Checklist of the Birds of Cass (ND) and Clay (MN) Counties
(compiled by Keith Korliss; logo: Sujan Henkanaththegedara)
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Abundance Codes:
(A) = abundant, present in large numbers
(C) = common, present in good numbers, always seen in appropriate habitat
(FC) = fairly common, present in smaller numbers, not always seen.
(U) = uncommon, present in low numbers, seldom seen
(R) = rare, a surprise appearance
(Acc)= accidental, seen less than five times
*Breeding reported within Cass-Clay.

ANATIDAE: ducks, geese, and swans

- Greater White-fronted Goose: (C) spring migrant, (U) fall migrant
- Snow Goose: (FC)-(A) migrant; higher numbers in Cass
- Ross's Goose: (U) migrant; higher numbers in Cass
- Cackling Goose: (C) migrant
- Canada Goose*: (A) year-round resident; winters N. Moorhead
- Trumpeter Swan: (R) migrant/summer resident; increasing
- Tundra Swan: (FC)-(C) migrant
- Wood Duck*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Gadwall*: (C) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Eurasian Wigeon: (Acc) migrant, 1 spring record Cass
- American Wigeon*: (C) migrant, (U) summer resident
- American Black Duck: (R) spring, (U) fall migrant
- Mallard*: (A) migrant, (C) summer resident, (FC) winter resident N. Moorhead
- Blue-winged Teal*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Northern Shoveler*: (C)-(A) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Northern Pintail*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident; variable
- Garganey: (Acc) migrant, 1 spring record, Cass
- Green-winged Teal: (C) migrant, (R) summer resident
- Canvasback*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Redhead*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Ring-necked Duck: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Greater Scaup: (U) migrant
- Lesser Scaup: (A) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Harlequin Duck: (Acc) fall migrant, 2 Cass records
- Surf Scoter: (Acc) spring, (R) fall migrant
- White-winged Scoter: (Acc) spring, (R) fall migrant
- Black Scoter: (R) fall migrant
- Long-tailed Duck: (R) migrant
- Bufflehead: (C) migrant
- Common Goldeneye: (FC) migrant
- Hooded Merganser*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Common Merganser: (FC) migrant
- Red-breasted Merganser: (U) migrant
- Ruddy Duck*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident

PHASIANIDAE: partridges, grouse, turkeys, and Old World quail

- Gray Partridge*: (FC) year-round resident
- Ring-necked Pheasant*: (FC) year-round resident, prairie areas
- Ruffed Grouse: (Acc) Cass County, (U) localized Clay resident
- Sharp-tailed Grouse*: (U) year-round resident
- Greater Prairie Chicken*: (R) Cass, (FC) localized Clay resident
- Wild Turkey*: (FC) resident; riparian and wooded areas
**GAVIIDAE: loons**
- Common Loon: (U) migrant, (R) summer resident

**PODICIPEDIDAE: grebes**
- Pied-billed Grebe*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Horned Grebe: (FC) migrant
- Red-necked Grebe*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Eared Grebe*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Western Grebe*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident, (A) at Lake Bertha (Cass County)
- Clark's Grebe: (R) migrant/summer resident

**PHALACROCORACIDAE: cormorants**
- Double-crested Cormorant: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident

**PELICANIDAE: pelicans**
- American White Pelican: (FC) migrant/summer vagrant

**ARDEIDAE: bitterns, herons, and allies**
- American Bittern*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Least Bittern*: (R) migrant/summer resident
- Great Blue Heron*: (FC) migrant, summer resident; 1 known rookery, northern Cass
- Great Egret: (U) migrant, (R)-(U) summer resident
- Snowy Egret: (R) migrant/summer resident
- Little Blue Heron: (Acc) migrant/summer vagrant
- Cattle Egret*: (U) migrant, (R)-(U) summer resident; variable
- Green Heron*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Black-crowned Night-Heron*: (U) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: (Acc) spring, summer

**THRESKIORNITHIDAE: ibises and spoonbills**
- White-faced Ibis*: (R)-(U) migrant/summer resident; variable

**CATHARTIDAE: vultures**
- Turkey Vulture: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident; increasing

**PANDIONIDAE: osprey**
- Osprey: (U) migrant, (R) summer vagrant

**ACCIPITRIDAE: hawks, kites, eagles, and allies**
- Mississippi Kite: (Acc) spring migrant; 1 Clay record
- Bald Eagle*: (FC) migrant/summer resident, (U) winter; increasing
- Northern Harrier*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (R)-(U) winter
- Sharp-shinned Hawk*: (FC) migrant, (R) summer resident, (U) winter resident
- Cooper's Hawk*: (FC) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter
- Northern Goshawk: (R) migrant/winter resident
- Red-shouldered Hawk: (R) migrant, (Acc) summer resident
- Broad-winged Hawk: (C) migrant, (R) summer resident
- Swainson's Hawk*: (U) migrant, (FC) summer resident
- Red-tailed Hawk*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (U) winter
- Ferruginous Hawk: (R) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Rough-legged Hawk: (U) migrant, (R)-(FC) winter; variable
- Golden Eagle: (R) migrant/winter resident

**FALCONIDAE: falcons and caracaras**
- American Kestrel*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident, (U) winter
- Merlin*: (U) migrant/resident; now an urban nesting species
- Gyr Falcon: (Acc) migrant; 4 records
- Peregrine Falcon*: (U) migrant/summer resident; celebrated pair nests annually in downtown Fargo
- Prairie Falcon: (R) migrant/winter resident, (Acc) summer vagrant

**RALLIDAE: rails, gallinules, and coots**
- Yellow Rail: (R) migrant/summer resident
- Virginia Rail*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Sora*: (FC) migrant, (C) summer resident
- Common Moorhen: (Acc) migrant
- American Coot*: (A) migrant, (C) summer resident

**GRUINAE: cranes**
• Sandhill Crane: (FC) migrant, (Acc) summer resident
• Whooping Crane: (Acc) migrant; 1 Clay County record

**CHARADRIINAE: plovers**

• Black-bellied Plover: (FC) migrant
• American Golden-Plover: (FC) spring, (C) fall migrant
• Snowy Plover: (Acc) summer vagrant
• Semipalmated Plover: (FC) migrant
• Piping Plover*: (R) spring migrant, (Acc) summer resident
• Killdeer*: (A) migrant and summer resident

**RECURVIROSTRIDAE: stilts and avocets**

• Black-necked Stilt*: (R) migrant, (Acc) summer resident
• American Avocet*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident

**ScoloPACIDAE: sandpipers, phalaropes, and allies**

• Spotted Sandpiper*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
• Solitary Sandpiper: (U)-(FC) migrant
• Greater Yellowlegs: (FC)-(C), migrant, (U) summer resident
• Willet: (U)-(FC) migrant
• Lesser Yellowlegs: (C)-(A) migrant, (U) summer resident
• Upland Sandpiper*: (FC) migrant/summer resident, prairie
• Whimbrel: (R) spring migrant
• Hudsonian Godwit: (U) migrant, (R) summer vagrant
• Marbled Godwit*: (FC) spring/summer, prairie; (U) fall migrant
• Ruddy Turnstone: (U) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
• Red Knot: (R) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
• Sanderling: (FC) migrant
• Semipalmated Sandpiper: (C) migrant, (U) summer vagrant
• Western Sandpiper: (R) migrant
• Least Sandpiper: (C)-(A) migrant, (C) summer vagrant
• White-rumped Sandpiper: (C) late spring migrant, (R)-(U) fall
• Baird's Sandpiper: (C) migrant, (R) summer vagrant
• Pectoral Sandpiper: (C)-(A) migrant, (R) summer vagrant
• Dunlin: (FC) migrant, (R) summer vagrant
• Curlew Sandpiper: (Acc) fall migrant, 1 Cass record
• Stilt Sandpiper: (FC) migrant, (U) summer vagrant
• Buff-breasted Sandpiper: (Acc) spring, (R) summer/fall migrant
• Ruff: (Acc) spring migrant/summer vagrant
• Short-billed Dowitcher: (FC)-(C) migrant, (U) summer vagrant
• Long-billed Dowitcher: (U)-(FC) migrant
• Wilson's Snipe*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
• American Woodcock*: (U) migrant/summer resident
• Wilson's Phalarope*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
• Red-necked Phalarope: (FC) migrant/summer vagrant
• Red Phalarope: (Acc) migrant

**LARIDAE: gulls, terns, and skimmers**

• Sabine's Gull: (R) fall migrant, sightings on the increase
• Bonaparte's Gull: (FC) migrant
• Little Gull: (Acc) spring migrant; 2 Cass records
• Franklin's Gull*: (A) migrant, (FC) summer resident
• Ring-billed Gull: (C)-(A) migrant, (C) summer resident
• California Gull: (U)-(FC) migrant, (U) summer, mainly Cass
• Herring Gull: (U) migrant
• Thayer's Gull: (R) migrant
• Iceland Gull: (Acc) spring migrant; 1 Cass record
• Lesser Black-backed Gull: (Acc) spring migrant; 3 Cass records
• Caspian Tern: (R) migrant/summer vagrant
• Black Tern*: (C) migrant/summer resident
• Common Tern: (R)-(U) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
• Forster's Tern*: (U)-(FC) migrant, (U) summer resident

**STERCORARIIDAE: skuas and jaegers**

• Jaeger sp.: (Acc) fall; 1 Cass record, species undetermined

**COLUMBIDAE: pigeons and doves**

• Rock Pigeon*: (C)-(A) permanent resident
• Eurasian Collared-Dove*: (FC) permanent resident; first noted 2005, expanding, especially in smaller towns
• White-winged Dove: (Acc) spring vagrant, 3 recent records
• Mourning Dove*: (A) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter resident

**CUCULIDAE: cuckoos, roadrunners, and anis**
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (R)-(U) migrant/summer resident; irruptive
Black-billed Cuckoo*: (U)-(FC) migrant/summer resident; irruptive

TYTONIDAE: barn owls

• Barn Owl: (Acc) vagrant

STRIGIDAE: typical owls

• Eastern Screech-Owl*: (U) resident; getting harder to find
• Great Horned Owl*: (FC) permanent resident
• Snowy Owl: (R)-(U) winter resident, irruptive
• Northern Hawk Owl: (Acc) fall/winter vagrant
• Burrowing Owl: (Acc) vagrant; 2 recent nesting attempts Clay
• Barred Owl*: (R)-(U) all seasons
• Great Gray Owl: (Acc) fall/winter vagrant
• Long-eared Owl*: (R) migrant/resident; an overlooked species
• Short-eared Owl*: (U) migrant/resident; irruptive
• Boreal Owl: (Acc) winter vagrant
• Northern Saw-whet Owl: (R) migrant/winter resident; overlooked

CAPRIMULGIDAE: nightjars

• Common Nighthawk*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
• Eastern Whip-poor-will: (R) migrant

APODIDAE: swifts

• Chimney Swift*: (C) migrant/summer resident; localized

TROCHILIDAE: hummingbirds

• Ruby-throated Hummingbird*: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident

PICIDAE: woodpeckers and allies

• Red-headed Woodpecker*: (U) migrant/summer resident, (Acc) winter resident
• Red-bellied Woodpecker*: (U)-(FC) permanent resident
• Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*: (FC) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter resident
• Downy Woodpecker*: (C) permanent resident
• Hairy Woodpecker*: (C) permanent resident
• Black-backed Woodpecker: (Acc) winter vagrant
• Northern Flicker*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter resident
• Pileated Woodpecker*: (U)-(FC) permanent resident

TYRANNIDAE: tyrant flycatchers

• Olive-sided Flycatcher: (U) migrant
• Eastern Wood-Pewee*: (C) migrant/summer resident
• Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: (R)-(U) migrant
• Acadian Flycatcher: (Acc) summer vagrant, 1 Clay record
• Alder Flycatcher: (FC) migrant, (U) summer resident
• Willow Flycatcher*: (U)-(FC) migrant/summer resident
• Least Flycatcher*: (C) migrant/summer resident
• Eastern Phoebe*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
• Say's Phoebe*: (R) migrant/summer resident, Cass; (Acc) Clay
• Great Crested Flycatcher*: (C) migrant/summer resident
• Western Kingbird*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
• Eastern Kingbird*: (C) migrant/summer resident
• Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: (Acc) spring/summer, 2 Clay records

LANIIDAE: shrikes

• Loggerhead Shrike*: (U) migrant/summer resident, Clay; (R) Cass
• Northern Shrike: (U) winter resident

VIREONIDAE: vireos

• White-eyed Vireo: (Acc) spring/summer vagrant, 3 Clay records
• Yellow-throated Vireo*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
• Plumbeous Vireo: (Acc) spring vagrant, 1 Cass record
• Blue-headed Vireo: (FC) migrant
• Warbling Vireo*: (C) migrant/summer resident
• Philadelphia Vireo: (U) migrant
- Red-eyed Vireo*: (C) migrant/summer resident

**CORVIDAE: jays and crows**
- Gray Jay: (Acc) winter vagrant Cass, (R) Clay; irruptive
- Blue Jay*: (FC) migrant/year-round resident, partially migratory
- Clark's Nutcracker: (Acc) winter vagrant
- Black-billed Magpie*: (Acc)-(U) vagrant/resident; absent recently
- American Crow*: (A) year-round resident
- Common Raven: (R) vagrant; possibly increasing

**ALAUDIDAE: larks**
- Horned Lark*: (A) migrant/summer resident, (U) winter resident

**HIRUNDINIDAE: swallows**
- Purple Martin*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Tree Swallow*: (A) migrant, (C) summer resident
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow*: (FC) spring migrant/summer resident, (U) fall migrant
- Bank Swallow*: (FC) spring migrant/summer resident, (U) fall migrant
- Cliff Swallow*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Barn Swallow*: (C) migrant/summer resident

**PARIDAE: chickadees and titmice**
- Black-capped Chickadee*: (C) year-round resident
- Boreal Chickadee: (Acc) spring vagrant; 1 Clay record

**SITTIDAE: nuthatches**
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: (R)-(FC) migrant/winter resident, (R) summer resident; irruptive
- White-breasted Nuthatch*: (C) year-round resident
- Pygmy Nuthatch: (Acc) fall vagrant; 1 record

**CERTHIDAE: creepers**
- Brown Creeper: (FC) migrant, (R)-(U) winter; undercounted

**TROGLODYTIDAE: wrens**
- Rock Wren: (R) migrant/summer vagrant
- Carolina Wren: (Acc) fall/winter vagrant; 1 record each county
- House Wren*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Winter Wren: (R)-(U) migrant
- Sedge Wren*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Marsh Wren*: (C) migrant/summer resident

**POLIOPTILIDAE: gnatcatchers and allies**
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*: (R) migrant/summer resident

**REGULIDAE: kinglets**
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: (FC) migrant, (R)-(U) winter resident
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (A) migrant

**TURDIDAE: thrushes**
- Eastern Bluebird*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Mountain Bluebird: (R) migrant
- Townsend's Solitaire: (R) spring, fall, and winter vagrant
- Veery*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
- Gray-check Thrush: (FC) spring migrant, (U) fall migrant
- Swainson's Thrush: (C) migrant
- Hermit Thrush: (FC) migrant, (R) winter resident
- Wood Thrush: (R) migrant/summer resident
- American Robin*: (A) migrant/summer resident, (U) winter
- Varied Thrush: (R) migrant/winter resident

**MIMIDAE: mockingbirds and thrashers**
- Gray Catbird*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (Acc) winter resident
- Northern Mockingbird*: (R) migrant/resident, 1 Cass nest record
- Sage Thrasher: (Acc) spring vagrant, 1 Cass record
- Brown Thrasher*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter

**STURNIDAE: starlings**
European Starling*: (A) year-round resident

**MOTACILLIDAE: wagtails and pipits**
- American Pipit: (U)-(FC) migrant
- Sprague's Pipit*: (R) migrant/summer resident; no recent nests

**BOMBYCILLIDAE: waxwings**
- Bohemian Waxwing: (R)-(FC) migrant/winter resident, irruptive
- Cedar Waxwing*: (C) migrant/summer resident, (U) winter

**CALCARIDAE: longspurs**
- Lapland Longspur: (C)-(A) migrant, (U) winter resident
- Chestnut-collared Longspur*: (R) migrant, (FC) summer resident at Felton Prairie, Clay
- Smith's Longspur: (R) migrant
- Snow Bunting: (C)-(A) migrant/winter resident

**PARULIDAE: wood-warblers**
- "Brewster's" Warbler: (Acc) spring vagrant, 3 records (note: hybrid, not a true species)
- Blue-winged Warbler: (R) spring vagrant, (Acc) fall vagrant
- Golden-winged Warbler: (U) spring migrant, (R) fall migrant
- Tennessee Warbler: (A) spring, (C) fall, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Orange-crowned Warbler: (C) migrant
- Nashville Warbler: (C) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Northern Parula: (U) spring migrant, (R) fall migrant
- Yellow Warbler*: (C) migrant and summer resident
- Chestnut-sided Warbler: (U)-(FC) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Magnolia Warbler: (FC)-(C) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Cape May Warbler: (R)-(U) migrant
- Black-throated Blue Warbler: (R) migrant
- Yellow-rumped Warbler: (A) migrant
- Black-throated Gray Warbler: (Acc) spring migrant, 1 Cass record
- Black-throated Green Warbler: (U) migrant
- Townsend's Warbler: (Acc) fall migrant; 1 Cass record
- Blackburnian Warbler: (FC) migrant
- Yellow-throated Warbler: (Acc) migrant; 1 spring, 1 fall record
- Pine Warbler: (R) migrant
- Palm Warbler: (C) migrant
- Bay-breasted Warbler: (U) migrant, (Acc) summer; 3 records
- Blackpoll Warbler: (FC)-(C) migrant
- Cerulean Warbler: (Acc) spring/summer vagrant; 3 records
- Black-and-white Warbler: (C) migrant
- American Redstart*: (C) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Prothonotary Warbler: (R) spring migrant, (Acc) fall migrant
- Worm-eating Warbler: (Acc) spring vagrant
- Ovenbird: (C) migrant, (U) summer resident
- Northern Waterthrush: (C) migrant, (Acc) summer vagrant
- Kentucky Warbler: (Acc) spring/summer vagrant; 3 records
- Connecticut Warbler: (U) spring migrant, (R) fall migrant
- Mourning Warbler: (FC) migrant
- Common Yellowthroat*: (C)-(A) migrant/summer resident
- Hooded Warbler: (R) spring migrant
- Wilson's Warbler: (FC) migrant
- Canada Warbler: (U) migrant
- Yellow-breasted Chat: (R) migrant/summer resident, (Acc) winter vagrant; 1 record

**EMBERIZIDAE: emberizids**
- Spotted Towhee: (R) migrant
- Eastern Towhee: (U) migrant, (Acc) winter resident; 3 records
- American Tree Sparrow: (FC) migrant, (R)-(U) winter resident
- Chipping Sparrow*: (A) migrant/summer resident
- Clay-colored Sparrow*: (C) migrant/summer resident
- Field Sparrow: (R)-(U) migrant, (FC) summer resident E. Clay
- Vesper Sparrow*: (A) migrant/summer resident
- Lark Sparrow*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Black-throated Sparrow: (Acc) spring vagrant; 1 record
- Lark Bunting: (R) summer resident; no recent records
- Savannah Sparrow*: (A) migrant/summer resident
- Grasshopper Sparrow*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Baird's Sparrow: (R) migrant/summer resident; mainly Clay
- Henslow's Sparrow: (R) spring migrant/summer resident; Clay
- Le Conte's Sparrow*: (U) migrant/summer resident
- Nelson's Sparrow*: (R) migrant/summer resident
- Fox Sparrow: (FC) migrant, (R) winter resident
- Song Sparrow*: (A) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter resident
• Lincoln's Sparrow: (FC) migrant
• Swamp Sparrow*: (FC) migrant /summer resident
• White-throated Sparrow: (A) migrant, (R) summer/winter resident
• Harris's Sparrow: (C)-(A) migrant, (R) winter resident
• White-crowned Sparrow*: (U)-(FC) migrant, (Acc) winter resident
• Dark-eyed Junco: (A) migrant, (FC) winter resident

**CARDINALIDAE: tanagers, grosbeaks, and allies**

• Summer Tanager: (R) spring migrant
• Scarlet Tanager*: (U) migrant/summer resident
• Western Tanager: (Acc) spring migrant; 4 records
• Northern Cardinal*: (U) permanent resident
• Rose-breasted Grosbeak*: (C) migrant, (FC) summer resident
• Black-headed Grosbeak: (R) spring migrant
• Blue Grosbeak: (Acc) spring/summer vagrant
• Lazuli Bunting: (R) spring vagrant
• Indigo Bunting*: (FC) migrant/summer resident
• Dickcissel*: (R)-(U) summer resident; irruptive

**ICTERIDAE: blackbirds**

• Bobolink*: (C)-(A) migrant /summer resident
• Red-winged Blackbird*: (A) migrant /summer resident, (U) winter
• Eastern Meadowlark: (R) spring/summer vagrant
• Western Meadowlark*: (C) migrant /summer resident, (R) winter
• Yellow-headed Blackbird*: (C) migrant/summer resident
• Rusty Blackbird: (FC) migrant, (R) winter resident
• Brewer's Blackbird*: (FC) migrant/summer resident, (R) winter
• Common Grackle*: (A) migrant /summer resident, (R) winter
• Great-tailed Grackle: (Acc) spring vagrant; 1 record
• Brown-headed Cowbird*: (A) spring migrant/summer resident, (U) fall migrant
• Orchard Oriole*: (U) migrant, (FC) summer resident
• Baltimore Oriole*: (C) migrant and summer resident

**FRINGILLIDAE: fringilline and cardueline finches and allies**

• Pine Grosbeak: (R) winter resident; irruptive
• Purple Finch: (FC) migrant, (U) winter resident
• Cassin's Finch: (Acc) migrant; 2 records
• House Finch*: (C) migrant /permanent resident; partially migratory
• Red Crossbill*: (R) year-round; irruptive
• White-winged Crossbill: (R)-U vagrant/winter resident; irruptive
• Common Redpoll: (R)-(A) winter resident; highly irruptive
• Hairy Redpoll: (R)-(U) winter resident; highly irruptive
• Pine Siskin*: (R)-(FC) migrant/winter resident, (R)-(U) summer resident; irruptive
• American Goldfinch*: (C) migrant /summer resident, (U)-(FC) winter resident
• Evening Grosbeak: (R) winter vagrant; absent in recent years

**PASSEERIDAE: Old World sparrows**

• House Sparrow*: (A) year-round resident, esp. urban areas
• Eurasian Tree Sparrow: (Acc) spring/summer vagrant; 3 records