

VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

DECISIONS – 5 NOVEMBER 2005

FIRST STATE RECORD

CACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*) – one, 13 October 1996, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty. David J. Hoag and TG Murin. Photograph. This report was previously accepted and became a First State Record when the AOU split this species from Canada Goose. In 2005 the Records Committee voted again on this report in case the previous vote was not unanimous.

FIRST HYPOTHETICAL STATE RECORD

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*) - one female, 4 June 2005, soaring over downtown Burlington, Chittenden Co., Scott Morrill.

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THRU TENTH

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*) – one in alternate plumage, 15 May 2005, Kent Pond, Killington, Rutland Cty. Susan and Marvin Elliott, Roy Pilcher, Susanne Wetmore. Third State Record. Photographs.

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*) – one, basic plumage, 27 October 2004, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D.J. Hoag. Fifth State Record.

TRI-COLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*) - one adult, 8 July 2005, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty., Frederick and Eleanor Pratt, Theodore G. Murin, et al. Third State Record. Photographs.

ROSS'S GOOSE (*Chen rossii*) – one blue morph adult, 15 October 2004, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty. Hank and Josie Kaestner. Third State Record for blue morph. Photographs.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*) – one adult male, 3 April 2005, Causeway, Colchester, Chittenden Cty. Brendan Collins, Greg Cushing, Steve Antell, Barbara Leaf. Fourth State Record. Photographs.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) – one male, 19 December 2004, Lake Champlain, Georgia, Franklin Cty. Peter S. Mallett, Laurie Rainville, Helen Moses. Tenth State Record.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (Helminthos vermivora) – one, 6-7 May 2005, Burlington, Chittenden Cty. Thomas C. Barber, Jean E. Barber. Eighth State Record.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (Protonotaria citrea) – one male, 30 April 2005, Red Rocks Park, Burlington, Chittenden Cty. Michele Patenaude. Sixth State Record.

DICKCISSEL (Spiza americana) – one female, 24 October 2004, Herrick's Cove, Rockingham, Windham Cty. Hector Galbraith. Tenth State Record.

OTHERS ACCEPTED

GREAT CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax carbo) – one first year, 29 October 2004, Lake Champlain at Charlotte, Chittenden Cty. Richard B. Lavallee.

GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus) – one dark morph, 23 February 2005, Intervale, Burlington, Chittenden Cty. Rick Renaud, Anthony Boccio. Photograph.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (Limnodromus scolopaceus) – one juvenile, 30 August 2003, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty. Hank Kaestner, T.G. Murin. Photograph.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (Vireo griseus) – one singing male, 16 May 2005, Stockbridge, Rutland Cty. Kent P. McFarland.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (Picoides tridactylus) – three, at least one adult feeding at least one young, 16 July 2005, Wheeler Pond, Brunswick, Essex Cty. Maeve Kim.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (Icteria virens) – one adult male, 2 June 2005, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty. T.G. Murin.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (Ammodramus nelsoni) – one, interior race, 20 October 2004, Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro, Windham Cty. H.Galbraith.

NOTABLE NESTING RECORDS

PIED-BILLED GREBE (Podilymbus podiceps) – two adults, one downy chick, 25 August 2005, Simms Point, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty. D.J. Hoag.

MERLIN (Falco columbarius) – four perched near nest site, 23 July 2005, Lake Memphremagog, Derby, Orleans Cty. C. Woodbridge Hickcox, A.M. Hickcox.

LONG-EARED OWL (Asio otus) – one adult, three fledglings, 9 June 2005, Converse Bay, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty. T.G. Murin.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (Icterus spurius) – one female carrying food, 20 June 2005, Essex, Chittenden Cty. Brennan J. Neill.

OUT-OF-SEASON REPORTS

BARN SWALLOW (Hirundo rustica) – one, 24-25 November 2004, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty. D.J. Hoag. Photographs.

MARSH WREN (Cistothorus palustris) – two, 19 December 2005, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty. David Capen, John Harbison.

BROWN THRASHER (Toxostoma rufum) – one, 18 December 2004, Rawsonville, Windham Cty. Carol Cantwell, Julia Nicholson, Elizabeth F. Gilbert.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (Dendroica coronata) – five, 20 March 2005, West Mountain Wildlife Management Area, Brunswick, Essex Cty. Kevin Caldwell.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (Zonotrichia leucophrys) – one, 19 December 2004, Swanton, Franklin Cty. Toby Alexander.

FOX SPARROW (Passerella iliaca) – one, 17 December 2004, Thetford Center, Orange Cty. William Shepard et al.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (Melospiza lincolni) – one, 19 December 2004, Springfield, Windsor Cty. Michael R. Walsh, Marianne E. Walsh, Tom Macon.

TABLED FOR FURTHER EXPERT OPINION

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri) – one first year, 28 November 2004, Burlington Harbor, Burlington, Chittenden Cty. T.G. Murin, Allan M. Strong.

THICK-BILLED MURRE (Uria lomvia) – one, alternate plumage, 19 June 2005, Barton River Marsh, Newport, Orleans Cty. Paul Cianfaglione.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

BLACK VULTURE (Coragyps atratus) – one, 10 April 2005, Hardwick, Caledonia Cty. Inadequate description.

WHITE-TAILED KITE (Elanus leucurus) – one, 14 April 2005, Shaftsbury, Bennington Cty. This species has no state records thus far. The observation was that of a fly-by in front of a car. A brief observation of this nature does not provide a careful

observation that picks out all the field marks needed to identify this rare species and document a first state record.

SPRUCE GROUSE (Falciennis canadensis) – two females or young, 18 December 2004, Orange, Orange Cty. Did not adequately rule out Ruffed Grouse.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (Larus ridibundus) – four, alternate plumage, 15 May 2005, Kent Pond, Killington, Rutland Cty. Did not adequately rule out Bonaparte's Gull.

BLACK PHOEBE (Sayornis nigricans) – one, 14 September 2004, Lake Dunmore, Leicester, Addison Cty. The magnitude of this sighting requires a very detailed description of both plumage and behavior, which was lacking in both cases.

FIELD SPARROW (Spizella pusilla) – five, 24 December 2004, Moretown Village, Washington Cty. Left out some important field marks. The description as written could pertain to several different sparrow species.