

# 12<sup>th</sup> REPORT of the PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE June 2003

Paul Hess and Nick Pulcinella for the Committee

This report covers 81 records of 53 species submitted to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter PORC or the Committee). The 53 records accepted, of 28 species, represents an acceptance rate of 65%. Highlights include the first record for Hammond's Flycatcher and second records for Boreal Owl and Ash-throated Flycatcher. The addition of the one new record brings the state total to 395 species (Pulcinella 2000).

The Committee received reports from 25 counties. The top five counties reporting were Bucks (22), Berks (8), Lancaster (8), Erie (7), and Northampton (4). 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 also emphasizes that the primary point of any documentation of a rare bird should be a detailed 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.

For tips and guidelines on documenting rare birds, observers are encouraged to consult the Committee's web pages at <http://www.pabirds.org>, Dittman and Lasley 1992, Hanisek and Lehman 1997, and PORC 2000.

Documentation can be submitted to Nick Pulcinella, PORC Secretary, 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380.

## Committee News:

Since the last report the Committee has had several membership changes. Bill Reid's term expired in June 2001, and he was succeeded by Eric Witmer. Bob Leberman, who had been filling in the remainder of Paul Rodewald's term, was elected to a full three-year term. Dan Heathcote is currently filling the

remaining term of Doug Couchman. The other members are Paul Hess (chair), George Armistead (vice chair), Matt Sharp (treasurer) and Jerry Stanley. Nick Pulcinella is the non-voting secretary. Recent members who voted on some records in this report include Bill Reid and Doug Couchman. At the Committee's annual meeting in November 2002, a subcommittee consisting of Armistead, Sharp, Stanley and Witmer was formed to evaluate the current Review List to recommend changes, additions or deletions may be needed.

The Committee has a presence on the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology web site at [www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org) where PORC's pages include the Official State List, the Review List of species requiring documentation, tips for improving documentation of rarities, and a documentation form that can be downloaded. The site also contains information about the functions of the Committee as well as a photo gallery of rarities found in Pennsylvania.

## Classification of Records:

Class I: An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph or a diagnostic recording. Abbreviations are (p) photograph submitted, (r) sound recording, (a) audiotape, (v) videotape, (s) specimen.

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

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

## Format of this Report:

The records are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds* (AOU 1998). The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. A + after the parentheses signifies that there are accepted records prior to the formation

of PORC. Each record includes the locality and county and date(s) when known. In many cases, dates are taken from the quarterly reports published in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the initials of known observers and those who submitted documentation. Following the list of observers is the record's classification and the PORC record number. This is followed by the Committee's vote tally for each record. All photographs, 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** - MCWMA = Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area; mobs = multiple observers; 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 SPECIES

**Great Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) (3)+ One at Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery Co., 28 November 2000. (KC, JHo; Class II; 068-01-2000). 6/0. This species continues to be found in increasing numbers in the southeastern part of the state.

**White Ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*) (8)+ An immature at Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana Co., 19-27 August 2001. (MM, PH; m.obs.; Class I; 093-01-2001) 7/0.

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (10)+ One in Bristol, Bucks Co., 2-3 August 2001. (DF(v); Class I; 095-01-2001). 7/0.

**Plegadis species** (5) One at Plymouth Flats, Luzerne Co., 12 August 2000. (RK; Class III; 095-02-2000) 7/0. This was originally submitted as a possible Glossy Ibis.

Committee members felt that the description did not rule out White-faced Ibis completely, but agreed that the bird was indeed a plegadis species. One observed at Shenango Lake, Mercer Co., 23 September 2000. (NT and mobs.; Class III; 095a-01-2000). Having no prior experience with this species, the observers did not feel comfortable in identifying this bird to a specific plegadis species and rightly submitted the report as a dark ibis species. With the expansion of White-faced Ibis along the Atlantic Coast into the northeast, it is well that Pennsylvania birders should not automatically consider all dark ibises to be Glossy. (Patten and Lasley 2000).

**Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) (3)+**

One at PISP, Erie Co., 12 October - 11 November 2000. (LM(p), RW(p), DF (v), m.obs; Class I; 099-01-2000). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 14:229 and NAB 55:51.



Plate 1. **Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)**. Immature present 12 October-11 November 2000 at Presque Isle S.P., Erie. Photo by Linda McWilliams

**Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) (19)**

One at North Park, Allegheny Co., 2-15 November 2000. (PLy, SL(p), SK(p); Class I; This species continues to be rare and irregular outside of southeast and south-central Pennsylvania. Photograph published in PB 14:228.

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (12)+**

Two at Chickie Rock County Park, Lancaster Co., 28 May 2001. (JY, ML; Class III; 171-01-2001). 7/0. One at Nockamixon S.P., Bucks Co., 28 May 2001. (BE, DF(v); Class I; 171-03-2001). One at Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster Co., 29 May 2001. (BC, JH(p), SW;

Class I; 171-02-2001. The Middle Creek WMA bird was found weak and unable to fly and retrieved by Beth Carricato a wildlife rehabilitator. The bird was emaciated and despite being given fluids and food, it died a few hours later. SW examined the specimen and concluded by plumage that it was a second-year (subadult). The specimen is housed at MCWMA. It is possible that this bird was one of the two seen the day before at Chickies Rock. The presence of at least three Mississippi Kites during this two-day period fits well into the pattern of occurrence this species has established in the mid-Atlantic region.



Plate 2. **Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)**. Second-year bird at Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster, 29 May 2001. Found in a weakened condition, this bird later died at a rehab facility. Three Mississippi Kites were observed in a two day period 28-29 May which fits well into the pattern of occurrence for this species in the mid-Atlantic region. Photo by Jack Hubley.

**Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (7)+**

One on the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Lancaster Co., 27 August - 3 September 2000. (EW, TG, DF(v) mobs.; Class I; 261-01-2000) 7/0. This bird was seen, heard and videoed in direct comparison with Semipalmated Plovers by several experienced observers. This provided the first Lancaster Co. record since 1961 and one of the few records away from the Lake Erie shoreline. Photograph published in PB 14:229.

**Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) (2)+**

One at Quakertown, Bucks Co., 29 July 2001 (CR, AM, DF(v) m.obs.; Class I; 286-01-2001) 7/0.

**Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) (12)+**

One at PISP, Erie Co., 21 September 2000. (JM(p); Class III; 293-01-2000). 7/0. Accepted as Class III because the photograph did not completely rule out

Black-tailed Godwit, but the written description clearly identified the bird as Hudsonian. One at PISP, Erie Co., 26 August 2001. (JM(p); Class I; 293-01-2001). 7/0. Photographs clearly rule out Black-tailed Godwit. Photograph published in PB 15:173.



Plate 3. **Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)**. 26 August 2001 at Presque Isle S.P., Erie. The black underwing linings clearly rule out the similar Black-tailed Godwit. Photo by Jerry McWilliams.

**Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) (13)+**

One alternate plumaged female at Core Creek County Park, Bucks Co., 12-13 May, 2001 (GDW, AM, DF (v) mobs; Class I; 330-01-2001). 7/0.

**Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (9)+**

An immature at Peace Valley Park, Bucks Co., 20 October 2001 (AM (v), DF, RH, m.obs; Class I; 331-01-2001). 7/0. Photograph published in PB 15:236.

**Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) (12)+**

One adult in basic plumage at Nockamixon S.P., Bucks Co., 12 April 2001 (BE; Class III; 339-01-2001). 6/1. This bird was observed in direct comparison with 60-80 Bonaparte's Gulls. The dark underwing was unmistakable.

**Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (14)+**

One on the Ohio River in McKees Rocks, Allegheny Co., 29-30 October 2000 (SK; Class III; 340-04-2000). 5/2, 5/1. One at PISP, Erie Co., 1 December 2000 (PH; Class III; 340-02-2000. 6/0/1.

**Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (20)**

One first-winter bird at Tullytown, Bucks Co., 22-24 November 2000 (PL;

Class III; 348-03-2000) 5/1/1. Another first-winter bird at Tullytown, Bucks Co., 14 April 2001 (MSh; Class III; 348-07-2001) 5/1/1.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*) (12)+

One at Shawnee State Park, Bedford Co., 8-10 April 2001 (DBy(p); SB mobs.; Class III; 357-01-2001) 7/0. The Committee did not feel the photos were diagnostic, but the written description established identification. This was a first Bedford Co. record.

**Least Tern** (*Sterna antillarum*) (7)+\*

One at Dunning's Creek Wetlands, Bedford Co., 11 June 2001 (KG; Class III; 372-01-2001) 6/1. This species has become a regular rare migrant and post-breeding wanderer throughout the state. The Committee no longer reviews reports after 2001.

**Common Ground-Dove** (*Columbina passerina*) (2)+

One at Middle Run, Clarion Co., 30 August 2000 (JF; Class III; 418-01-2000) 6/1. This is only about the third or fourth Pennsylvania record of this resident of southern U.S. The bird was seen feeding and dust-bathing along a roadside. It was looked for again for several days, but was never relocated.



Plate 4. **Boreal Owl** (*Aegolius funereus*). This bird was captured and banded at Presque Isle S.P., Erie, 7 April 2001. Second state record and the first since 12 March 1896. Photo by Jerry McWilliams.

**Boreal Owl** (*Aegolius funereus*) (1)+

One banded at PISP, Erie Co., 7 April 2001 (DD, JM(p), LM; Class I; 456-01-2001) 7/0. An outstanding find by Dave Darney, an experienced Northern Saw-whet Owl bander. Using a homemade aluminum framed mist-net type trap and ladder, Darney and the McWilliams were able to capture the bird when it flew from its perch on a limb. It was then banded and photographed. Upon release it flew into

a nearby tree. Despite an intensive search the following morning, the bird could not be found. This is only the second Pennsylvania record. The first was a bird shot in Allegheny Co. on 12 March 1896. The specimen resides in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Photograph published in PB 15:96 and NAB 55:383.

**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*) (6)+

One adult male at Minersville, Schuylkill Co., 25-28 July 2000 (EH(p) et al; Class I; 495-01-2000) 7/0. An adult male at a feeder in Nazareth, Northampton Co., 14 November 2000 (RW (p) m.obs; Class I; 495-02-2000) 5/2, 5/1. Though it was observed by numerous people, only a single profile photograph was submitted. There was some discussion within the Committee whether that photo contained enough field marks to eliminate the similar Allen's Hummingbird. After two voting rounds, the Committee felt comfortable that the photo was diagnostic for an adult male Rufous Hummingbird. Photograph published in PB 14:231 and NAB 55:117.



Plate 5. **Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*). Adult male at a feeder in Nazareth, Northampton, 14 November 2000. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

**Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*) (4)

One female/imm in Jackson Township, Monroe Co., 4 November - 3 December 2000 (BH(p), RW, m.obs; Class I; 495a-01-2000) 7/0. Photograph published in PB 14:231. Another female/imm. at Lake Wynonah, Schuylkill Co., 12-13 November 2000 (DK, EH(p), AK, mobs.; Class I; 495a-02-2000) 7/0. Without the benefits of in-hand identification both species were accepted as Rufous/Allen's type. Photograph published in PB 14:231.

**Hammond's Flycatcher** (*Empidonax hammondi*) (1)

One at Monocacy Nature Reserve, Northampton Co., 18 November - 21 December, 2000 (RW(p), MSh, DF(v), MM(p), PS, JH, mobs.; Class I; 535-02-2000) 7/0. First Pennsylvania record. This little gem from western North America delighted numerous observers during the month-long stay. Habitually feeding for prolonged periods in the same area daily, it enabled close, thorough study. As a result, PORC received several detailed written descriptions, sketches and diagnostic photographs and video. It was a pleasure for the Committee to work with such a volume of information regarding a member of one of North America's more difficult-to-identify species group. Photograph published in PB 14:232 and NAB 55:118.



Plate 6. **Hammond's Flycatcher** (*Empidonax hammondi*). This bird was present and seen by many at Monocacy Nature Reserve, Northampton., 18 November-21 December 2000 to establish a first state record. This close-up shot was taken 28 November. Photo by Rick Wiltraut.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (2)

One at safe Harbor Dam, Lancaster Co., 28-30 December 2000 (JB, DH(p), NP(p), RW(p), mobs; Class I; 545-01-2000) 6/1. This was the first record for Lancaster Co. and only the second record for Pennsylvania. It was another case in which the Committee received detailed notes and close photographs allowing an easy assessment of a potentially difficult identification. Photograph published in PB 14:232 and NAB 55:153.



Plate 7. **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). This cooperative bird spent most of its time hawking insects from the walls of Safe Harbor Dam, Lancaster, 28-30 December 2000. This is the second state record. Photo Rick Wiltraut.

**Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (13)+

One at Farmersville, Lancaster Co., 30 September - 2 October 2000 (FH(p) m.obs.; Class I; 557-0-2000) 7/0. Photograph published in PB 14:233. One in Potter Township, Centre Co., 8 October 2000 (GG m.obs.; Class III; 557-02-2000) 6/1. Most fall records are within a mid-September to mid-October time frame.

**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*) (2)+

One at Brady's Bend Overlook, Clarion Co., 3 October 1988 (JF(a); Class I; 622-01-1998) 3/2/2, 7/0. During the second-round vote, an audio tape of the bird singing was submitted. The song confirmed the identification.

**Kirtland's Warbler** (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) (5)+

One in Williams Twp., Northampton Co., 26 August 2000 (AK; Class III; 746-01-2000) 6/1. An outstanding one day wonder for northeastern Pennsylvania.

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) (14)+

One at Schenley Park, Allegheny Co., 12 May 2001 (MF; Class III; 780-01-2001) 6/1. This species continues to be rare outside of Greene County.

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (6)+

One at Nockamixon S.P., Bucks Co., 20-29 December 1997 (DF, AB(p) et al.; Class I; 782-01-1997) 7/0. The photograph clearly elevated this report to Class I. It had previously been accepted as Class III. Photograph published in PB 11:218.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) (7)+

A female/imm. at a feeder in Amity, Berks Co., 15 January - 20 April 1999 (SGo(p), BMaz(p), CM(p); Class I; 794-01-1999) 4/3, 6/1.

**LeConte's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus leconteii*) (5)+

One at the Polk Wetlands, Venango Co., 15 October 2001 (JSt, KGo, GE, DF(v), RS(p); Class I; 829-01-2000) 6/0/1. Photograph published in PB 14:233.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) (9)

One netted and banded at Powdermill Biological Station, Westmoreland Co., 30 September 2000 (RM(p), RL; Class I; 830a-01-2000). 6/0/1. Photograph published in PB 14:171 and NAB 55:118. One at Pine Run Reservoir, Bucks Co., 15 October 2000 (DF(v), KR; Class I; 830a-02-2000). 6/1. One at Polk Wetlands, Venango Co., 24 October 2000 (JSt, GE(p); Class I; 830a-03-2000). 5/0/1. Photograph published in PB 14:233. One at Peace Valley Park, Bucks Co., 16 September 2001 (AM; Class III; 830a-01-2001). 6/1. One at Pine Run Dam, Bucks Co., 21 October 2001 (AM, KR, DF(v); Class II; 830a-02-2001). 6/1. The increase in reports of this species is probably related to more birders looking for it during its peak migration window of late September through late October. These reports are showing the species to be a regular migrant throughout the state.



Plate 8. **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*Ammodramus nelsoni*). At least five records of this species were documented in this report as birders are increasingly aware of this species regular fall migration pattern of late September through late October. This bird was netted and banded at Powdermill Biological Station, Westmoreland, 30 September 2000. Photo by Bob Mulvihill.

**Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) (5)+

One at PISP, Erie Co., 14 May 2001

(BM; Class III; 839-01-2001) 6/1.

**Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) (17)+

One to four along Braden Road, Beaver Co., 19 November 1999 (BH; Class III; 861-06-1999) 5/2, 6/1. One at Moraine S.P., Butler Co., 22 October 2000 (PH; Class III; 861-01-2000). 6/0/1. One at a feeder in Indiana, Indiana Co., 16 November 2000 (SG; Class III; 861-02-2000). 5/2, 6/1.

**RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable** (Votes are listed as for/against/abstain. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance.)

**Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) Three birds seen at Lake Ontelaunee, Berks Co., 5 October 2000. Class IV-A. 4/3, 2/5. There was significant sentiment for accepting this record because the basics of the description pointed in general to this species. However, after two rounds of voting, a majority felt that a detailed description of the bill, lores, and shape of the gular pouch, were required for a first record of a species with no pattern of vagrancy in the northeast.

**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) One at Buckingham, Bucks Co., 14 September 2000. 186-01-2000; Class IV-A. 1/6. The Committee felt that further details besides the dark primaries emphasized in the description were necessary to eliminate other raptor species conclusively.

**Gyrfalcon** (*Falco rusticolis*) One at PP&L Council Cup Overlook, Luzerne Co., 4 November 2000. 200-01-2000; Class IV-A. 3/4. A majority of members believed that the description did not rule out an albinistic individual of another raptor species.

**Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) One in Williams Twp., Northampton Co., 31 October 2001. Class IV-B; 231-01-2001. 3/4. The bird allowed only a brief look, limiting the details the observer was able to provide, and most of the Committee felt that the resulting description was insufficient for acceptance.

**Clapper Rail** (*Rallus longirostris*) One in Norristown, Montgomery Co., 27 October 2000 - 12 January 2001. Class IV-B; 234-01-2000. 4/3, 2/4. After

two rounds, the majority of members were concerned that the photograph, description, and measurements did not conclusively rule out a hybrid Clapper x King Rail.

**Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*) One at Lake Nockamixon S.P., Bucks Co., 21 April 2000. Class IV-A; 286-01-2000. 4/3, 1/5. The majority considered that the brief details did not rule out Eurasian curlew species, even though a Whimbrel was much more likely.

**Little Stint** (*Calidris minuta*) One at Washington Boro, Lancaster Co., 17 September 2000. Class IV-A; 305-01-2000. 1/6. This would have been a first state record of an extreme rarity that is not easily identifiable. The Committee felt that the description, while persuasive in some respects, did not provide sufficient information to eliminate a Semipalmated Sandpiper. Among characteristic features of Little Stint missing from the description were a split supercilium and white "braces" on the scapulars.

**Purple Sandpiper** (*Calidris maritima*) One at Marysville, Dauphin Co., 17 December 2000. Class IV-B; 313-01-2000. 0/7. Insufficient details were visible at the observer's great distance from the bird to rule out a Dunlin.

**Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*) One at Shartsville Farm Pond, Berks Co., 1 August 2000 Class IV-A; 321-01-2000. 5/2, 4/3. A majority favored accepting this record, but not by the required 6/1 minimum vote. Those who voted against acceptance noted an absence of details including the upperwing pattern in flight, leg color, description of the back and scapulars at rest, which could have eliminated a large Pectoral Sandpiper.

**Franklin's Gull** (*Larus pipixcan*) Five at Lake Somerset, Somerset Co., 21 April 2001 Class IV-A; 338-01-2001. 3/4. The majority felt that the description did not provide sufficient details to eliminate other black-headed gull species, particularly Laughing Gull.

**Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*) One at Marysville, Dauphin Co., 17 December 2000 Class IV-A; 340-03-2000. 1/6. Most members believed that the description did not

rule out Bonaparte's Gull conclusively.

**California Gull** (*Larus californicus*) One at Tullytown, Bucks Co., 10 November, 2001 Class IV-A; 346-01-2001. 4/2/1, 4/2/1. The decision was very close to acceptance as a first state record. The description was nearly perfect, but the dissenters felt that for a rarity which is not obviously identifiable, complete details were required including the underwing pattern to clinch the identification with certainty.

**Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*) One at Tullytown, Bucks Co., 15 December 2000 Class IV-A; 348-04-2000. 3/2/2, 2/4/1. One at Tullytown, Bucks Co., 13 January 2001 Class IV-B; 348-02-2001. 2/3/2. One at Tullytown, Bucks Co., 3 March 2001 Class IV-A; 348-04-2001. 3/3/1, 1/5/1. One at Tullytown, Bucks Co., 10 March 2001 Class IV-A; 348-05-2001. 3/3/1, 2/4/1. One at Presque Isle Bay, Erie Co., 4 March, 2001 Class IV-A; 348-06-2001. 5/2, 4/3. In these cases, the dissenting members were concerned about where the birds fell along a continuous line of gradation between relatively pale Thayer's Gulls and relatively dark Iceland (Kumlien's) Gulls. The Committee plans to discuss whether as a matter of policy, any Thayer's records should be accepted as such or should be placed in a broader Thayer's/Kumlien's category.

**Sabine's Gull** (*Xema sabini*) One flying past Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks Co., 17 September 1987 Class IV-B; 360-02-1987 1/6. The Committee felt that the few details were insufficient to identify this bird to any gull species.

**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) One at Glen Morgan Lake, Berks Co., 9 May 1998 Class IV-A; 369-01-1998. 1/6. One at Glen Morgan Lake, Berks Co., 20 May 2000 Class IV-A; 369-01-2000. 1/6, 0/7. Sufficient details were not available to rule out other tern species conclusively.

**Hammond's Flycatcher** (*Empidonax hammondi*) One at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia Co., 14 May 2000 Class IV-B; 535-01-2000. 1/6. Neither the description nor the in-hand measurements ruled out other Empidonax species, particularly Dusky Flycatcher. Only a single wing chord

measurement was provided, but Pyle (1997) recommends that more complete details of wing morphology (up to four differences between the lengths of pairs of primary feathers) be used to confirm identification of Empidonax species.

**Dusky Flycatcher** (*Empidonax oberholseri*) One near Kutztown, Berks Co., 25 December 1969 Class IV-A; 536-01-1969. 4/3, 0/6. Ned K. Johnson, an expert in Empidonax flycatchers, examined the specimen in 1970 and expressed an opinion that it appeared to be a Dusky from the standpoint of general coloration and wing shape. However, no measurements are available for PORC to judge, and the specimen apparently has been lost. This would have been the only Pennsylvania record of the species.

**Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*) One in East Fallowfield Township, Crawford Co., 21 October 2000 Class IV-B; 625-01-2000. 4/3, 1/6. The description did not rule out Marsh Wren.

**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) One in Pottstown, Montgomery Co., 30 September 2000. Class IV-A; 650-02-2000. 5/2, 2/4. The description did not eliminate Northern Mockingbird conclusively.

**Bicknell's Thrush** (*Catharus bicknelli*) One at Bushy Run Historic Park, Westmoreland Co., 23 October 2001 Class IV-B; 654a-01-2001. 0/7. The observer, though realizing that a satisfactory sight identification was not possible, submitted details at the Chairman's request for the PORC files. It is the Committee's policy not to accept a record of this species without a specimen, in-hand measurements of the relative lengths of the primaries, or a recording of vocalizations. Otherwise, Gray-cheeked Thrush cannot be eliminated (Feldstein 1996).

**Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler** (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*) One at Nockamixon S.P., Bucks Co., 26 November 2000 Class IV-B; 736a-01-2000. 2/5. Too few details beyond the yellow throat were provided to eliminate an intergrade of the "Audubon's" and "Myrtle" subspecies. A full description of the head, in particular, would have been

required for acceptance.

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) One in Derry Township, Dauphin Co., 2 July 2000 Class IV-B; 780-03-2000. 2/5. The description of a red bird with a white beak offered no details of size, shape, or other features to determine that this was a tanager.

**Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) One at Peace Valley Park, Bucks Co., 20 October 2001 Class IV-A; 824-01-2001. 5/2, 4/3. Dissenting members were troubled by the description of the head and upperparts, which did not seem to be consistent with this species in October.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) One at intersection of River Road and Chestnut Level Road, Lancaster Co., 29 February 2000 Class IV-A; 859-01-2000. 4/3, 1/5. After two rounds, a majority felt the details were not sufficient to rule out an aberrant individual of another blackbird species.

**Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) Three in Morgan Township, Greene Co., 23 November 2000 IV-B; 861-03-2000. 2/5. Most members felt that the plumage as described was not consistent with a Brewer's Blackbird in November and did not rule out a first-winter Common Grackle.

**Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*) One in Bainbridge, Lancaster Co., 27 January - 16 February 1997 Class IV-C; 874a-01-1997. 1/6. A majority of members felt that the description was consistent with a Baltimore Oriole, not a Bullock's Oriole.

**RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED because they represent or may represent an escapee or an introduced species not yet established in Pennsylvania.**

**IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED.**

**Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*) Two at Blue Marsh Lake, Berks Co., 31 December, 2000. (JS(p); 105-01-2000; Class V). 0/7. Photograph published in PB 14:228.

**Barnacle Goose** (*Branta leucopsis*) One at Peace Valley Park, Bucks Co.,

10 November 2002 - January 2001 (AM, DF(v), JH; Class V; 115-01-2000). 3/4

### Contributors

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