

## **IORC EVALUATION FORM**

**Record #:** 2012-039

**Name of bird form:** Red-naped Sapsucker

**Committee member name:** Josh Engel

**Date of review:** 20 September 2017

**Circulation number:** 2nd

**Vote:** A-E(photo)

**Comments:** [required since this is a potential first state record and since this is a 2nd circulation]

The main argument made by the two committee members who voted against this record was that a hybrid cannot be eliminated. I agree with Geoff's statement that "because "everything" seems to fit Red-naped, I don't think the possibility of a hybrid is necessary to bring up."

## **IORC EVALUATION FORM**

**Record #:** 2012-039

**Name of bird form:** Red-naped Sapsucker

**Committee member name:** Fraker

**Date of review:** 9/25/17

**Circulation number:** 2nd

**Vote:** U-I

**Comments:** [required since this is a potential first state record and since this is a 2nd circulation] I am still struggling with this, and almost every comment I see is a “really leaning towards” versus “this IS a RNSA”. Even Leukering hopped the fence back and forth and I think he was humble in his RNSA experience.

Looking at the hybrid scale chart it seems this bird has a decent nape (maybe a 5/6 with 6 being RNSA), a 2-3 out of 6 on the malar stripe (even with the red “invasion” to the lower malar, there is still a considerable and solid black malar present) and maybe a 3 out of 5 on back pattern (mish-mash in one pic; two clear but broad rows on another).

Geoff’s excellent summary includes mostly terms such as “not inconsistent”, “hard to judge”, “helpful”, “doesn’t rule against”, “favor strongly”.

The Cassin’s Vireo record to me had one defining repeatable character noted by several observers and that was the bird’s voice. Both of these reports had phenomenal documentation and effort put into them, and both by excellent field birders. I just can’t come to terms with this bird remaining at best a “probably RNSA” versus a slam dunk RNSA for a first state record.

## IORC EVALUATION FORM

**Record #:** 2012-039

**Name of bird form:** Red-naped Sapsucker

**Committee member name:** Walter Marcisz

**Date of review:** 10-8-17

**Circulation number:** 2nd

**Vote:** A-E (photo)

**Comments:** [required since this is a potential first state record and since this is a 2nd circulation]

I am a new committee member, so this is my first vote on this record. A few caveats: Other than one sighting of Williamson's in Arizona, the only sapsucker experience I have is with Yellow-bellied, so sapsuckers are in no way my area of expertise. Therefore this was a learning experience for me – I had to read through everything carefully.

In the process, a few important questions came to mind: 1) What did the original observers (Paul Sweet, Al Stokie, and Bob Erickson) think? Even though all are seasoned, experienced observers, none of them believed it was a YBSA. 2) What did experienced sapsucker experts (Steve Mlodinow, Tony Leukering) think? Both agreed that Red-naped Sapsucker was the most likely ID, with no clear evidence of hybridization. 3) What did IORC Committee members think? During the previous pass, 5 committee members voted to accept as Red-naped Sapsucker, 2 to reject. Geoff Williamson in particular included a nice rundown of important sapsucker characteristics and arrived at the conclusion of "pure" Red-naped Sapsucker. 4) What do I think? Based on the available photos and written documentation, this bird looks good for "pure" male Red-naped Sapsucker to me, based mainly on the red nape and red throat with an incomplete black border, but keep in mind my previous caveats regarding lack of experience. I do not see any clear indication of a white chin, so I do not agree with the ID of adult female that was presented in the original documentation. Based on the evidence I believe the bird is an adult male, and I vote to accept this record as "pure" Red-naped Sapsucker.

## **IORC EVALUATION FORM**

**Record #:** 2012-039

**Name of bird form:** Red-naped Sapsucker

**Committee member name:** McMullen

**Date of review:** 9-20-17

**Circulation number:** 2nd

**Vote:** U-I

**Comments:** [required since this is a potential first state record and since this is a 2nd circulation]

I simply don't see this bird as anything but a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. I still ask how can we rule out a hybrid?

## **IORC EVALUATION FORM**

**Record #:** 2012-039

**Name of bird form:** Red-naped Sapsucker

**Committee member name:** Douglas Stotz

**Date of review:** 9 October 2017

**Circulation number:** 2nd

**Vote:** A-E(photo)

**Comments:** [required since this is a potential first state record and since this is a 2nd circulation] None of the features visible in the photo by themselves is adequate to establish this bird as a Red-naped Sapsucker, but the fact that all of the characteristics (nape, throat pattern, back pattern and underparts color) point to Red-naped Sapsucker lead me to think that we have to accept this as a Red-naped Sapsucker

## **IORC EVALUATION FORM**

**Record #:** 2012-039

**Name of bird form:** Red-naped Sapsucker

**Committee member name:** Paul Sweet

**Date of review:** 10/7/2017

**Circulation number:** 2nd

**Vote:** A-E(p)

**Comments:** [required since this is a potential first state record and since this is a 2nd circulation] I haven't seen anything new to change my vote on this bird. Admittedly, it was my documentation.

## **IORC EVALUATION FORM**

**Record #:** 2012-039

**Name of bird form:** Red-naped Sapsucker

**Committee member name:** Geoffrey A. Williamson

**Date of review:** 16 September 2017

**Circulation number:** 2nd

**Vote:** A-E(photo)

**Comments:** [required since this is a potential first state record and since this is a 2nd circulation]

After reviewing the comments of other committee members, I don't find any reason to change my vote.