



Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2017

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This is the 28th report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee (MBRC), covering the committee's actions during the year 2017.

In 2017, the MBRC consisted of regular members Adam M. Byrne (Clinton Co.), Philip C. Chu (Minnesota), Louis Dombroski (Bay Co.), Skye Haas (Marquette Co.), Matt Hysell (Berrien Co.), David Pavlik (Ingham Co.), and J.D. Phillips (Marquette Co.), and alternate members Jeff Buecking (Genessee Co.) and Marc North (Eaton Co.). Dombroski chaired the committee, and Byrne was the secretary.

In 2017, the MBRC made final decisions on 178 records, with 129 (72.5%) of these records resulting in acceptance at some taxonomic level. "Acceptance" means at least one individual reported was accepted, even if at a broader taxonomic level, such as a bird submitted, but not accepted, as a Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) that was later accepted as Frigatebird sp. (*Fregata* sp.).

Several species had a change in their occurrence status at the end of 2017. Two species, White-winged Dove and Red Phalarope, completed their three-year probationary period as Regular species, meaning they will no longer be on the review list, starting in 2018. Three species, Western Sandpiper, Ruff, and Fish Crow, are now considered Regular; they will remain on the review list through 2020, at which time, if still Regular, they will be eligible to come off the review list. Two species, Neotropic Cormorant and Vermilion Flycatcher, changed their status from Accidental to Casual.

Actions in 2017 resulted in the addition of five new species to the state list, all as Accidental: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Wandering/Gray-tailed Tattler, Crested Caracara, Sagebrush Sparrow were all documented in 2016, while Shiny Cowbird was documented in 2017, bringing the state total to 451 species.



A change in Bylaw B.2 regarding who can serve as Secretary was proposed and adopted unanimously.

The section of Bylaw B.2 that was amended now reads:

Each year, committee members will elect by a majority vote of the full committee a Chairperson and a Secretary for the following year. . . .The Secretary can be filled by a current committee member, a former member who has been re-elected to the committee, or a former member not currently serving as a regular or alternate member. The Secretary shall be responsible for obtaining necessary documentation, submitting documentation to the committee, maintaining records, and keeping minutes of all meetings. If the acting Secretary is not a current regular or alternate member, meeting minutes will be kept by an active member chosen by a majority vote of those in attendance at the meeting.

The information provided for each of the following records is: vote tally, with the number of birds accepted mentioned if more than one; an inventory of the documentation provided; then information on the date(s) and location. The vote tally gives the number of votes for acceptance first, then the number against. 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. For accepted records only, the observers associated with the documentation are listed. If known, the person who first found the bird(s) is also listed and underlined, whether they submitted documentation or not.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Brant (*Brant bernicla*)

vote: 7-0

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

One seen along the Lake Superior shore, below a pull-off on the Grand Marais Truck Trail, one mile east of the Lake Superior State Forest Campground, Luce Co. on 19 November 2016. The bird was spotted on the lake near the shore, but quickly took flight and flew west over the lake, but allowed for diagnostic photos before it flew out of view (73rd state record, 1st county record).

“Atlantic” Brant (*Branta bernicla bernicla*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Marc North, Patrick Wright

photo files: Brian Allen, Linda Ar, Gerri Erickson, Shelley Green, Roger Hagerman, Jill Henemeyer, Jeff Kunitzer, Marc North, Phil Odum, Linda Scribner, Patrick Wright

A banded individual just offshore and along the beach at the 1st Street Pier, Manistee, Manistee Co. was present 21-23 November 2016 (74th state record, 1st county record). The bird allowed close approach and P. Wright was able to read the Canadian Wildlife Service band number; the certificate of appreciation he received stated the bird had been banded as an adult near Coral Harbour, Nunavut, Canada on 24 July 2015 (therefore it was hatched in 2014 or earlier). The certificate distinguishes it as an “Atlantic Brant”, hence our acceptance of the record to the nominate subspecies.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Jenifer Kusch, anonymous

One photographed swimming at Port Huron, St. Clair Co. on 31 October 2017, and as a carcass taken by a hunter on 1 November 2017 (74th state record, 15th county record).

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Patrick Wright

One flew by Lakeside Park, Port Huron, St. Clair Co. on 6 November 2017 (75th state record, 16th county record).

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

vote: 7-0

one published report

photo files (of museum specimen): Christopher Milensky

A published report (Trapp 2015), brought to our attention in 2017, provides documentation of one collected at St. Clair Flats, St. Clair Co. on 20 November 1875 (Stejneger, 1882). The specimen (USNM 70317), which resides at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History, represents the only pre-reintroduction record of Trumpeter Swan in the state, hence it is the 1st state and county record. Perhaps with just this one historical record, “reintroduction” is not the correct term to denote the return of this species to the state’s avifauna.

Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jim Dawe, Darrell Lawson, Marc Northphoto files: Greg Bodker, Adam M. Byrne, Louie Dombroski, Dan Duso, Evan Griffiths, Skye Haas, Darrell Lawson, Myles McNally, Drew Meyer, Brandon Ndiffier, Elliot Nelson, Jason Newton, Marc North, Todd Palgut, Gary Palmer, J.D. Phillips, Chace Scholten, Thomas Smythe, Scott Terry, Mary Trombley, Patrick Wright

One male, co-found with Chris Neri, at the Tahquamenon River mouth, Chippewa Co. on 5-9 May 2017 (2nd state record, 1st county record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Peter R. Bono, Doug McWhirter

One male at Sutton Lake, Washtenaw Co. on 14 April 1972 was previously reviewed by the committee but not accepted. We voted unanimously to reconsider the record in 2017, after the receipt of original field notes from a second observer, resulting in its acceptance. It now becomes the 7th state record, and 1st county record.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 7-0 in the second round

photo file: Joe Soehnel

One male at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. on 29 April 2016. Some committee members were initially concerned that the photo did not show enough detail to rule out a hybrid with American Wigeon (*M. americana*), but, after discussion, it was accepted unanimously (60th state record, 4th county record).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Michael Harvey

descriptions: Adam Byrne, Todd Palgut

One at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. from 18 February – 5 March 2017 (63rd state record, 11th county record).

“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca/nimbia*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions and photo files: Todd Palgut, Scott Terry

photo file: Karl Overman

One male was at Erie Marsh Preserve, Monroe Co. on 3 May 2017 (3rd state record, 2nd county record).

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

vote: 6-1 in the second round

description: Ben Spieles

One on Lake Huron, near Hessel, Mackinac Co. on 8 July 2016. This was only the 9th record of any eider being found in the summer months in Michigan. Reported as a Common Eider, it was reviewed in 2016, but not accepted at that level (1-6 vote). The description of the size, mottled plumage, and diving behavior led to its acceptance at this broader level (25th state record, 1st county record).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Carl and Judi Manning, Doug Wassinkphoto files: Lisa Casler, Curtis Dykstra, Carl Gustafson, Brad Heath, Lizzy Kibbey, Tony Lammers, Carl Manning, Judi Manning, Philip Odum, Carol VanOeveren

One at Pigeon Lake, Ottawa Co. on 26-28 December 2016 (49th state record, 5th county record). On the last day, the bird was found dead along the shoulder of the road; the specimen (UMMZ 245189) now resides at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

vote: 7-0 for two individuals; 7-0 for an additional four individuals in the second round

descriptions: Robert Bochenk, Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Jacco Gelderloos, Daniel Hosford, Tyson Kahler, Lizzy Kibbey, Sherry Manison, Steve Minard, Marc North

photo files: Robert Bochenk, Jacco Gelderloos, Julie Gidwitz, Ross Green, Scott Jennex, Lizzy Kibbey, Kip Miller, Steve Minard, Andre Moncrieff, Marc North, Philip Odum, Robert Ostrander, Dave Slager

There have been many ongoing reports of this species being observed at Three Oaks, Berrien Co. since 2014. When first reviewed in 2015, two individuals were accepted out of as many as 14 that were reported by some. Based on new documentation, the MBRC accepted a request to reconsider the record, with a 8-1 vote. Of the 14 birds reviewed, eight were not accepted with a 1-6 vote. Based on new documentation that included a careful description of 11 collared-doves present on 30 Dec 2016, at total of six were determined to be “pure” Eurasian Collared-Doves.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions and photo files: Lizzy Kibbey, Mark Wlochphoto files: Daryl Bernard, Scott Jennex, Karl Overman, Linda Scribner

One found by Van Burmeister at a private residence near Ludington, Mason Co., was observed on 26 September – 8 October 2016 (29th state record, 1st county record).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 7-0

description: Jim Dawe

photo files: Louie Dombroski, Skye Haas, Nolan Keyes, Bill PurcellOne at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 30-31 May 2017 (30th state record, 7th county record).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Nina Hana, Andrew Simon

One at Frenchtown, Monroe Co. on 15-18 June 2017 (31st state record, 1st county record).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo file: Sheila Sparbeck

One visited a feeding station at Mears, Oceana Co. on 18 June 2017 (32nd state record, 1st county record).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu

photo files: Joe Block, Eldon Dodd, Elliot NelsonOne, found by John Mills, at Rudyard, Chippewa Co. on 2-17 July 2017 (33rd state record, 8th county record).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

vote: 7-0

description: Nathan Martineau

photo files: Joseph Kurtz

One at Marquette, Marquette Co. on 25 September 2017 was seen in flight only, but quick action by the photographer resulted in diagnostic photos (34th state record, 2nd county record).

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

vote: 6-1

description: [Chris Neri](#)

One heard giving its distinctive song twice before falling silent at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 15 May 2016 (20th state record, 3rd county record).

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

vote: 7-0 for one individual

descriptions: Robert Bochenek, Brian Clegg, Jim Dawe, Don Henise, Jeff Kunitzer, Brian Ndiffer, David Parsons, Andrew Simonaudio files: Robert Bochenek, Adam M. Byrne, Don Henise, Jeff Kunitzer, Mike Sefton, Greg Smith, Jeff Stacey, Keith Taylor

One, found by [David Parsons](#), sang at Grass Lake, Sharonville State Game Area, Jackson Co. from 15 May – 31 July 2017, the seventh year in a row for this location (22nd state record, 7th county record). An account by one observer of two individuals singing 100 yards apart did not rule out the possibility that the same bird was heard from both locations, so the second individual was not accepted with a 0-7 vote.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Brian McGee](#) photo files: Robert Bochenek, Greg Bodker, David Ferris, Thomas Gass, Robin Haworth, Curt Hofer, Maggie Jewett, Brendan Klick, [Brian McGee](#), John Munro, Paul Poronto, Lori Schutz, Marge Tittyung, Mary Trombley, Phyllis Voorheis

One at New Baltimore, Macomb Co. on 3-12 May 2017 (150th state record, 7th county record).

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 7-0

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

One at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 18 June 2017 (151st state record, 40th county record).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: [Wayne Arent](#)

One juvenile at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. on 17 November 2016 (12th state record, 1st county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0 for two birds

photo files: [Deb Johnson](#), Fred Zilch

Two along Woodbridge Road, Hillsdale Co. on 25 April 2016 (14 state record, 2nd county record).

“Black-necked” Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Jim Dawephoto files: Thomas Baumgart, Adam M. Byrne, [Brian Clegg](#), Ross Green, Eddie Hicks, Patrick Jakel, Dennis McNeill, Philip Odum, Craig Schafer, Andrew Simon, Jeff Stacey, Mary Trombley One, co-found by Sue Clegg, at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Bay Co. on 12-15 April 2017 (21st state record, 1st county record). The committee concurred with the single report that identified this bird as the expected nominate subspecies.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0 for two birds

photo files: [Scott Terry](#)

Two located at Erie Marsh Preserve, Monroe Co. on 3 May 2017 (22nd state record, 6th county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0 for two birds

photo files: Jim Keller, [James Spencer](#)

Two found in a flooded field in Hillsdale Co. on 15 May 2017 (23rd state record, 3rd county record).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Linda Ar](#)

One found at Crow Island State Game Area, Saginaw Co. on 28 May 2017 (24th state record, 7th county record).

“Eurasian” Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus phaeopus/variegatus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Linda Pittman

photo files: Joanie & Mark Hubinger, Bob Kingsbury, Glenn Peterson, Linda Pittman, Liz West

One accompanying a flock of Whimbrel of the expected North American subspecies (*N.p.hudsonicus*) at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. on 17

May 2016, providing a first state and county record for this Old World subspecies group. The bird was easily distinguished by its paler, grayer plumage, pale underwing surface, and white rump and dowitcher-like back stripe. Initially reported and rejected with a 0-7 vote as a “European” Whimbrel (*N. p. phaeopus*), the variability of that subspecies and the difficulty in distinguishing it from the Asian *N. p. variegatus* (Heindel, 1999) led the committee to accept the bird at the broader level of “Eurasian” Whimbrel, which does not in any way detract from the amazing nature of the sighting!

“Eurasian” Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus phaeopus/variegatus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Caleb Putnam

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Thomas Gass, Jerome Jourdan, Brendan Klick, John Parker, Caleb Putnam, [Andrew Sturgess](#)

A white-rumped Whimbrel was present at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 27-31 May 2017. Like the bird the previous year in Iosco Co., this bird was accepted under the broader category of “Eurasian” Whimbrel, due to the difficulty of distinguishing the nominate “European” subspecies (*N. p. phaeopus*) from the “Asian” subspecies (*N. p. variegatus*). An unexpected 2nd state and 1st county record.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [John Parker](#)

One first year male at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 1 April 2017 (59th state record, 29th county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

description: Jim Dawe

photo files: Emily Asbel, Thomas Baumgart, Greg Bodker, Katie Bolt, Michael Boston, Bill Buckingham, Adam M. Byrne, Lisa Casler, Brian Clegg, Mike Cook, Tim Cornish, Brynja Davis, Petra DeBruine, Zachary DeBruine, Ed DeVries, Leah Dodd, Curtis Dykstra, Rob Emelander, Chip Francke, Ross Green, Shelley Green, Roger Hagerman, Brad Heath, Jill Henemyer, Eddie Hicks, Daniel Hosford, Casey Irwin, Brian Johnson, Lizzy Kibbey, Craig Kingma, Anne Klein, Maeve Klein, Aaron Kortenhoven, Jamie Krupka, Jeff Kunitzer, Carl Manning, Judi Manning, Dennis McNeill, Marc Miedema, Tom Moxley, John Munro, Brandon Ndiffer, Philip Odum, Felix Perdue, Alex Pitt, Mary Pratt, Jennifer Reck, Norka Saldana, Linda

Scribner, Andrew Simon, David Svetich, Bob Tarte, Emily Tornga, Mary Trombley, Kevin Vande Vusse, Carol VanOeveren, Rick Veldman, Phil Vreeman, Joyce Wagner, Eric Wengert

One largely white-ruffed adult male, found by Andrea & Terry Grabill, at Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon Co. on 3-18 April 2017 (60th state record, 2nd county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Linda Ar, Adam M. Byrne, John Parker, Norka Saldana, Tim Thompson

One rufous-ruffed adult male at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 9-12 April 2017 (61st state record, 30th county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Philip Odum, Todd Palgut, John Parker, Mary Trombley

One black-ruffed adult male at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 15-17 April 2017 (62nd state record, 31st county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

description: David Peters

One male beginning to acquire a rufous/chestnut ruff was found at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. on 19 April 2017 (63rd state record, 4th county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Mary Pratt

One female picked out among other shorebirds at Maple River State Game Area, Gratiot Co. on 3 May 2017 (64th state record, 1st county record).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Joe Soehnel

One in basic plumage at Fish Point State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. on 4-6 October 2017 (65th state record, 4th county record).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Philip C. Chu, Louie Dombroski, Lizzy Kibbey, Marc North, Patrick Wright

photo files: Brian Allen, Daryl Bernard, Robert Bochenek, Adam M. Byrne, Nat Carmichael, Tim Cornish, Nate Crane, Andy Dettling, Diana Doyle, Dan Duso, Curtis Dykstra, Christian Fernandez, Darlene Friedman, Thomas Gass, Skye Haas, Roger Hagerman, Lyle Hamilton, Curt Hofer, David Hollie, Matt Hysell, Scott Jennex, Jerome Jourdan, Steven Joyner, Lizzy Kibbey, Myles McNally, Marc North, David Pavlik, Alex Pitt, Curt Powell, Caleb Putnam, Ryne Rutherford, Alan Ryff, Lisa Schaller, Linda Scribner, Andrew Simon, Scott Terry, Jeff Timmons, Mary Trombley, Kevin Vande Vusse, Patrick Wright

One in alternate plumage at Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon Co. on 11-13 August 2016 (1st state and county record).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Adam M. Byrne, Brian Clegg, Jerome Jourdan, Brendan Klick, Pam Rasmussen, Scott Terry, Mary Trombley

Amazingly, a second individual in as many years, co-found with David Powell, also in alternate plumage, was at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 23 July 2017 (2nd state record, 1st county record).

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 7-0 for second individual in the second round

descriptions: Michael Harvey, Patrick Wright

photo files: Michael Harvey, Scott Jennex, Jeff Stacey, Andrew Sturgess

Two individuals were reported at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 16-18 Jul 2016, one of which was accepted in the first round of voting (Dombroski 2017). Some committee members were concerned that the photos were not unequivocal with regards to a second individual being present, but after discussion, all agreed that the second bird should also be accepted. (This becomes the second individual in the 230th state and 78th county record.)

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Thomas Gass

One at Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon Co. on 2-3 May 2017 (231st state record, 35th county record).

Gray-tailed/Wandering Tattler (*Tringa brevipes/incana*)

vote: 6-1

description and photo files: [Lee Bragg](#)

One at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Leelanau Co. on 10 Jul 2016 (first state and county record). Three photos of this amazing find documented a shorebird with the diagnostic shape shared only by this species pair. Initially reported as a Wandering Tattler, its call was described as “a clear short burst of notes all in the same pitch”. In 2016, this record was resubmitted when some members questioned whether the described call adequately ruled out the possibility of Gray-tailed Tattler. At our December 2016 meeting, recordings of both species were played and all agreed that some multi-syllabic calls of Gray-tailed Tattler could be confused with Wandering Tattler, resulting in the record’s rejection as Wandering Tattler with a 1-6 vote in the second round and eventual acceptance at this broader level.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 6-1

description: Patrick Wright

photo files: [Chris Neri](#), Patrick Wright

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 9-11 October 2016 was observed swimming off the tip with a Red-necked Phalarope (111th state record, 14th county record).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Bill Buckingham, Adam M. Byrne, Darrell Lawson, Patrick Wright

photo files: Nathan Martineau, Eric Ripma

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 20-27 October 2016 (112th state record, 15th county record).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Tim Baerwald](#)

One flew by Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co. on 21 September 2014 (32nd state record, 5th county record).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Carl Manning](#)

photo files: [Judi Manning](#)

One well-photographed and well-described bird at Holland State Park, Ottawa Co. on 26 October 2017 “invaded” a flock of gulls sitting on the south pier and spent over five minutes taking turns harassing them and being harassed in return (34th state record, 1st county record).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Patrick Wright](#)

photo files: [Chris Neri](#), [Patrick Wright](#)

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 17 October 2016 (28th state record, 13th county record).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: [Tim Baerwald](#)

One juvenile at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co. on 29 August 2017. (29th state record, 7th county record)

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions and photo files: [Philip Odum](#), [Patrick Wright](#)

One juvenile at Lakeside Park, Port Huron, St. Clair Co. on 3 November 2017. (32nd state record, 2nd county record).

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: [Chris Neri](#), [Eric Ripma](#), [Thomas Wheeler](#)

One seen in flight and sitting on Lake Superior at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 14 November 2016 (13th state record, 9th county record).

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Bill Buckingham, Jeff Buecking, Jim Dawe, Darrell Lawson, Marc North

photo files: Kirby Adams, Emily Asbel, Pat Baize, Thomas Baumgart, Matthew Beatty, Daryl Bernard, Robert Bochenek, Greg Bodker, David Boon, Karen Brown, Brandon Brywczyński, Bill Buckingham, Jeff Buecking, Adam M. Byrne, John Cassidy, Vince Cavalieri, Allen Chartier, Brian Clegg, Zachary Coeman, Lisa Combs, Brynja Davis, Leah Dodd, David

Ferris, Allee Forsberg, Jeff Fossmo, Dan Fox, Zachary Friebe, Darlene Friedman, Matthew Gasperoni, Ashli Gorbet, Ross Green, Benjamin Hack, Matty Hack, Lyle Hamilton, Robin Haworth, Jill Henemyer, Don Henise, Eddie Hicks, Jake Hill, Tom Hince, Wayne Hoch, Douglas Howerzyl, Janet Hug, David Huhn, Matt Hysell, Paul Jacyk, Patrick Jakel, Clifford Jones, Holly Vaughn Joswick, Kenn Kaufmann, Lizzy Kibbey, Brendan Klick, Peter Koper, Joseph Kurtz, Joe Kwasniewski, Kim Laskowski, Jim Law, Darrell Lawson, Ryan Lesniewicz, Stan Lilley, John Lowry, Amy Lyyski, Brian McGee, Willie McHale, Katie McNaughton, Dennis McNeill, Mike Mencotti, Marc Miedema, John Mills, Jeffrey Moore, Bruce Moorman, Yve Morrell, John Munro, Ewa Mutzenmore, Elliot Nelson, Marc North, Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Todd Palgut, David Pavlik, Tom Pavlik, Alex Pitt, Sherry Plessner, Paul Poronto, Matthew Porter, Mary Pratt, Kristy Reske, Jane Riker, Andrea Rose, Kevin Rysiewski, Norka Saldana, Matt Salisbury, Robert Sams, Ryan Sanderson, Craig Schafer, Lisa Schaller, Chace Scholten, Linda Scribner, Mark Shaver, Dave Smith, Anita Spencer, Jeff Stacey, Jackie Stribling, Shannon Thompson, Tim Thompson, Jeff Timmons, Mary Trombley, Jim VanAllen, Lee Western, Jeff Wilhite, Paul Wolter, Ed Wransky, Patrick Wright, Sue Wright

One first year bird along the Flint River at the University of Michigan campus, Flint, Genesee Co. on 9-13 March 2017, found by Lauren LaFave, a young, beginning birder! In the three days after its discovery, it became one of the most viewed rarities in the state's history. The bird appeared sick on the last day of its stay and was found dead later in the day. The specimen (UMMZ 245180) is at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. Tissue samples were sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and they determined that the bird had West Nile Virus, which may have been the cause of its death (2nd state record, 1st county record).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: David Ferris

One adult on the beach at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. on 3 September 2017 (30th state record, 19th county record).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Brian Clegg

photo files: Brian Clegg, Caleb Putnam, Linda Scribner, Kristin Stratton

One adult photographed at Warren Dunes State Park on 4 September 2017 and at New Buffalo, on 6 September 2017, both in Berrien Co. (31st state record, 20th county record).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Matt Hysell](#)

One at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. on 5 September 2017 (32nd + state record, 21st county record).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: [Brian Clegg](#)

One at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. on 6 September 2017 (33rd state record, 22nd county record).

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Brian Allen, Marc North

photo files: Brian Allen, [Michael Boston](#), Eldon Dodd, Leah Dodd, Brad Heath, Jill Henemyer, Carl Manning, Judi Manning, Marc Miedema, Steve Minard, Marc North, Alex Pitt, Linda Scribner,

One, likely third cycle bird, at Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon Co. on 19-22 April 2017. (11th state record, 1st county record).

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

vote: 7-0

description: [William Yerkes](#)

photo files: [Gretchen Brown](#), [Randy Siegrist](#), [William Yerkes](#)

One found standing around and photographed in three counties: at Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co. on 5 July 2017; at Jackson, Jackson Co. on 14-15 July 2017; and later on 15 July 2017 on a driveway in Charlotte, Eaton Co. (3rd state record, 1st county record for all three counties). Some committee members expressed concern that more than one bird might be involved, but the birds couldn't be definitively differentiated from the photos, resulting in all being treated as part of the same record.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Kaye Centers](#)

photo files: Tim Baerwald, Matt Hysell

One at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co. on 6 September 2016 was initially rejected in 2016, but the receipt of additional photographs resulted in a reconsideration and acceptance of the record. (6th state record, and 4th county record).

Frigatebird sp. (*Fregata* sp.)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Steve Baker, Ed Pike, Bruce Seeger, Mike Snable

One female or immature male seen flying west over the Straits of Mackinaw in Mackinac Co. by three parties on 23 September 2017, one conducting a hawk watch at Pointe LaBarbe, Mackinac Co. and two traveling over the Mackinaw Bridge! Reported and rejected with a 0-7 vote as a Magnificent Frigatebird, which is of course the most likely species to occur anywhere in North America. The pattern of white on the head was noted, but was not discernible in sufficient detail to rule out the other *Fregata* species (8th state record, 1st county record).

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Louie Dombroski, Darrell Lawson, Marc North, J.D. Phillips

photo files: Greg Bodker, Adam M. Byrne, Brian Clegg, Louie Dombroski, Dan Duso, Joshua Haas, Skye Haas, Joseph Kurtz, Darrell Lawson, Stan Lilley, Myles McNally, Drew Meyer, Chris Neri, Marc North, Philip Odum, Todd Palgut, Chace Scholten, Scott Terry, Jim VanAllen, Patrick Wright

One on 22 April 2017 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., was later refound at the Tahquamenon River mouth 3-12 May 2017, associating with Double-crested Cormorants (*P. auritus*).

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

vote: 7-0

description: Jim Dawe

photo files: Thomas Baumgart, Robert Bochenek, Adam M. Byrne, Allen Chartier, Brian Clegg, Carl Drife, Kathy Frederick, Ross Green, Lyle Hamilton, Curt Hofer, Janet Hug, Robert Irwin, Rob Jamieson, Peter Kaestner, Brendan Klick, Jim Law, Warren Leow, Myles McNally, Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Todd Palgut, John Parker, Caleb Putnam, Pamela Rasmussen, Jeff Stacey, Mary Trombley, Spencer Vanderhoof

One immature at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 20 July – 23 August 2017.

One at Fish Point State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. on 28 July 2017. (27th state record, 1st county record)

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Thomas Baumgart, Anne Birkam, Brian Clegg, Jim Dawe, Joe Soehnel

photo files: Thomas Baumgart, Brian Clegg, Dennis McNeill, Craig Schafer, Joe Soehnel

video file: Joe Soehnel

One at Crow Island State Game Area, Saginaw Co. on 23-27 May 2017 (35th state record, 2nd county record).

Plegadis ibis

vote: 6-1

description: Steve Gasser

One at Crow Island State Game Area, Saginaw Co. on 20 May 2017.

Originally reported as a Glossy Ibis, but not accepted with a 0-7 vote.

Described as a brownish bird with a long curved bill and purplish glossy wings, acceptance at the generic level was straightforward.

Plegadis ibis

vote: 6-1

descriptions: Don Henise, Ron Hoffman

One at the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary, Jackson Co. on 22 May 2017.

Plegadis ibis

vote: 7-0 for two birds

description and photo files: Albert Rowell

Two birds seen and photographed in flight at Millennium Park, Kent Co. on 19 September 2017.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Marc North

photo files: Linda Ar, Robert Bochenek, Greg Bodker, Brian Clegg, Richard Fanning, Ross Green, Curtis Hart, Don Henise, Janet Hug, Deb Johnson, Anne Klein, Maeve Klein, Brendan Klick, Jim Law, Stan Lilley, Brian McGee, Myles McNally, Tom Moxley, Brad Murphy, Karl Overman, Andrew Simon, Tim Thompson, Spencer Vanderhoof, Carmen Volante



One at Pittsford, Hillsdale Co. on 20-25 August 2017 (11th state record, 1st county record).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

vote: 7-0

description: Marc North

photo files: Robert Bochenek, Greg Bodker, Adam M. Byrne, Brian Clegg, Michelle Crandall, Richard Fanning, Ross Green Janet Hug, Patrick Jakel, Scott Jennex, Brendan Klick, Brian McGee, Brad Murphy, Marc North, Tim Thompson, Mary Trombley

Amazingly, a sub-adult bird was discovered by Elliot Nelson associating with the aforementioned Swallow-tailed Kite at Pittsford, Hillsdale Co. on 22-28 August 2017 (39th state record, 1st county record).

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

vote: 7-0

descriptions and photo files: Steve Baker, Jason Newton

One at Mackinaw City, Emmet Co. on 17 April 2017 (5th state record, 1st county record).

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

vote: 7-0

description: Don Henise

photo files: Ross Green, Don Henise

One found by Ralph Schumacher on private property in Waterloo Twp., Jackson Co. from mid – 27 September 2016 (136th state record, 2nd county record).

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Philip C. Chu, Louie Dombroski, Scott Hickman, Darrell Lawson, Marc North, Patrick Wright

photo files: Ashely Adams, Ashley Adams, Linda Ar, Joshua Baker, Thomas Baumgart, Luke Berg, Daryl Bernard, Joe Block, Robert Bochenek, Greg Bodker, Adam M. Byrne, Gwyneth Calvetti, Shannon Daniels, Chris DeWolfe, Carl Drife, David Euler, Joshua Forrester, Jeff Fossmo, Darlene Friedman, Ian Galbreath, Thomas Gass, Skye Haas, Lyle Hamilton, Ashley Hannah, Jill Henemyer, Scott Hickman, Patrick Hogan, Laurie Johnson, Steven Joyner, Kathy Kaczynski, Joe Kaplan, Darrell Lawson, Stan Lilley, Carl Manning, Judi Manning, Nathan Martineau, Marc Miedema, Bruce Moorman, Marc North, Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Gary Palmer, Charles

Peterson, J.D. Phillips, Mary Pratt, Robert Reed, Marie Rust, Linda Scribner, Andrew Simon, Janet Smigielski, Scott Terry, Lynette Thonne, Mary Trombley, Jim VanAllen, Eric Wengert, Tim Winslow, Mark Wloch, Patrick Wright

One at Munising, Alger Co. from late June – 12 November 2016 (1st state and county record).

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Dave Anthony, Jim Dawe, Kristen Goymerac

photo files: Dave Anthony, Louie Dombroski, Kristen Goymerac, Damon Haan, Joseph Hammerle, Joe Kaplan

One at Escanaba, Delta Co. from 16 November 2016 – 25 March 2017 (2nd state record, 1st county record).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Christopher Lipps, Mark Wloch

One at Big Sable Point, Mason Co. on 16 October 2016 (25th state record, 2nd county record).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Chris Neri, Eric Ripma

One visited Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 4 September 2017 (26th state record, 9th county record).

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Marc North, Ryne Rutherford

photos: Linda Ar, Robert Bochenek, Allen Chartier, Steve Gasser, Marc North, Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Ryne Rutherford, Linda Scribner, Patrick Wright

One immature male at Fish Point State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. on 15-18 November 2016 (6th state record, 1st county record).

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Brian Clegg, Wilmer Fernandez, Thomas Gass, Chris Neri, Eric Ripma

One immature male visited Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 8 October 2017 (7th state record, 1st county record).



Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jim Dawe, Darrell Lawson, Marc North, Patrick Wright

photo files: Linda Ar, Adam M. Byrne, Mike Cook, Dan Duso, Darlene Friedman, Ross Green, Lyle Hamilton, Jill Henemyer, Darrell Lawson, Stan Lilley, Carl Manning, Judi Manning, Nathan Martineau, Myles McNally, Elliot Nelson, Marc North, Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Joyce Peterson, J.D. Phillips, Pam Rasmussen, Eric Ripma, Chace Scholten, Scott Terry, Mary Trombley, Patrick Wright, Sue Wright

audio files: Lyle Hamilton, Scott Terry, Patrick Wright

video file: Ross Green

One found by Steve Baker at Dafter, Chippewa Co. on 19-26 October 2016 (2nd state record, 1st county record).

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Chris Neri, Eric Ripma

video file: Linda Ar

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 22 September 2017 (3rd state record, 2nd county record).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Jim Dawe, Darrell Lawson, Marc North

photo files: Rick Anderson, Linda Ar, Dan Belter, Greg Bodker, Sandy Brunette-Hill, Adam M. Byrne, Shannon Daniels, Katrina DeWitt, John Dixon, Louie Dombroski, Darlene Friedman, Anne Geraghty, Sulli Gibson, Christian Hagenlocher, Greg Hottman, Joe Kaplan, Demetri Lafkas, Jim Law, Darrell Lawson, Erin Lehnert, Howard Lorenz, Cindy Lupin, Stuart Malcolm, Brian McGee, Drew Meyer, Jym Mooney, Brad Murphy, Marc North, Philip Odum, Gary Palmer, Mike Peczynski, J.D. Phillips, Pam Rasmussen, Ryne Rutherford, Ryan Sallmann, Carl Schroeder, Andrew Simon, Jack Swelstad, Scott Terry, Lynette Thonne, Jim VanAllen, Jay Watson, Kristin Wegner

One along Lake Michigan shoreline north of Menominee, Menominee Co. on 3-11 November 2016 (3rd state record, 1st county record). The first of its species to be viewed in Michigan on more than one day and by multiple observers, it was sometimes conspicuous from Highway M-35 as it foraged on insects and buckthorn fruit.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

vote: 7-0 for one bird

descriptions: Marc North, Ken Sapkowski

photo files: David Caitlin, Joe Donahue, Dan Duso, Joshua Haas, Ed Harper, Don Henise, Vikki Jones, Lisa Keith, Joseph Kurtz, Carl Manning, Moira Maus, Myles McNally, Dennis McNeill, Gary Nelkie, Marc North, Phillip Odum, Todd Palgut, Tom Pavlik, Mary Pratt, Kristy Reske, Janet Smigielski, Joe Soehnel, Jeffrey Timmer

One at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. on 17-18 May 2017 (4th state record, 1st county record). A single claim of a second individual was not accepted with a 0-7 vote.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Louie Dombroski, Skye Haas

One at Stonington, Delta Co. on 4 July 2017, found by Chris Vogel (5th state record, 1st county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Philip Odum

One at Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. on 29 April 2017 (177th state record, 4th county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Brian Allen

photo files: Brian Allen, Brian Clegg, Shelley Green, Jill Henemyer, Ed Kaminski, Myles McNally, Chace Scholten, Linda Scribner, Thomas Smythe, Scott Sneed, Mary Trombley

One in Manistee Twp., Manistee Co. on 4-9 May 2017 (178th state record, 4th county record).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0 for four birds

description: Philip C. Chu

photo files: Thomas Baumgart, Daryl Bernard, Greg Bodker, Adam M. Byrne, Lisa Casler, Eldon Dodd, Chip Francke, Darlene Friedman, Matthew Gasperoni, Ross Green, John Grossa, Roger Hagerman, Roger Hammer, Curt Hofer, Matt Hysell, Vikki Jones, Ethan Kibbey, Lizzy Kibbey, Peter Koper, Randy Kursinsky, Joe Kwasniewski, Stan Lilley, Carl Manning, Judi

Manning, Brian McGee, Myles McNally, Karl Overman, Tom Pavlik, Craig Schafer, Lori Schutz, Andrew Simon, Janet Smigielski, Joe Soehnel, Jeff Stacey, Scott Terry, Kevin Vande Vusse, Dirk von Werne,
 Observations in Vernon Twp., Isabella Co. spanned from 20 May – 16 July 2017, and documented a pair that nested and produced two young. At least one nestling was noted on 3 July and two on 7 July. An adult was feeding young at the nest on 10 July. This was the 179th state record and 8th county record (but the first county record in 31 years).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Chris Neri, Eric Ripma

A juvenile visited Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 23 September 2017 (180th state record, 7th county record).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: Skye Haas, Max Henschell, Nathan Martineau, Beth Olson, J.D. Phillips

One at Presque Isle Park, Marquette, Marquette Co. on 15 September 2016 (45th state record, 1st county record).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 7-0 for four additional birds

description: Adam M. Byrne

Since 9 April 2011, this species had become a permanent fixture at the Forest Lawn Landfill in southern Berrien Co, where it has been documented by many. Two individuals had been accepted previously; new documentation was received for six birds observed here on 26 March 2016; the Committee unanimously approved a request to consider the new documentation. Since two were already accepted, an additional four individuals were voted on and accepted, bringing to six the total number of birds in the 3rd state and county record.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 7-0 in the second round

descriptions: Philip C. Chu, Lizzy Kibbey, Kip Miller, Steve Minard, Marc North, Rita Wetmore

photo files: Rita Wetmore

audio file: Matt Hysell

Two individuals at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. present 26 March – 13 Jun 2016 were accepted in 2016 (Dombrosk 2017). A third individual was resubmitted, but after carefully listening to the audio file at our December 2016 meeting, all concurred that three individuals could be distinguished. This vote adds a third individual to the 8th state and county record.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Kip Miller](#)

One at Bridgman, Berrien Co. on 3 March 2017 (9th state and county record).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 7-0 for one bird, 6-1 for a second bird

descriptions: Robert Bochenek, Alison Vilag

audio file: Robert Bochenek

Two intermittently at Three Oaks sewage ponds, Berrien Co. from 25 March – 3 May 2017 (10th state and county record).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Brian Clegg, Jim Dawe, Matt Hysell, Ken Sapkowski

photo files: Brian Clegg, Myles McNally

One at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. reported on scattered dates from 13 May – 21 June 2017 (11th state and county record).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 6-1

descriptions: [Adam M. Byrne](#), Linda Scribner

video file: [Adam M. Byrne](#)

One, co-found by [Scott Terry](#), at Three Oaks, Berrien Co. on 4-6 September 2017 (12th state and county record).

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

vote: 7-0 for one bird

photo files: [Eric Ripma](#)

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 5 November 2016 (24th state record, 9th county record). All photos showed only one bird, so a second individual was not accepted with a 1-6 vote.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

vote: 6-1 in the second round

description: [Doug McWhirter](#)

One near Mack Lake, Oscoda Co. on 14 June 1964 was accepted based on original field notes provided. These describe the bird as a wren shaped like a “small thrasher or mockingbird” and include a diagrammatic description of the “nicely complex” song as beginning with clear notes followed by a buzz and then a trill (8th state record, 1st county record).

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: [Todd Alfes](#)

One at the Kalamazoo Airport, Kalamazoo Co. on 19 October 2017 (11th state record, 1st county record).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Jan Thamban](#)

One at a feeding station in Ada, Kent Co. on 9-12 November 2016 (9th state record, 1st county record).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, Philip C. Chu, [Andy Howes](#), Paul Jacyk, Darrell Lawson, Marc North

photo files: Jessica Adamczyk, Linda Ar, Joshua Baker, Joy Barron, Thomas Baumgart, Daryl Bernard, Robert Bochenek, Christine Brackett, Adam M. Byrne, Cathy Carroll, Lisa Casler, Allen Chartier, Brian Clegg, David Ferris, Dan Fox, Darlene Friedman, Matthew Gasperoni, Gary Grant, Ross Green, Benjamin Hack, Lyle Hamilton, Don Henise, Tom Hince, Curt Hofer, Wayne Hoch, [Andy Howes](#), Paul Jacyk, Patrick Jakel, Scott Jennex, Jeremy Joswick, Jerome Jourdan, Lizzy Kibbey, Joe Kwasniewski, Bob Lathrop, Jim Law, Darrell Lawson, Stan Lilley, Brian McGee, Katherine McLean, Myles McNally, Diane Miller, John Munro, Brad Murphy, Ewa Mutzenmore, Marc North, Philip Odum, Karl Overman, Tom Pavlik, Paul Poronto, Mary Pratt, Alan Ryff, Kevin Rysiewski, Craig Schafer, Chace Scholten, Andrew Simon, Jeff Stacey, Scott Terry, Jaclyn Tolchin, Henry Trombley, Mary Trombley, Larry Urbanski, Kim Warner, Andy Weinrauch, Kevin Welsh, Jody Wilson, Patrick Wright, Sue Wright

One at the Harley Ensign Memorial Boating Access site, Harrison Twp., Macomb Co. on 9-31 December 2016 (10th state record, 1st county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jim Dawe, Darrell Lawson

photo files: Robert Bochenek, Bill Buckingham, Adam M. Byrne, Brian Clegg, Shannon Daniels, Louie Dombroski, Skye Haas, Darrell Lawson, Barry Lyons, Janice Sweet, Patrick Wright, Christopher Zayachkowski

One found by Chris Neri at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 19 April – 3 May 2017 (26th state record, 11th county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0 for two birds

description and photo files: Joe Kaplan

Two at a private residence in Escanaba, Delta Co. on 20-21 May 2017 (27th state record, 3rd county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0 for four birds

descriptions: Philip C. Chu, Jim Dawe

photo files: Thomas Baumgart, Joe Block, Jeff Buecking, Adam M. Byrne, Louie Dombroski, Darlene Friedman, Skye Haas, Matt Hysell, Scott Jennex, Brian Johnson, Brendan Klick, Myles McNally, Brad Murphy, Philip Odum, Alec Olivier, Joyce Peterson, J.D. Phillips, Griffin Richards, Thomas Smythe, Craig Watson, Warren Whaley

Four birds at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 30 May – 2 Jul 2017 (28th state record, 12th county record).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 7-0

photo file: Mary Miilu Wagner

One at a feeder in Mass City, Ontonagon Co. on 20 June 2017 (29th state record, 4th county record).

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*)

vote: 7-0

description: Patrick Wright

photo files: Nancy Leonard, Chris Neri, Patrick Wright

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 18 October 2016 (13th state, 2nd county record).

Sagebrush Sparrow (*Artemisiospiza nevadensis*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Louie Dombroski, Darrell Lawson, Marc North, Patrick Wright
 photo files: Brian Allen, Adam M. Byrne, Darlene Friedman, Jill Henemyer, Joe Kaplan, Darrell Lawson, Stan Lilley, Barry Lyons, Nathan Martineau, Myles McNally, Brad Murphy, Chris Neri, Philip Odum, Gary Palmer, Tom Pavlik, J.D. Phillips, Eric Ripma, Chace Scholten, Mary Trombley, Patrick Wright

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., found by Leonard Graf, on 11-13 November 2016 spent time walking around on a dune and sidewalk near the parking lot (1st state and county record).

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: Bradley Anderson

One female at Warren Dunes State Park, Berrien Co. on 24 August 2017 (32nd state record, 2nd county record).

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 7-0

description: Marc North

photo file: Tim Baerwald

One at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co. on 27 September 2016 (47th state record, 9th county record).

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 7-0 for two birds

descriptions: Adam M. Byrne, Lyle Hamilton, D. Pavlik, Patrick Wright

photo files: David Pavlik

Two birds at Mason, Ingham Co. on 27 Sep – 2 October 2016 (48th state record, 2nd county record).

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 7-0 for two birds

descriptions: Jessica Adamczyk, Jeff Buecking, Andy Dettling, Jacco Gelderloos, Norka Saldana

photo files: Jessica Adamczyk, Andy Dettling, Darlene Friedman, Jacco Gelderloos, Ross Green, Benjamin Hack, Scott Jennex, Brendan Klick, Bruce Moorman, Curt Powell, Alan Ryff, Mary Trombley

Of as many as four individuals reported, two were ultimately accepted (other two were not accepted with 1-6 and 0-7 votes) from Superior Twp., Washtenaw Co. from 30 September – 2 October 2016 (49th state record, 2nd county record). While there were photos that showed two individuals

together, committee members were not convinced that more than two birds were present. One report identified the birds as belonging to the “interior” subspecies group (*A. nelsoni nelsoni*), but no individuals were accepted at this level (votes of 3-4, 2-5, 1-6, and 0-7 for each of the individuals).

Nelson’s Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 5-2 in the second round for one bird

description: [David K. Antieau](#)

One at Maple River State Game Area, Gratiot Co. on 2 October 2016 (50th state record, 1st county record). The report stated there were two individuals present, but a majority of the committee were not convinced that the supporting details provided applied to both birds; the second individual was eventually not accepted, in the second round, with a 1-6 vote.

Nelson’s Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Zachary DeBruine, Robert Emelander, Caleb Putnam

photo file: [Chace Scholten](#)

One at Roselle Park, Kent Co. on 4 October 2016 (51st state record, 1st county record).

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

vote: 7-0

description: [Nancy Auer](#)

photo files: [Nancy Auer](#), Drew Meyer

One at Allouez, Keweenaw Co. on 29 April – 2 May 2017 (8th state record, 2nd county record).

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jim Dawe, Darrell Lawson, Marc North

photo files: Kirby Adams, Greg Bodker, Adam M. Byrne, Brian Clegg, Louie Dombroski, Dan Duso, Evan Griffis, Skye Haas, [Joseph Kurtz](#), Darrell Lawson, Stan Lilley, Drew Meyer, Brandon Ndiffer, Jason Newton, Marc North, Philip Odum, Gary Palmer, J.D. Phillips, Chace Scholten, Thomas Smythe, Scott Terry, Mary Trombley, Patrick Wright

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

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

vote: 7-0

descriptions: [Elizabeth Peterson](#), Patrick Wrightphoto files: Linda Ar, Adam M. Byrne, Damon Haan, Philip Odum, Beth Olson, [Elizabeth Peterson](#), J.D. Phillips, Lynette Thonne, Patrick WrightOne female attending a suet feeder in Bruce Crossing, Ontonagon Co. on 20 November – 3 December 2016 (7th state record, 1st county record).**Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)**

vote: 7-0

photo file: [Marsha Marek](#)One adult male at a feeder in Norton Shores, Muskegon Co. on 29 November (8th state record, 1st county record).**Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)**

vote: 7-0

descriptions: Jeff Buecking, [Philip C. Chu](#), Jim Dawe, Marc Northphoto files: Joe Block, Calvin Brennan, Jeff Buecking, [Adam M. Byrne](#),

Louie Dombroki, Debra Edwards-Orono, Darlene Friedman, Skye Haas,

Matt Hysell, Scott Jennex, Brendan Klick, Brad Murphy, Brandon Ndiffer,

Jason Newton, Marc North, Philip Odum, Alec Olivier, Gary Palmer, Mike

Petrucha, J.D. Phillips, Thomas Smythe, Craig Watson, Warren Whaley

One at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 3-4 June 2017 (1st state and county record).**“Yellow” Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum hypochryseus*)**

vote: 7-0

photo files: [Chris McCreedy](#)Several photos of a bird at Heritage Park, Oakland Co. on 30 September 2016 showed it to be sufficiently bright enough yellow on its underparts to reasonably rule out the possibility of an intergrade with “Western” Palm Warbler (*S. p. palmarum*) (7th state record, 1st county record).**Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)**

vote: 6-1

description: [Kathy Kaczynski](#)One at the Lighthouse West Natural Area, Leelanau Co. on 24 November 2016 (12th state record, 1st county record).**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)**

vote: 7-0

description and photo files: [Lynette Thonne](#)

A male well-photographed at Norman, Menominee Co. on 31 May 2017 (36th state record, 1st county record).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

vote: 6-1

description: [Joanie Hubinger](#)

One female, co-found with [Mark Hubinger](#), was associating with a flock of migrant warblers at Au Train, Alger Co. on 31 August 2017 (37th state record, 2nd county record).

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

vote: 7-0

photo files: [John McCoy](#)

One adult male at a feeding station at Harbor Beach, Huron Co. on 17-20 December 2016 (2nd state record, 1st county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0 for two birds (one male and one female), 6-1 for an additional male bird

descriptions: Ann Alvarez, Jacco Gelderloos, Ross Green, Cody Porter

photo files: Ross Green, Don Henise, Bill Niemczyk, John Parker, Cody Porter

audio files: Ross Green, Cody Porter, Pam Rasmussen

Two males and one female were at the Sharon Mills County Park and Sharonville State Game Area, Washtenaw Co. from 30 May – 17 August 2016; an additional female and juvenile were not accepted with a 2-5 vote. Initially, one male was accepted with a 7-0 vote and the female with a 7-0 vote in the second round (not accepted were the additional male with a 3-4 vote and additional female and juvenile with a 0-7 vote). After further discussion, a request to reconsider the record was approved with a 8-1 vote and led to this final outcome (33rd state record, 3rd county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0 in the second round

descriptions: [Mike Cook](#), Margaret Jewett, Mary Trombley

photo files: Scott Jennex, Alan Ryff, Mary Trombley

This record consisted of multiple reports of up to four birds at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. from 17 July – 17 Aug 2016. One individual (an adult male) was accepted in 2016; two birds were

rejected outright, but an additional male was resubmitted. At our December 2016 meeting, we closely examined the lone photo of this bird (taken by Jennex on 14 August 2016) and all present became convinced that it showed a second male, with more brown in the plumage than the other male, adding a second individual to the 34th state record, and 4th county record.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0

description: Jim Dawe

photo files: Thomas Baumgart, Robert Bochenek, Matthew Gasperoni, Ross Green, Bill Niemczyk, Jeff Stacey

video file: Adam M. Byrne

A male, found by Mike Mencotti, was at Novi, Oakland Co. on 29 May - 1 August 2017 (36th state record, 2nd county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0 for two birds

photo files: Karen Brown, John Cassady, Mike Cook, Ross Green, Tom Moxley

video files: Ross Green

A female and immature male found at Sturgis, St. Joseph Co. on 31 July 2017, with the male seen through 9 August 2017 (37th state record, 2nd county record).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 7-0 for two birds

descriptions: Jerome Jourdan, Andrew Simon

photo files: Linda Ar, Robert Bochenek, Adam M. Byrne, Lyle Hamilton, Jerome Jourdan, Brendan Klick, Sandra LaFaut, Cheryl Meisel, Shannon Miller, John Parker, Jeff Stacey

Up to four birds were reported at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. from 12 August – 1 September 2017. The photos clearly supported the presence of a male and a female, but the other two individuals were not accepted with 2-5 and 0-7 votes.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED:

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 0-7

two descriptions

One male reported near Sebewaing, Huron Co. on 13 April 2016. After a second observer submitted new documentation, a request for reconsideration was approved with a 8-1 vote. The new documentation, however, was thought to not adequately rule out a hybrid with American Wigeon.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One male reported at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 19-20 May 2017 was not described thoroughly enough for acceptance.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One at Tiscornia Park, St. Joseph, Berrien Co. on 19 November 2016 was described as a dark brown duck flying with a flock of Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*), but the report was thought to not contain enough detail to rule out some other duck species. The record was reconsidered as a King/Common Eider and was again not accepted with a 1-6 vote, for the same reasons.

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

vote: 0-7

two photo files

Two photographs taken of a bird flying past Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 8 November 2016 were deemed too distant to rule out other duck species.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

vote: 0-7

One at Bush Lake, Holly, Oakland Co. on 24 September 2016 was described too briefly for acceptance. It was also not accepted with a 0-7 vote, at the generic level.

Aechmophorus grebe

vote: 2-5

one description

One reported at Ojibwa Beach, Baraga Co. on 20 November 2016 was described as being larger than Horned Grebes and having a longer thinner neck, but was seen at an unspecified great distance. The distance of the bird and the fact that three other observers present did not corroborate the report, concerned a majority of committee members.

Inca Dove (Columbina inca)

vote: 0-7

one photo file

A photo taken at Alpena, Alpena Co. on 5 August 2017 was actually of a very young Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

Common Ground-Dove (Columbina passerina)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported in Ontonagon Co. on 26 August 1986 was described as being “half the size of a Mourning Dove” and having “fairly bright rusty/rufous wings” and a black tail that were very evident in flight. While all committee members agreed the identification was likely correct, the 31-year time span between the sighting was a concern, as was the lack of details that would more definitively rule out Inca Dove and Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*).

White-winged Dove (Zenaida asiatica)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Washtenaw Co. on 10 May 2017. The only description provided was the statement “White on wings and tail visible,” which does not rule out many other species.

“Lesser” Sandhill Crane (Antigone canadensis canadensis)

vote: 2-5

one photo file

One of three Sandhill Cranes in a photo taken at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge on 15 September 2013 appears somewhat smaller than the other two, but the photo does not show the detail necessary to definitively rule out the expected “Greater” Sandhill Crane (*A. c. tabida*).

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One reported as heard only at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Saginaw Co. on 28 April 2017. The vocalization described as “K K K Kerrrrrrr” was thought by the majority of the committee to not rule out Virginia Rail (*R. limicola*).

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

vote: 3-4

One reported as being seen briefly in flight at St. Clair flats, St. Clair Co. on 16 June 2017. While some committee members thought the description was sufficient, a majority were not convinced that the description ruled out Virginia Rail, given the circumstances of the sighting.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported at Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon Co. on 29 May was described as being far away and having “a very long bill that curved downward,” but lacked any other details. Most members felt a Whimbrel was not eliminated by these brief details.

Baird’s Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 0-7

one description

Spring records of this species are reviewed. One was reported at a roadside puddle in Clinton Co. on 24 May 1992. The description was suggestive of Baird’s Sandpiper, such as having “black legs and straight black bill” and “buffy face to brownish across chest”, and being “larger than Least [*C. minutilla*]/Semipalmated [*C. pusilla*]” with “wings extending well beyond tail”. Committee members were concerned that Sanderling (*C. alba*) was not necessarily ruled out, and that the report didn’t contain information on the conditions of the sighting, such as whether direct comparison with other peeps was possible.

Baird’s Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One reported in a small roadside pond in Kent Co. on 25 May 2017 was not described thoroughly enough to rule out Sanderling or Semipalmated Sandpiper.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

vote: 0-7

one description and four photo files

One reported at Lakeside Park, Port Huron, St. Clair Co. on 3 November 2017 was described as being “overall pale gray on the back”, but due to the distance involved, the committee was not satisfied that Red-necked Phalarope (*P. lobatus*) was completely eliminated.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

vote: 2-5 in the second round

three descriptions

One reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 12 September 2016 was considered too distant and briefly seen to safely eliminate other jaeger species.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

vote: 1-6 in the second round

one description

One reported at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 21 May 2016. The documentation consisted of a single report, submitted by one observer, with the statement that it was prepared by another, but that the submitter “reinforces this description.” This statement troubled some members, because it left it unclear what described features were actually observed by the submitter, rather than being second-hand in nature. Others though, were willing to look past this issue. The tern was said to have an all red bill, “black cap reaching to the bill gape and subsuming the eye”, long tail streamers that projected beyond the wing tips, and a white face band that contrasted with the black cap and gray throat and lower face. Some members initially felt the long tail and head pattern strongly supported Arctic Tern, while others pointed out that the black cap does not actually reach the bill gape on any tern and were thus concerned about the accuracy of the details. Distance to the bird and lighting conditions were not provided, causing additional concerns on how they may have influenced the interpretation of the provided field marks.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)

vote: 0-7 for two birds

one description

Two reported in Oceana Co. on 1 September 2017 were described as having “sharp pointed features”, being “white on the bottom, black on top”, and repeatedly “dipping down with beak in the water”. Without a

more rigorous description, including the color and shape of the beak, the report was deemed insufficient to adequately document what would be an extraordinary record.

Pelagic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*)

vote: 0-7 for 12 birds

one description and four photo files

A flock of cormorants on Mullet Lake, Cheboygan Co. aroused suspicion because “No visible color was observed or noticed on the face or beak area”. The committee felt that this was probably due to distance, and the silhouetted birds in the photos taken appeared thicker-necked than Pelagic Cormorants (which have almost never been recorded far inland from the Pacific Ocean) and were almost certainly Double-crested Cormorants (*P. auritus*).

“Great White” Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)

vote: 0-7 for two birds

one description

A report of two along the Fort Gratiot Nature Trail, St. Clair Co. on 14 August 2016 describes them as having grayish legs and the “same color bill as great blue heron”, but a much more thorough description is necessary to rule out Great Egret (*A.alba*).

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

vote: 2-5

one description and five photo files

One reported at Tuttle Marsh, Iosco Co. on 3 September 2016 was perched distantly amongst several Great Egrets. Some committee members thought the photos showed a shaded Great Egret, while others were concerned with the size of the bird appearing too close to that of the Great Egrets and the description of the bill as yellow.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

vote: 3-4 in the second round

one description

One reported in Monroe Co. on 28 August 2016 was described as being of “medium heron size” and having a long, decurved bill, creamy white underparts with dirty brown neck, and with a white rump contrasting with a dark tail. The committee was split on this vote. A majority of members were concerned that the bird was seen without the aid of optics and from an uncertain distance, while some commented that the species is so

distinctive that it could be identified by an experienced observer under the conditions noted.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One reported in Ishpeming Twp., Marquette Co. on 16 September 2017 was described as a raptor flying over the Lake Superior shore and having a forked tail. The bird was backlit and appeared gray, rather than strikingly black-and-white, and some details were puzzling, such as the bird having “bent” wings during the entire observation, leading most committee members to consider that an Osprey (*Pandion halieatus*) missing tail feathers was not ruled out.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

vote: 4-3 in the second round

one description

One was reported at Ionia State Recreation Area, Ionia Co. on 26 May 2016. Committee members were split on this record, with some satisfied with a description that included a pale gray head, white on the secondaries, and a gray/black tail, while others were concerned about the conditions of the sighting, which were brief and made without optics from a moving vehicle.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

vote: 1-6

A raptor seen briefly in flight at Clark’s Marsh, Iosco Co. on 31 May 2017 had characteristics that seemed right for this species, but were not described thoroughly enough for acceptance. It was also carrying avian prey, which is atypical of the species.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

vote: 1-6

one description

One was reported near Fish Point State Wildlife Area, Tuscola Co. on 10 November 2016. Two buteos were spotted flying with two Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), both impressing the observer as being more wide-bodied and pale-headed than Red-tailed Hawks (*B. jamaicensis*). One separated from the other raptors and allowed closer study. Some plumage features suggestive of Ferruginous Hawk were noted, such as a tail that appeared pale and unbanded, an unmarked patagial area, and

“flashes of the ferruginous color of the body and wings”. Most committee members were concerned about the lighting conditions, as the observer stated of the view obtained of the bird’s ventral surface, “Other markings may have been present: if so, they would have been light and strong sunlight would have erased them.” Given the rarity of Ferruginous Hawks east of the Great Plains and the variability of Red-tailed Hawks, most committee members were not satisfied that a “Krider’s” (*B. j. kriderii*) or otherwise paler Red-tailed Hawk could be definitively eliminated.

“Eastern” American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis bacatus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported at Crooked Lake Campground, Washtenaw Co. on 22 June 2016 was described as having a “distinct but faded yellowish crown patch” and “head and wings” that were “black with some white streaking”, and a belly that was “white with some black streaking”. The committee concluded that much more detail was needed to confirm such an unseasonal and out-of-range report and that other species such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) were not ruled out. The record was also considered again without the subspecies designation, but not accepted with a 0-7 vote, for the same reasons.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported on 27 May 2017 at Rock Harbor, Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw Co. was described as a woodpecker with “barring on the back between the wings”, but was not described thoroughly enough to rule out Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported at Sanborn Nature Area, St. Clair Co. on 16 May and 21 June 2017.

A brief description did not mention black whisker marks and almost certainly refers to a duller Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*).

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported at Lake Port Park, St. Clair Co. on 30 May 2017. A brief description did not mention black whisker marks and almost certainly refers to a duller Red-eyed Vireo.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 2-5

one description

One reported as seen and heard in flight at Warren Dunes State Park, Berrien Co on 20 May 2017. It was described as giving a “high nasal ‘Augh-augh’” call, but a majority of the committee was concerned about brief nature of the observation and lack of information on the distance to the bird.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 0-7

one description and three photo files

One reported in Allegan Co. on 10 June 2017 was photographed on the ground and appears to be a juvenile crow. There is no mention of the bird being heard, and no explanation as to why it isn’t an American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

vote: 0-7 for two birds

one description

Two crows seen through a restaurant window at New Buffalo, Berrien Co. on 16 June 2017 were described as “small and agile”, but were not heard and not seen with any other species for a direct size comparison.

Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*)

vote: 2-5

one description, one video file, one audio file, and three photo files

A small, stub-tailed wren at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 16 October 2016 had the appearance of a Winter Wren (*T. hiemalis*) but was giving call notes that did not sound typical for that species. Sound recordings of the calls and excellent photographs were obtained and the bird was reported as a Pacific Wren, but the difficulty in separating these two closely related species led a majority of the committee to conclude that this extraordinary claim could not be confirmed. Distinguishing Pacific Wren from Winter Wren is discussed in detail by Leukering and Pieplow (2010). They state that vocal differences are the best way to separate them, but they warn that agitated Winter Wrens can give calls that sound

more like Pacific Wrens. They point out that plumage differences between the two are subtle and that there is overlap in most traits, but they also state, “However, if an individual has whitish spots [in the outer primaries] or the spots are obviously paler than the color of the superciliary and loreal area, it is probably a Winter Wren.” Some committee members commented that the recorded calls, which were difficult to hear, did not match Pacific Wren closely enough, while others noted that the bird under review was said to be agitated for at least part of the observation, calling into question whether Winter Wren could be ruled out. Furthermore, photographs of the bird showed it to have distinctly whitish spots in the primaries that were paler than any other part of the plumage, and several committee members commented that the bird should not be accepted as a Pacific Wren when this plumage feature that was much more typical of Winter Wren was present.

Bicknell’s Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*)

vote: 0-7

one description

A report of one heard singing in Montmorency Co. on 25 June 2008 was published in the Second Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas (Chartier et.al. 2011), though the brief account refers to this potential first state record as only “hypothetical”. The report was of an unseen singing bird that was not recorded and could not be relocated the following day. The account states, “The song was compared to a tape of the Bicknell’s song and was deemed to be that species.” There is, however, no actual description of the song, nor any discussion of how other species such as Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*) were eliminated.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co. on 20 September 2008 was described as having a “distinct brown cap with black cheek patch”. With no other information given, the description was deemed not detailed enough for acceptance and the distinct possibility exists that the date was incorrectly entered into the eBird account, as there have been no documented fall records at Whitefish Point.

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

vote: 1-6

one photofile

One reported at a Kent Co. feeding station on 11 February 2012. The photo showed a very brown and streaky Common Redpoll, but most committee members found the photos provided inconclusive.

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

vote: 0-7

one photofile

One photographed at a Grand Traverse Co. feeding station on 3 March 2013, but the photos were inconclusive.

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

vote: 0-7

one description and two photo files

One reported at a Chippewa Co. feeding station on 15 February 2015 was described as “very brown and streaky Common Redpoll close in size to nearby exillipes [sic],” but the photos were inconclusive.

Smith’s Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported at the Ontonagon River mouth, Ontonagon Co. on 20 October 1981 was described as having a clear buffy breast and a prominent white wing bar. Committee members were concerned about relying on a 36-year old memory, and that some useful details were not noted, such as the tail pattern.

Nelson’s Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

vote: 0-7

one description

One reported at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge on 24 September 2016 was described too briefly to eliminate Le Conte’s Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). The record was reconsidered as a Nelson’s/Saltmarsh Sparrow, but again not accepted with a 0-7 vote, for the same reasons.

Nelson’s/Saltmarsh Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelson/caudacutus*)

vote: 2-5

one description

One reported as a Nelson’s Sparrow in Monroe Co. on 2 October 2016 was not accepted at that level when voted on in 2016, and was considered too briefly described by a majority of the committee to gain acceptance even at this broader level.

“Pink-sided” Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsii*)

vote: 0-7

one description

A report from Ingham Co. on 3 March 2011 included a copy of original field notes that referred to an unusual junco with pink sides the observer deemed “too reddish” to be a female Slate-colored (*J. h. hyemalis*). However, further notes written in 2017 state “The head was plainly light gray (including the occipital region),” which is not right for “Pink-sided”, which has dark lores. Given the great variability in Dark-eyed Junco subspecies, the committee felt that the description didn’t rule out some “Slate-colored” or intergrades between “Slate-colored” and “Oregon” (*J. h. oregonus*) Dark-eyed Juncos.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 0-7

one description

A female was reported at Kensington Metropark, Livingston Co. on 6 May 2017. There was no mention of the bird’s size or bill shape, thus not ruling out an Indigo Bunting (*P. cyanea*).

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 2-5

one description

A male reported at Petersburg State Game Area, Monroe Co. on 15 May 2017 was described as having “a large beak and rufous wing-bars”, but the view was brief and the observer expressed some doubt about the identification.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 0-7 for seven birds

three descriptions

Brief descriptions from Tawas Point State Park, Iosco Co. of seven on 22 May and one on 23-24 May 2017 fell far short of excluding Indigo Buntings.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 0-7

one description

A female reported in Jackson Co. on 8 June 2017 was reported as having a “very large conical bill and distinctive rusty wingbars”. With no information on the length of the sighting, distance to the bird, or whether the bird was viewed through optics, the committee could not accept that Indigo Bunting was adequately eliminated.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

vote: 2-5

two descriptions

A young male reported at Sharon Mills County Park on 11 & 14 August 2017 was described as having a “large triangular bill, thicker than Indigo bunting [sic]” and “warm brown wing bars”. While this description swayed some committee members, a majority were concerned with the lack of information on the length of the sighting, the distance to the bird, and whether the bird was viewed through optics.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to John Trapp for locating the article detailing Michigan’s first Trumpeter Swan record, to Christopher Milensky of the Smithsonian Institution for taking photographs of the Trumpeter Swan specimen and providing them to the committee, to Janet Hinshaw for providing data on the Western Grebe and Ivory Gull specimens residing at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, and to Adam M. Byrne for his thorough review of this article.

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