



Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2016

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This is the 27th report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee (MBRC), covering the committee's actions during the year 2016.

In 2016, the MBRC consisted of regular members Adam M. Byrne (Clinton Co.), Philip C. Chu (Minnesota), Louis Dombroski (Bay Co.), Skye Haas (Marquette Co.), Matt Hysell (Berrien Co.), David Pavlik (Ingham Co.), and J.D. Phillips (Marquette Co.), and alternate members Jeff Buecking (Genessee Co.) and Marc North (Eaton Co.). Dombroski chaired the committee, and Byrne was the secretary.

In 2016, the MBRC made decisions on 130 records, with 84 (64.4%) of the records resulting in acceptance at some taxonomic level. "Acceptance" means at least one individual reported was accepted, even if at a broader taxonomic level – two *Plegadis* ibis records accepted in 2016 had originally been reported by at least one observer as either Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) or White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*).

The information provided for each of the following records is: vote tally; an inventory of the documentation provided; number of birds claimed; date(s); and location. The vote tally gives the number of votes for acceptance first, then the number against. When the vote is said to have gone to the second round, that means that initially the record received a vote of 4-3 or 5-2, in which case a second vote is held after the record is discussed at a meeting of the MBRC. For accepted records only, the observers associated with the documentation are listed. If known, the person who first found the bird(s) is also listed and underlined, whether that person submitted documentation or not.

The only changes in status at the end of 2016 were for Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*) and Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*), both of which were slated to be removed from the review list, having maintained regular status for three years after having moved from casual to regular status. The MBRC voted to keep Chuck-will's-widow on the review list; even though 14 records have been accepted in the past 10

years, with at least one in each year; these come from just two locations and likely include individual birds returning for multiple years, so it would not be surprising if this species falls back into casual status, so continuing to require documentation is prudent. No such action was proposed for Nelson's Sparrow, which is no longer a review species as of 1 January 2017.

The Committee also considered several requests to reconsider records; most such requests are detailed in the species accounts below. One, however, involved a record not acted on in 2016, so is detailed here. In 2015, the committee reviewed a group of 14 Eurasian Collared-Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*), ultimately only accepting one individual. Since then, though, the birds continued in the area and good documentation was provided for up to two individuals. The committee accepted a request to reconsider up to two individuals, with a 9-0 vote.

Records Accepted:

Ross's Goose (*Anser rossii*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Brian Allen, Carl Freeman, Keith Westphal

One in Benzie and Manistee Cos. on 19-28 March 1997. This record was accepted in 1997 (Reinoehl 1998), but later, in 2001, reconsidered and rejected during a review of all Ross's Goose records (Byrne 2002). In 2016, new documentation, in the form of a photo, was discovered, prompting a reconsideration request in 2015, which led to the record being accepted once again (3rd state record, 1st county record for both counties).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 7-0

description: Patrick Wright

photo files: Linda Ar, Robert Bochenek, Karen Bonnell, Darlene Friedman, Ross Green, Curt Hofer, Ryan Jacob, Paul Jacyk, Sandra LaFaut, Collette Lauzau, Greg Links, Mark Plessner, Patrick Wright

One male at Erie State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 12-25 March 2016 (56th state record, 11th county record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Craig Schafer, Joe Soehnel

One male at Nayanquing Pt. State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. on 19-20 April 2016 (57th state record, 3rd county record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Thomas Baumgart, Patrick Wright

photo files: Thomas Baumgart, Greg Bodker, Aaron Boone, Ryan Dziedzic, Scott Jennex, Jim VanAllen

One at Loomis and Kirk Roads, Tuscola Co. on 19-29 April 2016 (58th state record, 3rd county record). One observer stated that a second individual was present, but no further documentation was received and that individual was rejected with a 0-7 vote.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Robert Bochenek, Louie Dombroski, Bruce Gates, Skye Haas, Ted Keyel, Darrell Lawson, Beth Olson, Richard Yarsevich

photo files: Robert Bochenek, Vince Cavalieri, Skye Haas, Ted Keyel, Darrell Lawson

One at the Tahquamenon River mouth, Chippewa Co. on 30 April 2016, subsequently seen at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 1 May 2016 (60th state record, 1st county record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Skye Haas, Beth Olson

One male at the Gwinn sewage ponds, Marquette Co. on 5 May 2016 (61th state record, 1st county record).

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Mark Wloch

One female at Ludington Harbor, Mason Co. on 28 July 2016 (6th state record, 2nd county record).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jim Dawe, Louis Dombroski, Patrick Wright

photo files: Robert Bochenek, Greg Bodker, Louis Dombroski, Bob Kemp, Myles McNally, Greg Smith

One adult male at Higgins Lake State Park, Roscommon Co. on 18 December 2015 – 9 January 2016 might well be the bird seen there in Dec 2014 returning (21st state record, 2nd county record).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Randall Kling

photo files: Allen Chartier, Roy Churchill, Darlene Friedman, Randall Kling

One well-photographed male at Marysville, St. Clair Co. on 9-17 February 2016 (22nd state record, 2nd county record). A report of an accompanying female was rejected by a vote of 0-7. This bird was described as having a “lighter, dull yellow” bill compared to Common Goldeneye, (*Bucephala clangula*), and with a head “more upright, with sharper forehead”, but these details were found insufficient and all photographs of female birds accompanying the male Barrow's Goldeneye appeared to be of Common Goldeneyes.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions and photo files: Darrell Lawson, Alice Van Zoeren, Patrick Wright

descriptions: Robert Bochenek, Elise Brooks, Adam M. Byrne, Scott Jennex, Kathy Kaczynski, Ken Sapkowski, Linda Scribner, Scott Sneed

One at Glen Arbor, Leelanau Co. on 31 January – 17 February 2016 (48th state record, 1st county record).

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)

vote: 5-2 in the second round

descriptions: Ryne Rutherford, Drew Weber

photo files: Drew Weber

One along the Lake Michigan shoreline at Manistique, Schoolcraft Co. on 5 October 2015, last seen being captured by a Merlin! While the photos proved the bird to be a ground-dove, concerns were raised that the photos did not show the details necessary to rule out Ruddy Ground-Dove, specifically the scapular pattern, but most reviewers maintained that the photos showed unmarked scapulars, a trait that eliminates Ruddy Ground-Dove (6th state record, 1st county record).

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Chris Neri

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 11 October 2015 (7th state record, 4th county record).

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Mark & Joanie Hubinger, Nathan Martineau, Amanda O'Neill, Gary Palmer

photo files: Beth Olson, Amanda O'Neill, J.D. Philips

One in Marquette, Marquette Co. on 26 October – 17 November 2015 (8th state record, 1st county record).**Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)**

vote: 6-1

description and photo file: Nathan MartineauOne at Marquette, Marquette Co. on 4 November 2015 was determined to be a different individual than the previous record (9th state record, 2nd county record).**Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)**

vote: 7-0

photo files: Ashley Adams, Joe Kaplan, Demetri Lafkas, Nathan Martineau, Paul Nelson, Marc North

Yet another individual at Marquette, Marquette Co., this one on 5-23 November 2015 (10th state record, 3rd county record).**White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Scott Hickman

photo files: Laurie Johnson

One at Shelter Bay, Alger Co. on 9-10 November 2015, found by John Hust (27th state record, 2nd county record).**White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)**

vote: 7-0

description: Kirk Waterstripe

One at Traverse City, Grand Traverse Co. on 22 April 2016 (28th state record, 1st county record). In addition to plumage details, the report included a description of the bird's distinctive call.**Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Philip C. Chu, David Parsons, Jeff Stacey, Patrick Wright
audio files: Don HeniseOne heard at Sharonville State Game Area, Norvell Twp., Jackson Co, on 22 May – 2 July 2016 (21st state record, 6th county record).

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

vote: 6-1 in second round

descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Scott Terry

photo files: Kirby Adams, Rick Brigham, Allen Chartier, Ross Green, Wayne Hoch, Scott Jennex, Jerome Jourdan, Myles McNally, Brandon Nidiffer, Phil Odum, Scott Terry, Larry Urbanski

One of three individuals (two previously accepted; Terry and Byrne 2017) reported at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. from 30 April – 22 June 2015: resubmitted in 2015, in 2016 it was accepted at that level (making it the 3rd individual in the 13th state and 5th county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Paul Berrigan, Karl Overman, Jim VanAllen, Patrick Wright

photo files: Scott Jennex, Philip Odum, Craig Schafer, Jim VanAllen, Patrick Wright

video file: Jim VanAllen

One at Fish Point State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. on 25 April – 16 May 2016. Found by Tim & Aggie Keinath (15th state record, 1st county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Brynja K.E. Davis, Richard Willey

photo: Richard Willey

One at the Andrews University Dairy, Berrien Co. on 29 April 2016 (16th state record, 2nd county record).

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

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Andrew Pawuk, Joe Prochaska

photo files: Kirby Adams, Linda Ar, Ross Green, Matty & Benjamin Hack, Lyle Hamilton, Don Henise, Jeff Hollobaugh, Scott Jennex, Brendan Klick, Ben Lucking, Elliott Nelson, Norka Saldana, Richard Wolinski

One at the Chelsea State Game Area, Washtenaw Co. on 7-11 May 2016. Since one observer entered this bird into eBird at the subspecific level, the bird was reviewed at that level (17th state record, 1st county record).



Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo: Joe Soehnel

One at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. on 17 May 2016 (18th state record, 6th county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Marie Ostrander

One at the Andrews University Dairy, Berrien Co. on 18 May 2016 (19th state record, 3rd county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Chip Francke

photo files; Robert Bochenek, Adam M. Byrne, Lisa Casler, Tim Cornish, Nathan DeBruine, Curtis Dykstra, Lizzy Kibbey, Carl Manning, Judi Manning, Marc Miedema, Karl Overman, Andrew Simon, Jess Sori, One at the Coopersville Wastewater Facility, Ottawa Co. on 15-17 September 2016 (20th state record, 1st county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Ryan Dziedzic

photo files: Joe Soehnel, Jim VanAllen, Patrick Wright

One at Fish Pt. State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. on 11-25 May 2016 (58th state record, 3rd county record).

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Alec Olivier, Beth Olson

One at Marquette, Marquette Co. on 7 June 2016 (18th state spring record, 2nd state spring county record).

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 7-0 in the first round for one individual; 7-0 in the second round for a second individual

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Brad Murphy

Two at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 5 September 2015 (230th state record, 77th county record).

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Terry Dreves](#)

One at the Calumet sewage ponds, Houghton Co. on 13 May 2016 (231th state record, 2nd county record).

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 7-0 for one individual

descriptions: Michael Harvey, Patrick Wright

photo files: Michael Harvey, Scott Jennex, Jeff Stacey, Andrew Sturgess

Two at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 16 July 2016, with one accepted in the first round and one resubmitted. [The second individual was accepted in 2017.] (232nd state record, 78th county record)

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Tom Tucholski](#)

One at Whiting Overlook Park, Midland Co. on 7 October 2015 (107th state record, 3rd county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

description: Rob Emelander, Jeff Kunitzer

photo files: Laurence Burke, Charlie DeWitt, Rob Emelander, Brad Heath, Myles McNally, Steve Minard

One at Muskegon Wastewater facility, Muskegon Co. on 6-16 November 2015 (109th state record, 22nd county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Andy Dettling](#)

One at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 20 November 2015 (110th state record, 11th county record).

alcid species (*Alcidae* species)

vote: 7-0

description: Adam M. Byrne

One viewed in flight at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. on 29 November 2015 was thought by the observer to most likely be an Ancient Murrelet, but did not think Dovekie could be ruled out by the looks obtained.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

vote: 6-1

description: [Ryan Dziedzic](#)

One at Coldwater Lake County Park, Isabella Co. on 17 November 2015. Though not a review species, the unusual inland location prompted the review of the record (first county record).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Amar Ayyash

One second-cycle bird was photographed standing and in flight at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. on 13 November 2015 (27th state record, 16th county record)

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Allen Chartier, Scott Terry, Andrew Theus

photo files: Mike Bourdon, Allen Chartier, Lyle Hamilton, Scott Jennex, Myles McNally, Brad Murphy, Philip Odum, Tom Pavlik, Aidan Rominger, Chace Scholten, Scott Terry, Andrew Theus

One at Forest Lawn landfill and New Bufflo beach, Berrien Co. from 28 November – 5 December 2015 (28th state record, 17th county record).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Andrew Theus

photo files: Mike Bourdon, Andrew Theus, Laura Wentz

One adult at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. on 21 September – 18 November 2016 (29th state record, 18th county record).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

vote: 6-1 in the second round

description: Eric Ripma

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 6 October 2015 was seen within a flock of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) (29th state record, 9th county record).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

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

descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Mike Mencotti, Andrew Simon, Patrick Wright

photo files: Linda Ar, Robert Bochenek, Lisa Combs, Ross Green, Lyle Hamilton, Curt Hofer, Margaret Jewett, Myles McNally, Mike Mencotti, Norka Saldana, Andrew Simon, Jeff Stacey, Scott Terry, Mary Trombley, Patrick Wright

One present at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. from 7 May – 16 September 2016, with a second individual documented (including with photos from some dates that show two birds) from 16 July - 13 August 2016 (50th state record, 22nd county record).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

vote: 7-0 in second round

descriptions: Bruce Bodjack, Neil Gilbert, John Porath

photo files: Doug Jackson

One at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. from 5 May – 2 June 2015. Diagnostic photos showed an adult Glossy Ibis with two other *Plegadis* ibises, one accepted as a White-faced Ibis (see below), the other at the generic level of *Plegadis* ibis with a 7-0 vote (25th state record, 5th county record).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadi chihi*)

vote: 6-1 in second round

photo files: Doug Jackson

One at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. on 1-2 June 2015, accompanying two other *Plegadis* ibis, one accepted as a Glossy Ibis (see above), the other at the generic level of *Plegadis* ibis (33rd state record, 4th county record).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadi chihi*)

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Carl Manning, Elizabeth Notman

photo files: Judi Manning

One at the Coopersville sewage treatment plant, Ottawa Co. on 15 May 2016 (34th state record, 1st county record).

***Plegadis* ibis**

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Roger Eriksson

One at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. on 10 November and 22 December 2015.

Plegadis ibis

vote: 7-0

descriptions and photo files: Mary Pratt, Greg Smith

One at wetlands near the intersection of E. Roosevelt and McClelland rds., Gratiot Co. on 21 May 2016. It was initially reviewed as a White-faced Ibis, but not accepted at that level, mostly due to the lack of detail on eye coloration and inability to assess that feature in the photo files and whether other details, such as leg color and face color were required to confirm the identification and rule out a hybrid with Glossy Ibis (1st county record for any member of this genus).

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

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Karen Karl

One photographed at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co. on 6 September 2015 was reported as present “about two and a half weeks from the beginning of September on.” (3rd state record, 1st county record).

Say’s Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Brian Allen, Douglas Cook, Marc North

photo files: Don Burlett, Nathan DeBruine, Zachary DeBruine, Ross Green, Roger Hagerman, Scott Jennex, Judi Manning, Myles McNally, Marc North, Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Linda Scribner, Scott Sneed, Jim VanAllen

One at the Tippy Dam Recreation Area, Manistee Co. on 3-9 April 2016 (22nd state record, 1st county record).

Say’s Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Darrell Lawson, Jason Newton

photo files: Darrell Lawson, Jason Newton, Philip Odum

One at Mackinaw City, Emmet Co. on 29-30 April 2016 (23rd state record, 2nd county record).

Say’s Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

vote: 7-0

description and video files: David Marvin

One at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Leelanau Co. on 15 May 2016 (24th state record, 1st county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions and photo files: [Ryan Dziedzic](#), Patrick Wright

photo files: Myles McNally, Philip Odum

One along Manor Rd., AuGres Twp., Arenac Co. on 18 May 2016 (169th state record, 2nd county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Tim Baerwald

One at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co. on 18 May 2016 (170th state record, 5th county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Patrick Wright

photo files: David Amamoto, Robert Bochenek, Mike Cook, Darlene Friedman, Thomas Gass, Ross Green, [Matty & Benjamin Hack](#), Don Henise, Patrick Jakel, Scott Jennex, Alexander Lees, Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Norka Saldana, Jeff Stacey, Scott Terry, Mary Trombley

One at Manchester, Washtenaw Co. on 29 May – 20 June 2016 (171st state record, 1st county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Scott Hickman

One at Grand Sable Dunes, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Alger Co. on 14 June 2016 (172nd state record, 2nd county record).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

vote: 7-0

description: Louie Dombroski

photo files: Linda Ar, Skye Haas, Laurie Johnson, Joe Kaplan, Myles McNally, Philip Odum, J.D. Phillips,

One at Portage Marsh, Escanaba, Delta Co. on 6-12 June 2016, found by [Joe McDonnell](#) (44th state record, 1st county record).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Cheryl Smith](#)

One photographed at Montague, Oceana and Muskegon cos. on 7 April 2016 (11th state record, 1st county record for both counties).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 6-1 for two individuals in second round

descriptions: Rick Brigham, Kip Miller

Two observed at St. Joseph High School, Berrien Co. from 13 April – 4 May 2014. Initially discovered by Mike Mahler (5th state and county record)

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals

descriptions: Philip C. Chu, Lizzy Kibbey, Kip Miller, Steve Minard, Marc North, Rita Wetmore

photo files: Rita Wetmore

audio file: Matt Hysell

Up to three individuals were reported at St. Joseph High School, Berrien Co. from 26 March – 13 June 2016. Two were accepted; the third was resubmitted and accepted in 2017 (8th state and county record).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 7-0

description: Eric Ripma

photo files: Tim Baerwald

One at the Whitefish Point Harbor of Refuge, Chippewa Co. on 24 October 2015. (21st state record, 7th county record).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 6-1

description: Eric Ripma

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 9 November 2015. (22nd state record, 8th county record).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Caleb Putnam

One at the Kalamazoo River mouth, Allegan Co. on 11 November 2015 (23rd state record, 1st county record).

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

vote: 6-1

description and photo files: Carl Freeman

One at Arcadia Bluffs, Benzie Co. on 15 April 2016 (11th state record, 1st county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Drew Meyer

One at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co. on 5 May 2016 (19th state record, 4th county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jim Dawe, Patrick Wright

photo files: Scott Jennex, Philip Odum, Joe Soehnel, Jim Triplett, Patrick Wright

One at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. on 8-11 May 2016, discovered by Karl Overman (20th state record, 1st county record)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Louie Dombroski, Skye Haas

photo files: Skye Haas

One flying over the beach at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 9 May 2016 (21st state record, 8th county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals

photo files: Skye Haas

Two at Peninsula Point, Delta Co. on 17-19 May 2016 (22nd state record, 2nd county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0 for three individuals

description: Philip C. Chu

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Louie Dombroski, Gil Eckrich, Joe Emmons, Skye Haas, Mark Hubinger, Barry Lyons, Myles McNally, Mike Snable

Three at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 23 May – 2 June (23rd state record, 9th county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 6-1 for two individuals

description: Skye Haas

Two were observed flying overhead near the tip of Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 30 May 2016, while simultaneously, the three mentioned in the previous record were observed at the feeders (24th state record, 10th county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Tim Baerwald

One at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co. on 31 May – 2 June 2016 (25th state record, 5th county record).

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)

vote: 6-1 in the second round

description: Philip Cantino

One atop Brockway Mountain, Keweenaw Co. on 24 August 1966. The description was accompanied by scans of pages from a field notebook with entries dated 24, 27, and 31 August 1966 which described the bird and then recounted research into its identity, which included a trip to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology to look at specimens (1st state record, 1st county record; six later state records previously accepted, none from Keweenaw Co.).

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Tim Baerwald

One male at Brockway Mountain, Keweenaw Co. on 16 May 2016 (29th state record, 4th county record).

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

vote: 7-0

description: Scott Hickman

photo files: Skye Haas, Scott Hickman

One male, found by Gloria Rinney, at Sand River, Alger Co. on 20 May 2016. (30th state record, 1st county record).

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Dale Wolck

One immature male at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co. on 21 May 2016 (31st state record, 5th county record).

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Paul Poronto, Mary Trombley

photo files: Robert Bochenek, Scott Jennex, Paul Poronto, Andrea Rose, Kevin Rysiewski, Andy W. Weinrauch

One at Lake St. Clair Metro Park, Macomb Co. on 7-11 October 2016 (52nd state record, 2nd county record).

“Gray-headed” Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*)

vote: 7-0

description: Louis Dombroski

photo files: Zach Gayk, Skye Haas, Scot Stewart

One, found by Alec Lindsay, at Marquette, Marquette Co. on 10 May 2005. (1st state and county record).

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

vote: 7-0

photo files: Dennis McNeil

One male at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. on 21 May 2014 (8th state record, 2nd county record).

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Joan Campbell, Louis Dombroski, Joshua Forrester, Skye Haas, Scott Jennex, Joe Kaplan, Marc North, Philip Odum, Beth Olson, J.D. Phillips, Lynette Thonne, Jay Watson, Patrick Wright

One found at a feeding station in Menominee Co. on 29 November 2015 remained through 12 January 2016, when it was found dead. The specimen was donated to UMMZ (11th state record, 1st county record).

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Chris Neri, Eric Ripma

This amazing record was of a female-plumaged bird well-photographed at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 20 October 2015. (1st state and county record).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

description and photo file: Rob Leonard

vote: 7-0

One at a feeder in Lowell, Kent Co. on 5 May 2016 (33rd state record, 2nd county record).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

vote: 7-0

description: Jim Dawe

photo files: Dan Duso, Damon Haan, Moira Maus, Myles McNally, Philip Odum, Joe Soehnel, David Van Fleet

One male, with limited red on the face, at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. on 7-9 May 2016 (34th state record, 2nd county record).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Jim Dawe, James Law

One female at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. on 21 May 2016 (35th state record, 3rd county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0 for five individuals

descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Ross Green, Margaret Jewett

photo files: Heidi Doman, Dan Fox, Thomas Gass, Ross Green, Lyle Hamilton, Jim Keller, Alan Ryff, Jeff Stacey

An adult pair and three nestlings at Sharon Mills County Park, Washtenaw Co., from 27 July – 30 August 2015. A female and immature male were found on 27 July, a nest with three eggs found on 28 July, and three nestlings discovered on 9 August, with one reported as late as 30 August 2015 (31st state record, 2nd county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0

description and audio file: Patrick Wright

photo files: Linda Ar, Robert Bochenek, Thomas Gass, Greg Links, Philip Odum, Patrick Wright

One male at Whiteford Park, Monroe Co. on 26 May – 10 July 2016 (32nd state record, 3rd county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0 for one individual

descriptions: Michael Cook, Margaret Jewett, Mary Trombley

photo files: Scott Jennex, Alan Ryff, Mary Trombley

One adult male at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 17-31 July 2016 (34th state record, 4th county record). A total of four birds were reported; a male photographed on 14 August 2016 was accepted in 2017 and the additional two were not accepted.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0 for four individuals, 6-1 for one additional individual

descriptions: Brendan Leddy, Steve Zulczyk

photo files: Jenifer Benke, Daryl Bernard, Robert Bochenek, Adam Byrne, Ryan Dziedzic, Darlene Friedman, Ross Green, Lyle Hamilton, Charles Harris, Curt Hofer, Janet Hug, Scott Jennex, Brendan Leddy, Mike Mencotti, Tom Pavlik, Andrea Rose, Andrew Simon, Jeff Stacey, Mary Trombley, Steve Zulczyk

A family group at Novi, Oakland Co. with observations from 6 August – 5 September 2016. A pair was found on 6 August 2016, a nest with three nestlings on 12 August 2016, with two fledglings last seen on 5 September 2016 (35th state record, 1st county record).

Records not accepted:

Ross's Goose (*Anser rossii*)

vote: 3-4 for 2 individuals in the second round

two descriptions

Two birds were reported at Allegan State Game Area, Allegan Co. from 12-26 November 1995. This record was previously voted on and not accepted based on one description (Byrne 2002). An additional description was received, leading to a reconsideration request that was accepted with a 9-0 vote. Unlike the first description, the new documentation considered the possibility of hybridization with Snow Goose. The bills of the geese were described as having a blue-gray base and completely lacking a black grin patch, details not included in the initial report. This new information was enough to satisfy some reviewers, but most expressed concern that the shape of the bill base/ facial feathering interface was not described, and that hybrids could not be ruled out based on bill color alone.

Ross's Goose (*Anser rossii*)

vote: 0-7

one description

A record of one bird at Rochester, Oakland Co. on 13 March 1997. The bird was described as a “small white goose with small stubby bill and no black grinning patch.” Even though it was observed at a time when hybrids with Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*) were less frequent, without further elaboration or photos, this possibility could not be ruled out.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One male reported at Rose Island, Huron Co. on 13 April 2016 was described only as having a “red head with gold front”. While this brief description fits a Eurasian Wigeon, more detail would be needed to rule out hybrids with American Wigeon (*Mareca americana*).

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One described from Mackinac Co. on 8 July 2016 as being a “very large duck” with a dark bill, an angular head, and mottled plumage. Most committee members thought that the bill and head shape description were consistent with an eider, but that the description was not detailed enough to rule out King Eider. [This record was reconsidered as a Common/King Eider, and accepted at that level in 2017.]

Barrow’s Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 0-7 for two individuals

one description

A report of two birds at Escanaba, Delta Co. on 27 March 2016 briefly listed field marks of both a male and female that were suggestive of the species (for the male, a “flat head with steep forehead and a white crescent cheek patch” and for the female a “brown head” and “yellow beak”), but lacked the detail necessary to rule out immature male Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*) and hybrids. Committee members were concerned that there was no information on distance to the bird and what, if any, optics were used.

Barrow’s Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 0-7 for four individuals

one description

A report to eBird of four birds at Island Lake State Recreation Area, Livingston Co. on 17 April 2017 included a brief description of two males with crescent-shaped patches on their faces. The description did not rule out immature male Common Goldeneyes or hybrids, and the two females reported were not described at all.

Aechmophorus grebe

vote: 3-4 in the second round

one description

One described at Berrien Springs, Berrien Co. on 20 December 2015 was reported as a Western Grebe. The details provided included the statements, “The bird had the classic long neck, white in the front and black on the back side. Dark body. The black on the head came down below the eyes. Long yellow bill.” Opinions among committee members varied greatly, with some satisfied that this description ruled out all other possibilities, including Clark’s Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) and hybrids,

while others pointed out that the features were subjective enough to not rule out Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) or loons. The record was rejected as a Western Grebe with a 2-5 vote, and then again at this generic level.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One was reported at a feeder in Saginaw Co. on 11 November 2015. The written account refers to a bird rather briefly seen with Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*), but differing in being “more pigeon like” and having “white in the bottom of the wings” when perched. It was described as showing a “white flash on wings and tail” when it flew away. All committee members thought the details were sufficient to rule out Mourning Dove, but most were concerned that there wasn’t enough detail to rule out a Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) with partial albinism, which occur not too infrequently.

Selasphorus species

vote: 3-4

one description

A bird reported in Berrien Co. on 11 September 2013 as a Rufous Hummingbird, but not accepted at that level (Terry 2015), was not thought to be described well enough to be accepted at this broader level.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 1-6 in the second round

one description

One described at Manitou Island, Keweenaw Co. on 19 May 2015 was seen in flight only, though it made repeated passes. The elimination of Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) was based largely on vocalizations heard, but most committee members were not satisfied that the description of the calls heard sufficiently ruled out that species.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 0-7 for four individuals

A report of four at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 18 June 2016 mentioned a “slightly droopy bill” and “warm rust tones” on scapulars, and the birds were reported to be larger than Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*), but smaller than Pectoral Sandpiper. While

this description could fit Western Sandpiper, it didn't elaborate enough to adequately rule out all other possibilities, such as White-rumped (*Calidris fuscicollis*) and Semipalmated (*Calidris pusilla*) sandpipers.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 2-5

One was reported at Pointe La Barbe, Mackinac Co. on 3 July 2016. The bird was described as a peep with a drooped bill, rufous scapulars, and with a breast that was "poorly marked, with a few light streaks on the side". Most committee members thought that the description did not completely rule out a longer-billed Semipalmated Sandpiper, with some commenting that the poorly marked underparts fit Semipalmated Sandpiper better than Western Sandpiper.

"Eastern" Willet (*Tringa semipalmatus semipalmatus*)

vote: 0-7

one photo file

One reported as belonging to this subspecies at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. on 27 May 2016. Photos clearly depict a Willet, but most reviewers thought the photos, which showed the bird in flight only, didn't show enough of the subtle detail needed to separate "Eastern" from "Western" Willet (*T. s. inornatus*), and some commented that the photos showed features that favored "Western" Willet. It is possible that the observer made the incorrect assumption that birds seen this far east on the continent must be the nominate "Eastern" birds, which are resident on the Atlantic coast, when Willets that occur in Michigan pertain to "Western" Willets, which nest in the continent's interior and migrate to their winter range on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was described from Berrien Co. on 8 October 2007. The description was entered almost nine years after the observation and was less than 10 words long. The bird was stated to be a sub-adult with "3 inch +/- blunt-wide central rectrices extension", but no information was provided on the rest of the bird or the conditions of the sighting.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 4-3 in second round

two descriptions and one photo file

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 4 October 2015 was

documented with descriptions from two observers, and one photograph. Committee members were divided on whether the documentation eliminated other jaegers; the photo is of the bird headed away, and though it appears to show rounded central rectrices, it was not in sharp enough focus to satisfy all committee members that these feathers were actually rounded rather than pointed; others thought that the photo in conjunction with statement from one observer that the “slightly protruding central tail feathers appeared to be blunt tipped, not pointed” sufficiently documented this characteristic. Reviewers voting not to accept pointed out that the expression “appeared to” with regard to the central tail feather shape leaves room for equivocation and that the conditions of this sighting, as of many jaeger sightings, did not allow for a long or detailed enough look at this feature.

Ross’s Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*)

one description and photo file

vote: 3-4

One was reported at Hudson Lake State Recreation Area, Lenawee Co. on 23 April 2016. Documentation consisted of a written description and seven photographs, all of which showed a small gull in flight with a bold “M” pattern on the upper wing surface. The committee was divided on this record, with some members considering the documentation sufficient to rule out all similar species, but a majority concerned that Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) or Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) could not be ruled out with certainty. In some of the photos, one in particular, the bird’s tail appears to be wedge-shaped as expected in Ross’s Gull; some committee members found this to be compelling, but others expressed concerns about the quality of the photos, which appeared to have been taken at a considerable distance, and brought up the possibility that molt could produce such a tail pattern.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One was reported at Duck Lake, Calhoun Co. on 29 November 2015. It was a standing bird with a flock of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) described as larger and with a mantle color darker than that of the Ring-billeds. While nothing in the description was inconsistent with California Gull, information on some features was lacking: the leg color was not observed, and the eye color could not be firmly established because of

the distance involved, so most committee members felt that the description did not eliminate Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) and even some variants of Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

vote: 3-4

one description and photo file

One was reported at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. on 6 September 2016. The description and photos clearly document a frigatebird, but a majority of committee members were not satisfied that the photos showed the throat pattern clearly enough to rule out Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*). [New documentation resulted in this record being reconsidered in 2017, when it was unanimously accepted.]

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One was reported by an observer driving on an interstate highway in Washtenaw Co. on 6 August 2015. Though the details noted fit well, concerns raised over the duration and conditions of the sighting precluded acceptance, as a backlit Great Blue (*Ardea herodias*) or Tricolored (*Egretta tricolor*) heron could not be satisfactorily ruled out by the brief details provided.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

vote: 0-7

one description

A bird seen briefly in flight was described at the Waterfall Loop Trail, Wayne Co. on 5 September 2015. The description and account did not provide enough information to completely rule out other herons.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

vote: 3-4

one description

One was described at Lake St. Clair Metro Park, Macomb Co. on 14 August 2016. The report received support from some committee members based on statements in the description that the bird was an “overall solid uniformly light blue/greyish medium-size heron, larger than nearby green herons [sic; *Butorides virescens*] but smaller than great egret [sic; *Ardea alba*] and much smaller than great blue heron [sic].” The majority

voting not to accept brought up a variety of concerns: that *light blue/grey* doesn't describe the species well, as they usually appear quite dark; that the observer didn't seem sure of some features in the email communications quoted in the documentation, stating for example that the bill was bicolored in one instance, but then stating that they *thought* it was bicolored. Also, some brought up being puzzled that the observer claimed decades of experience birding in Florida, but stated they had never seen a Little Blue Heron before.

“Eastern” Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*)

vote: 1-6 for two individuals

one description

Reported at Kawkawlin River, Bay Co. on 28 August 2015, these birds were certainly identified correctly to the species level, but presumably the observer reported them as the “Eastern” form, not realizing this is not the form known to occur in North America.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. on 25 August 2015 was described with too few details to rule out Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).

Plegadis ibis

vote: 1-6

one description

One described at Bay City State Recreation Area on 8 June 2016 was minimally described in a report to eBird that did not include information on distance to the bird or whether optics were used.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported in Jackson Co. on 29 May 2016 to eBird was insufficiently described and upon follow-up the observer stated that they were not completely sure of the identification.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One reported to eBird in Roscommon Co. on 7 May 2016, was briefly seen and casually identified. The report provides some details that are correct, but doesn't provide information on how long the bird was viewed through binoculars, or the distance involved.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

vote: 0-7

one description and photo files

One claimed at Thompson's Harbor State Park, Cheboygan Co. on 16 June 2012 was reviewed and not accepted in 2012 based only on photos (Chu 2013). The committee unanimously agreed that the receipt of additional written documentation warranted reconsideration. The bird's flight was described as "a bouyant (sic) swooping followed by stationary holding pattern of flight, all without a wingbeat." Unfortunately, the distance to the bird was described as probably .25 to .5 miles and no plumage characters were noted, and the photos and description, while suggestive, do not completely rule out American Kestrel.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

vote: 2-5 in the second round

one description

One described from Washtenaw Co. on 28 May 2015 of a bird seen perched. The description included details that would seem to preclude other species, such as pale gray underparts, and a "pale gray head with a red eye and a black patch around eye on side nearest bill." The report went on to say that the back color "alternated from dark gray to pale gray to black" and that there were "slight red highlights on lower section of blackish secondary feathers as viewed with wings folded." Committee members found these statements confusing at best, and if taken literally, incorrect for a Mississippi Kite. Concern was also raised over the 10-month span between the observation and when the report was completed.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One in Saginaw Co. on 31 May 2016 was described as being seen in flight "completely in black silhouette" for about 1.5 minutes. Given the limitations imposed by the conditions of the sighting, the report gave thorough consideration to the wing shape in comparison with that of Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), considered to be the most likely

confusion species. The near lack of plumage detail and the subtlety of the shape differences noted, along with the fact that the short outermost primary was not detected were reasons cited against acceptance.

“Eastern” American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis bacatus*)

vote: 1-6

one description

The committee accepted a record of American Three-toed Woodpecker along the Clowry Truck Trail, Marquette Co. from 14 December 2012 (Terry 2015). We had overlooked part of the documentation referring to this bird as the expected “Eastern” subspecies. While we did not find the documentation to the subspecies level to be conclusive, this remains an accepted record at the species level.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)

vote: 0-7

one photo file

This “report” consists of photos available on the internet since 2009 that show an albino moose, purportedly from a highway near Marenisco, Michigan. A Black-billed Magpie is perched in the foreground in one of the photos. The photographer and the originator of the story are unknown. It is most likely that the location information is not correct, and that this moose and magpie were not photographed in Michigan.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 4-3 in the second round

two descriptions, two photo files, and three audio files

A report of three at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. from 11 April – 7 August 2015 was voted on in 2015, resulting in one bird being accepted, one rejected, and one resubmitted (Terry, 2015); this vote pertains to the resubmitted individual. Committee members were split on whether the audio recordings provided definitive proof that more than one individual Fish Crow was present, and the record didn’t receive enough support for acceptance.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported in Marquette Co. on 1 October 2015. The bird was described as foraging in a swampy thicket and turning over leaves, not expected behavior for an open country bird such as a wheatear. The account lacked any description of the tail or rump plumage and was thought to be too incomplete to be accepted.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported in Keweenaw Co. on 15 October 2015. The bird was described as having a “pinkish buffy breast, not too streaked, with dark face/ear patch” and “no visible chestnut color on head, neck or wings”. but committee members were concerned that without more thorough details, including a description of the tail pattern and bill shape, there was not enough information to rule out other species of streaky, sparrow-like birds.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

vote: 2-5

one description

One described in Gratiot Co. on 1 May 2016. The bird was reported as being seen with a flock of Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*), first from inside a car, where it was described as appearing to be “a very orange bird the same size as the Laplands”, then briefly perched through binoculars. The observer described seeing “the rich orangish color of the underparts, the black-and-white face pattern, and the white lesser covert patch on the wings” and “more obvious (and presumably more extensive) white on the outer tail feathers than the nearby Laplands.” While some committee members felt the description could only fit a Smith's Longspur, the majority cited such concerns as the lack of information on distance and lighting conditions, the brevity of the sighting, whether over-excitement could have influenced the perception of what was observed, and the lack of corroboration by a second observer who was present.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 1-6 for three birds

one description

Three birds were described at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. on 4 September 2015. Some features of the birds fit Nelson's Sparrow well, such as “distinctly orange breasts with diffuse stripes on the chest” and a “broad orange eye-line and gray median head stripe”. However, other parts of the head, such as the throat, auriculars, and nape, were not described. The description mentions black, vertical streaks on the back, but doesn't mention white stripes that should be prominent. Most committee members expressed concern that the distance to the birds, the lighting conditions, and information on how long the birds were viewed through optics were not addressed in the account.

This record was also reconsidered under the broader Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni/caudacutus*), but not accepted with a 1-6 vote for all three individuals, for the same reasons stated above.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 3-4 for one individual

one description

Two were reported at Maple River State Game Area, Gratiot Co. on 2 October 2016. One bird was resubmitted, and eventually accepted in 2017. Concerns that the report did not make clear that all features described pertained to both individuals resulted in one not being accepted.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported in Monroe Co. on 2 October 2016 was described as having a "darkish colored cap", a "short bill", and gray nape and cheek. The color on breast and parts of the face was described as "yellowish orange". Some committee members were concerned that without knowing the throat color or presence or extent of streaking on the breast that Saltmarsh Sparrow could not be eliminated. Others found the report did not completely rule out Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*).

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

vote: 4-3 in the second round

one specimen

One at Agate Harbor, Keweenaw Co. was observed on 13 May 2001 and found dead the next day. The specimen (UMMZ 237274) was examined at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology in Ann Arbor at our July 2016 meeting. While the bird appeared to be of this subspecies in most respects, concerns were raised that the auriculars appeared slightly darker than the rest of the head. Committee members were divided on the significance of this anomaly, with some maintaining that the difference was too slight to be of concern and didn't match the pattern found in known intergrades, and others concerned that this was not consistent with pure "Pink-sided" Juncos and could represent introgression with a darker-headed subspecies.

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*)

vote: 0-7 for two birds

one description

A report of two in Washtenaw Co. on 23 May 2016. One, thought to be a male, was described as appearing “more yellow than orange, with prominent black throat, beak and eyes” with an “obvious down curved bill”. This description was deemed to not rule out an immature male Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). Another, thought to be a female, was described as being “a yellowish orange on her throat, head, and bottom” which does not rule out Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*).

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported in Washtenaw Co. on 17 July 2016 was described only as having a tail that was “much larger and much more bulbous than that of the common grackle [sic; *Quiscalus quiscula*]” which didn’t take into account the variability in the tail size and shape of Common Grackle, nor did it mention any other traits that differed. This record was reconsidered under the broader Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major/mexicanus*) and not accepted with a 0-7 vote, for the same reasons given above.

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

vote: 1-6

one photo file

Photos of a bird banded in Wayne Co. on 6 May 2008 showed a Palm Warbler with more yellow in its ventral plumage than is typical, but most committee members thought that several features did not rule out the possibility of an intergrade with “Western” Palm Warbler (*S. p. palmarum*). Among these were that the throat and undertail coverts appeared brighter yellow than the rest of the underparts and that the breast streaking did not appear consistently thick and chestnut in color.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

One was described at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 23 September 1971. Original field notes state that the bird was a Yellow-rumped Warbler with “a bright yellow throat” but the report also

states “I had no chance to see the wingbars which would have clinched the ID. However, this bird would have to be an Audubon’s or a hybrid.” The committee agreed with the observer that more details than just the throat color would be necessary to rule out an intergrade with “Myrtle” Yellow-rumped Warbler (*S. c. coronata*; at the time considered a separate species, so the observer’s use of the term “hybrid” was appropriate), and this was the reason the record was not accepted.

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

vote: 1-6

two descriptions and one photo file

One was reported at Dolph Natural Area, Washtenaw Co, from 17 April – 3 May 2016. One of the four observers obtained some photographs. The photos show a Yellow-rumped Warbler that is clearly yellow on the throat. All committee members agreed that the yellow on the throat was too bright for a “Myrtle” Warbler, but most were concerned that an intergrade between “Audubon’s” and “Myrtle” could not be ruled out because the black on the breast may not have been solid enough and the pattern on the wing coverts was not visible in the photos.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

One was described from Monroe Co. on 9 May 2016 as having a song that was “slower, more deliberate, and without the faster end”. The bird was described as a Yellow-rumped Warbler that differed from Myrtle Warbler in having a bright yellow throat. There were no other plumage differences noted, so an intergrade could not be ruled out.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 0-7

one description and photo file

One reported at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. on 2 September 2015 was accompanied by a photo of a bird too small-billed to be this species, and appeared to be an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*).

Acknowledgements:

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