

Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2018

by Louis Dombroski

louie_waterthrush@gmail.com

This is the 29th report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee (MBRC), covering the committee's actions during the year 2018.

In 2018, the MBRC consisted of regular members Jeff Buecking (Genessee Co.), Louis Dombroski (Bay Co.), Matt Hysell (Berrien Co.), Brad Murphy (Oakland Co.), Marc North (Eaton Co.), J.D. Phillips (Marquette Co.), and Scott Terry (Livingston Co.), and alternate members Lyle Hamilton (Livingston Co.) and Darrell Lawson (Charlevoix Co.). Dombroski chaired the committee, and Adam M. Byrne (Clinton Co.) continued serving as secretary, though as a non-voting member.

This article presents the results of all final votes for records taken in 2018. In 2018, the MBRC finalized votes on 143 records, with 98(68.5%) of these records resulting in acceptance ("acceptance" meaning that at least one individual reported was accepted, even if at a broader taxonomic level than initially reported). We also voted to reconsider one Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) record, resulting in the acceptance of an additional individual for a previously accepted record.

Records reviewed include those submitted directly to the MBRC, and some records submitted to eBird.

Several species had a change in their occurrence status at the end of 2018:

The status of Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), and Blue Grosbeak changed from Casual to Regular. They will remain on the review list through 2021, at which time, if still Regular, they will be eligible to come off the review list.

The status of Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) and Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) changed from Accidental to Casual.

The status of Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) and Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) changed from Casual to Accidental.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) and Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), having maintained Regular status for three years since being upgraded from Casual status, have been removed from the review list effective 1 January 2019. However, potentially problematic ibis, such as those not in alternate plumage, will still be reviewed if requested by seasonal survey compilers or eBird reviewers. With this change, *Plegadis* ibis also exits the review list, with the same caveat that seasonal survey compilers or eBird reviewers can send reports to the MBRC at their discretion.

At our December 2018 meeting, we adopted a new policy regarding remote attendance at meetings. Previously, attendance at meetings was required to be in person. A motion was made to adopt a policy that states: "The Chairperson can allow one member to attend meetings remotely for reasons of travel distance or extenuating circumstances in 2019 as a trial to be re-evaluated in one year." After considerable discussion, the committee voted 5-3 to adopt this policy.

The information provided for each of the following records is: name of species (or other taxon); the committee's vote tally (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); an inventory of the documentation received (For accepted records, the observers associated with the documentation are listed. If known, the person who first found the bird or birds is also listed and underlined, whether they submitted documentation or not); and information on the dates, location, and number of birds observed.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

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

vote: 7-0 for three birds

descriptions: Curtis Dykstra, Carl Manning, Elizabeth Notman, Rick Veldman

photo files: Rick Brigham, Curtis Dykstra, Judi Manning, Chace Scholten, Emily Tornga

Three at Grand River Park, Ottawa Co. on 17 May 2018, found by Jess Sory during a school field trip via riverboat (8th state record, 1st county record).

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

vote: 7-0 for two birds

description: Joe Block

photo files: Joe Block, Scott Hickman, Beth Olson, J.D. Phillips, Jason Schnorr

Two, co-found by Tony Block, allowed close approach on the lawn at the end of Canal Street, Grand Marais, Alger Co. on 19-24 May 2018 (77th state record, 3rd county record).

“Atlantic” Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*)

vote: 7-0 for six birds

descriptions: Robert Bochenek, Lyle Hamilton, Ethan Urban

photo files: Barbara Baldinger, Daryl Bernard, Robert Bochenek, David Boon, Adam M. Byrne, Brian Clegg, Eric Domurat, Darlene Friedman, Gary Grant, Ross Green, Lyle Hamilton, Wayne Hoch, Paul Jacyk, Clifford Jones, Vikki Jones, Randall Kling, Joe Kwasniewski, Jack Leow, Edward Lewandowski, Jim Lewis, Brian McGee, Marie McGee, Willie McHale, Myles McNally, John Munro, Beth Noren, Karl Overman, Tom Pavlik, Paul Poronto, Pam Rasmussen, Robert Salisbury, Andrew Simon, Valerie Singh, Heather Slayton, Jeff Stacey, Cathy Theisen, Mary Trombley, Ethan Urban, Brad Utrup, Spencer Vanderhoof, Benjamin VanderWeide

A flock of six visited various riverside parks from Port Huron, St. Clair Co. to New Baltimore, Macomb Co. from 12-20 October 2018 (78th state record, 17th St. Clair Co. record, 1st Macomb Co. record), discovered by Patrick Wright. Many excellent photos show the pale bellies of the “Atlantic” Brant, which is the expected subspecies in Michigan.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 7-0 for one bird; 5-2 for a second bird in the second round

descriptions: Jim Dawe, Philip Odum

photo files: Greg Bodker, Brian Clegg, Bruce Cohen, Ross Green, Eddie Hicks, Patrick Jakel, Stan Lilley, Philip Odum, Craig Schafer, Andrew Simon

Two males at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. were observed on 11 April 2017, with one seen through 21 May (64th state record, 4th county record). One individual was accepted in 2017. There was initially some concern about whether photographs showing both birds together adequately ruled out the possibility of a hybrid for the second bird, but a majority of the committee found that the photos were adequate for the acceptance of both individuals; the second individual was accepted in 2018.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Adam M. Byrne](#)

photo files: Kenneth Bishop, John Parker, Mary Trombley

One male at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 10-19 March 2018 (65th state record, 13th county record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 6-1

description and photo file: [David Sandahl](#)

One male at Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center, Bath, Clinton Co. on 17 April 2018 (66th state record, first state record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 6-1

description and photo files: [Sandra LaFaut](#)

One male on the Bay Co. side of Bay-Arenac Road on 15 May 2018 (67th state record, 5th county record).

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

vote: 7-0

description: Jim Dawe

photo files: Larry Althouse, [Robert Bochenek](#), Adam M. Byrne, Cathy Carroll, Allen Chartier, Geoffrey Clarke, Brian Clegg, Lisa Combs, David Cross, Sean Fitzgerald, Matthew Gasperoni, Thomas Gass, Ross Green, Skye Haas, Daniel Hansz, Don Henise, Brian Hicks, Eddie Hicks, Rob Jamieson, Scott Jennex, Margaret Jewett, Ethan Kibbey, Jim Law, Brian McGee, Caleb Myers, Dana Neufeld, Karl Overman, Todd Palgut, David Pavlik, Tom Pavlik, Samuel Randall, Lori Schutz, Andrew Simon, Jeff Stacey, Mary Trombley, Spencer Vanderhoof, Bill VanderMolen, Patrick Wright

One female at Belle Isle, Wayne Co. on 9 November - 5 December 2017 (63rd state record, 3rd county record).

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Greg Bodker](#), Jim Dawe, Marc North, Todd Palgut

photo files: Greg Bodker, Adam M. Byrne, Peter Koper, Stan Lilley, Moira Maus, Philip Odum, Todd Palgut, Craig Schafer

One female at the AuSable River mouth, Iosco Co. on 22 November – 1 December 2017 (64th state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0 for 2 birds

description: [Adam M. Byrne](#)

photo file: [Eric Ripma](#)

Two dark brown plumaged individuals flew by together at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 11 November 2017.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Kenneth Bishop, Adam M. Byrne, Brian Clegg, Tim Cornish, Zachary Frieben, Thomas Gass, Ross Green, Patrick Jakel, Rob Jamieson, [Lizzy Kibbey](#), Peter Koper, Judi Manning, James Markham, Alan Troyer

One male, co-found by Ethan Kibbey and James Fyfe, at Saugatuck, Allegan Co. on 2-26 December 2017 (23rd state record, 2nd county record).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Andy Dettling, [Judi Manning](#)

One male, co-found by Carl Manning, at Holland State Park, Ottawa Co. on 16-17 January 2018 (24th state record, 2nd county record).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: [Glenda Davidson](#), Michael Dreibelbis, Matt Hysell, Tyson Kahler, Sherry Manison

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Brynja Davis, David Ferris, Matt Hysell, Tyson Kahler, Brendan Klick, Sherry Manison, Tanner Martin, Martin Stoner, Rita Wetmore

Co-found by Marie Ostrander and Glenda Davidson, at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. on 8-15 February 2018 (25th state record, 2nd county record). A report of a second male by one observer was rejected by a vote of 1-6.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Carter Dorscht, John Graham

photo files: Joe Block, Adam M Byrne, Skye Haas, Mark Herbert, Philip Odum

One male at the St. Mary's River, Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa Co. on 14-26 March 2018 (26th state record, first county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Gail Berner, Jamie Krupka

photo files: Brian Clegg, Jamie Krupka, Judi Manning, Kevin Vande Vusse

One at Holland State Park, Ottawa Co. on 22 November 2017 (50th state record, 6th county record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: Thomas Gass, Lyle Hamilton

audio files: Thomas Gass, Dan Fox, Lyle Hamilton

One, found by David Parsons, singing its diagnostic song 12 May - 21 July 2018 at the same Jackson Co. location where this species (and possibly this individual) has been recorded in the previous seven years (23rd state record, 8th county record).

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 7-0 for one bird

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Lyle Hamilton, Chandler Mancuso, Brad Murphy, Andrew Simon

photo files: Thomas Baumgart, Colin Clark, Dan Fox, Gordon Green, Dennis McNeil, Tom Pavlik, Scott Terry, John VanOrman, Andrew Weinrauch, Warren Whaley, Wade Wines, Richard Yarsevich

audio files: Lyle Hamilton, Andrew Weinrauch, Wade Wines

video file: Adam M. Byrne

One in Flushing Twp., Genesee Co. on 5 May - 12 June 2018 was well-documented (153rd state record, first county record). Photos that belonged with a different record and showed two birds together were erroneously considered with this record, resulting in some confusion. The remaining documentation did not substantiate the presence of a second individual, resulting in the second bird being not accepted with a 1-6 vote.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Brian Allen, Nathaniel Crane, Linda and Charles Scribner

One at Manistee State Game Area, Manistee Co. on 20-22 May 2018 was seen briefly by two observers and heard by all listed (154th state record, 2nd county record).

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 7-0 for one bird

description and audio file: Lyle Hamilton

photo files: Kenneth Bishop, Adam M. Byrne, Lyle Hamilton, Rob Jamieson, Scott Jennex, Parks Marion, Myles McNally, Katrina Molianen, Brandon Ndiffier, Andrew Simon, Scott Terry, Mary Trombley, Derek Vaughn, Patrick Wright, Samantha Wright

Two were reported at Howell, Livingston Co. on 20-29 May 2018 (155th state record, first county record). Initial confusion over some photos led to the second individual being resubmitted with a 4-3 vote; eventually the second individual was accepted in 2019.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)vote: 7-0 for one adult, 6-1 for a 2nd adult and 2 juvenilesdescription and photo files: [Justin Labadie](#)

Two adults were discovered on 20 May 2018 and on 23 July 2018, up to six juveniles were reported near the Pointe Mouillee SGA headquarters, Wayne Co. (156th state record, 7th county record). Photos from 23 July only showed two juveniles, leaving most members unwilling to endorse an additional four young, which were not accepted with a 3-4 vote.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 7-0 for 2 birds

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Rob Jamieson, [Andrew Sturgess](#), Scott Terry

Up to 2 from 28 May – 5 August 2018 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (157th state record, 40th county record).

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 7-0 for 2 birds (1 adult and 1 young) and 6-1 for 6 birds (1 adult and 3 young)

descriptions: Lyle Hamilton, Scott Terry

photo files: Daryl Bernard, Adam M. Byrne, Geoffrey Clarke, Ross Green, Lyle Hamilton, Brendan Klick, Jack Leow, Mike Mencotti, Theresa Moore, Todd Palgut, Jan Palland, Scott Terry

At a second Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. location, a pair with six downy young were photographed on 7 July 2018 by Jan Palland. Confirmed breeding indicates they were present since at least early June, with sightings of individual birds continuing through 30 August (158th state record, 43rd county record).

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 7-0 for 5 birds

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

photo files: David Amamoto, Adam. M. Byrne, Kriste Hollenbaugh, Robert Irwin, Jerome Jourdan, Todd Palgut, Norka Saldana, Scott Terry, Mary Trombley, Karen Wade

At a third Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. location, one adult was first noted on 15 July 2018, a young bird was first noted on 19 July, and eventually, two adults with three young were seen together on 29 July. Again, confirmed breeding indicates the adults were present since at least early June, and the latest sighting was of two on 15 August (159th state record, 44th county record).

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 7-0

description: Brad Murphy

photo file: Adam M. Byrne

One at a fourth Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. location on 17 June - 1 July 2018 (160th state record, 45th county record).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Dan Kirkwood

One at Walker, Kent Co. on 2 November 2018 was found injured and later died in captivity(13th state record, 1st county record). The specimen was donated to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ 246948).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)

vote: 6-1

photo file: Dirk Meachum

One found dead at Rockford, Kent Co. on 11 November 2018 (14th state record, 2nd county record). The specimen was donated to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ 246945)



Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Linda Ar, Kenneth Bishop, Carl Freeman, Roger Hagerman, Ken Sapkowski, Linda Scribner, Mark Wloch

One at a vernal pool along Freeman Rd., Mason Co. on 10-13 April 2018 (25th state record, first state record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Robert Bochenek

One, found by Jeremy and Holly Vaughn Joswick, at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. on 29 April 2018 (26th state record, 2nd county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Dominic Caruso, David Cross, Petra DeBruine, Rob Emelander, Jill Henemyer, Ethan Kibbey, Ann Klein, Jeff Kunitzer, James Markham, Steve Minard, Alex Pitt, Caleb Putnam, Bob Tarte, John VanOrman

One at Roselle Park, Kent Co. on 2 May 2018 (27th state record, first county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Rob Jamieson, Scott Terry

One at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 5-13 May 2018 (28th state record, 7th county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0 for 2 birds

description: Lyle Hamilton

photo files: Lyle Hamilton, Mark Salminen

Two, co-found by Kristy Reske, at the Pinckney Wastewater Treatment Plant, Pinckney, Livingston Co. on 8 May 2018 (29th state record, first county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Jacob Guettler, Stan Lilley, Myles McNally

One at Blanchard, Isabella Co. on 13 May 2018 (30th state record, first county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Wayne Hoch, Vikki Jones, Brian McGee, Jeff Steinmetz

One at the 29 Mile and Omo Rds. mitigated wetlands, Macomb Co. on 21-22 May 2018 (31st state record, first county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Randall Kursinsky

One at Fish Point State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. on 22 May 2018 (32nd state record, 2nd county record). A second bird was reported but only one was photographed and some committee members were unsure if both birds were seen simultaneously and voted 2-5, in the second round, to not accept a second individual.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0 for 2 birds

photo files: Ray Bontrager, David Boon, Mary Trombley

Two at Nayanqing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. on 19 June 2018 (33rd state record, 3rd county record).

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Paul Poronto

photo files: Linda Ar, Daryl Bernard, Adam M. Byrne, Jessica Decker, Louis Dombroski, Tess Eger, Ross Green, Paul Jacyk, Patrick Jakel, Scott Jennex, Margaret Jewett, Vikki Jones, Jeremy Joswick, Brandon Klick, Edward Lewandowski, James Markham, Brian McGee, Willie McHale, Dennis McNeil, Karl Overman, Paul Poronto, Pam Rasmussen, Andrew Simon, Ethan Urban, Phyllis Voorheis

One at Stony Creek Metro Park, Macomb Co. on 2-4 April 2018 (5th state record, first county record).

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Louis Dombroski, Lyle Hamilton, Scott Hickman, Marc North
photo files: Linda Ar, Joe Block, Brian Clegg, Skye Haas, Lyle Hamilton,

Joseph Hammerle, Scott Hickman, Laurie Johnson, Joe Kaplan, Brendan Klick, Myles McNally, Elliot Nelson, Marc North, Alec Olivier, Beth Olson, Gary Palmer, J.D. Phillips, Pam Rasmussen, Ryne Rutherford, Jason Schnorr, Scott Terry, Lynette Thone, Mary Trombley, Patrick Wright

One at Au Train, Alger Co. on 9-18 May 2018 (4th state record, 1st county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Linda Ar, Kenneth Bishop, Don Burlett, Adam M. Byrne, Ross Green, Paul Jacyk, Rob Jamieson, Brendan Klick, Myles McNally, Dan Rabosky, Jeff Stacey, Mary Trombley, Spencer Vanderhoof

One white-maned adult male at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 28 April - 4 May 2018 (67th state record, 32nd county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Robert Bochenek, Jerome Jourdan, John Kippe, Kristy Reske

One black-maned adult male at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 30 April - 1 May 2018 (68th state record, 33rd county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Kenneth Bishop, Robert Irwin, Rob Jamieson, Scott Jennex, Jerome Jourdan, Mary Trombley

One female at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 24-27 May (69th state record, 34th county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0 in the second round

description: David J. Peters

A female at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. on 28 May 2018 (69th state record, 5th county record).

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Brian Clegg, Thomas Gass, Ross Green, Myles

McNally, Todd Palgut, John Parker, Andrew Sturgess, Scott Terry, Tim Thompson, Mary Trombley, Aaron Yappert

One at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 24-30 August 2017 (232nd state record, 78th county record).

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Louis Dombroski, Lyle Hamilton, Marc North, Alan Ryff

photo files: Andrew Aldrich, Benjamin Althouse, Ann Alvarez, Jocelyn Anderson, Linda Ar, Debi Bailey, Thomas Baumgart, Patricia Bazany, Matthew Beatty, Juliet Berger, Daryl Bernard, Kenneth Bishop, Daniel Blower, Greg Bodker, David Boon, Steve Borgwald, Michael Bowen, Rick Brigham, Karen Brown, Bill Buckingham, Bob Butler, Adam M. Byrne, David Cabrera, Cathy Carroll, John Cassady, Vince Cavaliere, Allen Chartier, Geoffrey Clarke, Brian Clegg, Christopher Collins, Mike Cook, Karen Coupland, Nate Crane, Brynja Davis, Beth Dickinson, Eldon Dodd, Curtis Dykstra, Deborah Edwards-Onoro, Bert Filemyr, Allee Forsberg, Dan Fox, Darlene Friedman, Matthew Gasperoni, Dan Gesualdo, Carol Goodall, Gordon Green, Ross Green, Benjamin Hack, Lyle Hamilton, Joseph Hammerle, Conrad Harstine, Neil Hayward, Jill Henemyer, Don Henise, Eddie Hicks, Wayne Hoch, Curt Hofer, Leslie Houser, Janet Hug, Matt Hysell, Matthew Igelski, Robert Irwin, Paul Jacyk, Scott Jennex, Jeremy Joswick, Jerome Jourdan, Mandy Kachur, Tyson Kahler, Nick Kiehl, John Kippe, Brendan Klick, Nicole Koeltzow, Karen Kolbasa, Peter Koper, Diane Kovach, Joe Kwasniewski, Bill Lambert, Jim Law, David Lawrence, Brendan Leddy, Beth Lenoble, Jack Leow, Warren Leow, Ryan Lesniewicz, Edward Lewandowski, Jim Lewis, Scott Lewis, Amy Lyyski, Deborah Macauley, Carl Manning, Judi Manning, Karen Markey, James Markham, Megan Massa, Brian McGee, Willie McHale, Myles McNally, Elizabeth McQuaid, Mike Mencotti, Marc Miedema, Steve Minard, Bruce Moorman, James Muller, John Munro, Caleb Myers, Scott Myers, Aaron Nisley, Bill Nolting, Marc North, Philip Odum, Charles Owens, Todd Palgut, Jeff Pavlik, Todd Pepper, Teresa Pegan, Jim Peterson, Sherry Plessner, Paul Poronto, Caleb Putnam, Dan Rabosky, Pam Rasmussen, Kristy Reske, Jane Riker, Linnea Rowse, Alan Ryff, Norka Saldana, Lisa Schaller, Linda Scribner, Mike Sefton, William Sharkey, Andrew Simon, Kiehl Smith, Leslie Sours, Jeff Stacey, Martin Stoner, Kristin Stratton, Heidi Swanson, Gina Swindell, Scott Terry, Cathy Theisen, Tim Thompson, Rick Thornton, Jeffrey Timmer, Emily Tornga, Mary Trombley, Ethan Urban, Larry Urbanski, Jim VanAllen, Bill

VanderMolen, Carmen Volante, Andy Weinrauch, Wade Wines II, Ben Winger, Tim Winslow, Carl Winstead, Samantha Wright, Sue Wright, Richard Yarsevich

One juvenile associating with several Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleuca*) at a large pond in farm country near Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co. on 2-7 November 2018 (2nd state record, first county record). Discovered by Margaret Jewett and Alan Ryff, but initially reported without the location specified, it was rediscovered the next day by Adam M. Byrne and Scott Terry.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0 in the second round

photo file: Richard Dietrich

One at St. Ignace, Mackinac Co. on 20 November 2017 (113th state record, first county record).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Jim Dawe, Marc North

photo files: Linda Ar, Thomas Baumgart, Robert Bochenek, Adam M. Byrne, Allen Chartier, Dan Fox, Darlene Friedman, Thomas Gass, Ross Green, Skye Haas, Daniel Hansz, Don Henise, Brian Hicks, Eddie Hicks, Rob Jamieson, Jeremy Joswick, Brendan Klick, Willie McHale, Marc North, Philip Odum, Todd Palgut, David Pavlik, Paul Poronto, Kevin Rysiewski, Andrew Simon, Sarah Toner, Mary Trombley

One seen from the Lake St. Clair shoreline near New Baltimore, Macomb Co. was present from 8-27 November 2017 and put on a show for many observers, occasionally crossing into nearby St. Clair Co. waters, allowing extensive documentation (35th state record, first Macomb Co. record and 8th St. Clair Co. record).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Leonard Graf

photo files: Chris Neri, Leonard Graf

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 19-20 September 2017 (30th state record, 14th county record). Initially observed and photographed by Neri on 19 Sep, it was observed being captured by a Peregrine Falcon the next day by Graf! On the following day another observer located its remains which were photographed by Graf.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Brian Clegg](#), [Chris Neri](#), [Eric Ripma](#)

One flew past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 14 October 2017 (31st state record, 15th county record).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 6-1

description and photo files: [Evan Griffis](#)

One juvenile cut across the tip of Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 16 September 2018, crossing close to the edge of the jack pines – after the waterbird count had ended for the day (33rd state record, 16th county record)!

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Matt Hysell](#)

One impressively photographed as it flew south past Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co. on 20 November 2018 (14th state record, 3rd county record).

“American” Mew Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*)

vote: 6-1

description: [Caleb Putnam](#)

photo files: [Rick Brigham](#), [Caleb Putnam](#), Chace Scholten

A well-documented second cycle bird, co-found by [Mary Lou Graham](#), on 14 October 2018 from a boat along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Allegan Co. was picked out of a flock of over 500 Ring-billed Gulls (9th state record, first county record). The documentation eliminated the two Eurasian subspecies to establish this as the expected “American” or “Short-billed” subspecies of Mew Gull.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: [Tim Baerwald](#)

One at Tiscornia Park, Berrien Co. on 13 September 2018 (30th state record, 9th county record).

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caeruleascens*)

vote: 7-0



photo files: Linda Ar, Adam M. Byrne, Ross Green, Brad Murphy, Andrew Sturgess, Mary Trombley

An adult at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 26-29 May 2018 (139th state record, 34th county record).

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caeruleascens*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Lyle Hamilton

An immature bird at Kensington Metro Park, Livingston Co. on 6 August 2018 (140th state record, 2nd county record).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

vote: 6-1

photo files: Paul Miller

One at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. on 19 May 2018 (52nd state record, 3rd county record).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Linda Ar, Kenneth Bishop, Thomas Gass, Ross Green, Scott Jennex, Brian McGee, Myles McNally, Todd Palgut, Norka Saldana, Jeff Stacey, Andrew Sturgess, Tim Thompson, Mary Trombley, Ethan Urban, Aaron Yappert

One on 27 August - 1 September 2018 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. and Riverfront Park, Wayne Co. (53rd state record, 24th Monroe Co. record and 2nd Wayne Co. record).

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

vote: 7-0

description: Larry Chapin

One adult foraging along the Looking Glass River, Portland, Ionia Co. on 3 April 2018 (116th state record, 4th county record).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Brad Heath, Carl Manning

photo files: Joe Hammerle, Brad Heath, Judi Manning, Myles McNally

One along Swanson Road, Muskegon Co. on 31 May 2018 (28th state record, first county record).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Larry Malski, Jeff Pavlik

One in a puddle near Pickford, Chippewa Co. on 16-23 May 2018 (36th state record, 2nd county record).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: anonymous

One in Royalton Twp., Berrien Co. on 3 June 2018 (37th state record, 3rd county record).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

vote: 7-0

description: Randall Kursinsky

photo files: Thomas Baumgart, Daryl Bernard, Kenneth Bishop, Ray Bontrager, David Boon, Darlene Friedman, Sandy Gotham, Vikki Jones, Randall Kursinsky, Myles McNally, Mary Trombley, Ethan Urban, Cindy Ward, Lee Western, Gerald Ziarno

video file: Monica Essenmacher

One at Fish Point State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. on 17-21 June 2018 (38th state record, 3rd county record).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Louis Dombroski, Scott Hickman

photo files: Louis Dombroski, Scott Hickman, J.D. Phillips, Ryne Rutherford

One at the Chatham sewage lagoons, Alger Co. on 15-23 October 2018 (39th state record, 1st county record).

***Plegadis ibis* (*Plegadis* sp.)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Robert Bochenek, Phillip Odum

photo files: Robert Bochenek, Jim Lewis, Myles McNally, Phillip Odum, Joe Soehnel

One at Crow Island State Game Area, Saginaw Co. on 8-10 October 2017. The identification of this well-photographed bird to the generic level was straightforward. A few observers reported this as a White-faced Ibis, one after conducting thorough research on *Plegadis*

identification, which included corresponding with David Sibley about the bird under review. One feature on this first-year bird supporting this identification was the golden-green tone to its wing coverts (rather than bluish as in Glossy Ibis). An additional feature captured in excellent photographs was that the underside of the lower mandible was extensively pinkish, as illustrated by Sibley (2014) (rather than blackish as in Glossy Ibis); in the personal communication with the observer, Sibley stated that this last feature was “a field mark that needs more testing”. One concern about this new field mark was the uncertainty of how it would appear on hybrid individuals. General consensus remains that juvenile *Plegadis ibis* are often best left unidentified, leading to a 0-7 vote to not accept as a White-faced Ibis.

***Plegadis ibis* (*Plegadis* sp.)**

vote: 7-0

description: Adam M. Byrne

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Rob Jamieson, Jeff Stacey

An adult ibis, co-found by Mike Mencotti, at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 28 April 2018 had reddish legs and white feathering around the face. However, it did not appear to have pink facial skin and was thought to possibly be a hybrid and therefore was not identified beyond the generic level.

***Plegadis ibis* (*Plegadis* sp.)**

vote: 7-0 for 2 birds

description: Adam Bradley

An account of two birds observed flying together past McGulpin Point, Emmet Co. on 5 May 2018 clearly established them as *Plegadis ibis*. They were reported as White-faced Ibis, based on their having bright red legs, but since facial details could not be discerned, the committee voted to not accept them as White-faced Ibis with a 1-6 vote.

***Plegadis ibis* (*Plegadis* sp.)**

vote: 7-0 for 2 birds

descriptions: Brian Clegg, Thomas Gass, Brendan Klick, Greg Smith

photo files: Brian Clegg, Thomas Gass, Ross Green, Scott Jennex, Brendan Klick, John Porath, Greg Smith, Mary Trombley

Two birds, found by Arnold Carr, were present 29 August - 8 September 2018 at Fish Point State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. The identification of these well-photographed birds to the generic level was straightforward.

A few observers reported them as Glossy Ibis, based on the presence of thin blue lines around the facial skin and lack of red on any of the bare parts. Some committee members found this sufficient to rule out White-faced Ibis or hybrids, while others were wary of identifying any juvenile birds as Glossy Ibis, reasoning that birds that don't show red bare parts in immaturity may develop this color as they get older. Both birds were not accepted as Glossy Ibis with a 3-4 vote.

Plegadis ibis (Plegadis sp.)

vote: 7-0

photo and video files: [Mary Trombley](#)

One at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. on 2 September 2018.

Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)

vote: 7-0

photo file: [Gary Palmer](#)

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 26 May 2018 (40th state record, 13th county record).

Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Kevin Feenstra](#)

One at Croton Dam, Muskegon Co. on 5 June 2018 (41st state record, 2nd county record).

Barn Owl (Tyto alba)

vote: 7-0

description and photo file: Gary Hulst

One present from sometime in July to early September, 2018 at a farm in Ottawa Co. Though the report was second-hand, a diagnostic photo of several wing feathers taken from the location confirmed the identification (138th state record, 4th county record).

American Three-toed Woodpecker (Picoides dorsalis)

vote: 7-0

description: [Louis Dombroski](#)

photo files: [Skye Haas](#)

One male along the Peshekee Grade, Marquette Co. on 18 December 2017 (36th state record, 7th county record).

|||
American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picooides dorsalis*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: [Aaron Balogh](#)

One male at Hunter's Point Park, Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co. on 14 January 2018 (37th state record, 10th county record).

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)

vote: 6-1

photo file: Dan Robinson

Evidence for this unusual record came from a trail cam photo taken at Lake Independence, Marquette Co. on 17 December 2017, showing an unmistakable Crested Caracara in snowy surroundings (3rd state record, 1st county record).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Nathan Martineau](#)

photo files: Nathan Martineau, Alec Olivier, J.D. Phillips

One, co-found by Joseph Kurtz, at Marquette, Marquette Co. on 1 May 2018 (27th state record, first county record).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

vote: 6-1

photo file: Chris Neri

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 11 October 2018 (28th state record, 10th county record).

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Louis Dombroski, Darrell Lawson, Marc North, Caleb Putnam

audio files: Adam M. Byrne, Skye Haas, Elliot Nelson, Patrick Wright

photo files: Linda Ar, Thomas Baumgart, Robert Bochenek, Greg Bodker, Adam M. Byrne, Brian Clegg, Skye Haas, Margaret Jewett, Joe Kaplan, Brendan Klick, Darrell Lawson, John Munro, Elliot Nelson, Marc North, Philip Odum, Caleb Putnam, Pam Rasmussen, Ryne Rutherford, Greg Smith, Scott Terry, [Leif Williams](#), Patrick Wright

One found in a rural area near Posen, Alpena Co. was present from 26 November - 3 December 2017 (2nd state record, 1st county record). The bird was often quite vocal, and recordings of its calls definitively ruled out Tropical Kingbird (*T. melancholicus*).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Philip C. Chu, Darrell Lawson, Lyle Hamilton, Marc North, Scott Terry

photo files: Kirby Adams, David Amamoto, Heather Angst, Jeffrey Bailey, Thomas Baumgart, Juliet Berger, Daryl Bernard, Kenneth Bishop, Daniel Blower, Ray Bontrager, Bill Buckingham, Adam M. Byrne, Lisa Casler, Allen Chartier, Cory Chiappone, Roger Clark, Brian Clegg, Tim Colborn, David Cross, Jamie Cunningham, Beth Dickinson, Cole DiFabio, Leah Dodd, Jeremy Dominguez, Carl Drife, Rob Emelander, David Ferris, Allee Forsberg, Dan Fox, Sandy Gotham, Ross Green, Kathy Haase, Lyle Hamilton, Joseph Hammerle, Conrad Harstine, Alex Henry, Eddie Hicks, Wayne Hoch, Curt Hofer, Janet Hug, Matt Hysell, Brad Imhoff, Paul Jacyk, Vikki Jones, Jim Keller, John Kippe, Brendan Klick, Jeff Kunitzer, Darrell Lawson, Jack Leow, Edward Lewandowski, Amy Lyyski, Brian McGee, Willie McHale, Myles McNally, Dennis McNeill, Mike Mencotti, Steve Minard, Katrina Moilanen, John Munro, Brad Murphy, Brandon Ndiffier, Bill Niemczyk, Marc North, Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Jeff Pavlik, Tom Pavlik, Jim Peterson, Paul Poronto, Sarah Preston, Pam Rasmussen, Kristy Reske, Mandy Roberts, Norka Saldana, James Salinas, Greg Scyphers, Mike Sefton, John Skene, Tanya Smythe, Scott Sneed, Jeff Stacey, Tyler Stewart, Chris Summers, Bob Tarte, Cathy Theisen, Kevin Thomas, Scott Timmer, Theresa Tithof, Mary Trombley, Ethan Urban, Andrew W. Weinrauch, Wade Wines II, Carl Winstead, Jack Wykoff

One at Flushing, Genesee Co. on 3-18 June 2018 (6th state record, 1st county record) was an especially amazing and fortuitous discovery, since all previous Michigan sightings occurred within sight of one of the Great Lakes, which serve as a barrier for many vagrant passerines, aiding in their detection. Identified to the nominate subspecies *T. s. savana* by some, the committee rejected the identification to that level by a vote of 0-7. The most useful feature for separating the widespread nominate subspecies from the more northerly nesting *T. s. monachus* is the presence of emargination in the outer three primary tips in adult males (McCaskie and Pattern, 1994). Several photos showing the spread wing of the Genesee Co. bird reveal no emargination in the outer primaries, making

assigning the bird to subspecies difficult, since other features such as the extent of the white nape collar and the darkness of the back color would be especially difficult to judge on this worn individual.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Ryne Rutherford](#)

One at Ewen, Ontonagon Co. on 27 May 2018 (184th state record, first county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 6-1

description and photo files: [Warren Whaley](#)

One at Alpena, Alpena Co. on 30 May 2018 (185th state record, 4th county record).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

vote: 6-1

description: [Wendy Jones](#)

One singing male at Warren Dunes State Park, Berrien Co. on 16 May 2017 (46th state record, 23rd county record).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 7-0 for 7 birds, 6-1 for 5 additional birds

descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, David Ferris, Thomas Gass, Joseph Hammerle, Evie Kirkwood, Darrell Lawson, James Markham, [Tanner Martin](#), Kip Miller, Theresa Moore, Mary Trombley

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Thomas Gass, Ross Green, Ethan Kibbey, Brendan Klick, Amy Lyyski, James Markham, [Tanner Martin](#), Myles McNally, Kip Miller, Mary Trombley

audio files: Thomas Gass, Matt Hysell, [Tanner Martin](#)

video file: Joseph Hammerle

Multiple Fish Crows were reported in the Three Oaks, Berrien Co. vicinity from 10 March – 26 October, 2018, with a maximum of 21 on 13 August 2018 (13th state and county record). In the first round of voting, 12 individuals were accepted and the additional 9 were resubmitted with a 5-2 vote (these were later accepted in 2019).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 6-1

description: [Matt Hysell](#)

One at Warren Woods State Park, Berrien Co. on 5 May 2018 (14th state and county record).

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Lyle Hamilton, Marc North, Linda Scribner, [Andrew Simon](#)

photo files: Daryl Bernard, Kenneth Bishop, Greg Bodker, Adam M. Byrne, Beverly Dodd, Dan Fox, Matthew Geelhoed, Ross Green, Lyle Hamilton, Joseph Hammerle, Jill Henemyer, Scott Jennex, Jim Law, Brendan Leddy, Stan Lilley, Carl Manning, Judi Manning, James Markham, Myles McNally, Brian Mulherin, Marc North, Philip Odum, Todd Palgut, Pam Rasmussen, Chace Scholten, Linda Scribner, [Andrew Simon](#), Tanya Smythe, Scott Terry, Mary Trombley, Jim VanAllen, John VanOrman, Patrick Wright
audio file: Marc North

One at Ludington State Park, Mason Co., on 2-7 November 2018, co-discovered by [Lori Schutz](#) (12th state record, first county record).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: [Louis Dombroski](#)

One at Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Co. on 13-14 November 2017 (7th state record, first county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0 for one bird

description: Ryan Steiner

photo files: Linda Ar, Louis Dombroski, Skye Haas, Myles McNally, Kelaine Nick

Up to three birds were reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. from 8-21 May 2018. The many photos clearly support the presence of one individual, but claims of an additional two birds were poorly supported and led to their resubmittal with a 4-3 vote (they were ultimately not accepted in 2019).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0 for 2 birds

photo files: [Laura Smith](#)

Three photos, taken on 14 May 2018 at Curtis, Mackinac Co., though somewhat distant, show two Eurasian Tree Sparrows at different angles and effectively rule out male House Sparrow (*P. domesticus*) for both birds (31st state record, first county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Brendan Klick](#)

One at Peninsula Point, Delta Co. on 28 May 2018 (32nd state record, 4th county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0 for 2 birds

description: [Louis Dombroski](#)

photo file: [Skye Haas](#)

Two observed in flight from the beach at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 30 May 2018 (33rd state record, 14th county record).

“Greater” Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea rostrata*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: [Jerome Jourdan](#)

One carefully studied alongside other Common Redpolls at a feeding station in Wyandotte, Wayne Co. on 13 February 2009 (first state and county record).

“Greater” Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea rostrata*)

vote: 6-1

description and photo file: J.D. Phillips

One photographed with Common and Hoary Redpolls at a feeding station in Marquette, Marquette Co. on 23 January 2013 (2nd state record, first county record).

Virginia’s Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*)

vote: 5-2 in the second round

description: [Scott Hickman](#)

One at AuTrain, Alger Co. on 9 May 2018 was seen rather briefly, but was carefully described as having “an arrestingly gray color” in areas where Nashville Warblers would always show at least a trace of olive, a prominent white eye ring, and predominantly whitish underparts except for bright yellow in the undertail coverts and expansive yellow beginning

at the upper breast and extending into the throat, leading a majority of the committee to conclude that Nashville Warbler was ruled out (4th state record, first county record).

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

vote: 7-0 in the second round

photo files: [Chris Neri](#)

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 24 September 2017 (9th state record, 2nd county record).

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

vote: 6-1

description: [Scott Terry](#)

photo files: [Adam M. Byrne](#)

One at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 11 November 2018 (10th state record, first county record).

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Phillip C. Chu, Louis Dombroski, Scott Hickman, Caleb Putnam

photo files: Linda Ar, [Nancy Auer](#), Robert Bochenek, Adam M. Byrne, Brian Clegg, Skye Haas, Lyle Hamilton, Joseph Hammerle, Adam Herman, Scott Hickman, Scott Jennex, Joe Kaplan, Myles McNally, Drew Meyer, Brad Murphy, Beth Olson, J.D. Phillips, Scott Terry, Sarah Toner, Mary Trombley, Samantha Wright

One at a backyard feeding station near Lake Superior in Allouez, Keweenaw Co. was present from 3 December 2017 - 5 January 2018 (2nd state record, first county record).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Alex Sin](#)

photo files: Linda Ar, Thomas Baumgart, Daryl Bernard, Robert Bochenek, Brian Clegg, Ryan Dziedzic, Ross Green, Lyle Hamilton, Rob Jamieson, Scott Jennex, Margaret Jewett, Stan Lilley, Myles McNally, John Munro, Andrew Northrup, Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Todd Palgut, David Pavlik, Craig Schafer, Andrew Simon, Alex Sin, Mary Trombley

One at Dow Gardens, Midland Co. on 17-24 December 2017 (38th state record, first county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Sandra LaFaut

In 2017, the committee accepted a record of two birds (one male and one female) present 12 August – 1 September 2017 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. (Dombroski 2018). In 2018, a request was made and unanimously approved to reconsider this record. The request pointed out that the committee had overlooked photos from one observer taken on 16 August 2017 that showed a female with significant blue feathering in the face that was lacking in all the others. This action resulted in this second distinctive female being added as a third individual to this record.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0

description: Robert Bochenek, [Mike Mencotti](#)

photo files: Ross Green, Brian McGee, Myles McNally, Mary Trombley

audio files: Robert Bochenek, Janet Hug, Mike Mencotti

One singing male at Novi, Oakland Co. on 28 May - 20 August 2018 (39th state record, 3rd county record).

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED**Black-bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)**

vote: 4-3 in the second round

one description

This description was of a bird that flew over a highway in Isabella Co. on 10 June 2017. It was described as having large patches of white on the upper sides of its wings and prominent black on its underside, but not on the breast and neck, and with feet that extended beyond the tail. Some committee members were satisfied that this description ruled out all other species, but others were concerned that Muscovy was not ruled out.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

An eBird report of a bird on 27 May 2018 at Clam Lake, Antrim Co. mentioned bright “pink red legs” and much white showing on wings in flight, but didn’t mention where the white on the wings was or other details

such as the belly color or bill color, and thus did not rule out Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*), among others.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

vote: 1-6 for 2 birds

one description

Two birds seen from 22 October – 12 November 1979 at Fennville, Allegan Co. were described reasonably well in original field notes, but most committee members were concerned about the possibility that these birds could have escaped from captivity.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One eBird report for 24 May 2014 at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. was written more than three years after the observation and was described too briefly for acceptance.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 0-7

one description

An eBird description of a bird on 15 March 2018 at Pleasant Lake, Washtenaw Co. did not contain enough detail for acceptance.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 1-6

one description

An eBird report from 22 April 2018 at Maple River State Game Area, Gratiot Co. did not include information on the underparts coloration, so most committee members were not satisfied that a hybrid with American Wigeon was ruled out.

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

vote: 2-5 in the second round

one description

A bird seen on 2 Dec 2017 at Munising, Alger Co. was reported as a male Common Eider by two observers who sent in a joint description. The record initially received some support for acceptance as a Common Eider based on the description of the bird as appearing unusually large

for a duck, diving repeatedly, and “revealing the long thin vertical V of yellowing beak blending into solid black cap. To either side of the V, bulging white cheeks”. A majority of the committee, however, remained concerned that the account of the sighting was written more than a week later, and that some features, such as the solid black cap, were not noted by both observers, that the rest of the bird was not described in enough detail (though described as being largely white, there was no mention of what parts of the bird’s plumage were white) and that the description did not rule out leucistic individuals of other species besides eiders.

Barrow’s Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 1-6

one description

This was a historical sighting from 5 June 1982 at Bois Blanc Island, Mackinac Co. vividly remembered by the observer as a “purple-headed male Barrow’s Goldeneye with a distinct white crescent in front of the eye” though head shape was not noted. Without a more detailed description of the head pattern and no mention of other field marks such as the extent of white in the wing coverts, the committee did not think the documentation ruled out a hybrid with Common Goldeneye (*B. clangula*).

Barrow’s Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 0-7

one description

An eBird entry of a female seen on 16 January 1988 was described as having a short, all yellow bill and a head shape consistently different from Common Goldeneyes present even after dives. The lack of further detail, concern over the reliance on the unreliable “yellow bill” field mark, and the 30-year gap between the sighting and the writing of the description were reasons cited for its rejection.

Barrow’s Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 0-7

photo files

Several photos of a female goldeneye swimming with Common Goldeneyes taken on 17 November 2017 at the Boyne City sewage ponds, Charlevoix Co. were inconclusive. Though the bird had a mostly yellowish bill that in some photos appears small, the head shape did not give a consistent impression that fit Barrow’s Goldeneye.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 0-7 for 2 birds

one description and photo files

Two birds were reported on 18 January 2018 at Kewadin Beach, St. Clair Co. The photos appear to show Common Goldeneyes, one with some yellow on the bill, which may have led to the misidentification.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

vote: 0-7

one description and photo files

One was female reported on 19 February 2018 in Harrison Charter Twp., Macomb Co. Photos of this bird showed a goldeneye with a yellow-tipped bill and a steep forehead that was suggestive of Barrow's Goldeneye, but the size and shape of the bill was thought to be closer to Common Goldeneye.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One was reported at Mackinac Island, Mackinac Co. on 23 June 2018. The bird was described as a large black-and-white diving bird with a long, thin and light-colored bill. Even if this were an *Aechmophorus* grebe, there was insufficient detail on the facial pattern to rule out a Clark's Grebe (*A. clarkii*) or a hybrid. Several members, however, also were concerned that either Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) or Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) could also fit this description.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

vote: 0-7

two photo files

Two photos taken on 23 July 2017 at Royal Oak, Oakland Co. show a female *Archilochus* hummingbird, but are not detailed enough to rule out Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*A. colubris*) and there was no accompanying description or explanation as to how the identification was made.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 0-7 in the second round

two descriptions

A bird at Munuscong Bay Wildlife Management Area, Chippewa Co. on 4 and 14 June 2017 was heard only, and the description of the

vocalizations, which included both “kick - kick - kick” notes and a grunting call, were thought not convincing enough to rule out Virginia Rail. One committee member recounted searching for this bird and finding a vocalizing, visually confirmed Virginia Rail (*R. limicola*) that was making a call that could have fit the description of the call described in the documentation.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One described as heard at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. on 9 July 2018 was stated to be making a grunting call, but with no further elaboration, Virginia Rail could not be ruled out.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One described as heard on 2 September 2018 at Quanicassee State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. was described as heard only, making a clicking call slower than Yellow Rail, but this description was thought to not rule out some calls of Virginia Rail and Sora (*Porzana carolina*).

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 1-6 for 2 birds

one description

An eBird report of two birds on 19 May 1974 was not accepted primarily due to the time lapse between the sighting and the posting of the report and the lack of any field notes, even though the account mentions that direct comparison was made with Least (*C. minutilla*) and White-rumped (*C. fuscicollis*) sandpipers present in the same flock.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 2-5 in the second round

one description and two photo files

A bird at Lighthouse Park, Port Huron, St. Clair Co. on 10 November 2017 was seen in flight and on the water. Some committee members found the documentation convincing, but the majority were concerned that the characteristics needed to rule out Red-necked Phalarope, (*P. lobatus*), such as the unstreaked back, could not be adequately assessed at the distance and lighting conditions involved.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 3-4

two descriptions and two photo files

A jaeger observed on 9 October 2017 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. was described as having a stocky build, a large pale-based bill, and central tail feathers that were rounded and extended only slightly. While some on the committee were satisfied with the identification, others found the photos inconclusive and thought more details were necessary to rule out Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

A bird on 22 November 2018 at Marine City, St. Clair Co. was seen without binoculars and from a moving vehicle and was not described in enough detail to confirm its identification as a jaeger, even at the generic level.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

vote: 1-6

two descriptions

This report was of a bird seen on 30 November 1975 at the Whiting Power Plant, Monroe Co. This record was previously reviewed and rejected based on an a brief eBird description submitted years after the sighting. The receipt of another eBird report prompted a unanimously accepted request to review it again, but most committee members were concerned with the lack of original field notes to back up the report, leading to the same outcome.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

vote: 3-4 in the second round

one description, photo files

An adult dark-backed gull observed on 19-20 May 2017 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. received support from some committee members, but a majority were concerned that an arc of white spots on the upper surface of the primaries did not extend far enough or strongly enough toward the outer primaries; that the underwing surface was too pale; and that the legs, while described as brighter pink than those of adjacent Herring Gulls, were longer than would be expected for a Slaty-backed Gull.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

This report was of a bird studied at an estimated distance of 400-450 m through a spotting scope on 13 July 2017 at the Whiting Overlook Park, Midland Co. The committee first voted on this record in 2017, accepting it with a vote of 6-1, but in early 2018 unanimously accepted a request to reconsider the record. The bird was described as “an obvious cormorant, with a long snaky neck, slender yellow bill hooked at the tip, and yellow bare skin at the chin” and as appearing remarkably small, about the size of a Caspian Terns and much smaller than adjacent Herring Gulls, and appearing very long tailed. Upon reconsideration, all on the committee were concerned that the initial impression that the bird was a cormorant could have been incorrect, especially given its small size, and that the description could apply to a distant female or juvenile Hooded Merganser, especially if the assessment of where the bird’s tail began along with more subtle facial features were made incorrectly.

Plegadis ibis (Plegadis sp.)

vote: 1-6

one description

A bird seen on 12 May 2018 near Manchester, Washtenaw Co. was noted as being seen only briefly, mostly flying away, with the view partly obscured by trees, and without the aid of binoculars. Despite being described as having a curved bill and being roughly the size of a Great Blue Heron, the description was too sparse to compensate for the unfavorable conditions of the encounter, with one committee member suggesting that the impression of a curved bill could be caused by a Great Blue Heron carrying a stick.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One on 11 September 2017 in Berrien Co. was described too briefly and lacked any mention of distance or conditions to warrant acceptance.

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

vote: 2-5 in the second round

one description and three photo files

An immature Red-tailed Hawk photographed on 10 May 2018 was identified as a dark intermediate morph “Harlan’s” Hawk, but a majority of the committee, noting the difficulty of distinguishing this subspecies from “Western” Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. caluris*), were concerned that barring on the outermost primaries, though visible in the photographs, was faint, and thought therefore that “Western” Red-tailed Hawks or intergrades could not be ruled out.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

vote: 0-7

one description

An account of a dark morph buteo at Port Crescent State Park, Huron Co. on 2 May 2018, seen in lighting conditions described as overcast and poor, listed such features as white areas on the primaries and base of upperside of tail, and the tail appearing light underneath, features that are suggestive of Ferruginous Hawk, but do not completely eliminate all possible plumages of other dark morph buteos such as “Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis harlani*) and Rough-legged Hawk (*B. lagopus*). Impressions of the bird as massive, burly, and eagle-like were deemed too subjective to overrule concerns regarding the plumage description.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

vote: 0-7

one description

An eBird report of one on 15 March 2018 in Ingham Co. gave no description beyond a white and tan bird seen swooping and hunting from an observer in a car, so was insufficient for acceptance.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picooides dorsalis*)

vote: 0-7

one description

An eBird report from Keweenaw Co. on 8 October 2017 was not described well enough to rule out Black-backed Woodpecker.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picooides dorsalis*)

vote: 0-7

one description

A very brief eBird description from 22 April 2018 of a woodpecker in Ottawa Co. drilling holes in a pine tree and having dusty yellow on the head and sides of neck was more likely a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker,

especially given the southern location. Three toes were stated to be clearly visible, but this does not preclude the possibility of a fourth that was not.

Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*)

vote: 0-7

one description and one photo file of specimen

A mounted specimen of an unmistakable Ivory-billed Woodpecker displayed at the North Museum of Nature and Science in Lancaster, PA has data associated with it in the museum's catalog stating it was collected "at Turtle Lake near Indian River, Northern Peninsula, Michigan, Nov. 13 1885". The information on the tag attached to the bird's leg was re-written 26 years after the bird's collection, so the committee was concerned about its accuracy, since mislabeled specimen tags have been well documented previously, and could not endorse what would be an extraordinary extralimital record for this species.

"Prairie" Merlin (*Falco columbarius richardsonii*)

vote: 3-4 in the second round

photo files

A Merlin that was well-photographed on 4 May 2018 at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. was clearly much paler than typical nominate birds seen in Michigan. Some committee members were satisfied that the overall appearance of the bird marked it as the "Prairie" subspecies, but a majority were concerned that scattered dark feathers on the head, back, and uppertail coverts indicated that it could be an intergrade with the nominate subspecies and could not support it on that basis.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)

vote: 1-6

one description

A falcon at Port Crescent State Park, Huron Co. on 2 May 2018 was described as passing quickly within 6 ft over the observer's head and having dark "struts" on the trailing edge of creamy white underwing linings, and a relatively pale tail was seen too briefly to satisfy most committee members, who thought that American Kestrel (*F. sparverius*) and Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*) could at times give the impressions noted.

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

vote: 4-3 in the second round

one description and photo file

This intriguing report of what would be a first state record was of a bird seen on 4 June 2017 at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. The single observer provided a description and one distant photo that showed the bird from underneath and behind. The observer described hearing “a two-note Kadee call several times, and a three-note kiskadee call once”, and discussed how Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) and Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) were ruled out by voice, bill size, and plumage features. A majority of the committee members were satisfied with the documentation, but some were concerned that Boat-billed Flycatcher vocalizations could sound similar, and that the description mentioned rufous on the back, which wouldn’t fit either species, so the record failed to reach the threshold for acceptance.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

vote: 2-5 in the second round
one description

One on 5 August 1985 in Ontonagon Co. was described as having “extreme long tail streamers” and a “pink splash on the sides and brighter pink area at the shoulders”. Some committee members thought that this species is so distinctive it could be written up from memory decades later, but a majority were concerned about this time lapse and the lack of field notes, some noting that hybrids with other kingbird species were not explicitly eliminated.

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)

vote: 0-7
one description

A brief eBird description of a black-and-white bird with a long tail and said to be similar in size to a robin, was reported in Gogebic Co. on 7 June 2017. Members were bothered by the brief description, grossly inaccurate size estimate, and the observer’s statement “Black-billed Magpie is my best guess.”

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 3-4
two descriptions, photo files, and one video file

One crow, present from 12-21 November 2017 at South Haven, Van Buren Co. was thought to sound like a Fish Crow. Members were divided on this record, but dissenters felt the vocalization in the video file sounded better for American Crow. The remaining documentation did not offer any conclusive support that could overrule the video file.

“Newfoundland” Veery (*Catharus fuscescens fuliginosus*)

vote: 2-5

one description and two photo files

The Veery involved in this record was banded on 13 September 2010 at Rouge River Bird Observatory, Wayne Co., and was clearly not typical of birds seen in Michigan, in that it was nearly or totally lacking in rufous tones and was more heavily spotted on the breast. Measurements and other plumage features ruled out all other *Catharus* thrushes, but most committee members were unconvinced that this bird could safely be assigned to subspecies, given the subjective nature of the characteristics used to separate them and the possibility of intergradation. The subspecies breeding in western North America, *C. f. salicicolus*, is stated to have a back that is “dull, moderately dark brown with a reddish tinge” (Pyle 1997); a judgment that this individual lacked reddish tones was the rationale used to rule out this subspecies, but some committee members thought this bird did have a slight reddish tinge, and even the observer reporting the bird stated that they couldn’t be 100% sure of the identification.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

vote: 1-6 in the second round

photo files

One of the observers providing photos of this bird, seen on 7 April 2017 at Ishpeming, Marquette Co, referred to it as a “possible hybrid”. A majority of the committee, while acknowledging that this male towhee had a very strongly patterned back and wing coverts, felt it had a significant white patch at the base of the outer primaries, which could indicate a hybrid origin, so the bird was not accepted as a Spotted Towhee on that basis.

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

vote: 0-7

one description

A Yellow-rumped Warbler seen on 19 April 2018 at Tubbs Lake Island Campground, Mecosta Co. was described as having a thick yellow patch on the chin, but with no more specific details about its extent or other details of wing, face, or breast pattern, the possibility of an intergrade with “Myrtle” Yellow-rumped Warbler could not be ruled out.

Western Tanager (*Piranga lucovicianus*)

vote: 3-4

one photo file

The one photograph provided, taken on 4 May 2018 at Traverse City, Grand Traverse Co. is of a distant predominantly yellow bird that appears to have a black back and tail. The image looks as if it were taken through a screen, and the committee was split on whether the photo was clear enough for a positive identification, with a majority thinking it was not.

Western Tanager (*Piranga lucovicianus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

A bird on 5 May 2018 at Montibeller Park, Washtenaw Co. was described as having bright orange on the head, but not having a dark back, a description that could fit Scarlet or Summer Tanagers.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

vote: 3-4 for 2 birds, 2-5 for a 3rd individual, and 1-6 for a 4th individual
two descriptions

During a Christmas Bird Count on 16 December 2017 near Tawas City, Iosco Co., four birds seen along a roadside were identified as this species. Three of the four were identified by a red bib on their otherwise black and white plumage. While the descriptions of the males could seem to fit no other species, most committee members, noting how unlikely even one Rose-breasted Grosbeak is in December, thought more details were necessary to convincingly document a flock of this species at this time of year. The only confusion species mentioned in the write-ups was Red-headed Woodpecker, leading most committee members to think that other possibilities such as Purple Finch, House Finch, or Red-winged Blackbirds (which sometimes sport reddish color on the throat) were not carefully considered.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerine caerulea*)

vote: 3-4 in the second round

one description

This was a report on eBird that described a bird with “deep blue body with rusty wingbars” that gave a “sharp chink call” near a previous breeding location in Washtenaw Co. on 23 July 2017. While some

committee members were satisfied with this account from an experienced observer, a majority thought that more thorough documentation, including circumstances like distance, lighting conditions, and optics, was required for a species still on the state's review list.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank all observers who submitted records to the MBRC and/or to eBird, and to Adam M. Byrne for his careful review of this manuscript.

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