

VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

2010 DECISIONS

FIRST STATE RECORDS

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (Elanoides forficatus) – one, 26 May 1983, Middlebury, Addison Cty., Betty L. Rist, Marlene P. Dawson. Two reports with drawings. Previously accepted by the VBRC on 9/11/83 and now judged to meet the requirements for First State Record. The report of this species by Anne Aversa and Barbara DeAngelis from Washington, Orange Cty., 3/28/86 and accepted by the VBRC on 9/13/86 is now the Second State Record. The committee voted not to accept an historical record from 1913. There had been no committee action on the 1913 record, which was published in Fortner et al. (1933) with no documentation.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN (Fratercula arctica) – one immature, 8-9 December 1960, Cold River Road, Rutland, Rutland Cty., Marshall Fish. Confirmation of identification based on a photograph in the Rutland Daily Herald of 12/10/60 and a write up by Allen H. Benton in the *Wilson Bulletin* 7/19/61. There had been no committee action on this record. A subsequent Second State Record was of a bird observed on the Burlington waterfront by Robert D. Scott 11/27/03, which was accepted by the committee 11/6/2004.

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE (Streptopelia decaocto) – one, 25 November 2009, Norwich, Windsor Cty., John and Dianne Dunne, Spencer Hardy, Doug Hardy, m.ob. over several weeks. Definitive photographs by John Dunne.

FIRST STATE NESTING RECORD

FORSTER'S TERN (Sterna forsteri) – two adults, one juv., 2 and 12 July 2010, Popasquash Is., Lake Champlain, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., Mark LaBarr, Laura Sears, Theodore G. Murin, Andrew Webbe. Photographs by Sears. Seventh State Record.

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THRU TENTH

PACIFIC LOON (Gavia pacifica) – one adult, basic plumage, 23 October 2009, Thompson's Point, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin, Richard Lavalley, James E. Osborn, David J. Hoag, Fifth State Record.

PACIFIC LOON (G. pacifica) – one adult, basic plumage, 1 November 2009, Thompson's Point, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin, J.E. Osborn. Sixth State Record.

PACIFIC LOON (G. pacifica) – one adult molting out of breeding plumage, 1 November 2009, Thompson's Point, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin, J.E. Osborn, R. Lavalley, et al. Photographs. Seventh State Record.

PACIFIC LOON (*G. pacifica*) – one adult, basic plumage, 23 October 2010, Thompson's Point, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., J.E. Osborn, Tyler Pockette. Eighth State Record.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*) – three adults, 30 April 2005, Brilyea Access, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty., Terry Bronson. Fifth State Record.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*N. violacea*) – one adult, 18 July 2010, Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Swanton, Franklin Cty., J. Eddy Edwards, Judy Sefchick-Edwards. Sixth State Record.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*N. violacea*) – one immature, 25 July 2010, Middlebury, Addison Cty., Dottie and Eric Nelson. Photograph. Seventh State Record.

IVORY GULL (*Pagophila eburnea*) – one adult, 19-20 February 2010, Lake Champlain, Alburg, Grand Isle Cty., Pat Jones, T.G. Murin et al. Photographs. Third State Record.

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*) – one third winter, 26 December 2009, Burlington waterfront, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin, Heidi Rich. Photographs. Second State Record. Accepted pending further committee review should more scientific information regarding taxonomy and identification become available.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*) – one, 11-12 December 2009, Intervale, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., Allan Strong, Roy Pilcher, Nancy Brown et al. Photographs. Eighth State Record.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. fuscus*) – three adults, 11 March 2010, Oven Bay, Lake Champlain, Addison, Addison Cty., Dwight Cargill, T.G. Murin. Photographs. Ninth State Record.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. fuscus*) – one, 18 March 2010, Champlain Bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., Henry Trombley. Tenth State Record.

HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*) – one singing male, 21-23 May 2010, UVM Research Forest, Jericho, Chittenden Cty., A. Strong, Scott Schwenk, T.G. Murin et al. Photographs. Second State Record.

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Passerina caerulea*) – two, 16-17 October 2010, Vernon, Windham Cty., David Johnston et al. Photographs. Sixth State Record.

OTHER RSD'S ACCEPTED

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – one immature, 16 August 2010, Cabot, Washington Cty., Craig Provost. Photographs.

WILLET (Tringa semipalmatus) – one, 28 May 2010, Brilyea Access, DCWMA, Addison, Addison Cty., T.G. Murin.

NORTHERN HAWK-OWL (Surnia ulula) – one, 11 November 2009, Derby, Orleans Cty., Michael Cosgrove. Photograph.

SEDGE WREN (Cistothorus platensis) – one, 8 October 2010, Victory, Essex Cty., R. Pilcher..

DICKCISSEL (Spiza americana) – one, 22 December 2009, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., R. Lavalley, D. Cargill, Jim Mead, m.ob. Photographs.

RARE NESTING SPECIES

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (Eughagus carolinus) – male and female at nest, 16 June 2010, Victory Basin WMA, Victory, Essex Cty., R. Pilcher, Susan and Marvin Elliott, Mary Lou Webster. Photographs.

OUT-OF-SEASON RECORDS

RUDDY DUCK (Oxyura jamaicensis) – two adult males, 31 July 2010, Brilyea Access, DCWMA, Addison, Addison Cty., T.G. Murin, Ruth W. Stewart et al. Photographs.

GRAY CATBIRD (Dumetella carolinensis) – one, 12 December 2009, Rutland, Rutland Cty., S. Elliott.

GRAY CATBIRD (D. carolinensis) – one, 31 March 2010, West Rutland Marsh, Rutland Cty., S. and M. Elliott.

REPORTS OF EXOTICS, ESCAPES, RELEASES

RUDDY SHELDUCK (Tadorna ferruginea) – one female, 5 November 2009, McKinley Ave., Rutland Town, Rutland Cty., Andrea Burke. First of this species reported in Vermont. Assumed to be an escapee.

RUDDY SHELDUCK (T. ferruginea) – one adult male, 30 May 2010, Shelburne Pond, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin. Photograph. Assumed to be an escapee.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

ANHINGA (Anhinga anhinga) – one soaring, 30 May 2010, South Woodbury, Washington Cty., Does not rule out cormorant.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (Elanoides forficatus) – one, 26 April 1913, Waitsfield, Washington Cty., Not enough details for a First State Record.

KING RAIL (Rallus elegans) – one, August 1961, DCWMA, Addison, Addison Cty., Sight record only. No description of the bird.

KING RAIL (R. elegans) – one, September 1962, DCWMA, Addison, Addison Cty., Entry in Robert N. Spear, *Birds of Vermont*, now thought to be an error.

KING RAIL (R. elegans) – one, 17-18 May 1994, DCWMA, Addison, Addison Cty. Description of vocalization only. A tape of the call was lost by the VBRC. Without the tape this potential First State Record should not be accepted.

VEERY (Catharus fuscescens) – one singing male, 8 April 2010, Hartland Four Corners, Windsor Cty., Song only and not adequately described. Does not rule out other thrushes.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (Melospiza lincolni) – one, out-of-season, 26 March 2010, Northwood Park, Rutland, Rutland Cty. Photographs. Species of sparrow not determined. Thought perhaps to be Swamp Sparrow.