List of Birds for Which the Records Committee Seeks Documentation

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The NOU Records Committee at its February 25, 1995 meeting revised the list of species for which the committee seeks documentation. This list was last published in 1988 (NBR 56:86-96). The committee seeks documentation on all species with less than regular occurrence in Nebraska, as well as any species occurring out-of-range or out-of-season. Changes in this list since 1988 include the addition of new species documented for the state, and the deletion of species upgraded to regular status. Below are listed the species of less than regular occurrence based on the official list of state birds (a revised list will be published in a future issue of NBR).

LIST OF SPECIES FOR WHICH THE RECORDS COMMITTEE SEeks DOCUMENTATION

The following kinds of documentation are accepted by the Records Committee: photographs, slides, recordings, and written descriptions. The committee also considers specimens or photographs of specimens in the possession of organizations and/or individuals who have been authorized to have them. In order to legally handle a specimen (roadkill, windowkill, etc.), you are required to obtain both federal and state permits.

Photographs, slides, and recordings are preferred means of documentation whenever possible. A written documentation is often the only available means to document a species. A well-written documentation is extremely valuable, and should include a detailed description of all aspects of the observation, as follows: descriptions of plumage, flesh parts, eye color, size (relative to a species observed at the same time can be very useful), and any noticeable field marks (i.e., wing bars, eye rings, crown stripes, tail markings, etc.). Extraneous observations can often be useful. For example, worn tail feathers or a leg band might indicate that the bird is an escaped captive bird rather than a wild bird. A written description can never have too much detail, but it can easily leave out critical details, which may be important in evaluating the documentation. A very useful part of a written documentation is a discussion of field marks used to separate the bird from similar species. Descriptions of the bird's behavior and habitat are also very important parts of a well-written documentation. In addition to the above, a few details of the observation are also important, including exact location of the sighting, date and time of the sighting, duration of the sighting, optics used, distance from the bird, field guides used to identify the bird, and when the description was written (i.e., written 5
hours later, written 2 days later from notes taken in the field at the time of the observation, written from memory a week later, etc.). For a detailed discussion on how to write a written documentation see NBR 54 (4):74-77 1986. Documentations may be sent to Joseph Gubanyi, Concordia College, Seward, NE 68434.

---Joseph Gubanyi, Records Committee Chair

Red-throated Loon
Pacific Loon
Red-necked Grebe
Clark’s Grebe
Brown Pelican
Neotropic Cormorant
Anhinga
Tricolored Heron
Roseate Spoonbill
Wood Stork
Black-bellied Whistling-duck
Tundra Swan
Bean Goose
Brant
Mottled Duck
Eurasian Wigeon
Common Eider
King Eider
Harlequin Duck
Black Scoter
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Barrow’s Goldeneye
Black Vulture
American Swallow-tailed Kite
White-tailed Kite
Mississippi Kite
Harris’ Hawk
Gyrfalcon
Sage Grouse
Yellow Rail
Black Rail
Clapper Rail
King Rail
Purple Gallinule
Common Moorhen
Common Crane
Snowy Plover

Mountain Plover
Eskimo Curlew
Whimbrel
Red Knot
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Red Phalarope
Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
Laughing Gull
Common Black-headed Gull
Thayer’s Gull
Iceland Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Sabine’s Gull
Ancient Murrelet
Common Ground Dove
Inca Dove
Groove-billed Ani
Northern Hawk-Owl
Great Gray Owl
Boreal Owl
Calliope Hummingbird
Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Red-naped Sapsucker
Williamson’s Sapsucker
Three-toed Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Hammond’s Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Vermilion Flycatcher
Cave Swallow
Gray Jay
Steller’s Jay

Clark’s Nutcracker
Chihuahuan Raven
Common Raven
Canyon Wren
Bewick’s Wren
American Dipper
Varied Thrush
Sage Thrasher
Curve-billed Thrasher
Sprague’s Pipit
Phainopepla
Black-capped Vireo
Blue-winged Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Townsend’s Warbler
Pine Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Swainson’s Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
MacGillivray’s Warbler
Hooded Warbler
Painted Bunting
Green-tailed Towhee
Cassin’s Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow
Sage Sparrow
Band’s Sparrow
Henslow’s Sparrow
Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Smith’s Longspur
Pine Grosbeak
Cassin’s Finch
White-winged Crossbill
Hoary Redpoll
Lesser Goldfinch

Editor’s Note: The other members of the Records Committee at the time that these guidelines were developed were Mark Brogie, Creighton, NE; Alan Grenon, Seattle, WA; Bill Huser, South Sioux City, NE; Loren Padelford, Bellevue, NE; William Scharf, Lincoln, NE; Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA; and Rick Wright, Urbana, IL.