

Tenth Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

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This report covers 128 records of 70 species submitted to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter PORC or the Committee). The 92 records accepted, of 46 species, represents an acceptance rate of 72%. Two additional reports were received, which could not be verified as occurring within Pennsylvania.

Highlights include the first record for Ash-throated Flycatcher, and second records for White-winged Dove, Northern Wheatear, and Townsend's Warbler. The addition of the one new record brings the state total to 390 species (Pulcinella 2000). This report also contains the first accepted record of Common Eider and the third accepted record for Anhinga. Both of these species lack the Class I documentation to be added to the Official State List, but are added to the Provisional List (see explanation below).

PORC requests reports of any species on the Review List as well as any species not previously accepted for Pennsylvania. The committee encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos, or sound recordings when possible. The committee would also reiterate, however, that the primary point of any documentation of a rare bird should be the written description. At times, the committee receives photographs that do not adequately depict the field marks needed to clinch the identification, whereas supporting written documentation may add the missing information. When the written description is the only means of documentation, the observer(s) should include as much detail as possible regarding field marks and plumage, as well as information regarding behavior and habitat. PORC again encourages observers of well watched multi-observed rarities to submit documentation and not to depend on others to submit a report. Each observer's report builds upon the others, forming a large body of evidence for the committee to work with. Reports can be submitted to PORC directly by contacting the committee secretary, Nick Pulcinella, 210 Welcome Avenue, Norwood, PA 19074. For guidelines on preparing rare bird documentation, readers are encouraged to consult Dittman and Lasley 1992, Hanisek and Lehman 1997, and PORC 2000.

Committee News. The Committee's voting membership after the June 2000 meeting consisted of Paul Hess (chair) Roy Ickes (treasurer), George Armistead, Doug Couchman, William Reid, Paul Rodewald

and Matt Sharp. Nick Pulcinella serves as non-voting secretary. Recent Committee members who also voted on many of the records in this report include Ted Floyd, Frank Haas, Jerry McWilliams, Ken Parkes, and Paul Schwalbe.

During the annual meeting held 17 June 2000, bylaws changes were approved establishing that for a species to be accepted as first state records it must be documented by a form of physical evidence (specimen, photograph, sound recording). A Provisional List was established to place Class II and Class III records until they can be elevated to Class I status.

Classification of Records

Class I: An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph or a diagnostic recording.

Class II: An accepted sight record documented independently by two or more observers.

Class III: An accepted sight record documented by one observer.

- (p) photograph submitted
- (r) sound recording
- (v) videotape
- (s) specimen

Format. - The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the AOU Check-list of North American Birds (AOU 1998). The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. Within each species, the records are listed chronologically. Each record includes the locality and county and date span when known. In most cases, the date span is incorporated from the quarterly reports published in PB.

Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the initials of those who submitted documentation. There is no attempt to list all observers who saw the bird, only those who submitted documentation. Following the list of observers is the Classification of the record and the PORC record number. All photos, video and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary until a permanent location is established. An * after a species name indicates that the species is no longer on the PORC review list.

Abbreviations - CBC = Christmas Bird Count; C.P. = County Park; FN = National

Audubon Society Field Notes; MCWMA = Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area; NAB = North American Birds; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; PB = Pennsylvania Birds; PISP = Presque Isle State Park; Res. = Reservoir; SGL = State Game Lands; S.P. = State Park; Twp. = Township

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (3) One in breeding plumage at Long Arm Res., York, 13-15 June 1998 first confirmed county record (AS (p), PR (v), NP (p); Class I; 002a-01-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:74 and FN 52:453. The June date is unusual for this species in the east, as most occur between November and April. Increasing numbers of this species are being identified annually in the east.

Eared Grebe * (*Podiceps nigricollis*) (26). One in basic plumage at Marsh Creek S.P. 7 November 1997 (JG; Class III; 009-04-1997). One in basic plumage at PISP, Erie 11 November 1997 (JM; Class III; 009-05-1997). One in alternate plumage at Kahle Lake, Clarion, 24 March 1998 (JF; Class III; 009-01-1998). One in basic plumage at Centre Furnace Pond, Centre, 24-30 January 1999 (MM (p), SR (p), RW (p); Class I; 009-01-1999). Photograph published in PB 13:30, NAB 53:164. This species is now considered a rare but regular migrant throughout the state. The Committee no longer reviews records of this species after 1999.

American White Pelican * (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) (9). One at the Beaver River, Beaver, 27-28 June 1994 (EK (p); Class I; 066-01-1994). Photograph published in PB 11:56. One at Washington Boro, Lancaster, 17 May 1997 (RM; Class III; 066-01-1997). The Beaver bird was problematic for the observer because of an unusual wing pattern, but after careful research of both literature and skins a positive identification was made (Kwater 1997). This species is now considered rare but regular throughout the state. PORC no longer reviews records of this species after 1999.

White Pelican species (*Pelecanus*). One

noted only briefly in flight at Moraine S.P. 14 March 1998 (MW; Class III; 066a-01-1998). Though the bird was most likely an American White Pelican, the observer did not feel he had seen enough of the field marks to separate it from an Eastern White Pelican of Europe. As such, he submitted the report only as a white pelican species.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) (3). Three birds were seen circling over Media, Delaware, 25 May 1998 (AGu, Class III; 074-01-1998). This is the third accepted record for the state. All records have come from the southeast corner of the state during April and May. This species is still without Class I documentation, thus it remains on the State Provisional List.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (7). One was at Green Pond, Northampton, 30 March 1998 (JF (p), RW (p); Class I; 095-01-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:21.

Plegadis species (*Plegadis*) (3). One at Menges Mills Wetland, York, 29 September 1994 (PR; Class III; 095a-01-1994). One seen in flight along the Delaware River in Marcus Hook, Delaware, 18 April 1998 (NP; Class III; 095a-01-1998). One at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, 21 August 1998 (KC (p); Class I; 095a-02-1998). For various reasons, none of these birds could be separated conclusively from White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) and therefore were accepted only as *Plegadis* species.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) (16). One at MCWMA, Lancaster/Lebanon 15 March 1997 (MM (p); Class III; 112-04-1997). One at Peace Valley C.P., Bucks, 10 December 1998 (KK (p), AM; Class I; 112-01-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:192 One at Spinnerstown, Bucks, 20 December 1998 (KM; Class III; 112-02-1998). Two at MCWMA, Lancaster/Lebanon, 27 December 1998 (BC; Class III; 112-03-1998). This species is annual in the southeast/ south-central part of the state, sometimes in multiple numbers. Because of its regular occurrence in these areas it exempt from review in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. Outside of these counties, this species remains rare.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) (3). One male in eclipse plumage associating with a large flock of Blue-winged Teal at Curlsville, Clarion, 21 September 1998 (JF, MB; 132-01-1998). This is a first

county record.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (13). A male at Long Arm Res., York, 26 February to 1 March 1998 (PR; Class III; 135-01-1998). A male at Moraine S.P., Butler, 14-23 March 1998 (MW; Class III; 135-02-1998). This species is rare but regular throughout the state. Nearly 75% of the records reviewed by PORC since 1989 have occurred between February and April. Males of this species are easily distinguishable from male American Wigeon and thus have been removed from the review List. Female Eurasian Wigeon can be difficult to separate from female American Wigeon, thus continue to require documentation. Readers are referred to Harris 1989, Lewington et al. 1991, Madge and Burn 1988, and Mactavish 1994 for assistance in separating the female wigeons.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) (1). An adult male seen in flight at Lake Ontelaunee, Berks, 12 March 1998 (KKn, RK; Class III; 144-01-1998). There have been five previous reports of this species for the state (McWilliams and Brauning 2000), but none of those can be verified. This record elevates Common Eider from the position of hypothetical to the State Provisional List. Only Class I records are accepted to the State List.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (6). A male and female on the Susquehanna River at West Fairview, Cumberland, 5 April 1997 (DH (p); Class I; 149-01-1997). This record without the photographic documentation was previously accepted as Class III (Pulcinella 1997). The photograph was published in FN 51:849 and PB 11:85. A female at PISP, Erie, 12 November 1998 (JM, RW (p); Class I; 149-01-1998).

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (6). One near Mt. Cobb, Lackawana, 19 June 1998 (BR; Class III; 171-01-1998). This species is annual in small numbers in the northeast. Peak occurrence seems to be from mid-May through Mid-June.

Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) (1). One in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, 8 November 1998 (KR; Class III; 234-01-1993). This bird was originally found standing on a narrow first floor window ledge of a row home (about 6 feet above the ground). In an attempt to catch the bird to bring it to a safer location, the bird flew off striking the window of a nearby building and then flying down the street and out of sight. It could not be relocated. Russell (1994) provides an

interesting history of the Clapper Rail in Pennsylvania and according to McWilliams (1999) this is only the second record of this species in the state since 1960.

Sandhill Crane * (*Grus canadensis*) (13). Three birds seen in flight at Avon Corners, Erie, 3 December 1997 (JM; Class III; 248-04-1997). One at Shartlesville, Berks, 8-21 February 1998 (PR (v), RW (p); Class I; 248-01-1999). Photograph published in PB 13:30. This species is rare and regular throughout the state and poses no real identification problem. PORC no longer reviews reports of this species after 1999.

American Avocet * (*Recurvirostra americana*) (22). One at Long Arm Res., York, 7 September 1997 (PR; Class III; 269-01-1997). One at Pine Grove Mills, Centre, 7 May 1998 (PR; Class III; 269-01-1998). Three at Penn Manor, Bucks, 11 August 1998 (JH; Class III; 269-02-1998). One at Shartlesville, Berks, 3-6 September 1998 (PR (v); Class I; 269-04-1998). Two at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, 5-18 September 1998 (KC (p), NP (p), PR (v), RW (p); Class I; 269-03-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:138. One at Pymatuning S.P., Crawford, 15 November 1998 (RL; Class III; 269-05-1998). This species is a regular rare to uncommon migrant throughout the state easily identifiable from other shorebirds. The Committee no longer reviews reports of this species after 1999.

Willet * (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) (15). Two at Lake Oneida, Butler, 10 August 1998 (DY; Class III; 278-01-1998). This species is a regular rare migrant especially in the western counties where a majority of the reports originate. The birds that show up in the state are believed to be the "Western" Willet (*C. s. inornatus*). Readers are referred to Hess (1998) for further discussion on this identification issue. PORC no longer reviews reports of "Western" Willet but would be interested in reviewing documentation of suspected "Eastern" Willet (*C. s. semipalmatus*).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) (10). One at PISP, Erie, 3 August 1995 (JM; Class III; 293-01-1995). One at Sheppard-Myers Res., York, 4-5 November 1997 (PR (v); Class I; 293-01-1997). Four at Martin's Creek, Northampton, 17 August 1998 (RW (p); Class I; 293-01-1998).

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) (2). One at PISP, Erie, 6 December 1998

(RW; Class III; 313-01-1998). The first confirmed state record was on 18 November 1958 also at PISP, where the species is considered a rare but regular fall migrant and is most often found in November (McWilliams and Brauning 2000).

Long-billed Dowitcher * (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) (11). Two juveniles at Shenango Res., Mercer, 27 September 1998 (MF; Class III; 323-01-1998). This species is a rare but regular migrant especially in western Pennsylvania. This species is probably observed more often than reported to the committee. Because of its regular occurrence, the Committee no longer reviews records after 1999.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) (10). Four to ten birds were on the Susquehanna River north of the Rockville Bridge, Dauphin, 16 May 1997 (DH; Class III; 330-01-1997). One at the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro., Lancaster, 14 August 1998 (PR; Class III; 330-01-1998). The Dauphin report is especially noteworthy for the number seen, as most sightings of this species are usually of single individuals. This species is probably seen more often than reported to the committee.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (8). One adult molting into basic plumage videotaped at the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro., Lancaster, 19 August 1998 (PR (v); Class I; 331-01-1998). One at Moraine S.P., Butler, 31 December 1998-1 January 1999 (DY, DR, MF; Class II; 331-02-1998). The wide range of observation dates for these reports may indicate a long migration period by this species through the state. While phalaropes seen late in fall will most likely be Red, the August date shows that birds seen in early fall are not necessarily the much more frequent earlier migrant Red-necked Phalarope. The two species should be separated with care at any date.

Jaeger species (*Stercorarius*) (4). One seen briefly in flight at PISP, Erie, 22 November 1997 (JM; Class III; 332a-01-1997). One seen both in flight and on the water at PISP, Erie, 30 November 1998 (JM; Class III; 332a-01-1998). The observer suspected that both birds were Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) but because the birds were either observed too briefly or too distant, they were submitted as jaeger species.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius*

parasiticus) (8). One light morph adult seen both harassing gulls and resting on the water at PISP, Erie, 13 December 1998 (JM; Class III; 333-01-1998). This bird provided the observer with a good study as it spent about an hour sitting on the water about 100 yards offshore. A few of the distinguishing field marks taken from the observer's documentation include size about a third larger than a Bonaparte's Gull and about a third smaller than a Herring Gull. The entire upper back, wings and tail were dark brown, the rump was paler and may have had some light barring. A faint white patch was present at the bases of the outer primaries. The wing lining and axillaries appeared unmarked medium gray-brown and a bold white half-moon shaped patch was easily seen at the bases of the primaries. The tail was wedge shaped with two narrow pointed central tail projections extending perhaps an inch or inch and a half. The bill appeared to be short and thin, and the inner two-thirds were pinkish-yellow with a dusky tip.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) (9). One along the Susquehanna River near West Fairview, Dauphin, 27 April 1998 (GR; Class III; 339-02-1998). April dates are typical for spring migrants in Pennsylvania.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (9). One adult at Peace Valley C.P., Bucks, 2 February 1997 (AM, NP (p); Class I; 340-02-1997). Photograph published in PB 11:24. One adult on the Monongahela River, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, 4 November 1997 (CT (p); Class I; 340-03-1997). Photograph published in PB 11:218. One adult at Moraine S.P., Butler, 6-8 December 1998 (JF, MF, PH, MM (p); Class I; 340-01-1998) a first county record.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (15). One adult at PISP, Erie, 31 October 1997 (JM; Class III; 348-02-1997). All but one of the fifteen accepted records have come from PISP. The October date is noteworthy, as all previous records have been from late December through mid-April.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (9). One first-winter bird at the fly ash basin in Washingtonville, Montour, 4 September 1997 (WE; Class III; 357-01-1997). Another or possibly the same bird at Montour Preserve, Montour, 7 September 1997 (JF; Class III; 357-02-1997). A first-winter bird along the Susquehanna River near Peach Bottom, Lancaster, 8 November 1997 (RM; Class III; 357-03-1997). A

first-winter bird at PISP, Erie, 20 November 1997 (JM; Class III; 357-04-1997). Of the nine records accepted by PORC, four of those have occurred between 3-30 November. The nine records are scattered throughout the state, so this species apparently might visit any of Pennsylvania's large bodies of water.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (8). A juvenile found dead along the beach at PISP, Erie, 24 September 1998 (JM (p); Class I; 360-01-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:138 and NAB 53:51. From the records submitted to PORC, there appears to be a definite though small movement of this species across the state from early September through mid-October.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (2). One at Schuylkill Haven, Schuylkill, 29 June 1998 (SW (p); Class I; 413-01-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:74 and PB 12:136 This is the second documented record for the state and the first for Schuylkill County. Reports of vagrant White-winged Doves are annual and increasing in the northeast and should be expected again in the state.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) (2). One at Newville, Cumberland, 3 January - 10 April 1998 (DH (p), NP; Class I; 542-01-1998) Photograph published in PB 12:21. Although this individual successfully over-wintered and was seen by many people, the committee received documentation from only two observers. According to McWilliams and Brauning (2000), there have been at least 10 previous reports of this species since 1957.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (1). One in Williams Twp., Northampton, 24 November - 4 December 1997 (LB, FH (p), RW (p); Class I; 545-01-1997). Photograph published in PB 11:219 and FN 52:38. This is the first state record for this long overdue regular late fall western vagrant to the east. An outstanding find by Arlene Koch in her front yard, the pointblank photographs by Haas and Wiltraut and the excellent written documentation by Bevier eliminate the other North American Myiarchus flycatchers. This species is annual along the east coast from mid-November through December and should be expected anywhere in the state during that time period.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

(9). One at Plumsteadville, Bucks, 11 September 1998 (AL (p), BW, RW (p);, Class I; 557-01-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:136. One at valley Road, Mercer, 25 September 1998 (RS; Class III; 557-02-1998). One at Lawsonham, Clarion, 18 October 1998 (JF; Class III; 557-03-1998). This species is annual along the east coast in fall migration and should be looked for throughout the state.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) (9). One at Lake Latonka, Mercer, 18 October 1997 (NT; Class III; 625-05-1997). One at Peace Valley C.P., Bucks, 25 October 1998 (AM; Class III; 625-01-1998). Because of this species' secretive habits, it may occur more often than is reported and should be looked for throughout the state. Its status as a breeder and/or migrant is not fully understood, and for that reason it remains on the State Review List.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (2). One in Walker Twp., Juniata, 4-7 October 1997 (SF, FH (p), NP (p); Class I; 646-01-1997). Photograph published in PB 11:218 and FN 52:141. This cooperative and stunning bird is the second documented record for Pennsylvania. This species is rare and irregular in fall in the east, but there are enough records from neighboring states that it should be looked for to occur again in the state.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) (5). One at the Piney Tract, Clarion, 24 November 1998 (JF; Class III; 650-01-1998). This species, a rare, but nearly annual vagrant to the east in fall, should be looked for to occur again anywhere in the state.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (10). One in Churchill, Allegheny, 25 January - 9 April 1998 (JF (p), MF, MM (p);, Class I; 666-01-1998). This long-staying individual was seen by many, though at times could be difficult to find. All the previous records accepted have occurred from mid-December to mid-March, thus the early April date is noteworthy.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) (1). One in Butler Twp., Luzerne, 17 December 1997- 15 March 1998 (AB (p), AG, JH (p), NP, PR (v); Class I; 738-01-1997). Photograph was published in PB 11:219 and FN 52:177. An outstanding find. This cooperative, long-staying, well-documented bird delighted hundreds of observers as it regularly visited its favorite feeding station. This is the second record for

Pennsylvania.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) (4). One at Ridley Creek S.P., Delaware, 14 August 1997 (AGU; Class III; 756-02-1997). One at SGL 121, Dauphin, 7-24 May 1998, (MM (p) (v), NP; GR, PR (v), RW (p); Class I; 756-02-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:73 and FN 52:310. One at the Loyalhanna Wetlands, Westmoreland, 9-18 May 1998 (JF (p), MM (p) (v); Class I; 756-03-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:73. Reports of this species have increased in frequency across much of the state's southern tier since the first confirmed Pennsylvania record in 1975, and intense fieldwork in suitable habitat may confirm nesting (McWilliams and Brauning 2000).

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (11). One at the Penn Manor Club, Bucks, 16 May 1998 (GD; Class III; 780-01-1998). One at Nockamixon S.P., Bucks, 19 September 1998, (AP; Class III; 780-03-1998). This species continues to be rare and irregular outside of a small breeding population in Greene County (Brauning 1992).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (4). One at Nockamixon S.P. (north side), Bucks, 20-29 December 1997 (DF; Class III; 782-01-1997). One at Nockamixon S.P. (south side), Bucks, 21 December 1997 (DA; Class III; 782-02-1997). This species continues to be a rare and irregular visitor to the state. The occurrence of two individuals in close proximity to each other is astounding. Both were recorded on the Upper Bucks CBC. Photographs of one or both of them can be found in PB 11:218 and in McWilliams and Brauning (2000).

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) (1). One at PISP, Erie, 3 January 1988 (JM (p); Class I; 800a-01-1988). A previously unsubmitted photograph of this species was found in the PORC photographic archives and submitted now for official acceptance. According to McWilliams (1999), this bird was joined by a second during its stay at PISP.

Clay-colored Sparrow * (*Spizella pallida*) (24). One at Lake Ontelaunee, Berks, 23 November 1997 (MS; Class III; 814-06-1997). Two at Piney Tract, Clarion, 15-25 July (JF (p), CS; Class I; 814-02-1998). First county record and first confirmed breeding record for Pennsylvania. One in Wayne Twp., Schuylkill, 12 September 1998 (SW; Class III; 814-04-1998). One near intersection of Routes 483 and 308, Jefferson, 19 September 1998 (JF; Class III;

814-05-1998). One in Topton, Berks, 19 December 1998 (DK, DK1, PS; Class III; 814-06-1998). This species is now a rare but regular migrant throughout the state. There is also a small breeding colony in Clarion County. This species has been removed from the Review List.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) (6). One at the Eureka Stone Quarry, Bucks, 1 October 1998 (RF; Class III; 830a-01-1998). There is a definite migration window for this species in Pennsylvania from late September through October.

Dickcissel * (*Spiza americana*) (17). One in Ephrata, Lancaster, 3 March 1997 (SF (p); Class I; 795-01-1997). Photograph published in PB 11:24. One in East Hanover Twp., Dauphin, 5 June 1998 (NC (p) GR; Class I; 795-04-1998). One in Callenburg, Clarion, 6-21 June 1998 (JF (p); Class I; 795-01-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:73. One in Newburg, Cumberland, 3 July 1998 (RW (p); Class I; 795-02-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:136. One in Wawa, Delaware, 26 September 1998 (NP; Class III; 795-03-1998). One in Lester, Delaware, 27 December 1998 (NP (p); Class I; 795-05-1998). The Clarion bird was one of several found during June 1998 and breeding was suspected (PB:12:69). This species is rare to uncommon and regular in the state, and breeding has occurred several times (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). Because of the increase in the number of sightings it has been removed from the Review List.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) (2). One in Center, Juniata, 28 June - 1 July 1997 (MM (v), NP (r); Class I; 858-01-1997). This bird was previously accepted as Class III (Pulcinella 1999). Documentation with video and audio tapes of the bird's song elevates the record to Class I.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) (10). One female at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia, 17 April 1998 (TF; Class III; 861-01-1998). One male near Reading, Berks, 20 December 1998 (DK1; Class III; 861-03-1998). This species is a rare but regular migrant and winter visitor sometimes in multiple numbers. Most are found in mixed blackbird flocks. Both accepted reports stressed the difference in bill size and shape of this species when compared to similar species. Though this is never noted in field guides, the longest Brewer's and the shortest Rusty bill lengths overlap (Roberts 1955, Pyle 1997,

Jaramillo and Burke 1999); however, the average differences are usually sufficient to make this a valuable field mark.

Pine Grosbeak * (*Pinicola enucleator*) (1). One at Cook Forest S.P., Clarion, 25 January 1998 (JF; Class III; 879-01-1998). This species is a rare and irruptive winter visitor, usually in multiple numbers. The Committee no longer reviews records after 1999.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) (5). One found in a large flock of Common Redpolls (*C. flammea*) near Oneida, Luzerne, 14 December 1997 (RKO; Class III; 887-01-1997). This bird was noted to have a pale stubby bill, no streaking on the breast, light streaking on the upper flanks, white unstreaked undertail coverts and white rump. Careful separation from Common Redpoll is essential for a positive identification of this species. See Czaplak (1995), Lansdown (1991), Lewington et al. (1991) and Stoddart (1991) for details on separating the two species.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*). One at Keystone Res., Armstrong, 29 October 1997 (004-01-1997). The details pointed strongly to this species, but various Committee members listed reasons for caution: the description did not conclusively rule out Common Loon; the combination of characters described did not appear to be typical of either an adult or a first-year bird; an observation based on longer study, better light, and closer distance would be needed for a sight record of such an extreme rarity in eastern North America. (Anonymous 1997, Balch 1981, Beaman and Madge 1998, Godfrey 1966, Harris et al. 1994, Kaufman 1990, Harrison 1983, Mullarney et al. 1999, Zimmer 1985)

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*). One in Upper Gwynedd Twp., Montgomery, 6 May 1997. (074-01-1997). As the observer himself suspected would be the case, the Committee felt that the observation was too brief and the details were too limited for an adequate assessment.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). One at Peace Valley C.P., Bucks, 22 December 1998 (108-01-1998). The sketchy description did not adequately eliminate immature "Blue" Snow Goose or Greater White-fronted Goose.

Brant (Black) (*Branta bernicla*)

nigricans). One at Peace Valley C.P., Bucks, 10 November 1997 (114a-01-1997). The description appeared to indicate an immature bird and, though highly suggestive of *nigricans*, did not conclusively rule out an immature of other brant subspecies. (Madge and Burn 1988, Scott 1998)

Canada (Cackling) Goose (*Branta canadensis minima*). Three at Peace Valley C.P., Bucks, 22 November 1997 (116a-01-1997). These birds' dark breasts pointed strongly to *minima*; however, following Feldstein (1997) the Committee accepts field observations of the Cackling, the Lesser (*B. c. parvipes*), and the Richardson's (*B. c. hutchinsii*) only as "one of the small races." These subspecies intergrade extensively in various combinations, and field identification is always less than conclusive (Bellrose 1976, Palmer 1976, Madge and Burn 1988, Leafloor et al. 1998). Nevertheless, the committee urges birders to continue submitting photographs and descriptions of these relatively small individuals for the state's ornithological record.

Canada (Richardson's) Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*). One at Green Castle Res., Franklin, 26 October - 17 November 1997 (116a-03-1997). One at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, 24 December 1998 (116a-01-1998), photograph published in PB 12:192. See comments on Canada (Cackling) Goose.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). One flying past the Governor Dick Tower, Lebanon/Lancaster, 14 September 1997 (186-01-1997). The description of this unusual bird did not eliminate dark-morph or melanistic Buteos of other species. (Clark 1981, Clark and Wheeler 1987, Wheeler and Clark 1996)

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolis*). One at Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, 14 December 1997 (200-03-1997) and one there 15 December 1997 (200-04-1997). One at York City, York, 16 February 1999 (200-01-1999). Neither description offered enough details for a complete evaluation — though the birds at Mechanicsburg were observed by an experienced falconer who knows Gyrfalcons well and who actually was flying his first-year Gyrfalcon when the 14 December bird appeared! (Todd and Friedmann 1947, Barksdale and Rowlett 1981, Clark and Wheeler 1987, Wheeler and Clark 1996)

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). One

along the Lehigh Canal, Weissport, Carbon, 7 September 1998 (232-01-1998). Details were suggestive but too sketchy for an adequate assessment.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). Three in Salem Twp., Clarion, 27 March 1997, (248-02-1997). The report was almost certainly correct, but details did not conclusively rule out (obviously extremely unlikely) Whooping Crane or Common Crane.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). Two in Carrolltown, Cambria, 12 May 1997, (338-02-1997). This identification was probably correct but did not rule out other black-headed gull species conclusively. (Harrison 1983, Grant 1986, Enticott and Tipling 1997)

Mew (Common) Gull (*Larus canus canus*). One at Memorial Lake S.P., Lebanon, 1 January 1998 (344-01-1998). The description was not consistent with a Basic I Common Gull in some respects. (Lauro and Spencer 1980, Harrison 1983, Grant 1986, Kwater 1992, Tove 1993, Enticott and Tipling 1997)

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). One on the Delaware River at Tullytown, Bucks, 28 April 1997 (348-01-1997). Two at Memorial Lake S.P., Lebanon, 24 December 1997 (348-03-1997) and 26 December 1997 (348-04-1997). One flying past the McVile Hawk Watch, Armstrong, 25 October 1998 (348-02-1998). Voting went two rounds on the Delaware River bird, but it did not receive the required six votes as meeting all criteria for this difficult identification. Details of the two at Memorial Lake were felt to be less than conclusive. The description of the McVile individual did not eliminate Iceland (Kumlien's) Gull; in fact the details pointed more likely to a Kumlien's or an intergrade Kumlien's x Thayer's. (Harrison 1983, Gosselin and David 1975, Lehman 1980, Grant 1986, Kaufman 1990; Zimmer 1985, 1990, 1991; Enticott and Tipling 1997, Howell 1999)

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). One at Glen Morgan Lake, Berks, 9 May 1998 (369-01-1998). The description did not conclusively rule out Common Tern. (Russell 1976, Harrison 1983, Zimmer 1985; Kaufman 1987, 1990; Olsen and Larsson 1995)

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*). One at Millerton, Tioga, 28 November 1998 (521-01-1998). The very sketchy details did not separate this dark individual from a melanistic Hairy Woodpecker, and the size of the

bird was not consistent with Black-backed.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*). One at Gettysburg, Adams, 16 June 1996 (625-02-1996). The identification was probably correct, but the description did not completely rule out Marsh Wren.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). One in Williams Twp., Northampton, 21 July 1997 (650-01-1997). This was one of the most perplexing reports PORC has ever judged. An excellent description by the observer seemed to leave no doubt that this was a juvenile Townsend's Solitaire. However, the Committee was unwilling to believe that a recently fledged solitaire could appear in Pennsylvania by the third week of July under its own power. Was the bird somehow human-assisted in reaching Pennsylvania, was it possibly another species despite what appeared to be impeccable details, or did a solitaire actually fly all the way here when so young? In two rounds of balloting, Committee members could not agree on an explanation.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*). One in Wrightsville, York, 8 October 1988 (746-01-1988). The description was largely indicative of Kirtland's but did not conclusively eliminate Magnolia Warbler.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). One in Knox, Clarion, 28 June 1997 (780-03-1997). One at Blue Mountain, Dauphin, 16 May 1998 (780-02-1998). The Knox bird's description did not distinguish from Hepatic Tanager, an unlikely vagrant to Pennsylvania but which should be considered as a possibility because it has wandered as far east as Illinois. Details of the Blue Mountain individual were not sufficient for a complete evaluation. (Terrill 1983, Small 1999)

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*). One in Doylestown, Bucks, 19 April 1998 (788-01-1998). The description was not sufficient for a fair assessment.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). One at the Silver Lake Nature Center, Bucks, 15 October to 23 October 1998 (794-01-1998). The details were too sketchy to assign this to any species.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). One at Peace Valley C.P., Bucks, 26 October 1997 (795-02-1997). The description was not complete enough for adequate review.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). One at Imperial, Allegheny, 17 May 1997 (814-04-1997). Details were fairly persuasive but did not completely rule out Brewer's Sparrow, an unlikely vagrant to Pennsylvania but which might be a possibility. (Kaufman 1990, Pyle and Howell 1996, Rising 1996, Byers et al. 1995)

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). One in Oakland Mills, Juniata, 1 October 1998 (829-01-1998). The description did not distinguish satisfactorily from the two sharp-tailed sparrow species. (Byers et al. 1995, Rising 1996)

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). One at Pine Grove, Schuylkill, 19 September 1998 (861-02-1998). One on the Southern Bucks County Christmas Bird Count, Bucks, 19 December 1998 (861-04-1998). Some details of the Pine Grove description were not consistent with Brewer's, and the description of the Bucks CBC bird were not sufficient to rule out Common Grackle. (Roberts 1955, Kaufman 1983, Pyle 1997, Jaramillo and Burke 1999)

Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*). One at Silver Lake Nature Center, Bucks, 22 October 1998 (863-01-1998). The description did not distinguish the bird from Common Grackle or Great-tailed Grackle. (Pratt 1983, Jaramillo and Burke 1999)

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, representing an escapee or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania. Identification accepted.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). One at Wildwood Lake, Dauphin 15 June to 15 July (MM; 105-01-1997). Trumpeters in Pennsylvania are almost certainly individuals from one of the many reintroduction projects in the Midwest and East.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*). One at Hereford, Berks, 14 February 1998 (RW (p); 115-01-1998). Photograph published in PB 12:21. This bird continued the pattern noted by Pulcinella (1999) that the dates in Pennsylvania show an interesting pattern of occurrence. Of 24 published records since 1989, 20 occurred in the January-March period. As in the past, the Committee will continue to study whether this species

should be added to the State List.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*). One in Port Taverton, Snyder, 6 July to 12 July 1997 (MMA (p); MM; 892-01-1997). Photograph published in PB 11:150.

LOCATION NOT VERIFIED, documentation not specifying that the bird was definitely seen within Pennsylvania. The full Committee has not recorded a vote on the identification.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*). One observed from Florence, NJ, on the Delaware River directly across from Tullytown, Bucks, 25 January 1997 (344-01-1997).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). One observed from Florence, NJ, on the Delaware River directly across from Tullytown, Bucks, 12 March 1997 (346-01-1997).

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PORC Review List - June 2000

The Review List contains species that are considered rare or accidental in Pennsylvania. PORC requests details, including descriptions, photos or video/sound recordings if possible, of all records of the following species. Please note county exemptions.

Review List A - rarities

Pacific Loon
Northern Fulmar
Black-capped Petrel
Cory's Shearwater
Leach's Storm-Petrel
Northern Gannet
Brown Pelican
Great Cormorant (exempt in Bucks, Delaware, Philadelphia)
Anhinga
Magnificent Frigatebird
Tricolored Heron
Cattle Egret
White Ibis
Glossy Ibis
Roseate Spoonbill
Wood Stork
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Pink-footed Goose
Greater White-fronted Goose (exempt in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, Philadelphia)
Ross' Goose (exempt in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, Philadelphia)
Cinnamon Teal
Eurasian Wigeon (male only exempt)
Tufted Duck
King Eider
Harlequin Duck
Barrow's Goldeneye
Masked Duck
American Swallow-tailed Kite
Mississippi Kite
Swainson's Hawk
Gyr Falcon
Yellow Rail
Black Rail
Clapper Rail
King Rail
Spotted Rail
Purple Gallinule
Snowy Plover
Wilson's Plover
Piping Plover
American Oystercatcher
Black-necked Stilt
Whimbrel (Erie exempt)
Black-tailed Godwit
Hudsonian Godwit
Marbled Godwit
Surfbird
Red Knot
Purple Sandpiper (Erie exempt)
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Ruff
Red-necked Phalarope

Red Phalarope
Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger
Laughing Gull (exempt in Erie and the lower Delaware and Susquehanna rivers)
Franklin's Gull (Erie exempt)
Little Gull (Erie exempt)
Black-headed Gull
Mew Gull
Thayer's Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Ross' Gull
Sabine's Gull
Gull-billed Tern
Royal Tern
Roseate Tern
Arctic Tern
Least Tern
Sooty Tern
Black Skimmer
Dovekie
Thick-billed Murre
Ancient Murrelet
Band-tailed Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
White-winged Dove
Common Ground-Dove
Northern Hawk Owl
Great Gray Owl
Boreal Owl
Chuck-will's-widow
Rufous Hummingbird
Black-backed Woodpecker
Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe
Vermilion Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Loggerhead Shrike
Violet-green Swallow
Boreal Chickadee
Bewick's Wren
Sedge Wren
Northern Wheatear
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Bicknell's Thrush
Varied Thrush
Bohemian Waxwing
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Kirtland's Warbler
Swainson's Warbler
Summer Tanager (exempt in Greene)
Western Tanager
Green-tailed Towhee
Spotted Towhee
Lark Sparrow
Lark Bunting
LeConte's Sparrow
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Seaside Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Black-headed Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak (exempt in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Philadelphia and York)
Lazuli Bunting

Painted Bunting
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Bullock's Oriole
Brambling
Hoary Redpoll.

Review List B - Extirpated Species

Greater Prairie-Chicken
Eskimo Curlew
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Bachman's Sparrow.

Recognizable forms and subspecies

"Black" Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*)
small races of Canada Goose
Green-winged (Common) Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*)
"Eastern" Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*)
Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*)
White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*)
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*)
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*)
Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco (*Junco hyemalis aikenii*).

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