

## VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

### 2009 DECISIONS

#### FIRST STATE RECORDS

THICK-BILLED MURRE (*Uria lomvia*) – one, 23 November 1950, South Hero, Grand Isle Co., Robert McBride. Photographs of this specimen taken at Headquarters of Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area by Theodore G. Murin.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*) – one adult, 9 May 2009, Arlington, Bennington Co., Barbara Powers, Paul Beaulieu, Lynn Bondurant, John Whalen. Photographs.

CAVE SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon fulva*) – one, 15-16 November 2008, Charlotte Town Beach, Charlotte, Chittenden Co., Heidi Rich, Craig Provost, T.G. Murin, m.ob. Photographs.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus leconteii*) – one, 17 October 2009, Pittsford, Rutland Co., T.G. Murin, Craig Provost, Allan Strong. Photographs.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) – one adult in breeding plumage, 13 April 2009, Orwell, Addison Co., Marlene and Norton Latourelle, Ernest Franzgrote, m.ob. Photographs.

#### NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THRU TENTH

THICK-BILLED MURRE (*Uria lomvia*) – one, first winter female, 2 December 1950, Winooski River, Middlesex, VT, Washington Co., Philip Bruce. Photographs of this specimen taken at Headquarters of Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area by Theodore G. Murin. Second State Record.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*) – one in basic plumage, 8 November 2008, South Hero, Grand Isle Co., Thomas Ford-Hutchinson, Mike Lester. Fourth State Record. Sketches.

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – one adult, 17 May 2009, Berlin Pond, Berlin, Washington Co., Bryan Pfeiffer. Seventh State Record.

WHITE-WINGED TERN (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) – one, 19 August 2009, Lake Carmi, Franklin, Franklin Co., Sue Wetmore. Second State Record.

BOREAL OWL (*Aegolius funereus*) – one, 5 November 2008, Addison, Addison Co., Rodney Olsen. Photograph at banding station. Tenth State Record.

SAY'S PHOEBE (Sayornis saya) – one, 8 September 2009, South Royalton, Royalton, Windsor Co., Kyle Jones. Photograph. Third State Record.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (Tyrannus forficatus) – one, 12 May 2009, West Rutland, Rutland Co., Susan Elliott (first observed by Jon and Kathleen Houghton) Photographs. Second State Record. Determined (by plumage) to be a different individual from the Arlington bird listed above as a First State Record.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (Helmitheros vermivorum) – one, 7 September 2009, Strafford, Orange Co., Jeff Miller. Ninth State Record.

SUMMER TANAGER (Piranga rubra) – one first spring male, 21 April 2009, North Hartland, Windsor Co., Joe and Alice Bliven. Photograph. Third State Record.

### **OTHER RSD'S ACCEPTED**

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (Anser albifrons) – one immature, 8 December 2008, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Co., Bruce MacPherson.

CAACKLING GOOSE (Branta hutchinsii) – two, 4 November 2008, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Co., T.G.Murin, Jim Mead. Photograph.

EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (Anas crecca crecca) – one adult male, 19 April 2009, Rockingham, Windham Co., Kenneth Cox. Photographs.

KING EIDER (Somateria spectabilis) – one immature, 19 November 2008, East Creek, Orwell, Addison Co., Hank Fish, Larry Fusco, Carl Machia. Photographs.

GREAT CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax carbo) – one immature, 29 December 2008, Ferrisburgh, Addison Co., Mae Mayville, Bill Mayville. Photograph.

GREAT CORMORANT (P. carbo) – one immature, 1 September 2009, Lake St. Catherine, Wells, Rutland Co., Charlie Seaver. Photographs.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (Egretta caerulea) – one adult, 19 April 2009, West Fairlee, Orange Co., Jennifer Davey, David Fisk. Photograph.

BLACK VULTURE (Coragyps atratus) – one, 14 October 2008, Brattleboro, Windham Co., Jon Atwood, Polly Pattison.

BLACK VULTURE (C. atratus) – two, 24 October 2008, Bristol, Addison Co., Bryan Pfeiffer. Photographs.

BLACK VULTURE (C. atratus) – two, 28 October 2008, Bristol, Addison Co., T.G.Murin.

BLACK VULTURE (C. atratus) – six, 1 April 2009, Waterbury, Washington Co., Rhonda Mace.

GOLDEN EAGLE (Aquila chrysaetos) – one adult, 21 June 2009, Danby, Rutland Co., Nancy A. Brown.

GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus) – one immature, dark morph – 20 December 2008, Champlain Valley. Larry Scacchetti.

BARN OWL (Tyto alba) – one, 26 May 2009, Addison, Addison Co., Rodney Olsen. Photograph.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL – (Surnia ulula) – one, 5 January 2009, Eden, Lamoille Co., Charlotte Bill, Allan Strong, m.ob. Photograph.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (Melanerpes erythrocephalus) – one immature, 30 November 2008, Bloomfield, Essex Co., Barbara C. Walling. Photograph.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (M. erythrocephalus) – one adult, 18 July 2009, Shaftsbury, Bennington Co., Solon and Hira Rhode. Photographs.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (Vireo griseus) – one singing male, 24 April 2009, Rochester, Windsor Co., Matthew Davis.

SEDGE WREN (Cistothorus platensis) – one, 1 July 2009, Orwell, Addison Co., Allan Strong.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (Oporornis agilis) – one, 15 September 2009, Middlebury, Addison Co., Stephen Trombulak, m.ob. Photograph.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (Icteria virens) – one, 17 May 2009, Shaftsbury, Bennington Co., Anne Hunter.

NELSON'S SPARROW (Ammodramus nelsoni) – one, 4 October 2008, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Co., T.G.Murin.

DICKCISSEL (Spiza americana) – one, 1 December 2008, Brandon, Rutland Co., Sue Wetmore.

### **RARE NESTING SPECIES**

LONG-EARED OWL (Asio otus) – pair with young, 25 June 2009, Williston, Chittenden Co., Shelley Forrest, Carl Runge. Photographs.

### **OUT-OF-SEASON RECORDS**

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (Buteo lineatus) – one adult, 4 January 2009, New Haven, Addison Co., Brendan Collins.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (Vireo philadelphicus) – one, 31 October 2008, Waitsfield, Washington Co., Patricia Folsom.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (Icterus galbula) – one adult, 8 December 2008, Colchester, Chittenden Co., Raymond and Tina Plante, Bonita Dundas. Photograph.

### **REPORTS OF EXOTICS, ESCAPES, RELEASES**

BAR-HEADED GOOSE (Anser indicus) – one, 18 April 2009, Brattleboro, Windham Co., Chris Petrak. Photographs.

RINGED TURTLE DOVE (Streptopelia risoria) – one, 3 July 2008, North Ferrisburgh, Addison Co., Karen L. Taylor, Pamela A. Taylor. Photographs.

### **REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED**

GREYLAG GOOSE (Anser anser) – one, 27 December 2008, Clarendon, Rutland Co., Photographs. A domestic goose with some Greylag genes.

CAACKLING GOOSE (Branta hutchinsii) – one, 19 October 2008, Brattleboro, Windham Co., More likely a Lesser Canada.

CAACKLING GOOSE (B. hutchinsii) – five, 24 October 2008, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Co., Insufficient details.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (Ictinia mississippiensis) – one, 18 March 2009, Corinth, Orange Co., Describes some very compelling field marks, but not enough to rise to the level needed for a first state record. No backup documentation or photograph.

GOLDEN EAGLE (Aquila chrysaetos) – one, 8 July 2009, Cornwall, Addison Co., Photograph shows a probable Northern Harrier.

GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus) – one, 15 January 1976, Waitsfield, Washington Co., Insufficient details.

YELLOW RAIL (Coturnicops noveboracensis) – one, 28 March 2009, West Rutland Marsh, West Rutland, Rutland Co., Taped vocalization was not deemed to be adequate for identification.

FORSTER'S TERN (Sterna forsteri) – one, 1 November 2008, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Co., Viewing distance too great to see adequate details.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH (Catharus bicknelli) – one, 29 April 2009, Weathersfield, Windsor Co., Very early for this species. Difficult to identify in the field, not singing.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (Oporornis agilis) – one, 26 August 2009, Norwich, Windsor Co., Needs to describe a complete eye ring.