

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

USDA Forest Service / UNL Faculty Publications

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Forest Service --  
National Agroforestry Center

---

2003

## First Report of the North Dakota Rare Bird Committee

Dan Svingen

*U.S.D.A. Forest Service*

Ron E. Martin

*U.S.D.A. Forest Service*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/usdafsfacpub>



Part of the [Forest Sciences Commons](#)

---

Svingen, Dan and Martin, Ron E., "First Report of the North Dakota Rare Bird Committee" (2003). *USDA Forest Service / UNL Faculty Publications*. 64.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/usdafsfacpub/64>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the U.S. Department of Agriculture: Forest Service -- National Agroforestry Center at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in USDA Forest Service / UNL Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

# **First Report of the North Dakota Rare Bird Committee**

**DAN SVINGEN and RON E. MARTIN**

U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Dakota Prairie Grasslands,  
240 W. Century Ave., Bismarck, ND 58503 (DS)  
16900 125th St. SE, Sawyer, ND 58781 (REM)

**Key words:** checklist, North Dakota, rare bird committee, status.

The status, distribution, and abundance of North Dakota's bird life was summarized several times during the twentieth century (e.g., Wood 1923, Bailey 1926, Stewart 1971, Stewart 1975). The most recent official North Dakota state bird list was Faanes and Stewart (1982). The state's avifauna has changed markedly since that list was published. In an attempt to document some of those changes, the North Dakota Natural Science Society formed the North Dakota Ornithological Records Committee in 1979. That committee's goals were to evaluate and archive documentations of rare bird sighting and to periodically revise the official state bird list. Herein we summarize the efforts of that and subsequent committees from 1981 to 2001.

## **HISTORY OF NORTH DAKOTA'S RARE BIRD COMMITTEES**

Since its formation in 1979, the North Dakota Ornithological Records Committee has been characterized by short periods of activity, followed by long periods of inactivity. The Committee met to evaluate bird records in 1981, 1986, 1987, 1991, 1993, 1997, and 1998. Results of these deliberations were not published. Records, votes, and recommendations were archived from the second half of 1981, and all of 1986, 1987, and 1993. Committee votes from the first half of 1981 and all of those from 1991, 1997, and 1998 were either lost or never completed. The intermittent nature of the Committee has created considerable confusion and resulted in several records being voted on more than once. To our knowledge, however, no records have been lost.

In 2001, the Committee was reinstated by the North Dakota Birding Society. This Committee included: Lawrence D. Igl (Voting Member), Ron E. Martin (Chairperson), Robert O'Connor (Voting Member), Dan Svingen (Secretary), and Clark Talkington (Voting Member). Jill A. Shaffer and Corey Ellingson served as alternate members. The 2001 committee changed its name to the North Dakota Birding Society's Bird Records Committee, and posted its revised bylaws and revised review list on the internet (<http://www.datatools.org/NDBirdingSociety/bylaws.htm>).

## METHODS

The North Dakota Ornithological Records Committee and subsequent North Dakota Birding Society's Bird Records Committee (hereafter collectively called "Rare Bird Committees") reviewed evidence submitted by observers to document the occurrence of rare birds in North Dakota. Typical evidence included a rare bird documentation form, which provided details on the bird's species, age, and sex; the location, duration, and conditions of the sighting; and a detailed description of the bird. In some cases, drawings, photographs, or video tapes were submitted as supplementary evidence.

During record review, committee members voted whether or not the submitted evidence was sufficient to establish the sighting as valid. The votes pertained to the evidence submitted, rather than to the sighting itself (i.e., a record of a correctly identified bird would be rejected if it was poorly documented). Species that were reviewed by the committee were those that had been reported 20 times or less in North Dakota or species that were significantly out-of-place or out-of-season.

According to the bylaws of the North Dakota Ornithological Records Committee, a record was accepted by majority vote of the 5-member committee. Tied votes resulted in the record being rejected. Committee members could abstain from voting. Under the North Dakota Birding Society's Bird Records Committee 2001 bylaws, a record was accepted if it received 4 or 5 yeas and rejected if it received 4 or 5 nays. Unresolved records were recirculated until resolved. No abstentions were allowed.

When compiling our paper, we reviewed relevant issues of *American Birds*, *National Audubon Society Field Notes*, and *North American Birds* for additional information. Data gleaned from these sources included the span of dates a bird was present and how many previous times the species had been found in the state. Because many of these previous sightings have not yet been evaluated by a Rare Bird Committee, we referred to these as "reports" or "sightings". We reserved the term "accepted record" to indicate a sighting that has been documented, reviewed, and found acceptable by a Rare Bird Committee.

The following account lists each record, along with details such as date and location. At the end of each account the record's tracking number is provided in parenthesis, followed by the results of the committee votes. First round votes are indicated by "A", and second round are indicated by "B". The number of yea votes is followed by the number of nay votes. For example, the entry (01-28. A:5/0) indicates that this was the 28th record reviewed in 2001, and that in the first round of voting the documentation received 5 yea and 0 nay votes for acceptance. Observer(s) submitting the documentation are listed. Bird taxonomy follows the American Ornithologists' Union (1998). Report format follows that of Rottenborn and Morlan (1997). See our webpage for rejected records.

In recommending changes to the state bird list, we followed the criteria used by Faanes and Stewart (1982). Species documented with clearly identifiable photograph(s), voice recording(s), or specimen(s) are placed on the main list, as are species with three or more accepted records. Accepted species not meeting these criteria are placed on the hypothetical list. Seasonal categories are similar to those used by Faanes and Stewart (1982): *Spring* = 15 March through 31 May, *Summer* = 1 June through 31 July, *Fall* = 1 August through 15 November, *Winter* = 16 November through 14 March. We also followed Faanes and Stewart (1982) for abundance categories:

Abundant: a species that occurs in very large numbers and is easily observed because of its habits and conspicuousness.

Common: A species that occurs in large numbers.

Fairly Common: A species that occurs in fair to moderate numbers.

Uncommon: A species that occurs in low numbers.

Rare: A species that occurs yearly somewhere in the state, but in very low numbers.

Occasional: A rare species that occurs at intervals of 3 to 5 years.

Accidental: A species that is not expected to occur again or that occurs very infrequently. This classification includes species that have occurred in the state three or fewer times.

## RESULTS

Between 1981 and 2001, 127 bird records were evaluated by the North Dakota Rare Bird Committees. Overall, 107 (84%) records were accepted, whereas 20 (16%) were rejected (Table 1). Species added to the state list as a result of these reviews included: garganey (*Anas querquedula*), snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*), little gull (*Larus minutus*), mew gull (*Larus canus*), Ross's gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*), Eurasian collared-dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), white-winged dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), Inca dove (*Columbina inca*), tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), pygmy nuthatch (*Sitta*

**Table 1.** Number of records evaluated, accepted, and rejected by the North Dakota Rare Bird Committees, 1981 through 2001.

Year	No. Records Evaluated	No. Accepted (%)	No. Rejected (%)
1981	26	22 (85)	4 (15)
1986	25	23 (92)	2 (8)
1987	21	19 (92)	2 (8)
1993	17	15 (88)	2 (12)
2001	38	28 (74)	10 (26)

*pygmaea*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), Yellow-throated warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), and black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*). Nesting records of black-necked stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) and Eurasian collared dove were accepted, adding these species to the list of North Dakota breeders.

#### ACCEPTED RECORDS

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*). A single adult snowy egret was documented at Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge in Sargent County on 12 May 1983. (86-02. A:5/0). David G. Potter.

SNOWY EGRET. An adult snowy egret was found north of Minnewaukan in Benson County on 6 to 8 July 1984. (86-03. A:5/0). Donald L. Kubischta.

SNOWY EGRET. An immature but independent snowy egret was found on 14 September 1985 near Clifford in Steele County. (86-04. A:5/0). Donald L. Kubischta.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*). An adult little blue heron was found on 12 June 1996 by a professionally-led birding tour at Dewald Slough in Kidder County. This species had been reported about 20 times previously in North Dakota, though very few sightings were documented. (01-20. A:5/0). Parker Backstrom.

LITTLE BLUE HERON. An adult little blue heron was observed on 11 May 1998 at Kelly's Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Grand Forks County, which provided a new early date for the species in North Dakota. (01-28. A:5/0). Eve Freeberg.

LITTLE BLUE HERON. An adult little blue heron was videotaped on 22 August 1999, approximately 5 km southwest of Cogswell in Sargent County. (01-29. A:4/1). Eve Freeberg.

TRICOLORED HERON (*Egretta tricolor*). A flying adult tricolored heron was

found approximately 11 km north of Tappen in Kidder County on 22 June 1980 providing North Dakota's first accepted record. (81-22. A:5/0). Craig A. Faanes. TRICOLORED HERON. An alternate-plumaged tricolored heron was observed on the ground and in flight on 27 May 1984 at Kidder County's Alkaline Lake. It provided the state's second accepted record and fifth report. (87-02. A:4/0). Robin Attrill.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*). An adult yellow-crowned night-heron was photographed at Lake Yri in Benson County on 3 and 4 July 1981. This species had been reported previously about 10 times in North Dakota. (86-05. A:4/0). David O. Lambeth.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON. North Dakota's 18<sup>th</sup> report of a yellow-crowned night-heron was of an immature bird observed on 13 July 1996 at Grass Lake, Wild Rice Wildlife Management Area in Richland County. (01-23. A:5/0). Peder Svingen.

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*). A white-faced ibis nest was photographed at Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge in Ramsey County in the summer of 2000, which provided evidence of this species' expanding nesting range. (01-14. A:3/2, B: 5/0). Ann Coyle.

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK (*Dendrocygna bicolor*). At least four fulvous whistling ducks (two pairs) were present at Stewart's Slough Waterfowl Production Area in Grand Forks County, from 14 July to 2 September 1979. Some of the birds were photographed. The only other sighting ever reported in North Dakota was of two birds at J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge in McHenry County on 25 September 1976 (Jones 1976). (86-06. A:4/0). David O. Lambeth.

BRANT (*Branta bernicla*). At least one brant was present on 6 October 1979 at Sibley Lake in Kidder County. The brant was described as having a coal black head, a coal black neck with a light-colored partial neck band, and a light gray, almost white, breast. (81-01. A:5/0). Craig A. Faanes.

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*). An immature trumpeter swan was observed on 29 October 2000 at McKenzie Slough in Burleigh County. (01-17. A:3/2, B:4/1). Corey Ellingson.

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*). A male garganey was photographed at the Fargo sewage lagoons in Cass County on 6 May 1993, which provided the first accepted record of this species in North Dakota. (93-17. A:6/0). Keith R. Corliss, David O. Lambeth.

COMMON EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*). A female common eider was observed on Lake Sakakawea in McLean County on 5 December 1981, which provided the state's second accepted record. (87-03. A:2/1). Gordon B. Berkey, Ron E. Martin.

SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*). A female surf scoter was on Lake Sakakawea in Mercer County during the Garrison Dam Christmas Bird Count on 22 December 1979, which provided a new late date for the species in North Dakota. (87-04. A:2/0). Don Disbro.

SURF SCOTER. A female surf scoter was found on the Missouri River in Mercer County during the Garrison Dam Christmas Bird Count on 22 December 1979, and was judged to be a different bird than the one accepted as record 87-04. (87-05. A:4/0). Deb Dewalt, Thomas Gatz, Bill Otto.

SURF SCOTER. North Dakota's first accepted summer record of a surf scoter was provided by an adult male on 21 June 1998 at the Grand Forks sewage lagoons in Grand Forks County. A surf scoter present at the same location on 16 to 31 July 1998 might have been the same bird. (01-03. A:5/0). Eve Freeberg.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (*Melanitta fusca*). Although white-winged scoters are annual fall migrants and historically bred in North Dakota, they are currently rare and unpredictable in spring. A single male was observed at the Grand Forks sewage lagoons in Grand Forks County on 13 May 1998. (01-27. A:5/0). Eve Freeberg.

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*). Four long-tailed ducks (two males and two females) were observed at Garrison Dam in Mercer and McLean counties on 14 December 1979. (81-09. A:5/0). Craig A. Faanes.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*). Two male Barrow's goldeneyes were found at Garrison Dam in Mercer and McLean counties on 27 December 1979. These males might have been accompanied by a female Barrow's goldeneye. (81-03. A:5/0). Craig A. Faanes. (Additional documentation provided by Gordon B. Berkey).

GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*). A gray-morph gyrfalcon was observed at the Wolf Creek Wildlife Management Area in McLean County on 1 November 1981. (87-06. A:3/0). Gordon B. Berkey, Ron E. Martin.

GYRFALCON. A gray-morph gyrfalcon was found near Elgin in Grant County on 16 February 1986. (87-07. A:4/0). Carolyn Griffiths, David Griffiths.

GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN (*Tympanuchus cupido*). Two greater prairie-chickens were seen near the Sheyenne River north of Harwood in Cass County on 19 December 1997. Sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) are absent from this part of North Dakota. The most likely origin of these birds is the nearby population in Clay County, Minnesota. Other possible sources include the isolated populations on the Sheyenne National Grassland in Ransom County or the reintroduced population at the Prairie Chicken Wildlife Management Area in Grand Forks County. (01-02. A:5/0). J. Spencer Meeks.

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). One or possibly two yellow rails were seen in a marshy area near Ayr in Cass County on 11 May 1999. (01-05. A:5/0). Jill Hersch.

VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus limicola*). North Dakota's first winter-season Virginia rail record was provided by a bird at Kelly's Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Grand Forks County on 13 December 1981. (86-07. A:4/0). David O. Lambeth.

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*). An adult common moorhen was observed on 25 to 27 May 1982 in eastern Wells County, approximately 16 km west

of Carrington (Konrad 1983). (86-08. A:5/0). Paul M. Konrad.

COMMON MOORHEN. Two common moorhens were photographed at Benson's County's Minnewaukon Flats on 26 and 27 May 1986. (86-09. A:4/0). David O. Lambeth, Sharon Lambeth.

SNOWY PLOVER (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). North Dakota's first accepted record of snowy plover was provided by a bird found near Napoleon in Logan County on 20 May 1935. (87-08. A:4/0). Henry C. Kyllingstad.

SNOWY PLOVER. North Dakota's second accepted snowy plover record was provided by a bird at the Grand Forks sewage lagoons in Grand Forks County on 1 May 1999. A photograph of this bird appeared in *North American Birds* 53:295. (01-34. A:5/0). David O. Lambeth.

SNOWY PLOVER. A snowy plover was found on 15 May 2001 at Mountrail County's Palermo Lake Southwest during a piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) survey, and was the only the fourth time the species had been reported in North Dakota. When first seen, two piping plovers were performing a horizontal threat display towards the snowy plover, which subsequently flew away. (01-24. A:5/0). Erica T. Lee.

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*). A calling killdeer flew over Jamestown on 22 January 1980, which provided North Dakota's first accepted winter record. (81-25. A:5/0). Craig A. Faanes.

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*). Although black-necked stilts have been sighted numerous times in North Dakota, the adult and nest photographed on 16 June 2000 in Towner County was only the third time that breeding had been reported in North Dakota and the second time it had been documented. North Dakota's first breeding documentation was of birds at nearby Devil's Lake in 1993 (see *American Birds* 48:124). (01-13. A:5/0). Ann Coyle.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Calidris mauri*). An immature western sandpiper was at Kelly's Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Grand Forks County on 12 October 1999. This observation represented the third October report in North Dakota, and the first such sighting to be documented. (01-30. A:5/0). Eve Freeberg.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). North Dakota's second sharp-tailed sandpiper report was of a juvenile bird observed at the West Fargo sewage lagoons in Cass County on 28 September 1997. This is the first accepted record for North Dakota (the documentation for the one previous sighting has not been voted on). (01-38. A:5/0). Rich Kostecke.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). A cinnamon-colored male ruff was present from 8 to 10 May 1979 near Kelly's Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Grand Forks County, and was photographed. A white-colored ruff was reported from this location in 1978. (86-10. A:4/0). David O. Lambeth.

RUFF. Four female ruffs ("reeves") were at Kelly's Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Grand Forks County on 6 May 1998. Although this species is reported nearly annually in the Great Plains, a flock of this size is remarkable. This was the



eighth time the species had been reported in North Dakota. (01-26. A:4/1). Eve Freeberg.

COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*). North Dakota's first winter-season common snipes (two individuals) were found at Garrison Dam in McLean County during the 23 December 1980 Garrison Dam Christmas Bird Count. One of these birds persisted until at least 22 February 1981. (87-09. A:4/0). Gordon B. Berkey, Joyce Berkey.

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicaria*). North Dakota's third red phalarope sighting was of a bird photographed at the Grand Forks sewage lagoons in Grand Forks County on 19 October 1980. (86-11. A:3/1). John Kelly, David O. Lambeth.

RED PHALAROPE. The immature red phalarope found at Grand Forks sewage lagoons in Grand Forks County on 21 to 25 October 1997 was the tenth reported from the state. (01-37. A:5/0). Eve Freeberg.

PARASITIC JAEGER (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). An adult light-morph parasitic jaeger was seen harassing herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*) at the Jamestown sewage lagoons in Stutsman County on 17 October 1980. (81-38. A:5/0). Craig A. Faanes.

FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Larus pipixcan*). An alternate-plumaged Franklin's gull was at the Garrison Dam tailrace in Mercer County from 5 to 21 December 1982, which provided North Dakota's first winter-season record of this common summer breeder. (87-10. A:3/0). Gordon B. Berkey.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). Two alternate-plumaged little gulls were photographed at the Grand Forks sewage lagoons in Grand Forks County on 5 June 1992 (*American Birds* 46:1149). This is the first little gull record to be accepted in North Dakota. (93-09. A:5/0). David O. Lambeth.

MEW GULL (*Larus canus*). An adult mew gull was present on 3 and 4 November 2000 at the Garrison Dam area in Mercer and McLean counties. (01-11. A:5/0). Ron E. Martin, Dan Svingen.

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*). A first-winter Thayer's gull was observed at the Garrison Dam tailrace in Mercer County from 2 to 22 December 1979, which provided the state's first accepted record. (87-11. A:4/0). Craig A. Faanes, Thomas Gatz.

THAYER'S GULL. A first-winter Thayer's gull was observed at the Garrison Dam tailrace in Mercer County during the Garrison Dam Christmas Bird Count on 23 December 1980. (87-13. A:4/0). Thomas Gatz.

THAYER'S GULL. A first-year Thayer's gull was photographed at the Grand Forks sewage lagoons and adjacent city landfill in Grand Forks County on 14 October 1984. (86-13. A:4/0). David O. Lambeth.

THAYER'S GULL. A first-winter Thayer's gull was photographed at the Grand Forks sewage lagoons and landfill in Grand Forks County on 24 and 28 October 1986, and remained there until at least 15 November 1986. In the 1980's, Thayer's gulls were considered casual away from the Garrison Dam area. (87-12. A:3/0). David O. Lambeth.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*). The first-year Iceland gull at Garrison Dam in Mercer County on 14 December 1979 was the first documented record of this species in North Dakota. (81-30. A:4/1). Craig A. Faanes.

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*). A second-winter glaucous gull was photographed at Kelly's Slough National Wildlife Refuge on 7 April 1984. This was the second sighting of the species in Grand Forks County. (86-14. A:4/0). David O. Lambeth.

GLAUCOUS GULL. An immature glaucous gull was found on 18 April 1998 at the Grand Forks sewage lagoons in Grand Forks County. Although glaucous gulls are annual fall migrants at Garrison Dam, the species is very rare elsewhere in the state, particularly during spring. (01-25. A:5/0). Eve Freeberg.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*). A juvenile Sabine's gull was observed at the Grand Forks sewage lagoons in Grand Forks County from 28 September to 10 October 1980, which provided North Dakota's second accepted record. A photograph of this bird appeared in *American Birds* 35:197. (86-18. A:4/0). David O. Lambeth.

SABINE'S GULL. An adult Sabine's gull was found at Garrison Dam in Mercer County on 10 October 1982. (86-17. A:5/0). Becky Quanrud.

SABINE'S GULL. Two adult Sabine's gulls were seen at Bowman Haley Reservoir in Bowman County on 20 September 1986. (87-14. A:4/0). Carolyn Griffiths, David Griffiths.

SABINE'S GULL. A juvenile Sabine's gull was found on 1 October 1997 at Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Burleigh County. (01-39. A:5/0). B. Spencer Meeks.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*). An immature black-legged kittiwake was observed at Garrison Dam in Mercer County on 22 April 1979, which provided the first documented sighting for North Dakota. (81-37. A:4/0). Gordon B. Berkey.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE. North Dakota's second black-legged kittiwake record was provided by an immature bird found at Garrison Dam in Mercer County from 14 December 1979 to 5 January 1980. (81-36. A:5/0). David O. Lambeth, Craig A. Faanes, Ruth Faanes.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE. An immature black-legged kittiwake was seen on 7 September 1980 along the McClusky Canal in McLean County, approximately 2 km east of Lake Audubon. (81-34. A:4/1). Thomas Gatz.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE. An immature black-legged kittiwake was seen on 23 November 1980 at Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge in Renville County, which provided a local first and North Dakota's fourth reported sighting. (81-33. A:4/0). Gordon B. Berkey.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE. An immature black-legged kittiwake was photographed on 28 November 1980 at Garrison Dam in Mercer County. (81-32. A:4/0). Gordon B. Berkey.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE. Two adult black-legged kittiwakes were at Garrison Dam in Mercer County on 10 October 1982. (86-15. A:3/2). Becky Quanrud.

ROSS'S GULL (*Rhodostetia rosea*). An alternate-plumaged Ross's gull was at the Grand Forks sewage lagoon in Grand Forks County on 5 and 6 June 1992. A photo of this bird was published in *American Birds* 46:1194. This was the state's first report and first accepted record of this species. (93-10. A:4/0). Eve Freeberg, David O. Lambeth.

CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*). A Caspian tern pair and nest was photographed at Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge in Ramsey County on 13 July 2000. This was the first time that breeding had been documented away from Lake Williams in McLean County. The state's first accepted nesting record is detailed by Herman et al. (1978). (01-12. A:5/0). Ann Margi Coyle.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia dacaocto*). A Eurasian collared-dove record was seen approximately 13 km east of Rocklake in Towner County on 18 July 1999. This provided North Dakota's first accepted record of this species. (01-31. A:5/0). Corey Ellingson.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE. Up to four Eurasian collared-doves, including two dependent juveniles, were observed from 1 August to 23 December 2000 in Mayville. This was the ninth sighting of the species in North Dakota, but the first time that evidence of breeding had been noted. A photograph of one of these birds made the front page of the *Traill County Tribune* on 2 December 2000. (01-18. A:5/0). Robert Kruger.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE. North Dakota's tenth Eurasian collared-dove sighting was of a single bird at the Heartland Grain Elevator in southeast Bismarck on 14 December 2000. Subsequent visits found that two birds were present. The last of these was seen on 20 May 2001. (01-21. A:5/0). Clark Talkington.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*). North Dakota's first white-winged dove was photographed at a feeder in northeast Bismarck from 29 September to 8 October 2000. (01-10. A:5/0). Corey Ellingson, Dan Svingen.

INCA DOVE (*Columbia inca*). North Dakota's first Inca dove was photographed at a feeder in Mandan on 22 December 1992. The bird was present from approximately mid-November to 24 December 1992. A photograph appeared in *American Birds* 47:320. (93-15. A:5/0). Gordon B. Berkey, Robert N. Randall.

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*). An adult and fledgling barn owl were found in a nest box at Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge in Stutsman County on 31 July 1985, and were seen as late as September (Van Ningen 1986). A photograph of the fledgling was published (Van Ningen 1986). The species nested nearby the following year (Van Ningen 1987). Stewart (1975) lists only one previous nesting record for North Dakota. (86-19. A:5/0). Paul C. Van Ningen.

BOREAL OWL (*Aegolius funereus*). A boreal owl was found in Hettinger, Adams County on 5 December 1985. The majority of North Dakota's previous records are from the northern half of the state. (86-20. A:5/0). Carolyne Griffiths, Dave Griffiths.

BOREAL OWL. Although boreal owls have been sighted approximately 20 times in North Dakota, a bird in Icelandic State Park in Pembina County on 28 January 2001 is only about the fourth to have been documented with a photograph. (01-15. A:5/0). Jack Lefor, Clark Talkington.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*). A white-eyed vireo was seen and heard in Valley City on 17 May 1931. This was the third time that the species had been reported in North Dakota, but the first time that a sighting had been documented. (93-02. A:6/0). Henry C. Kyllingstad.

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*). A common raven was near the International Peace Gardens in Rolette County on 2 November 1986. (87-16. A:4/0). Donald L. Kubischta.

COMMON RAVEN. A common raven was observed near Carrington in Foster County on 21 November 1986. (87-17. A:4/0). John Foster.

COMMON RAVEN. Approximately 20 common ravens were found north of Dunseith in Rolette County on 4 November 1984. Previous sightings typically have involved single individuals. (86-21. A:5/0). Donald L. Kubischta.

BOREAL CHICKADEE (*Poecile hudsonicus*). A boreal chickadee was in the Grand Forks Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Forks from 21 February to 1 March 1984, and was photographed. This bird was part of a larger-scale invasion throughout much of northern North Dakota. The species had been reported about five times before the winter of 1983-1984. (86-22. A:4/0). David O. Lambeth.

TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus bicolor*). A tufted titmouse responded to a tape of an eastern screech-owl (*Otus asio*) along Sandy Lake in Bottineau County on 26 June 1992. This was North Dakota's first accepted record, and only report. (93-13. A:6/0). Timothy R. Barksdale.

PYGMY NUTHATCH (*Sitta pygmaea*). A pygmy nuthatch was seen and heard at the Bison Plant near Minot in Ward County on 17 August 1985, which provided the state's first accepted record. (93-04. A:4/0). Gordon B. Berkey, Ron E. Martin.

BEWICK'S WREN (*Thryomanes bewickii*). A Bewick's wren was seen and heard in the Grand Forks Memorial Park Cemetery, in Grand Forks and was present 15 to 27 May 1987. This observation represents North Dakota's first accepted record. (93-05. A:5/0). David O. Lambeth, Greg Lambeth.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliptila caerulea*). A blue-gray gnatcatcher seen 11 km south of Valley City in Barnes County on 7 September 1980 was about the fourth time the species had been reported in North Dakota. (81-46. A:5/0). Craig A. Faanes.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*). An adult male eastern bluebird was observed near Fargo in Cass County on 15 December 1982, which provided the state's first winter-season record. (87-18. A:4/0). Mary Alice Bergan.

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*). The hermit thrush at a farmstead in Traill County's Mayville Township between 15 December 1979 and 11 January 1980 provided a record late date for this species. (81-43. A:5/0). Paul Hlavinka, Greg Lambeth.

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*). A male varied thrush at Fargo's Riverside Cemetery was present from 15 December 1979 to 7 January 1980. (81-42. A: 5/0). Mary Alice Bergan.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (*Dendroica townsendi*). A first-year male Townsend's warbler was found on 16 September 2000 in the Hettinger Cemetery in Hettinger. This was the sixth Townsend's Warbler reported from North Dakota, but was only the third such sighting to be documented. (01-09. A:5/0). Corey Ellingson, Clark Talkington.

CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica cerulea*). A male cerulean warbler observed in Valley City on 14 May 1980 was only the seventh time the species had been reported in North Dakota, but was one of three reported that spring. (81-48. A:5/0). Donald L. Kubischta.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorus*). North Dakota's third report of a worm-eating warbler was of a bird seen in the Grand Forks Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Forks, on 20 April 1980. A photograph of this bird was published in *American Birds* 34: 790. (86-24. A:4/0). David O. Lambeth.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*). A yellow-throated warbler was photographed at the Memorial Park Cemetery, in Grand Forks on 9 and 10 August 1986. (87-19. A:3/0). David O. Lambeth.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Oporonis formosus*). A Kentucky warbler was discovered during a birdwatching class in Fargo's Oak Grove Park on 17 May 1975. This was the first time that the species had been reported in North Dakota. (81-50. A:4/0). Paul Lago.

KENTUCKY WARBLER. North Dakota's second accepted record of Kentucky warbler was provided by a bird in Fargo's Oak Grove Park on 16 May 1984. (86-25. A:5/0). Gary E. Nielsen.

EASTERN TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). A male eastern towhee visited a bird feeder along the Sheyenne River near Horace in Cass County from 16 December 1982 to 26 January 1983. This likely represents the first time the species had been documented as wintering in the state, though many previous records of winter-season towhees refer only to "rufous-sided", and do not specify which form was involved. (87-20. A:4/0). Jim Reimers, Ruth Reimers.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW (*Amphispiza bilineata*). A black-throated sparrow was found at Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge in Stutsman County on 27 May 1984, which provided the state's first accepted record and only report. (87-21. A:4/0). Robin Attrill.

"SOOTY" FOX SPARROW (*Passerella iliaca unalaschensis*). Although "red" fox sparrows (*P.i. iliaca*) are regular spring and fall migrants through eastern North Dakota, the 23 September 2000 record of a "sooty" fox sparrow in the Grand Forks Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Forks is only the second time that this subspecies has been documented in North Dakota (see *National Audubon Society's Field Notes* 49:162 for details on the previous documentation). (01-22. A:5/0). Eve Freeberg.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). North Dakota's second accepted record of golden-crowned sparrow was provided by a single bird at a rural feeder near Sawyer in Ward County on 9 October 1992. The state's first record was a banding capture in 1934. (93-14. A:5/0). Ron E. Martin.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). A female northern cardinal was observed at the Northern Great Plains Experiment Station in Mandan on 14 February 1980. This species was considered very rare away from the Red River Valley (eastern North Dakota) at the time of this sighting. (81-54. A:5/0). Craig A. Faanes.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). An immature rose-breasted grosbeak seen 4.8 km north of West Fargo in Cass County on 26 and 27 November 1979 established a new record-late date. (81-53. A:4/1). Mr. and Mrs. Palmer P. Forness.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*). A singing eastern meadowlark was found approximately 10 km southeast of Robinson in Kidder County on 21 and 22 June 1980. A second bird in the area was believed to be a female eastern meadowlark. This species had been reported about five times previously. (81-51. A:5/0). Craig A. Faanes.

LESSER GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis psaltria*). A pair of lesser goldfinch in Richardton on 17 May 1971 provided North Dakota's first accepted record. There was one previous report of this species from North Dakota, but that sighting was not documented. (93-03. A:6/0). Henry C. Kyllingstad.

## CONCLUSIONS

North Dakota's Rare Bird Committees have had an intermittent history, marked by spurts of activity followed by long periods of inactivity. We hope this situation can be avoided in the future. Once the backlog of rare bird records is eliminated, we recommend that the state bird list be updated regularly. The status of many of North Dakota's bird species has changed since Faanes and Stewart (1982) published the last official state bird checklist. Based on the records evaluated above, the bylaws of the North Dakota Birding Society's Bird Records Committee, and the criteria listed in Faanes and Stewart (1982), we recommend changes to the status or distribution of 34 species (Table 2). These recommendations include 9 changes or additions to the spring season, 8 to the summer season, 11 to the fall season, and 10 to the winter season. In addition to changes in seasonal status, we also recommend seven additions or changes to the hypothetical list. The Eurasian collared-dove and the black-necked stilt should be indicated as breeding species.

**Table 2.** Recommended species and status changes to the North Dakota state bird checklist.

	Status	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Snowy egret		Rare	Rare	Rare	
Tricolored heron		Accidental	Accidental		
Yellow-crowned night heron			Occasional		
White-faced ibis			Locally uncommon		
Trumpeter swan				Occasional	
Garganey		Accidental			
Surf scoter			Accidental		
White-winged scoter		Occasional			
Long-tailed duck					Rare
Barrow's goldeneye					Accidental
Gyrfalcon				Rare	Rare
Virginia rail					Accidental
Common moorhen		Accidental			
Black-necked stilt	Breeding				
Snowy plover		Accidental			
Sharp-tailed sandpiper	Hypothetical				
Franklin's gull					Accidental
Little gull			Accidental		
Mew gull	Hypothetical				
Sabine's gull				Rare	
Black-legged kittiwake		Accidental		Locally rare	Locally rare
Ross's gull			Accidental		
Eurasian collared-dove	Breeding	Occasional	Occasional	Occasional	Occasional
White-winged dove				Accidental	

Table 2, continued.

	Status	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Inca dove				Accidental	Accidental
Boreal chickadee		Accidental		Accidental	
Tufted titmouse	Hypothetical				
Pygmy nuthatch	Hypothetical				
Bewick's wren	Hypothetical				
Eastern bluebird					Accidental
Yellow-throated warbler				Accidental	
Eastern towhee					Accidental
Black-throated sparrow	Hypothetical				
Golden-crowned sparrow				Accidental	

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The efforts of former committee members, including G. B. Berkey, R. Crawford, C. A. Faanes, T. Gatz, D. O. Lambeth, S. Lambeth, R. E. Martin, G. Neilsen, M. Otnes, R. Randall, and C. Talkington are gratefully acknowledged. The efforts of current committee members L. D. Igl, R. O'Connor, and C. Talkington are especially appreciated. The work of any Rare Bird Committee is reliant on observers taking the time to document their sightings. We thank all who did so. L. D. Igl and D. O. Lambeth provided helpful comments on an earlier draft of our paper.

### LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. The AOU check-list of North American birds. Seventh Edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington D. C. (See also [www.aou.org/aou/birdlist.html](http://www.aou.org/aou/birdlist.html) [accessed January 3, 2002]).
- Bailey, V. 1926. A biological survey of North Dakota. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Biological Survey -- North American Fauna No. 49.
- Faanes, C. A., and R. E. Stewart. 1982. Revised checklist of North Dakota birds. *Prairie Naturalist* 14:81-92.



- Herman, J. F., R. A. Schmidt, and K. J. Wilson. 1978. First nesting record of the Caspian tern in North Dakota. *Prairie Naturalist* 10:23-24.
- Konrad, P. M. 1983. Third record of a common moorhen in North Dakota. *Prairie Naturalist* 15:144.
- Jones, L. A. 1976. Fulvous tree duck in North Dakota. *Prairie Naturalist* 8:58.
- Rottenborn, S. C., and J. Morlan. 1997. Report of the California Bird Records Committee: 1997 records. *Western Birds* 31:1-37.
- Stewart, R. E. 1971. Checklist of birds in North Dakota. *Prairie Naturalist* 3:3-12.
- Stewart, R. E. 1975. *Breeding Birds of North Dakota*. Tri-College Center for Environmental Studies, Fargo, North Dakota.
- Van Ningen, P. C. 1986. Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge. *North Dakota Outdoors* 68:22-23.
- Van Ningen, P. C. 1987. Second barn owl nest record at Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge, North Dakota. *Prairie Naturalist* 19:114.
- Wood, N. A. 1923. A preliminary survey of the bird life of North Dakota. University of Michigan Museum of Zoology Miscellaneous Publications No. 10.

*Received: 16 December 2002*

*Accepted: 28 October 2003*

## NOTES

**BREEDING CHRONOLOGY OF DABBLING DUCKS IN MINNEDOSA, MANITOBA** -- Although nesting chronologies for mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), blue-winged teal (*A. discors*), northern shoveler (*A. clypeata*), and gadwall (*A. strepera*) have been well documented (Sowls 1955, Dane 1966, Bellrose 1980, Baicich and Harrison 1997), there are few recently published comparisons between species based on intense sampling throughout the breeding season. The main objective of our study was to document fluctuations in nesting chronologies of four prairie nesting waterfowl species by intensively sampling breeding habitats throughout the entire nesting season.

Using dense nesting cover areas developed by Ducks Unlimited and some hay fields, we completed fieldwork at Minnedosa, Manitoba (50° 10'N, 99° 47'W). The area consists of native aspen (*Populus* spp.) parkland community prior to agricultural development. Nests were found by using a 70-m chain drag pulled between two all terrain vehicles (Higgins et al. 1969). Searches starting the first week of May 2000 and ending the third week of July with a goal of 65-ha per day were made between 0800 and 1400 for six days each week. Each study site, spread throughout the Minnedosa area, was searched three times throughout the breeding season. Eggs from each nest located were candled to determine their stage of development (i.e., day) (Weller 1956). Species, location, number of eggs, and stage of development were recorded. Once the data were recorded the nest was covered with down and marked with a stake approximately 5-m north of the nest. The nest was revisited the next evening to see if any new eggs had been laid. If no new eggs were found the nest was categorized as abandoned or if the nest was destroyed it was categorized as depredated. For analyses, all dates were converted to Julian date and nest initiation dates were calculated by subtracting the number of eggs and stage of development from the date the nest was found. For each species the range, median, and mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) were calculated.

Approximately 1,215-ha consisted primarily of native prairie grasses planted as dense nesting cover (Ducks Unlimited mixture) and 275-ha consisted of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) were searched from 9 May to 16 July 2000. About 65-ha were searched each day and 455-ha (31%) of the total area were dragged multiple times.

A total of 66 mallard, 117 blue-winged teal, 39 northern shoveler, and 20 gadwall nests was found. Mallards initiated nests over a 84-day period between 10 April (Julian Date 101) and 3 July (Julian Date 185) with a median of 2 June (Julian Date 154) and the mean was 31 May (Julian Date 152  $\pm$  17). Nest initiation dates for blue-winged teal ranged 66-days from 4 May (Julian Date 125) to 9 July (Julian Date 191), the median was 30 May (Julian Date 151), and mean 2 June (Julian Date 154  $\pm$

15). Northern shoveler initiation dates ranged 47-days from 5 May (Julian Date 126) to 21 June (Julian Date 173) with a median of 29 May (Julian Date 150), and the mean was 30 May (Julian Date  $151 \pm 12$ ). Gadwall hens initiated their nests over a 40-day period between 31 May (Julian Date 152) and 10 July (Julian Date 192) with median being 15 June (Julian Date 167) and the mean was 18 June (Julian Date  $170 \pm 11$ ). Standard ANOVA showed that mean nest initiation dates were significantly different between species ( $F = 8.56$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ). Based on Fisher's LSD mean comparison analyses, gadwall hens initiated significantly later than the other three species.

Mallard nest initiation occurred over an 84-day period with the 1 June (Julian Date 153) mean initiation similar to the average date of the first, second, third, and fourth nest of captive wild mallards nesting in individual outdoor pens 70-km east of Minnedosa reported by Batt and Prince (1979). Sowls (1955) and Dane (1966) both noted that peak nest initiation for the blue-winged teal in southern Manitoba was from 16 to 29 May, which corresponded with the pattern we found. Blue-winged teal nest initiation spanned 66-days, longer than northern shoveler and gadwall, which makes them a mid to late season nester rather than being considered a traditionally late nesting species (Strohmeier 1967, Stoudt 1971). Gadwalls initiated the shortest period during the first two weeks of June similar to the dates reported by Sowls (1955), Blohm (1979), and Hines and Mitchell (1983).--*Alicia M. Wells<sup>1</sup> and Harold H. Prince, Michigan State University, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, East Lansing, MI 48824. <sup>1</sup>Current address: USGS - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, 11210 Beech Forest Drive, Laurel, MD 20708.*

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Baicich, P. J., and C. J. O. Harrison. 1997. A guide to nests, eggs, and nestlings of North American birds. Academic Press, San Diego, California.
- Batt, B. D. J., and H. H. Prince. 1979. Laying dates, clutch size and egg weight of captive Mallards. *Condor* 81:35-41.
- Bellrose, F. C. 1980. Ducks, geese, and swans of North America. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
- Blohm, R. J. 1979. The breeding ecology of the Gadwall in southern Manitoba. Ph. D. Dissertation, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- Dane, C. W. 1966. Some aspects of breeding biology of the blue-winged teal. *Auk* 83:389-402.
- Higgins, K. F., L. M. Kirsch, and I. J. Ball, Jr. 1969. A cable-chain device for locating duck nests. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 33:1009-1011.
- Hines, J. E., and G. J. Mitchell. 1983. Breeding ecology of the gadwall at Waterhen Marsh, Saskatchewan. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 61:1532-1539.

- Sowls, L. K. 1955. Prairie ducks: A study of their behavior, ecology, and management. Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D.C.
- Stoudt, J. H. 1971. Ecological factors affecting waterfowl production in the Saskatchewan parklands. United States Fish & Wildlife Service Resource Publication. 99. 58p.
- Strohmeyer, D. L. 1967. The biology of reneesting by the blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*) in northwest Iowa. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.
- Weller, M. W. 1956. A simple field candler for waterfowl eggs. Journal of Wildlife Management 21:456-458.

*Received: 28 May 2002*

*Accepted: 19 October 2003*