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2002 (14th) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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2002 (14th) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE
Compiled by Mark A. Brogie (NOURC Chairperson)
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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 twelve times: (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, 1991, Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003). This report includes all accounts submitted during the calendar year of 2002 covering 38 records with accession numbers 1011-1048 and one previous unfinished record: accession number - 811. It also includes changes involving Nebraska species not addressed in previous reports. 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, and Forty-third Supplements to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU, 1997, 2000, 2002) 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 recent 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 Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions and/or Changes in English or Scientific Names:

1. Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) changed to Long-tailed Duck
2. Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) becomes (*Platalea ajaja*).
3. Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) changed to Greater Sage-Grouse
4. Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) becomes (*Porphyrio martinica*)
5. Common Snipe is split into Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*), widespread in North America, and Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), the Old World form that breeds sparingly in the Aleutian Islands
6. Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) becomes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

7. Black-billed Magpie of North America becomes (*Pica hudsonia*), split from the Old World form (*Pica pica*), (Eurasian Magpie or Magpie)
8. Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) becomes (*Poecile atricapilla*)
9. Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) becomes (*Passerina caerulea*)

Changes in Frequency of Occurrence:

1. Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), Accidental to Casual
2. Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*), Casual to Regular
3. Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), Accidental to Casual
4. Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), Accidental to Casual
5. Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), Accidental to Casual
6. White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), Accidental to Casual
7. Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), Casual to Regular
8. Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*), Accidental to Casual
9. Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*), Accidental to Casual
10. Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*), Accidental to Casual
11. Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*), Accidental to Casual
12. Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*), Casual to Regular
13. Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*), Casual to Regular
14. Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*), Casual to Regular
15. Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*), Casual to Regular
16. Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*), Casual to Regular
17. White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*), Casual to Regular
18. Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*), Accidental to Casual

Changes in Firmness of Data:

1. Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), ** to 1-R
2. Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), 1-P to 1-S (UNSM # ZM-17601)
3. Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), III to 1-P
4. Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), III to 1-P

2002 Additions to State List:

1. Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*), Accidental, III.

The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska as of the end of 2002 stands at 447 species.

Criteria for Accepted Records:

In order 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
- ** - Species whose occurrence in Nebraska is believed indisputable, although no acceptable documentation exists.

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

Pre-2002 Records Accepted:

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

1. A resolution to the 1998 (Tenth) Report of the NOU Records Committee (Brogie, 1999) of section: 1998 Records Not Finalized. A tape-recording of a calling bird from a wet meadow north of Verdigre, Knox Co., 25 May, 1986 (Brogie and Brogie, 1987) gained sufficient votes for approval (Class I-R; EB, MB). This represents the first documented record for this species in Nebraska approved by the NOURC.

Calidris species (*Calidris*) species unknown

1. A single "dark-legged" (*Calidris*) species was observed (Class III; JG) at Branched Oak Lake, Seward Co., 18 December 2001.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; JG) at Branched Oak Lake, Seward Co., 18 & 19 December 2001.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)

1. A first year male was observed (Class III; JG) at Conestoga Lake, Lancaster Co., 15 December 2001.

2002 Accepted Records:

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)

1. A single individual was photographed (Class I-P; MB) on the Missouri River near Niobrara, Knox Co., 01 November 2002.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

1. A single individual of the eastern subspecies was photographed (Class I-P; MB) above Gavin's Pt. Dam, Cedar Co., 02 & 03 July 2002.

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

1. A group of 13 birds was photographed (Class I-P; MB) west of Winnetoon, Knox Co., 30 October 2002.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; MB) south of Creighton in Antelope Co., 01 May 2002.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

1. A female was observed (Class III; CB) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 04 May 2002.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)

1. A juvenile bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) north of Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co., 01 September 2002.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

1. One adult in basic plumage was photographed (Class I-P; JW) below Gavin's Pt. Dam, Cedar Co., 09 November 2002.
2. One adult in basic plumage was photographed (Class I-P; MB) west of Standing Bear Bridge on the Missouri River, Knox Co., 27 November 2002.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; JW) below Gavin's Pt. Dam, Cedar Co., 2 October 2002.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)

1. A second-year bird found dead (DH) near Grove Lake, Antelope Co., 25 May 2002, was salvaged (MB), photographed (JG), and prepared as a specimen (1-S; TL). This bird now resides at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM ZM-18191).

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*)

1. An immature male was photographed (Class I-P; MB) at Creighton, Knox Co., 26 August 2002. This is the first Nebraska record east of the Panhandle.
2. A single female/immature was observed (Class III; MB) at a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., 31 August 2002.
3. A single female/immature was observed (Class III; WRS) at the Gering West Lawn Cemetery, Scotts Bluff Co., 25 August 2002.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*)

1. A single bird belonging to this complex was photographed (Class I-P; LP) at a feeder in Bellevue, Sarpy Co., 07 August 2002.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

1. An adult male was photographed and videotaped (Class I-P; TT) at Petersburg, Boone Co., 22 October 2002.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)

1. One written report with a set of photographs (Class I-P; CW) of a hatching year bird at the Sydney Cemetery, Cheyenne Co., 19 September 2002.

Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*)

1. A single bird observed (Class III; WRS) at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., 24 August 2002.
2. A second observation (Class III; MB); of possibly the same (above) bird at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., 31 August 2002.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) in northeast Sherman Co., 12 October 2002. This is the latest Nebraska record for fall.

Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*)

1. Two birds were photographed (Class I-P; LLK) at Champion, Chase Co., 03 December 2002.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; KL) at Scotts Bluff National Monument, Scotts Bluff Co., 14 January 2002.

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*)

1. A single female/immature was observed (Class III; MB) at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., 31 August 2002.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; MB) at Hyannis, Grant Co., 01 September 2002. This is the fourth documented Nebraska record and the second for fall.

Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*)

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; MB) north of Creighton, Knox Co., 15 May 2002. This represents the first documented record for this species in Nebraska approved by the NOURC.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)

1. An adult female was observed (Class III; JJ) near Wakefield, Dixon Co., 09 November 2002. This is the latest date for this species in Nebraska.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; BP) at Bellevue, Sarpy Co., 06 February 2002.

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*)

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; TL) near Halsey, Thomas Co., 07 September 2002.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

1. A female was observed (Class III; JJ) near Wakefield, Dixon Co., 02 June 2002.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)

1. A photograph of one (Class I-P; GK) of a group of three birds at Hastings, Adams Co., 20-21 March 2002.
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Unaccepted Records:

Records in the following classes are considered unaccepted (NOU Records 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-2002 Unaccepted Records:**American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) Class IV**

1. A written report of a single bird observed in Boone Co., January 1962. Although suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for approval.

2002 Unaccepted Records:**Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) Class IV**

1. A written report of a bird observed on 21 September 2002 in the company of other phalaropes (county: ?). Although suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for approval.

Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) Class VI

1. A written report of a single bird in Blair, Washington Co., 03 April 2002, was inconclusive to species and may have been a Eurasian Collared-Dove.

Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) Class VI

1. A written report of two birds coming to a platform feeder in Scotts Bluff Co., 09 May 2002. The description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for placing this species on "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska".

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) Class V

1. A written report of a single bird in Scotts Bluff Co., 06 May 2002. Although suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for approval.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) Class V

1. A written report of a single bird in Scotts Bluff Co., 05 May 2002. Although suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for approval.

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2002 NOU Records Committee members: Mark A. Brogie (chair), Stephen J. Dinsmore, Joe Gubanyi, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, W. Ross Silcock, and Jerry Toll.

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