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The Second Report of the N.O.U. Records Committee

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NOU Records Committee

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SECOND REPORT OF THE N.O.U. RECORDS COMMITTEE

Introduction

This report contains individual accounts of 56 accepted records of 37 species and 8 non-accepted records of 7 species. The records were contributed by 36 observers. This report covers most of the records #66 - #150. At the NOU Fall Field Day on 3 October 1987, the committee decided to act as repository for all photos published in the *Nebraska Bird Review*. A decision was also made to simply file for record those records which were not deemed unusual enough to warrant full committee action. Thus, the discrepancy between the number of records logged into the files versus the number of records acted upon.

State List

Records included in this report add three species to the Official List:

Great Black-backed Gull, Inca Dove, and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Another record, King Eider, represents the first accepted documentation for the state; however, action on it was completed in time for it to be included in the Official List (NOJRC, 1988). Photos of several species which been published previously were scrutinized by the committee while reviewing documentation available for the Official List: Cattle Egret, Phainopepla, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. As time permits, the committee hopes to review other historic records for documentation and possible inclusion in the current files.

Finally, it has come to the attention of the committee that Evening Grosbeak was inadvertently omitted from the Official List. Thus, the following additions are made to the Official List:

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): Accidental, III.

(Insert between Glaucous Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake)

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*): Accidental, III.

(Insert between Passenger Pigeon and Common Ground-dove)

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*): Accidental, III.

(Insert between Say's Phoebe and Great Crested Flycatcher)

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*): Regular, I-S.

(Insert between American Goldfinch and House Sparrow)

With these additions the Official List stands at 410 species.

Format

The format used is essentially the same as that used in the first report of the committee (Mollhoff, 1987). For those records in the "accepted" category, the species name will be given first, followed by a brief statement about the occurrence. The location, date, accession #, file #, and the initials of the observer(s) who contributed the documentation make up the rest of the report. If the report and/or photo has been published, the reference is listed after the observer's initials. If the record includes a photo or recording, a (p) or (r), respectively, follows the initials. A specimen is indicated by (s), followed by the museum number and name of the museum where it is housed. A more detailed description of the format is found in the first report of the committee.

In the first report, several documentations which were filed for record were mentioned. Due to the considerable number of such records and photos which the committee has received, these will no longer be listed individually. Instead, these will be summarized following the report of the individual records. These records are all accessioned and filed and available to interested persons.

Acknowledgments

The committee wishes to thank the following observers who have contributed records which are included in this report: L. M. Baylor (LB), Tanya Bray (TB), Duane E. Bright (DB), Ellen L. Brogie (EB), Mark A. Brogie (MB), Bruce A. Fall (BF), William C. Garthright (WG), Ruth C. Green (RG), Alan G. Grenon (AG), William F. (Bill) Huser (WH), Clyde Johnson (CJ), Joel Jorgensen (JJ), Alice Kenitz (AK), Thomas H. Kent (TK), Raymond C. Korpi (RCK), Raymond T. Korpi (RTK), Thomas E. Labedz (TL), Leon Marquardt (LM), Michael M. Melius (MM), Wayne J. Mollhoff (WM), Everett Montgomery (EM), Bill Otto (BO), Eileen E. Paine (EP), Barbara (Babs) Padelford (BP), Loren Padelford (LP), Jerry Probst (JP), Rachelle Rezac (RR), Gail L. Roebuck (GR), Dorothy J. Rosche (DR), Richard C. Rosche (RCR), B. J. Rose (BR), John Row (JR), Doug Thomas (DT), Randall D. Williams (RDW), Greg Wingfield (GW), Rick Wright (RW). It goes without saying that without their careful field observations and meticulous documentation this report would not have been possible. I must also comment on a marked improvement in the documentations. The attention to accuracy and inclusion of pertinent data have improved steadily, especially with those observers who have contributed a series of records. As a result, fewer requests for additional details are needed, the work of the committee is made easier, and the records on file are of greater value to future researchers.

The following committee members besides myself have acted on some or all of the listed records: Tanya Bray, Ruth C. Green, Alice Kenitz, Thomas E. Labedz, Gary Lingle, and Babs Padelford. Their careful research, unbiased scrutiny, and hard work have established the committee as the respected arbiter and repository for the bird records of the state. Their promptness, conscientiousness, and patience have been much appreciated. They have also acted as reviewers for this report and their comments were very helpful in

improving it.

Species reports - accepted records

CLARK'S GREBE, (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). The first Nebraska specimen record for this species was obtained 11 June 1986 on Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., acc. # 141, file # 1.1-6, (s) #ZM-15749, U. of Nebr. State Mus., TL (NBR 55:68-72, 1987). A single bird was seen at Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co. on 6 Dec. 1986, acc. # 066, file # 1.1-1, WH. Several documentations were received of a bird on Merritt Res., Cherry Co., 15-17 May 1987, acc. # 091, 092, 093, 144, 146, file # 1.1-2, 1.1-3, 1.1-4, 1.1-7, 1.1-8, RTK, RCK, RG, BP, LP, TB (NBR 55:35, 1987; *Am. Birds* 41:455, 1987).

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*). A single bird was seen and photographed at Hidden Lake, Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 2-5 May 1987; acc. # 079, 080, 145, 150; file # 118-1, 118-2, 118-3, 118-4; BR (p), TB, BP, LP, RTK, (NBR 55:50, 1987; *Am. Birds* 41:455, 1987).

GREAT EGRET (*Casmerodius albus*). A single bird was seen at University Lake in southern Sioux Co. on 30 Apr. 1988; acc. # 138, file # 196-2; AK (NBR 56:54, 1988).

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*). A single bird was seen 2 mi. E of Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co. on 30 Apr. 1988; acc. # 139, file # 197-2; AK (NBR 56:54, 73, 1988).

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*). Photographs of 2 birds at Albion, Boone Co. on 7 May 1983 were used as documentation for the Official List; acc. # 103, file # 200.1-1; WM (NBR 51:67, 1983; NBR 55:47, 1987).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax violaceus*). A single bird was at South Sioux City, Dakota Co., on 17 May 1985. Another was seen there 18 May 1987; acc. # 132, 108; file # 203-3, 203-2; WH (NBR 53:51, 1985; NBR 55:51, 1987).

TUNDRA SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*). Nine birds were seen on a sandpit 4 mi. E. of North Platte, Lincoln Co., 16-18 March 1988, by Nebr. Game and Parks personnel; acc. # 137, file # 180-1; GW (NBR 56:46-47, 1988).

ROSS' GOOSE (*Chen rossii*). A single bird was seen on the edge of a flock of Snow Geese at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co. on 6 Nov. 1987; acc. # 117, file # 170-1; RTK.

BRANT (*Branta barnicla*). A single bird of the Atlantic subspecies (*B.b.hrota*) was found at Funk Lagoon, Phelps Co. in a flock of Canada Geese by a group on a field trip from the U. of Minn. on 21 March 1988; acc. # 125, file # 173-1; BF (NBR 56:77-78, 1988).

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*). A single bird was several miles W. of Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 20 Dec. 1986 - 8 Jan. 1987; acc. # 067, file # 136-1; AK, MB (p), (NBR 55:19, 52, 1987); Another male was found with a flock of 11 American Wigeon on 29 Feb. 1988, 7 mi. E. of Milford, Seward Co.; acc. # 126, file # 136-2; BP (*Am. Birds* 42:283, 1988).

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*). Two birds, at least one of which was unanimously agreed to be of this species, were at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co., 10-20 Nov. 1985; acc. # 013, file # 162-1; TK(p), BR(p), (NBR 54:10, 81, 1986; NBR 55:73, 1987; *Am. Birds* 40:135, 1986). This constitutes the first state record for the species.

OLDSQUAW (*Clangula hyemalis*). A single female was seen 15 mi. NW of Albion, Boone Co., 24 Apr. 1987; acc. # 096, file # 154-2; WM (*Am. Birds* 41:455, 1987).

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*). A single bird was seen at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co., on 6 Nov. 1987; acc. # 119, file # 163-2; RTK.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*). A single male was photographed at Keystone Lake, Keith Co., on 19 Apr. 1987; acc. # 089, file # 152-1; EB, MB (p), (NBR 55:44, 1987; *Am. Birds* 41:455, 1987).

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippians*). One was photographed near Byron, Thayer Co., on 28 Sept. 1986; acc. # 069, file # 329-3; LM (*Am. Birds* 41:110, 1987).

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*). A pair hatched a brood of 7 young at South Sioux City, Dakota Co., 5 May - 29 Aug. 1987; acc. # 107, 112, file # 219-1, 219-2; WH, RDW (p), (NBR 55:54-55, 1987; NBR 56:14, 16-17, 1988; *Am. Birds* 41:455, 1987).

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*). The breeding flock 4.5 mi. W. of Lakeside, Sheridan Co., was documented repeatedly 15 May - 3 June 1987; acc. #

101, 104, 105, file # 226-1, 226-2, 226-3; WM (p), JJ (p), AK.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*). A single bird was photographed at Keystone Lake, Keith Co., on 14 Aug. 1986; acc. # 070, file # 53-2; MY (p), (NBR 54:77, 1986; *Am. Birds* 41:111, 1987).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*). An immature was seen at the Sutherland Res., Lincoln, Co., on 21 Feb. 1988; acc. # 124, file # 47-1; RCR (Am. Birds 42:284, 1988). This is the first documented record for the state.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*). A well-documented immature was at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 10-14 Oct. 1987, and was observed by many; acc. # 115, 127, 149, file # 62-1, 62-2, 62-3; RTK, BP, TL, (NBR 56:21, 1988; *Am. Birds* 42:98, 1988).

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*). Nebraska's first recorded Inca Dove obligingly stayed in Kearney, Buffalo Co., from 28 Oct. 1987 to 29 Feb. 1988, where it was seen by a number of observers; acc. # 122, 131, file # 321-1, 321-2; EP, RW (NBR 56:3, 1988; *Am. Birds* 42:284, 1988).

LEWIS' WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes lewis*). A single bird well out of its usual breeding range was found 7 June 1987, near Almeria, Loup Co. Later searches failed to find it again and no evidence of breeding was noted; acc. # 102, file # 408-2; WM (p).

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus nuthalis*). A single male was photographed in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co., on 17 Apr. 1987, to provide the first documented record of this recently-split species since 1920; acc. # 090, file # 402.1-1; MB (p), (NBR 55:40, 1987; *Am. Birds* 41:456, 1987).

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*). Two birds were seen in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., on 28 Apr. 1988, but were not seen again; acc. # 140, file # 457-1. DB (NBR 56:66-67, 1988).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). A single bird was very carefully studied near the White River, north of Chadron, Dawes Co., on 29 Aug. 1987; acc. # 123, file # 454-1; RCR, DR (Am. Birds 42:99, 1988). This is the first accepted record of the species in the state.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannyus forficatus*). A photo was published of one caught in a banding net near Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., in July 1979; acc. # 111, file # 443-3; RG (NBR 55:47, 1987).

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER (*Nucifraga columbiana*). The birds, which have been in the Pine Ridge since Oct. 1986, were documented in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co., on 15 May 1987; acc. # 147, file # 491-3; TB (Am. Birds 41:456, 1987). Nesting was documented in the southern Black Hills in adjacent South Dakota in Apr. 1987 (*S. D. Bird Notes* 40:94-95, 1988) and should be searched for in the Pine Ridge of Nebraska.

WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). A single bird was found near the Missouri River north of Willis, Dakota Co., on 7 Feb. 1987, providing a mid-winter record; acc. # 083, file # 722-1; WH (NBR 55:60, 1987).

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*). Photos were placed in the committee files of two past records from Alliance, Box Butte Co. They were taken in Nov. 1984 and Jan. 1980; acc. # 075, 077, file # 763-2, 763-3; DT (p) (NBR 53:80-81, 1985).

SAGE THRASHER (*Oreoscoptes montanus*). A single bird was photographed in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co. on 18 Apr. 1987; acc. # 088, file # 702-1; MB (p) ((NBR 55:47, 1987; *Am. Birds* 41:457, 1987).

PHAINOPEPLA (*Phainopepla nitens*). A series of photographs of the only Nebraska record for this species has been placed in the files. They were taken in Jan. 1983 in Alliance, Box Butte Co.; acc. # 078, file # 620-1; DT (p) (NBR 51:18-19, 1983).

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*). A single bird was found near Winnebago, Thurston Co., on 8 May 1987, somewhat north of its usual range; acc. # 109, file # 631-1; WH (NBR 55:62, 1987).

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helminthos vermivorus*). A single individual was found in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., on 5 May 1987. Another was found on Cedar Island, Sarpy Co., on 9 May 1987; acc. # 081, 145, file # 639-1, 639-2; TB, RTK (NBR 55:63, 1987).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*). A single bird was seen at close range at the NOU Fall Field Day on 3 Oct. 1987 in the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey, Thomas Co.; acc. # 116, file # 678-1; RTK (NBR 55:78, 1987).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER (*Oporornis tolmiei*). A single bird was caught,

photographed, banded, and its identity carefully established on 21 May 1986, near Laurel, Cedar Co.: Acc. # 087, FILE # 680-1; MB (p) (NBR 55:41-42, 1987; *Am. Birds* 40:493, 1986).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). Photos of the bird at Alliance, Box Butte Co., on 25-26 Nov. 1984, have been placed in the committee files. This appears to be the only Class I record for the state; acc. # 074, file # 557-1; DT (p) (NBR 52:77, 1984).

SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius pictus*). Four birds were seen at Pawnee Lake, west of Lincoln, Lancaster Co., on 11 Feb. 1988; acc. # 128, file # 537-3; BO (NBR 56:77, 1988).

Non-accepted records

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*). This is another documentation of the bird at Branched Oak Res., Lancaster Co., in Nov. 1986. The bird was studied and photographed and some of the documentations were accepted. It has been the subject of some debate, hinging not so much on the adequacy of the documentations themselves, as on whether or not the Pacific and Arctic Loons may be definitely identified in the field in basic (winter) plumage. The publication of new identification techniques will necessitate a review of all documentations received by the committee, in order to form a consensus of opinion.

CLARK'S GREBE (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). Documentation of a bird seen at Walgren Lake, Sheridan Co., on 3 June 1987, was found too incomplete to be acceptable.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). The report of a bird seen at Valentine, Cherry Co., on 16 May 1987, was voted Class IV (probably correct, but not beyond doubt) because the description was not felt adequate to exclude a male Northern Harrier, and the behavior of this bird and other birds in the area at the time did not seem to fit quite right.

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*). This bird at Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co., on 30 Nov. 1985 was originally reported as a Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. glaucescens*). Another observer had identified it as a Thayer's Gull and sent photographs of it to an outside authority who agreed that it was a Thayer's Gull. However, the photos were not made available to the committee and the correspondence left some questions unanswered in the minds of the committee. The committee agreed that the evidence pointed toward Thayer's Gull, but that there were just too many uncertainties to accept it as a first state record.

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). A report of a bird seen on 10 June 1987, south of Bassett, Rock Co., was voted Class IV. It was not accepted because of the very brief duration of the sighting and because the bird did not respond to a taped call of the species. The area was searched again a week later but to no avail.

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE (*Parus gambeli*). This report of a bird seen 5 Dec. 1976 at Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., was voted Class IV, primarily because it was based on memory and not on notes made at the time of the sighting. There is not adequate documentation available to add the species to the state list at this time.

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*). A report from Omaha, Douglas Co., on 12 Sept. 1986, and one from Cedar Island, Sarpy Co., on 9 May 1987 were both voted Class IV because the descriptions did not exclude the possibility of another species.

In addition to the above records, the committee has also received and filed for records documentations of the following species: Great Egret, Mallard (p), Red-tailed Hawk albino (p), Golden Eagle, Merlin (p), Sharp-tailed Grouse (p), Whooping Crane, Burrowing Owl (p), Townsend's Solitaire, American Robin albino (p), Solitary Vireo (p), Brewer's Sparrow (p), and Red Crossbill (p).

Observers are again encouraged to contribute documentations of all occurrences of birds of less than REGULAR status on the Official List. The following species have been upgraded to REGULAR status since the committee first requested such reports: Snowy Egret, Ross' Goose, Greater Scaup, Mississippi Kite, Northern Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Whooping Crane, Common Tern, Western Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Rosy Finch (Gray-crowned).

Observers are also encouraged to submit reports on any bird which is out of its expected range or outside its usual dates of occurrence.

Literature Cited

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