

VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

DECISIONS - 1 NOVEMBER 2008

Vermont Bird Records Committee Members present and voting were Hector Galbraith, Julie Hart, Dick Lavallee, Judy Peterson, Allan Strong, and Sue Wetmore.

FIRST STATE RECORD

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) – one, 17 October 2003, Kellogg Bay, Lake Champlain, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., Peter J. Muscatello, Bill Parker. Photographed from a duck blind next to some Canada Goose decoys.

FIRST HYPOTHETICAL STATE RECORD

ARCTIC LOON (*Gavia arctica*) – one adult in non-breeding plumage, 5-6 November 2007, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., David J. Hoag, Theodore G. Murin, Larry D. Haugh. Three independent reports, two with sketches. All field marks were convincingly described. The Committee unanimously decided to withhold full First State Record Status for the following reasons:

- The extreme rarity of the species – never before documented off the east coast- encourages a conservative approach, especially without photographs.
- An obvious Pacific Loon with a white flank patch was recently observed off New England
- Young Pacific Loons have been seen without chin straps
- Differentiation of *arctica* and *pacifica* is still somewhat fluid. The Committee would like to revisit this sighting after more information becomes available in the scientific literature.

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THRU TENTH

ACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*) – one, 29 March 2008, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty., Nancy A. Brown. Photographs. Seventh State Record.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*) – one third winter, 22 March 2008, on the ice, Kellogg Bay, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., T.G. Murin, Steve Antell. Seventh State Record.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) – one dark juvenile, 6 September 2008, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D.J. Hoag. Eighth State Record.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*S. longicaudus*) – one juvenile, 7 September 2008, Charlotte Town Beach, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin, Craig Provost, Jim Mead, James Osborne. Ninth State Record.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*S. longicaudus*) – one pale morph juvenile, 17 September 2008, Charlotte Town Beach, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin et al. Tenth State Record.

DOVEKIE (*Alle alle*) – one, 7 November 2007, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., Richard B. Lavallee, Denny Abbott. Fourth State Record.

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*) – feathers recovered outside nest box, 18 September 2008, Champlain Valley, Addison Cty., Rodney Olsen. Photograph.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (Picoides tridactylus) - one male, 5 January 2008, Moose Bog, Ferdinand, Essex Cty., Stephen Cramer, Bob Heiser. Photograph. Ninth State Record.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (P. tridactylus) – one female, 10 February 2008, Lost Nation Rd., Berkshire, Franklin Cty., Russ Ford, Sterling Ford. Tenth State Record.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (Dendroica dominica) – one, 7 September 2008, Red Rocks Park, South Burlington, Chittenden Cty., Scott Morrical. Tenth State Record.

OTHER RSD'S ACCEPTED

TUFTED DUCK (Aythya fuligula) – one male, 20 February 2008, the causeway, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., James Mead. Photographs.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (Histrionicus histrionicus) – one male, 2 December 2007, Shelburne Point, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., James E. Osborne III.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (H. histrionicus) – one adult male and one 1st winter male, 20 January 2008, Shelburne Point, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., J.Mead. Photographs.

BLACK VULTURE (Coragyps atratus) – one adult, 19 April 2008, Interstate 91, Weathersfield, Windsor Cty., John Lloyd. Accepted 5-1.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (Tryngites subruficollis) – one, 14 September 2008, DCWMA, Rt. 17, Addison, Addison Cty., Brendan Collins, Henry Trombley.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (Larus ridibundus) – one, 27 August 2008, Charlotte Town Beach, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., J.Mead.

GREAT GRAY OWL (Strix nebulosa) – one, 25 March 2008, Summit St., Burlington, Chittenden Cty., Marshall and Sue London, T.G. Murin, m.ob. Photograph.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (Vireo griseus) – one singing male, 28 May 2008, Maple St., Brandon, Rutland Cty., Sue Wetmore, Marv & Sue Elliott, Marsha Booker.

CAVE SWALLOW or CLIFF SWALLOW (Petrochelidon sp.) – one, 23 November 2007, Lake St., Bridport, Addison Cty., Michael H. Blust, Barry Blust. No positive ID was made. Committee felt it would more likely be a Cave at this late date, but without additional details on head plumage the bird could not be identified to species.

GRAY-CHEEKED or BICKNELL'S THRUSH (Catharus minimus or C. bicknelli) – two, 24 September 2008, Birds of Vermont Museum, Huntington, Chittenden Cty., J.E. Osborne III. Species not safely distinguishable from each other in the field without vocalizations.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (Vermivora celata) – one, 10 May 2008, Coventry, Orleans Cty., Jeanne Prue, Bill Prue. Accepted 5-1.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (V. celata) – one, 18 May 2008, Bristol, Addison Cty., Henry Trombley.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (Spizella pallida) – one, 11 October 2007, Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., Hector Galbraith.

HOARY REDPOLL (Carduelis hornemanni) - one, 23 December 2007, Waitsfield, Washington Cty., Patricia Folsom, Terry Wright.

HOARY REDPOLL (C. hornemanni) - two, 20 January 2008, Walden, Caledonia Cty., Robert Lyons. Photographs.

HOARY REDPOLL (C. hornemanni) – one, 7 February 2008, Lyndonville, Caledonia Cty., Thomas Berriman.

HOARY REDPOLL (C. hornemanni) – one, 23 February 2008, Reading, Windsor Cty., Kenneth M. Cox. Photographs.

NOTABLE NESTING RECORDS

AMERICAN WIGEON (Anas americana) - female and 6 small ducklings, 29 June 2008, Goodrich Corners Rd., Addison, Addison Cty., Nancy A. Brown. Photographs.

CERULEAN WARBLER (Dendroica cerulea) – two or three adult males, one carrying food, 13 June 2008, Snake Mtn. Bridport, Addison Cty., T.G. Murin.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (Spizella pallida) – three adults, including one pair carrying food, 21 June 2008, S. Burlington, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (Icterus spurius) – two adults, nest with young, 11 May 2008 thru 22 June 2008, Farrell Access, Addison, Addison Cty., N.A. Brown. Photographs.

OUT-OF-SEASON REPORTS

ROSS'S GOOSE (Chen rossii) – one adult, 3 March 2008, Greenbush Rd., Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., Alan Keitt.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax auritus) – one, 16 February 2008, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., Eve Ticknor.

AMERICAN BITTERN (Botaurus lentiginosus) – one, 8 January 2008, Lake Carmi, Franklin, Franklin Cty., Russ Ford, Sterling Ford.

OVENBIRD (Seiurus aurocapilla) – one, 1 November 2007, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., Benjamin Griffin.

CHIPPING SPARROW (Spizella passerina) – one, 28 December 2006, Pomfret, Windsor Cty., Katherine L. Olgati. Accepted 5-1.

UNUSUAL LOCATION

BOREAL CHICKADEE (Poecile hudsonica) – one, 13 March 2008, Newfane/Wardsboro, Windham Cty., Chris Petrak, Philip and June Dibble. Photographs.

ACCEPTED AS RELEASE OR ESCAPEE

COMMON CRANE (Grus grus) – one, 10 June 1991, Whiting, Addison Cty., Roy and Ruth Pilcher, Nancy Martin, mob. Photographs.

RINGED TURTLE DOVE (Streptopelia risoria) – one, 3 July 2008, Montpelier, Washington Cty., Dan and Jaye Lindner. Photographs.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

TRUMPETER SWAN (Cygnus buccinator) – one, 13 April 1985, Lake Bomoseen, Castleton, Rutland Cty., Photograph. The Committee determined as it had before that this bird was a Mute Swan because of pattern of black on the face, pink on the bill and brownish color on the neck.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (Oceanites oceanicus) – one, 21 October 2007, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., Does not conclusively indicate storm-petrel; does not rule out Leach's or Band-rumped. Late date for Wilson's, white flanks curious, flight pattern inconsistent with descriptive of Wilson's.

BLACK VULTURE (Coragyps atratus) – one, 8 April 2008, Bennington, Bennington Cty., Vote to not accept 5-1. Doesn't preclude Turkey Vulture; not enough detail provided

LITTLE GULL (Larus minutus) – one, 13 May 2008, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., Vote to not accept 5-1. Very distant, no description of shape of secondary bars, carpal bars or head pattern.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (Stercorarius longicaudus) – one immature, 21 October 2007, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., Vote to not accept 5-1. Too far away to see details well, such as white on upper primaries; light head could also indicate Parasitic Jaeger; no description of breast or tail.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL (Surnia ulula) – one, 26 June 2008, Chester, Windsor Cty., No description of the bird. Description of vocalizations inconsistent with this species.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (Vireo griseus) – one, 28 July 2005, Thetford, Orange Cty., Vote to not accept 5-1. Not enough detail, doesn't mention yellow spectacles, couldn't see whole body.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (Limnothlypis swainsonii) – one, 16 May 2008, Missisquoi NWR, Swanton, Franklin Cty. Seen from a boat without binoculars; latitude, habitat and description with the exception of breast suggest waterthrush.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (Icteria virens) – one, 9 December 2007, Burlington, Chittenden Cty. Vote to not accept 4-2. Not enough detail; does not rule out several other species.

HOARY REDPOLL (Carduelis hornemanni) – one, 3 January 2008, Saxton's River, Rockingham, Windham Cty. Not enough detail provided, bright red chest indicative of Common Redpoll, no discussion of undertail coverts.

HOARY REDPOLL (C. hornemanni) – two, 6 March 2008, Fairfield, Franklin Cty. Does not show how this bird differed from Common Redpoll.

Note: Dissenting votes above were cast by various committee members.