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6-2004

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Brogie, "2003 (15th) Report of the NOU Records Committee," from Nebraska Bird Review (June 2004) 72(2).
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2003 (15th) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

Complied by Mark A. Brogie (NOURC Chairperson)
508 Seeley, Creighton, NE 68729

The functions and methods of the NOU Records Committee are described in its bylaws (NOU Records Committee 1986). The committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds for Nebraska. "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" was first published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988) and an update was published in 1997 (NOU Records Committee 1997).

The "Official List" has been appended thirteen times: (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, 1991, Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003). This report includes all accounts submitted during the calendar year of 2003, covering 36 records with accession numbers 1049-1084. All records mentioned here will be available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian, whose address can be found in the latest issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review*.

State List

The A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998) and the Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-third, and Forty-fourth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2003) contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds. The following summarizes all revisions by the AOU in regards to changes in scientific names, and changes in assignments to family and order of species to the most recently published "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" (NBR 65: 3-16). It does not include changes in species sequence, as these will be made on the next published "Official List".

With this report, the following changes are made to "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska".

Changes in Frequency of Occurrence:

1. Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) Casual to Regular
2. Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) Accidental to Casual
3. Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*) Accidental to Casual
4. Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) Casual to Accidental
5. Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) Accidental to Casual

Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions and/or Changes in English or Scientific Names:

1. Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) changed to Rock Pigeon
2. Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) becomes (*Patagioenas fasciata*)
3. Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*) becomes (*Megascops asio*)
4. Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) becomes (*Bubo scandiaca*)
5. Three-toed Woodpecker is split into American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*) and the Old World form Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)
6. Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*) becomes (*Vireo atricapilla*)

7. Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapilla*) becomes (*Poecile atricapillus*)
8. Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) becomes (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)

2003 Additions to State List

There were no additions to "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" in 2003.

"The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" as of the end of 2003 stands at 447 species.

Criteria for Accepted Records

For a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor are required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOU Records Committee 1986). Records in the following classes are listed as accepted:

I-S - a diagnostic, labeled specimen exists
I-P - a diagnostic, labeled photograph or slide exists
I-R - a diagnostic, labeled recording exists
II - three or more independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist
III - one or two independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist

Each account of an accepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and initial(s) of observers.

Pre-2003 Records Accepted

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

1. A written documentation (Class III; JC) from the initial observer of an adult in basic plumage below Gavin's Pt. Dam, Cedar Co., 09 November 2002. A photo of this bird was discussed in the 2002 (14th) Report of the NOU Records Committee (Brogie 2003).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

1. A written description (Class III; CW) of a single juvenile at Lake Alice, Scotts Bluff Co., 18 September 2002. This represents the third record of this species in Nebraska and the first for the Panhandle.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

1. An adult male present from 18 August to 18 November 2002 in Omaha, Douglas Co., was photographed (Class 1-P; JS).

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*)

1. An adult male was observed and documented (Class III; JD) at a feeder in Ceresco, Saunders Co., on 25 December 2002. This bird was first observed on 28 November 2002 and continued through 05 January 2003.

2003 Accepted Records

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*)
1. A single bird was observed (Class II; BG, JG, RS) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 02-05 September 2003. There was some question as to the age of this bird; possibly just going into first basic adult plumage (RS). This represents the third record of this species in Nebraska.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)
1. Two first-year birds were photographed (Class 1-P; JJ) on a small marsh (Rainwater Basin Wetland Clay # 229) in Clay Co., 30 August 2003.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*)
1. A second-year bird was observed (Class III; MB) on Lewis and Clark Lake, Knox Co., 01 November 2003.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)
1. One second-year in basic plumage was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 18-19 January 2003.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*)
1. A first winter bird was photographed (Class 1-P; KN, WRS) at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 21 December 2003

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)
1. A single juvenile was observed (Class III; MB) below Gavin's Pt. Dam, Cedar Co., 28 September 2003.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*)
1. Two adults observed (Class III; TJW) flying along Red Willow Creek, Red Willow Co., 07 November 2003. This is the latest date recorded for this species in Nebraska.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
1. A single bird in adult alternate plumage was observed (Class III; NP) at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 19 May 2003. This is the second NOURC accepted record for this species in Nebraska.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)
1. A single bird was observed (Class III; JG) in Seward, Seward Co., 25 June 2003.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; RP) at Cody Park in North Platte, Lincoln Co., 15 July 2003.

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*)
1. One written report (Class III; HH) of a bird calling at the Wind Springs Ranch in southern Sioux County represents the westernmost occurrence of this species in Nebraska.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)
1. A single female/immature was observed (Class III; MB) at Harrison, Sioux Co., 30 August 2003. This represents the first documented record of this

species for the Panhandle approved by the NOURC.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*)
1. A single female/immature bird was observed (Class III; MB) at Creighton, Knox Co., 26-28 August 2003. This is the second consecutive year for this species at this eastern Nebraska location.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)
1. Of a family group of seven birds (two adults with five young), several were photographed (Class 1-P; MY) near Filley, Gage Co., 01 August 2003.

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*)
1. A single bird was observed (Class III ; BH) at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., 30 August 2003.

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)
1. A single bird identified to species in early January 2003 was present from November 2002 and throughout 2003 at the 7-U Ranch in southeastern Sioux County. This bird was photographed by numerous observers (Class 1-P; KD, JJ, BW, DW) and described (Class III; BH). This individual was of the subspecies *curvirostre*.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)
1. Two birds were observed (Class III; KP) at Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co., 15 &17 September 2003.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*)
1. An adult male was photographed (Class 1-P; MB) at the Christ Lutheran Cemetery in Norfolk, Madison Co., 10 May 2003.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*)
1. An adult male was observed (Class III; JT) at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co., 26 May 2003.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*)
1. An adult male was observed (Class III; BO, LO) at Wilsonville, Furnas Co., 23-24 April 2003.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)
1. A male and female were observed (Class III; BP,LP) south of Bellevue, Sarpy Co., 8 April 2003.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)
1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) near the Creighton Airport, Knox Co., 07 April 2003.

2003 Records Reviewed For First Time and Filed Without Votes

Archilochus species
1. A written report of a female/immature belonging to this genera was observed on 11 September 2003 at Mitchell, Scotts Bluff Co. (KD).
Due to the lack of records of Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus*

colubris) from the Panhandle and the possibility of Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) at this location, the observer was not confident of species identity.

Unaccepted Records

Records in the following classes are considered unaccepted (NOU Record Committee 1986):

IV - probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt
V - a record with insufficient evidence to support the identification claimed
VI - a probable released or escaped bird or mistaken identification

Each account of an unaccepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and reasons for the committee's failure to accept the record.

Pre-2003 Unaccepted Records

Canyon Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*) Class IV

1. A written report of a single bird observed at George D. Syas WMA in Platte Co., 05 July 2000. This species is not on "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" and although suggestive, the details of this documentation were believed inadequate to accept such an out-of-range bird at such an odd date.

2003 Unaccepted Records

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

1. A written report of two birds carefully scrutinized over a period of days: 11-17 May 2003 at Holmes Lake, Lancaster County. These birds were originally identified as Pacific Loons (*Gavia pacifica*), but after closer inspection the observer concluded they were Red-throated Loons. Although very suggestive, the documentation was lacking sufficient details for approval.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondii*)

1. A single bird was observed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., 31 August 2003. Although suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for approval.

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*)

1. A single bird was observed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., 30 August 2003. Although suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for approval.

Acknowledgments

The NOU Records Committee would like to thank the following observers who contributed records included in this report: Mark A. Brogie (MB), Jay Carlisle (JC), Kathy DeLara (KD), John Dinan (JD), Larry Einemann (LE), Betty Grenon (BG), Joe Gubanyi (JG), Helen Hughson (HH), Bill Huser (BH), Joel Jorgensen (JJ), Kay Niyo (KN), Bruce Ollinger (BO), Linda Ollinger (LO), Babs Padelford (BP), Loren Padelford (LP), Rob Parsons (RP), Nathan Pipelow (NP), Kevin Poague (KP),

Rick Schmid (RS), W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Judy Stransky (JS), Jerry Toll (JT), Bruce Walgren (BW), Donna Walgren (DW), T. J. Walker (TJW), Christopher Wood (CW), and Mike Yager (MY).

2003 NOU Records Committee members: Mark A. Brogie (chair), Joe Gubanyi, Joel Jorgensen, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, W. Ross Silcock, and Jerry Toll.

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