation, which failed to

eliminate a Red-throated Loon from consideration. For example, the observer stated that while flying the bird held its head “hanging lower than body,” which is a field mark often associated with Red-throated Loon. No diagnostic plumage details were provided, leading to the rejection of the original claim as a Pacific Loon with a 0-7 vote, as well as under this broader, more inclusive category.

Aechmophorus grebe

vote: 0-7

one description

A Western Grebe was claimed at Lake Lansing, Ingham Co., on 14 November 2011. The initial review as a Western Grebe resulted in a rejection with a 0-7 vote. The description was very brief, essentially describing a large bird that was overall black and white. The committee felt this did not eliminate other possible species, including a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*).

Aechmophorus grebe

vote: 0-7

one description

A Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 23 November 2011. The original claim was rejected in 2012 (Chu 2013). The brief report claimed it had a “dagger orange bill” and “white face,” details that could just as

easily describe a Great Egret, as an *Aechmophorus* grebe.

Aechmophorus grebe

vote: 3-4

one description

One was claimed at Lake Chapin, Berrien Co., on 22 May 2012. This record was originally reviewed and rejected as a Western Grebe with a 1-6 vote. The description of a large black and white bird was suggestive, but ultimately, the majority of the committee felt the description could also fit a Common Loon or Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), among other candidates.

Aechmophorus grebe

vote: 0-7 in the second round

two descriptions

One was claimed flying past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 20 October 2012. The bird was flying with three Red-necked Grebes, providing a good opportunity for direct comparison with another large grebe species. However, the written details differed significantly in their assessment of the upperwing pattern. One stated the bird had a white stripe that ran “up and down the upperwing,” while the other observer stated “The white in the wings was not as apparent or bold, as the other three Red-necked Grebes.” This left committee members pondering which, if any,

description was correct. Given these discrepancies, the committee felt uncomfortable endorsing this as an *Aechmophorus* grebe, a species that is a nocturnal migrant and unlikely to be found intermixed with diurnal Red-necked Grebe flocks.

Aechmophorus grebe

vote: 0-7 in the second round
one description

One was claimed at Port Sheldon, Ottawa Co., on 27 February 2013. The observer mentions the conditions were very difficult (windy and choppy waters) and the length of observation was “extremely brief”. Given these circumstances, the committee felt the description of a large black and white bird with a pointed bill and long neck could also describe Red-throated or Common loons or a Horned Grebe.

“Great White” Great Blue Heron
(*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)

vote: 0-7
three photo files

One was photographed from 4 August - 14 September 2012 in Oakland Co. The committee felt comfortable identifying the photographs (of reasonably good quality) as a Great Egret (*Ardea alba*).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

vote: 0-7
two descriptions

One was claimed at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co., on 17 May 2013. The descriptions were very brief, essentially stating the bird had a blue neck and white chest and belly. With no other details, the committee felt this could not eliminate a vast number of other species, including Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*).

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

vote: 3-4 in the second round
one video file

A video showing an obvious Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was posted to www.youtube.com claiming to be from the Laughing Whitefish River, Deerton, Alger Co., on 20 June 2012. Efforts to contact the original observers failed, and, additionally, another member tried to find and identify the portion of the river visible in the video. Unfortunately, both of these attempts were unsuccessful. As such, the majority of the committee was nervous to accept a video posted online, by an anonymous observer, without any other information, citing that there are other examples of erroneous claims on the internet, most famous being the supposed Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) associating with an albino Moose. Despite being rejected, continued efforts will be made to identify and contact the original observers.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported in Wayne Co., on 20 July 2005. This was a historical record entered into eBird, for which the observer could not remember where it was actually observed. Despite the vague location, a brief description of the observation was provided, apparently not based on any field notes. Since the record was submitted over 7 years after the sighting and the observer couldn't even remember a specific location, members were concerned that the general details were unreliable.

Plegadis ibis

vote: 0-7 in the second round

one description

One was in Brownstown Twp., Monroe Co., on 25 October 2012. The description was solely based on shape, due to harsh lighting and great distance. It was simply described as a medium sized wader with a decurved bill, leaving members concerned that a White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) or Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) could not be eliminated.

Plegadis ibis

vote: 3-4

one description

Seven individuals were reported from the intersection of Swanson Rd. and Laketon Ave.,

Muskegon Co., on 20 April 2013.

The description stated "dark colored bird, long legs and neck, long-down-curved bill." Some members were troubled that the report claimed seven individuals, yet the description was in the singular, along with concerns that a Whimbrel or Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) were not eliminated. Others, however, felt the dark coloration was sufficient to categorize these birds as *Plegadis ibis*.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 3-4 in the second round

one description

Two birds were reported on 16 April 2012 in Port Austin Twp., Huron Co. In 2012, the first bird was accepted and second bird resubmitted (Chu 2012). The two birds were not seen together and the description of the second bird stated "As above but missing one primary and one central tail feather." Given the distance of the first bird (500-1000 yards), some committee members felt it would be difficult for the observer to distinguish whether individual feathers were missing, feeling it was possible the two individuals were possibly only one.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One was reported from Lighthouse County Park, Huron Co., on 29 April 2013. The description stated it was a black bird with “shorter tail and white wing tips.” While discussing a previous Black Vulture, a committee member showed a misleading photo of a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) that appeared short tailed with white wing tips – in fact, this photo was initially submitted as a Black Vulture, due to these impressions, but closer inspection showed it to be from poor lighting and angle. Some members remained unconvinced that the brief details accompanying this record eliminated a poorly seen Turkey Vulture, or even an American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), which are known to occasionally possess white wingtips.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed in Crawford Co. on 11 July 2013. The description was very brief, stating it had no visible markings on the underside, a thin patagium, and a mostly white head. The observer also stated the tail was not seen well. Since the observer provided no details on distance, optics, duration, and lighting conditions, the committee had to wonder how well these features were

seen. Further, this identification is complicated by very pale Red-tailed Hawks and without good views/description of the upper wings, tail, and head, one cannot safely identify a Krider's Hawk.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 30 May 2013. The description was suggestive of this species, but lacked how similar species were eliminated or any reference to distance and/or optics used. Without this information, most committee members felt it was not possible to rule out a pale Red-tailed Hawk.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One was claimed at the Port Crescent Hawk Watch, Huron Co., on 30 May 2013. Based on the extensive rufous tones described above, it seems most likely that this bird was an adult light morph bird, specifically of the lightly marked type described by Wheeler (2003). The description of all white underparts only fits the lightly marked type, as the other forms minimally have barring on the belly. This form, however, should have white underwing coverts that lack “dark marking or have only a small amount of rufous streaking on

the lesser coverts on the patagial area" (Wheeler 2003). This is not how the observer described the underwings, however, with this bird supposedly having no patagial bars but light mottling throughout the underwing coverts (matching Wheeler's moderately marked type better). If this bird were a juvenile, it should have had moderately to heavily streaked flanks, something that was not noted. Further, light juveniles also have white uppertail coverts that were not noticed. While relatively divided, these concerns were enough to prevent most members from voting for acceptance.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co., on 31 August 2012. The observer heard a repeated "kak, kak..." call. Committee members felt this limited description could also fit a Virginia Rail, among other possibilities.

Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*)

vote: 0-7

two descriptions

14 photo files

An interesting golden-plover was found at Peninsula Point, Delta Co., on 27 May 2013. The bird appeared to have the

appropriate primary projection pattern of a Pacific Golden-Plover. However during the observation, the bird repeatedly gave the vocalizations of an American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), even aggressively responding to an American Golden-Plover recording. Eventually, all observers became convinced that the bird was an American Golden-Plover, realizing that the purported primary projection pattern is, by itself, not a fool-proof field mark. The Committee opted to review this record, primarily because one observer had created a website that identified this individual as a Pacific Golden-Plover and had not, at least at the time of review, removed or edited that website.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 10 October 2012. The description was very limited, stating the bird "was in winter plumage" and had a "long decurved bill." The committee felt there were too many other species (e.g., Long-billed Curlew, Dunlin, etc.) that could fit that description.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One was claimed in Berlin Twp., Monroe Co., on 16 May 2012. The identification appeared to be based on size and lack of streaking. The observer described no plumage details, other than to say it was unstreaked on the breast and flanks. The bird's wingtips were said to "over-hang....the tail tip." Members were uncomfortable with these limited details, with some noting that they could just as easily describe a Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 0-7 for two individuals
one description

Two were claimed at Bay City, Bay Co., on 4 June 2012. The description was very brief, only stating the birds had a long wing projection and were buffy. The report also lacked details such as optics used, distance, and elimination of similar species (like Sanderling), making members reluctant to accept.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 0-7
one description

One was claimed at East Grand Traverse Bay, Grand Traverse Co., on 22 May 2013. The description was very brief, stating only that the bird had long wing projection, black legs, and was larger than a Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*). As with many

spring Baird's Sandpiper reports, these details failed to eliminate Sanderling from consideration.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 0-7 for four individuals
one description

Four were reported at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co., on 25 May 2013. The brief description offered no plumage characteristics and did not explain how size was determined, the distance, or whether any optics were used. The report stated it was not a White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*), but provided no reasons why. Further, some members felt Sanderlings were distinct possibilities for these birds.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*)

vote: 0-7 for five individuals
one description

Five were claimed at the Huron River mouth, Wayne Co., on 5 December 2012. The description stated the birds were in basic plumage, meaning they were plain gray-brown above with white underparts. These limited details loosely fit this species, but could also apply to other species, such as Sanderling or Western Sandpiper.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 1-6
one description

A winter plumaged bird was claimed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 22 August 2012. The identification was based mostly on size and shape, rather than field marks. The observer stated, "The bright sun precluded obtaining some plumage characters that are fairly diagnostic". The bird's bill was said to be long and straight, not decurved like many of the longer-billed Western Sandpipers. Committee members found these details to be inconclusive, failing to eliminate other species like Semipalmated Sandpiper or even Sanderling.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)
vote: 2-5 in the second round
Three photo files

One was claimed at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., on 27 April 2013. Superficially, the bird resembled a Western Sandpiper. However, there were three areas that caused some members concern. First, the back appeared too dark. Second, the flanks had limited streaking. Third, the facial features, specifically the auriculars, seemed too pale. These features caused most members to be concerned the bird could be a Dunlin x White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) hybrid.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)
vote: 0-7
one description

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 3 June 2013. The brief description stated only "Adult in winter plumage with rusty scapulars." Even if one were to assume this was a shorebird, the limited details fall way short of providing enough detail to allow a specific identification.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)
vote: 0-7
one description

One was claimed at Oval Beach, Allegan Co., on 18 July 2013. The observer saw a flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers that contained one bird that was slightly larger with a bill that was "slightly longer" and had a "slight droop." No shape or plumage characteristics were provided. Members were troubled by the brief description, pointing out that Semipalmated Sandpipers can vary in size and bill shape/length and that both Baird's (*Calidris bairdii*) and White-rumped (*Calidris fuscicollis*) sandpipers are not eliminated by the description.

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*)
vote: 0-7
one description

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 19 June 2013. The observer flushed a "small snipe-



like bird” that was brown with four yellow stripes running down its back. Obviously, such a claim anywhere in North America should require thorough details, not just a two sentence summary of a small bird seen flying away.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 3-4

one description

two photo files

One was claimed flying past Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 12 November 2012. The photographs were distant and blurry, but showed a jaeger with a large white “flash” on the underwings. Most of the features used to make the identification were subjective, relying mostly on gestalt and size/shape. There was mention that the rump was contrastingly paler than the dark nape, but the photos seemed to show the opposite pattern. So, without details on the shape of the central rectrices, most members were unconvinced this bird could be positively identified.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One was claimed flying past the pier in St. Joseph, Berrien Co., on 5 September 2012. The identification of this jaeger was based on a comparison to another

jaeger it was flying with, which was presumed to be a Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). The bird in question was smaller and grayer, suggestive of a Long-tailed Jaeger. The observer also mentioned the central tail feathers extending out past the tail “at a distance where the parasitics’ [sic] do not show up.” Members found this statement confusing, wondering whether this meant the length of tail feathers was longer than seen on a Parasitic Jaeger or if the feathers were visible from a greater distance than one expects to see on a Parasitic Jaeger. Either way, the length of the central rectrices varies with age, something that was not determined on this bird. However, if a Long-tailed Jaeger, the bird was unlikely to be an adult, based on the white flashes described on the wings, yet the pointed central rectrices would argue against a juvenile bird. Some members argued that a Long-tailed Jaeger should show some contrast between the darker secondaries and grayer upperparts, especially at distances that allowed one to determine the shape of the central rectrices. In the end, most members felt the details were insufficient to support the identification claimed.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 0-7

one photo file

One was photographed at Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 29 September 2012 and was not accompanied by any description. The lone photo showed an immature jaeger with a dark secondary bar. Parasitic Jaegers also have darker flight feathers that can show contrast, it's just that the contrast with browner upperparts is less pronounced than the contrast with the grayer tones shown by Long-tailed Jaegers. The bird's bill length and shape troubled most members, as it was both long and slender, unlike the expected short and stout bill shape of a Long-tailed Jaeger. In the end, members were unconvinced that a Parasitic Jaeger could be eliminated from the lone photo, emphasizing the importance of submitting written details, rather than just photos.

alcid species

vote: 1-6

one description

An Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) was claimed at Brighton State Recreation Area, Livingston Co., on 7 March 2012, but was rejected, as such, in 2013 (Chu 2013). The observer described a small black-and-white bird with a "bright red" bill. Even under this broader category, members noted that the all red bill did not fit any known alcid.

alcid species

vote: 4-3 in the second round

one description

One was claimed at Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 31 October 2012. This record was originally reviewed and rejected as a Dovekie (*Alle alle*) with a 3-4 vote. Even under this broader category, the committee had reservations about the sighting. The observation was in strong winds and heavy rain; the observer mentioned at times not being able to see the end of Tiscornia Pier. The observer provided no information on distance from the bird or type of optics used, if any. So, while suggestive of an alcid, members were concerned that the poor viewing conditions and unknown circumstances were insufficient to be sure of the identification.

alcid species

vote: 1-6

one description

One was claimed at Caseville, Huron Co., on 1-2 November 2012. The observation was extremely brief (3-4 seconds), allowing the observer to tell it was a small black and white bird. The committee felt the description did not eliminate other species, such as a Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*).



Black-headed Gull

(*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

vote: 0-7 for two individuals
one description

Two were claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 5 December 2012. In only seven words, the brief description states only “Reddish bill, larger than Bonaparte’s. Winter plumage.” All felt these details could apply to many species and were insufficient to support the record.

Black-headed Gull

(*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

vote: 0-7 for five individuals
one description

Five were reported in Branch Co., on 20 March 2013. The brief description stated the wing patterns were similar to Bonaparte’s Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) and the “beak was browner (or dark red as the book describes).” While upperwing patterns may be similar, the underwing patterns of Black-headed and Bonaparte’s gulls are quite different. The claim of five individuals also suggests these were more likely Bonaparte’s Gulls. Given these concerns, members were unwilling to vote for acceptance.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

vote: 0-7
one description

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 21 November 2012. The brief description provided only “Dove like face, thin bill, dark eye, lots of black in tail.” Members argued that these details could apply to many species and were insufficient to support the identification claimed.

Yellow-footed Gull (*Larus livens*)

vote: 1-6
two descriptions
two photo files

A presumed second-cycle bird was claimed at Harbor Beach, Huron Co., on 1-2 May 2012. The photos were blurry and showed a distant young gull with yellowish legs, dark wings, white rump, and dark terminal tail band. Tail pattern in young Yellow-footed Gulls can be quite variable, ranging from wholly black to predominately white. That said, the birds with predominately white tails are those that have undergone an extensive second prealternate molt, which should also produce a more uniform, adult-like upperwing pattern, including white primary tips to p5 and p6 and a broad white trailing edge to the wing. This bird is clearly not that advanced, so one should expect a much darker, if not wholly dark, tail. In addition, the bird’s bill does not appear heavy, it has obvious pale

inner primary panels, and lacks a white trailing edge to the wing. So, while members acknowledged that it was an interesting bird, they also noted that the descriptions and photos were not a perfect match for the species claimed.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisaqus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

An adult was claimed on 29 December 2012 and then again on 11 January 2013 at Grace Lake, Wayne Co. After 25 minutes of observation, the observer was thinking this bird was either a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) or some sort of hybrid. Eventually, though, the observer noted a “string of pearls” on the inner primary tongues” that led them to believe it was a Slaty-backed Gull. As some members pointed out, though, the “string of pearls” is an important feature, but not diagnostic. In fact, Herring Gulls also have pale tongues to the primaries, they just don’t contrast as much against their paler gray mantle. The observer also reported the tertial crescent as “70% as wide as that of the Herring Gulls”, much narrower than expected for a Slaty-backed Gull. Members were troubled that all field marks were not consistent with Slaty-backed Gull, suggesting an odd hybrid gull could be a possibility.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisaqus*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One was claimed on the St. Clair River, St. Clair Co., on 23 January 2013. An adult bird was observed floating down the river, while roosting on an ice floe. The mantle was described as “intermediate” between Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) and Lesser Black-backed Gull. It also appeared to be, in bulk, nearly as big as a Great Black-backed Gull. Lastly, the spread wings were never seen, neither was leg coloration. Members commented that the bird’s size and mantle color did not fit Slaty-backed Gull, a species that should be similar in size to a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) and have a mantle paler than a Lesser Black-backed Gull. Further, a detailed assessment of primary pattern is needed before claiming a vagrant Slaty-backed Gull.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed on 8-11 January 2013 in Bay Co. The observer described a pale-winged gull, but mentions not being close enough to distinguish the shape of the bill. This, along with the fact the observer said the bird is likely not



a hybrid but “maybe with a few genes of Herring [Gull],” made the members nervous to accept such a notoriously difficult identification.

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One was claimed at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Macomb Co., on 12 July 2006. The description was very brief, stating nothing more than a “small tern: black cap; yellow bill”. Although this matches Least Tern, the committee was troubled by a few things. First, the description was provided more than 6 years after the observation, with no mention of field notes. Second, there was no reference on how size was determined, or distance at which the observation was made or optics, if any, used. These concerns led most members to vote against acceptance.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at North Bay Park, Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Co., on 18 April 2013. The description was very brief, only stating the bird had black on its head and the bill “had no black,” without actually stating its color. Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) can have all red bills, so the details provided are not sufficient to rule out this much more likely species.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 27 May 2013. The provided description was brief, stating the bird was an adult with a red bill and short legs. Additionally, the observer stated the bird had “white wings with sharp black line under wing at primaries.” However there was no information on the duration of the sighting, the distance, the optics used, or how similar species were eliminated. Spring Common Terns can be very pale-winged and have all red bills. To conclusively identify a spring Arctic Tern, one should assess the extent and distribution of translucence to the flight feathers. Thus, the members were unconvinced that the more common species, Common Tern, could be eliminated from consideration.

Eurasian Collared-Dove

(*Streptopelia decaocto*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was observed in flight only along Mill Rd., Berrien Co., on 28 May 2012. The description mentions seeing “tail web,” but does not clarify the features of the tail that eliminate African Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*) from consideration.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported from Berrien County on 11 September 2013. It was originally reviewed and rejected as a Rufous Hummingbird with a 2-5 vote. The description suggested a hummingbird, but also failed to rule out a hummingbird moth.

Selasphorus species

vote: 0-7

one description

A Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) was originally claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 20 May 2013, but was rejected with a 0-7 vote. The brief description states only "male in full plumage" but doesn't describe the color of the gorget. The wings were said to sound like a "tin humming." In addition, other details, such as duration of the observation, distance, and optics used, were not provided. In the end, the overall lack of details and circumstances made it impossible for members to vote for acceptance.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One was claimed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., on 14 May 2013. While a shrike was

clearly described, members were concerned that the details failed to eliminate Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). Most importantly, the details failed to describe the position of the eyes relative to the black mask and whether the black extended across the top of the bill. While time of year would suggest Loggerhead Shrike, mid-May is certainly a reasonable time frame for a late Northern Shrike.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at Holland, Ottawa Co., on 1 March 2013. The brief description stating the bird was smaller than an American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and gave a "honking hee-uh" call. Members were troubled that there were no details to identify this as a crow and that the single vocalization wasn't a good match for a Fish Crow's nasal "uh-oh" or "anh" calls.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 2-5

two photo files

One was claimed flying past Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co., on 23 August 2012. The photographs show a pale-rumped swallow, however, it was difficult to ascertain other details. In at least one photo, the lower regions of the throat appear dark, suggestive of Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon*

pyrrhonota). Given the inability to clearly discern auricular and throat coloration, members were unable to be sure this bird was a Cave Swallow.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One was claimed at Belle Isle, Wayne Co., on 25 October 2012. The description was suggestive of this species, but there was no mention of the auricular coloration. Unfortunately, auricular pattern is an important field mark to eliminate a young Cliff Swallow.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 1-6 for three individuals, 3-4
for a fourth bird

one description

Four individuals were claimed at Manistee, Manistee Co., on 10 November 2012. As the birds flew past, the observer noted four square-tailed swallows with buffy underparts and dark above the face. At least one bird was heard calling, but the vocalization, understandably, proved difficult to put into words. Most members were concerned that the observer did not see the auriculars, an important field mark when trying to eliminate juvenile Cliff Swallows.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at Harrisville,
Alcona Co., on 27 May 2013.

The brief description stated it was a brown, long-tailed wren with a white eyebrow stripe and white along the sides of the upper tail. The observer provided no information on distance or optics used. Members were troubled by the circumstances and the fact that the description of the white in the tail was incorrect for this species. Others pointed out that Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) could not be completely eliminated by the description provided.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 18 April 2013. The description provided was very brief and somewhat contradictory. For example, the observer stated the eye was light but “not yellow”. The bird was intermixed with a flock of Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) and had light streaking to the breast and flanks and white spots at the end of the tail. No details were provided on relative size or shape, distance from the observer, or optics used. Members found many factors problematic. First, the details fail to establish why the bird was even a thrasher.

The minimal details provided, along with the uncertain circumstances, left some feeling the description could apply to a sparrow.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 23 May 2013. The brief description stated only "Adult in full plumage. Streaked head and back, yellow legs, and white outer tail feathers." In addition, there was no information on distance from the observer or optics used. All members felt the description was too incomplete and could be applied to wide variety of species.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

vote: 1-6 for three individuals

one description

Three were claimed in Ionia County on 5 May 2013. The observer noticed three birds flying overhead and was drawn to them because of their rattle call. The description was limited to buffy bodies and a tail pattern that "reminded me of Vesper Sparrow." While this description is suggestive of this species, many committee members were concerned by not knowing the duration and distance of the observation. For example, it seems possible the observer heard the rattle of nearby Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*) and then saw a different buffy-

bodied bird, like American Pipits (*Anthus rubescens*). Additionally, the observer did not explain if any other species were considered and how they were eliminated as possibilities.

Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 24 May 2013. The brief description provided: "Adult male in full plumage. Head and back grayish colored, throat dull yellow, yellow breast, gray belly, and bright yellow undertail and rump." Members pointed out that an adult male should have a white throat, not a yellow throat, as described. Further, no details were provided on distance from the observer or whether optics were used.

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

vote: 2-5

one description

One was claimed at Young State Park, Charlevoix Co., on 29 September 2012. The observer described a Palm Warbler with yellow undersides and yellow supercillium. Given that intergrades with "Western" Palm Warbler do occur, members were concerned that no effort was made to describe the distribution and



intensity of the yellow underparts. Others commented that no information on distance from the observer or optics used was provided, making it hard to judge the circumstances of the sighting.

“Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One was claimed in Inland Twp., Benzie Co., on 28 April 2013. The observer described a warbler with “a yellow throat, yellow crown, yellow patch on rump and small yellow patch near base of wing.” While suggestive, without any details pertaining to its face pattern, some members were reluctant to endorse this record. The exact pattern of the face, whether it was plain or had an auricular patch, is an essential field mark, when trying to identify a vagrant “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler.

“Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*)

vote: 1-6 for two individuals

one description

Two were claimed at Simpson Lake, Crawford Co., on 14 May 2013. One major concern was the statement that the bird had a “black patch on the cheek.” “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped

Warblers should have plain gray faces that blend uniformly into the nape, while “Myrtle” Yellow-rumped have distinct black auricular patches. Further, while claiming two individuals, the description fluctuated back and forth between the singular and plural, making it confusing to determine what features were present on which birds. Given these concerns, most members were unwilling to vote for acceptance.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

vote: 0-7

one description and two photo files

One was reported at Stony Creek Metropark, Macomb Co., on 6 May 2012. The photos clearly showed a male Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), based on its uniform black upperparts and large white patch at the base of the primaries.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

vote: 4-3 in the second round

one description and three photo files

One was present at Grindstone City, Huron Co., on 20-23 February 2012. The photos showed a partially obscured female towhee with distinct white spotting on its upperparts. Dissenting members felt the primary bases were covered by breast side and flank feathers,

preventing one from assessing the presence or absence of white on the primary bases. Hybrid towhees can show extensive white spotting on the upperparts, but also show some semblance of a white patch on the primary bases. Others, however, did feel enough of the primary bases were visible to determine that a large white patch was absent. This record was reconsidered and accepted in 2013.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at Peninsula Point, Delta Co., on 24 May 2013. The observer described a male towhee with white spots above the wings. However, the observer did not describe the base of the primaries. A pure Spotted Towhee would lack a white patch at the base of the primaries, whereas hybrids and Eastern Towhees would show white at the primary bases. Without details on this region, members felt a hybrid could not be eliminated.

Cassin's Sparrow (*Peucaea cassinii*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 11 October 2012. The observer described a sparrow with a brown back, gray underparts, rufous streaked crown,

plain face with slight eyering, and a long tail with white edges. As with other reports from this observer, there were no details on distance or duration of the sighting or the optics used, if any. Members were unwilling to endorse such a brief description, without more information on the circumstances and some effort by the observer to detail how similar species were eliminated.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One was claimed at Grand Rapids, Kent Co., on 1 July 2004. The description was suggestive of this species, however, given the distinctiveness of Lark Sparrow, some obvious details were omitted. For example, the observer mentions the chestnut patch behind the eye but does not mention the crown color or any of the white areas of the face. There was no description of the tail, which would have helped eliminate other sparrow species. In the end, the majority of the committee felt the description was too brief.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed at the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary, Barry Co., on



13 October 2013. The description was of an orange sparrow with a gray patch below the eye and white lines on the back, suggestive of this species. However, the members were concerned with a lack of description of the nape. In addition, the observer incorrectly stated that LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) lacks an orangeish breast contrasting with a white belly. As with all Nelson's Sparrows, this record will be reconsidered in 2014 as a Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sparrow.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported at Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon Co., on 9 September 2012. This record was originally claimed and rejected as a Nelson's Sparrow, in 2012 (Chu 2013). Even under this broader category, members felt the description of an overall orangeish sparrow with gray auriculars and unstreaked buff chest did not eliminate the possibility of LeConte's Sparrow.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

This bird, originally claimed as a Nelson's Sparrow along Vreeland Rd., Washtenaw Co., on

22 September 2012, was rejected with a 0-7 vote. Even under this broader category, the brief description of an "orange/yellow" bird with a dark breast band was not sufficient to rule out a LeConte's Sparrow.

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

vote: 1-6

one description

This record, originally claimed as a Nelson's Sparrow on 24 September 2012 in Ingham Co., was rejected in 2012 (Chu 2013). In 2013, even under this broader category, the committee felt the very brief description of an orange sparrow with a gray cheek could not eliminate LeConte's Sparrow.

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

vote: 3-4 in the second round

two descriptions

This bird, originally claimed as a Nelson's Sparrow at Muskegon Wastewater, Muskegon Co., on 29 September 2012, was rejected with a 0-7 vote. Under this broader category, several members felt the descriptions could only apply to one of these two species. However, the majority of the committee was concerned over the lack of details provided, namely the distance, optics, weather conditions, and overall detail of the bird.

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

vote: 3-4

one description

This bird, claimed as a Nelson's Sparrow in Royalton Twp., Berrien Co., on 4 October 2013, was rejected with a 2-5 vote. Under this broader category, members were divided on the record. Supporters commented that the details were brief, but supportive of the identification. Others, however, were troubled that the gray nape and auricular patches were not noted, leaving concerns that it could have been a LeConte's Sparrow.

"Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco
(*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*)

vote: 0-7 for two individuals
 fifteen photo files

Two were claimed at Boyne City, Charlevoix Co., on 8-19 January 2010. The photos provided were rather poor, making it difficult to see much detail. Members all felt it was hard to determine if one or two birds were involved, and all agreed that they did not appear to be pure "Pink-sided" Juncos. Most importantly, the bird(s) did not show contrastingly dark lores, a feature that should be visible on a "Pink-sided" Junco. In the end, members felt the photos showed some sort of intergrade or even a variant "Slate-colored" Junco.

"Gray-headed" Dark-eyed Junco
(*Junco hyemalis caniceps*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed in Berlin Twp., Monroe Co., on 3 October 2010. The observer described a gray-headed junco with dark lores and gray sides. Unfortunately, the upperparts were not seen. Members referenced the extreme variability shown by the various junco forms, as well as their propensity to interbreed. Without a complete assessment of field marks, which would need to include the presence of a distinct reddish brown patch on the back, members felt it was not possible to definitively label this bird as a "Gray-headed" Junco.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was claimed in Macomb Co., on 19 April 2013. The brief description stated only "uniform, yellow-green, pale eyering". In addition to lacking information on distance and optics used, members commented that the very brief details could apply to several species of tanager and warbler. Without a more complete description, there just wasn't enough information to support the identification.

One was claimed at Harrisville, Alcona Co., on 14 May 2013. The brief description claimed it was a female bird with a “darker and longer” bill and “heavy streaked back”. However, a female Bullock’s

Oriole would have a paler, not darker, back with very little or no streaking, in comparison to a Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). Coupling these brief and inconsistent details with the lack of information on distance and optics used, members were unwilling to vote for acceptance.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Adam Byrne for extensive help with this article. He proofed all the locations, dates, observers, and records, in addition to structural flow and grammar.

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