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12-1998

1997 (9th) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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Brogie, Mark A., "1997 (9th) Report of the NOU Records Committee" (1998). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 198.
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1997 (Ninth) 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 has been appended seven times (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, 1991, Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, Brogie 1997). An update of THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA was last published in 1997 (NOU Records Committee 1997).

This report includes all accounts submitted during the calendar year of 1997 covering 146 records with accession numbers 615-760, along with several previous records that had remained unfinished until 1997 (Accession#'s 361, 363, & 367). 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 Forty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU, 1997) contains many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds. The following summarizes all revisions by the AOU regarding changes in scientific names and in assignments to family and order of species in 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 Checklist of Nebraska Birds.

With this report, the following changes are made to "THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA".

Species Split

Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) is split into Blue-headed Vireo (*V. solitarius*), Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*), and Plumbeous Vireo (*V. plumbeous*). The species *V. Solitarius* is typically encountered migrating through eastern NE; *V. plumbeous* has been found nesting in extreme north-western NE, and *V. cassinii* has been found as a western NE migrant (this report).

Changes in Scientific Names

American Golden-Plover becomes *Pluvialis dominica*

Burrowing Owl becomes *Athene cunicularia*

Cliff Swallow becomes *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Cave Swallow becomes *Petrochelidon fulva*

Black-capped Chickadee becomes *Poecile atricapillus*

Mountain Chickadee becomes *Poecile gambeli*

Tufted Titmouse becomes *Baeolophus bicolor*

Olive-sided Flycatcher becomes *Contopus cooperi*

Changes at the Family and/or Order Level

The family *Cathartidae* (New World Vultures) is removed from the order *Falconiformes* and placed in the order *Ciconiiformes* after *Wood Stork*.

The New World Quail (i.e. Northern Bobwhite) is now placed in its own family, *Odontophoridae*.

The family *Laniidae* (shrikes) is moved behind the family *Tyrannidae* (flycatchers); the first family in the order *Passeriformes*.

The family *Vireonidae* (vireos) and the family *Corvidae* (jays, crows, and allies), in that sequence, will directly follow the *Laniidae* (shrikes).

The kinglets are now placed in their own family, *Regulidae*.

The Gnatcatchers are now placed in the family *Sylviidae* and follow the *Regulidae*.

The true thrushes (Eastern Bluebird through Varied Thrush) are placed in the family *Turdidae* and follow the *Sylviidae*.

The family *Sturnidae* (i.e. European Starling) will now follow the family *Mimidae* (mockingbirds and thrashers).

The wood-warblers (Blue-winged Warbler through Yellow-breasted Chat) are placed in the family *Parulidae*.

The tanagers are placed in the family *Thraupidae*.

The New World Sparrows and allies (Green-tailed Towhee through Snow Bunting) are retained as the family *Emberizidae*.

The cardinals, buntings, and grosbeaks (Northern Cardinal through Dickcissel) are placed in the family *Cardinalidae* and will follow the family *Emberizidae*.

The blackbirds and orioles (Bobolink through Scott's Oriole) will be placed in the family *Icteridae* and will follow the family *Cardinalidae*.

The sequence of families of NE birds in the Order Passeriformes will be:

Tyrannidae, *Laniidae*, *Vireonidae*, *Corvidae*, *Alaudidae*, *Hirundinidae*, *Paridae*, *Sittidae*, *Certhiidae*, *Troglodytidae*, *Cinclidae*, *Regulidae*, *Sylviidae*, *Turdidae*, *Mimidae*, *Sturnidae*, *Motacillidae*, *Bombycillidae*, *Oxyruncidae*, *Parulidae*, *Thraupidae*, *Emberizidae*, *Cardinalidae*, *Icteridae*, *Fringillidae*, and *Passeridae*.

Changes in Status:

- Red-throated Loon - Accidental to Casual
- Red-necked Grebe - Accidental to Casual
- Tundra Swan - Casual to Regular
- Barrow's Goldeneye - Casual to Regular
- Short-billed Dowitcher - Casual to Regular
- Sabine's Gull - Accidental to Casual
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird - Casual to Regular
- Steller's Jay - Accidental to Casual

Corrections to 1996 NOURC Report

1. White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*): Another photo of the 1994 Lancaster Co. bird (first documented occurrence) was submitted, and the 1996 NOURC Report erroneously stated this as the third documented occurrence for this species in NE.

1997 Additions to State List

1. Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*): Accidental, I-P.
2. Garganey (*Anas querquedula*): Accidental, III.
3. Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): Accidental, I-P.
4. Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Accidental, III.
5. and 6. Solitary Vireo (formerly: *Vireo solitarius*) split into:
 - Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*): Regular I-S.
 - Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*): Accidental I-S.
 - Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeous*): Regular I-S.
7. Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*): Accidental, III.

With these additions, the Nebraska State List now includes 434 species.

Criteria for Accepted Records

For a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor is required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOU Records Committee, 1986). Records in the following classes 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 the initial(s) of observers.

Pre-1997 Records Reviewed For First Time and Accepted

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; LP) at Site 16, Douglas Co, on 21 November, 1993.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; BP, LP) at Wehrspan Lake, Sarpy Co, on 12 November, 1996.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*).

1. A single basic plumaged bird was photographed (Class I-P; BH) at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas Co., on 23 November, 1996.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*).

1. One written report (Class III; BP, LP) and a set of photographs (Class I-P; JS) of presumed same juvenile/first-winter bird observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co, between 17 and 23 November, 1996.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*).

1. A single bird was found (Class III; SD) below Keystone Dam, Keith Co, on 23 December, 1994 (latest NE date).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*).

1. A single juvenile plumaged bird was observed (Class III; LM) in Sheridan Co, on 8 September, 1994.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).

1. A single first-winter bird was observed (Class III; SD) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., on 22 December, 1994.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*).

1. An adult was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., on 1 December, 1996, and again on the following day (Class I-P; BP, LP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*).

1. A single second-winter bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., on 19 November, 1996.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*).

1. One written report (Class III; SD) of a juvenile bird observed at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., on 26 September, 1996.
2. A single juvenile bird was photographed (Class I-P; BH) at Gavin's Pt. Dam, Cedar Co., on 26 October, 1996.

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; SD) at a bird feeder in Chadron, Dawes Co., on 28 September, 1996.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*).

1. A female/immature was observed (Class III; SD) coming to a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., on 2 August, 1996.

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

1. Up to three females/immatures belonging to this complex were observed (Class III; SD) coming to a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., between 2 and 4 August, 1996.

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*).

1. A specimen of an adult female collected by J.T. Zimmerer (Class I-S) in Crawford, Dawes Co., on 13 September, 1911 is specimen #ZM-11877 at the

University of NE State Museum. This represents the first definitive occurrence of Cassin's Vireo in NE.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; DS) at a feeding station at Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., between 2 and 3 November, 1996.
2. Two adults were observed (Class III; BH) at a feeder in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co., on 28 December, 1996.

Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*).

1. A single juvenile was observed (Class III; CD, JD) at a bird feeder in Kearney, Buffalo Co., on 1 December, 1996.

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*).

1. Two birds were observed (Class III; BH) in Monroe Canyon, Sioux Co., on 29 December, 1996.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*).

1. Published documentation (NBR 60:36-40) with photographs (Class I-P; CB, MBB) exist of a juvenile bird captured and banded near Ash Hollow State Park, Garden Co., on 31 May, 1991. Cave Swallow (based on this record) was placed on the Official State List (NBR 65:6-16). This listing at the time was erroneous, due to insufficient votes by the NOURC. With this review, this error has been corrected and Cave Swallow can now be added to the list of avifauna of NE.
2. A juvenile bird was captured and photographed (Class I-P; CB, MBB) in Keith Co., on 26 June, 1995. This represents the second record for Cave Swallow in NE.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*).

1. A previously published report (NBR 43: 64-66) of a male which was observed (Class III; GS) near Grand Island, Hall Co., on 20 May, 1975, was reviewed by the NOURC for the first time. This review constitutes the first documented NOURC accepted record for Scott's Oriole in NE.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*).

1. A group of approximately 30 birds was observed (Class III; BH) at the Hughson Ranch, Sioux Co., on 28 December, 1996.
2. Several birds of a flock west of Chadron, Dawes Co. were photographed (Class I-P; JS) on 29 December, 1996.

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*).

1. A window-killed male was salvaged (Class I-S; DS) at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., on 2 November, 1996 and is now specimen # ZM-17484 at the University of NE State Museum.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*).

1. A single (out-of-normal range) bird was photographed (Class I-P; JS) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 07 December, 1996.

Pre-1997 Records Reviewed For First Time and Filed Without Votes

Glaucous-Herring Gull Hybrid (*Larus sp.*).

1. A report of a bird observed below Kingsley Dam, Keith Co., on 26 February, 1994 was filed without votes.

1997 Records Reviewed For First Time and Filed Without Votes

(Unknown) Gull (*Larus sp.*)

1. A photograph of a non-identified gull seen at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., on 13 April, 1997, was filed without votes.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).

1. A single slide of a gull at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 29 March, 1997 was filed without votes.
2. A single slide of a gull at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., on 30 March, 1997 was filed without votes.
3. A single slide of a gull at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., on 13 April, 1997 was filed without votes.
4. A single slide of a gull at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., on 19 April, 1997 was filed without votes.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

1997 Accepted RecordsRed-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).

1. A single bird of undetermined age was observed (Class III; TA) at Louisville S.R.A., Cass Co., on 31 October, 1997.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; BP, LP) at Offutt Base Lake, Sarpy Co., on both 1 and 4 July, 1997.
2. One first-basic bird observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., between 26 and 27 October, 1997.
3. A single basic individual was observed (Class III; MB) at Skyview Lake, Madison Co., on 1 November, 1997.
4. One basic and one first basic were observed together (Class III; SD) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., on 1 November, 1997. The basic bird was also observed on 2 November.
5. Two basic birds were observed together (Class III; SD) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., on 1 November, 1997.
6. One basic was bird observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., between 22 and 23 November, 1997.
7. A single first-basic individual was observed (Class III; SD) at Swanson Reservoir, Hitchcock Co., on 6 December, 1997.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; RH) at Willow Lake, Brown Co., on 27 September, 1997.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Summit Lake, Burt Co., on 9 November, 1997.
3. One adult was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 16 November, 1997. The same (presumed) bird was observed again on 24 November and again documented (Class III; SD) as an adult in basic plumage on 18 December, 1997.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*).

1. Three individuals were observed (Class III; WRS) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 8 September 1997.
2. One adult was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 7 December, 1997.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*).

1. Two separate written reports (Class III; SD, WRS) were received of an

immature bird leaving its roosting area in Iowa and flying into Otoe Co. airspace on 5 August, 1997. Dinsmore reported another observation of the bird in flight over Otoe Co. on 14 August. This constitutes the first documented record for Roseate Spoonbill in NE.

Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*).

1. Four photographs (Class I-P; WM) were submitted of an adult bird which was collected by USFWS personnel during cholera pick-ups at Harvard WPA on 17 March, 1997. Observer comments: "Bird acted sick, couldn't fly, and tried to swim away in a sneaking posture. The bird had no leg band, no toes clipped, and possessed only minimal wing wear." The bird was x-rayed, and one shotgun pellet was found to be present in the right wing. This constitutes the first documented record for Emperor Goose in Nebraska.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*).

1. One immature was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 1 November, 1997.

2. Two adults were observed (Class III; MB) at Lake Babcock, Platte Co., on 22 November, 1997.

3. One immature was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Alice, Scotts Bluff Co., on 22 November, 1997.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*).

1. Two separate written reports by the initial observers (Class III; BD, MC) were received of an adult male in Kearney Co., on 28 March, 1997. Taken together, these reports constitute the first documented record for Garganey in NE.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*).

1. Two females or immatures were observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., on 7 and 18 December, 1997.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*).

1. A female photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Glen Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co. On 3 March, 1997, is one of few records for eastern NE

2. One immature male was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 30 March, 1997.

3. An adult male and adult female were observed (Class III; SD) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., on 18 December, 1997.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*).

1. During wind-rowing operations of native grass, three separate birds were observed (Class III; DP) near Ames, Dodge Co., on 29 September, 1997.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; SD) at OPPD wetlands, Otoe Co., on 14 August, 1997.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).

1. A single individual was observed (Class III; JJ) at Father Hupp WMA, Thayer Co., on 9 May, 1997.

2. A single individual was observed (Class III; JJ) at Miller's Pond, Fillmore Co., on 9 May, 1997.

3. A single individual was observed (Class III; BS) at Funk Lagoon, Phelps Co., on 23 June, 1997.

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; BP, LP) near Kimball, Kimball Co., on 12 June, 1997.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopeus*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Harvard WPA, Clay Co., on 4 May, 1997.

2. A single bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Freeman Lake, York Co., on 18 May, 1997.

3. A single bird was observed (Class III; BP, LP) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., on 19 May, 1997.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*).

1. A photograph by one of the initial observers (Class I-P; JJ) and two written reports (Class III; BP, LP, RH, LR) were received of a single bird observed at Funk Lagoon, Phelps Co., from 19 to 20 July, 1997. This constitutes the first documented record for Curlew Sandpiper in Nebraska.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).

1. An adult breeding plumaged (black) male was observed (Class III; RH, LR) at Funk Lagoon, Phelps Co., on 24 May, 1997.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; BP, LP) at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., between 14 and 15 November, 1997.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).

1. Two reports were received of a dark juvenile observed (Class III; WRS, SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 5 October, 1997. This is the second documented record for Parasitic Jaeger in NE.

Jaeger sp. (*Stercorarius sp.*).

1. The single bird observed (Class III; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 4 October, 1997, may have been the same jaeger identified on 5 October as a juvenile Parasitic.

2. A single dark-colored jaeger was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 12 October, 1997.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Father Hupp WMA, Thayer Co., on 4 April, 1997.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*).

1. One adult in third alternate plumage was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 19 April, 1997.

2. Two written reports (Class III; SD, WRS) and a set of photographs (Class I-P; JS) were received of a juvenile observed at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., on 6 September, 1997.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*).

1. One adult in alternate plumage was photographed (Class I-P; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 12 and 13 April, 1997.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*).

1. An adult was observed (Class III; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., on 19 March, 1997. This represents one of the eastern-most records for this species in NE.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).

1. One adult in alternate plumage was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake

McConaughy, Keith Co., on 12 and 13 April, 1997.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*).

1. A bird in first-basic plumage was photographed (Class I-P; SD) at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., on 30 March, 1997.
2. One first-year bird was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., on 19 and 20 April, 1997.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*).

1. Two reports were received of a single first-year bird observed (Class III; JJ, BP, LP) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., on 29 and 30 November, 1997.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*).

1. One first-winter bird was observed (Class III; MB) at Gavin's Pt Dam tailwaters, Cedar Co., on 2 November, 1997.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*).

1. Two reports were received of up to two juveniles observed (Class III; SD, WRS) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., on 6 September, 1997. One bird was observed the following day.
2. One immature was observed (Class III; WRS) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 8 September, 1997.
3. Up to five juveniles were observed (Class III; WRS) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 8 September, 1997.
4. A single juvenile was observed (Class III; SD) at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., on 13 September, 1997.
5. One adult bird and two juveniles were observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., on 13 September, 1997.
6. A single juvenile was observed (Class III; MB) at Whitney Lake, Dawes Co., on 14 September, 1997.
7. Two juveniles were observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Alice, Scotts Bluff Co., on 21 September, 1997.
8. Two adults and five juveniles were observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., on 13 September, 1997.
9. One juvenile was observed (Class III; WRS) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 4 October, 1997.
10. Two juveniles were observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., on 5 October, 1997.
11. Two juveniles were observed (Class III; SD) at Keystone Lake, Keith Co., on 12 October, 1997.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).

1. One bird in basic plumage was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Alice, Scotts Bluff Co., on 2 November, 1997.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*).

1. Two reports were received (Class III; RH, BP, LP) of a single bird coming to a feeder in Shelton, Buffalo County. This bird was present at this site from late November through the end of 1997. This report represents the first documented occurrence for Eurasian Collared-Dove in NE.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*).

1. One written report (Class III; WRS) and a set of photographs were received (Class I-P; JS) of a single bird south of Crescent Lake's Blue Creek exit, Garden Co., on 8 September, 1998.

2. A single bird was observed (Class III; SD) at Winter's Creek Lake, Scotts Bluff Co., on 21 September, 1997.

3. A single bird was observed (Class III; SD) at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., on 21 September, 1997.

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*).

1. A single individual was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., on 24 August, 1997.

2. A single bird was observed (Class III; SD) at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., on 1 September, 1997.

3. Two reports arrived of a single individual observed (Class III; SD; WRS) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., on 6 September, 1997.

4. Two reports were received of a single individual observed (Class III; SD; WRS) at Riverside Park Campground, Scotts Bluff Co., on 7 September, 1997.

5. A single bird was observed (Class III; SD) at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., on 21 September, 1997.

Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; DH) at Dead Timber SRA, Dodge Co., on 21 September, 1997. This sighting represents the only report for this species in eastern NE.

Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*).

1. An adult was photographed (Class I-P; AR) coming to a feeder in Kearney, Buffalo Co., on 23 February, 1997.

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*).

1. Two birds were observed (Class III; RH, LR) at Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., on 8 February, 1997.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; MB) west of Creighton, Knox Co., on 15 October, 1997.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JS) at Chadron, Dawes Co., on 12 January, 1997.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*).

1. Two separate written reports (Class III; RH, LR) were received of a female near Gibbon, Buffalo Co., on 15 June, 1997.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*).

1. Two reports were received of a single immature observed (Class III; SD; WRS) at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., on 6 September, 1997.

2. Three females or immatures were observed (Class III; SD) at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., on 13 September, 1997.

3. An immature male was observed (Class III; SD) at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., on 21 September, 1997.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*).

1. An immature male was observed (Class III; SD) at Ash Hollow State Park, Garden Co. on 12 October, 1997. This sighting represents the fourth Panhandle record for this species.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*).

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Halsey National Forest, Thomas Co., on 5 July, 1997.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*).

1. Two immature birds were observed (Class III; WRS) at Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co., on 8 September, 1997. This report constitutes the first Panhandle record of this species in NE.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*).

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; MB) at Winter's Creek Lake, Scotts Bluff Co., on 13 September, 1997. This identification constitutes the first fall Panhandle record of this species in Ne.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*).

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; ECT) at Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., on 27 May, 1997.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*).

1. An adult female was observed (Class III; ECT) at Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., on 27 May, 1997.

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*).

1. An adult coming to a feeding station was banded and photographed (Class I-P; RK) at Omaha, Douglas Co., on 20 December, 1997 (NBR 65:179).

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*).

1. A singing male was recorded (Class I-R; JG) at Meadowlark State Lake, Seward Co., on 14 July, 1997.

McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*).

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; MB) east of Creighton, Knox Co., on 10 April, 1997. This sighting represents one of the eastern-most records for this species in NE.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*).

1. A group of three immatures, two adult females and one adult male, was observed (Class III; MB) at Christ Lutheran Cemetery in Norfolk, Madison Co., on 16 November, 1997.

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*).

1. A single female or immature bird was observed (Class III; RH) near Gibbon, Buffalo Co., on 5 November, 1997.

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-1997 Unaccepted RecordsIceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*). Class IV.

1. A first-winter gull was observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., on 7 December, 1996. Identified as Iceland by some observers, others considered it a small Glaucous (NBR 65: 22). Resolution not considered possible by some NOURC members.

Brown Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*). Class IV.

1. A previously published report (NBR 43: 64-66) of a male Brown Towhee

observed at Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., on 18 September, 1975, was reviewed by the NOURC for the first time. Although suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for this species to be placed on the Official State List.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*). Class IV.

1. A previously published report (NBR 51: 84) of a male Scott's Oriole observed near Wauneta, Chase Co., was reviewed by the NOURC for the first time. The sightings (presumed same bird) on 17 and 25 June, 1983 occurred within five miles of each other. Although suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for approval.

1997 Unaccepted Records

Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*). Class VI.

1. A written report was received of a single bird observed at Boyer Chute, Sarpy Co., on 7 September, 1997. The description in this documentation lacked sufficient details to eliminate other species.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). (Class IV).

1. A bird was observed and photographed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 8 November, 1997. The photographs in this documentation lacked sufficient details to evaluate.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). Class IV.

1. One bird in third-basic plumage was observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., between 12 and 13 April, 1997. The description in this documentation lacked sufficient details to evaluate.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*). Class IV.

1. A bird was photographed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., on 22 October, 1997. The photographs in this documentation lacked sufficient details to eliminate other species.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). Class IV.

1. A single bird was observed south of the Bellevue Bridge, Sarpy Co., on 12 April, 1997. Although suggestive, the description in this documentation did not completely eliminate other possibilities.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*). Class IV.

1. An adult male oriole was observed at Mormon Island SRA, Hall Co., on 2 July, 1997. Although suggestive, the description in this documentation did not completely eliminate other possibilities.

Acknowledgments

The NOU Records Committee thanks the following observers who have contributed records included in this report: Tom Aversa (TA), Loren Blake (LB), Mark A. Brogie (MB), Charles R. Brown (CB), Mary Bomberger Brown (MBB), Morris Cox (MC), Bill DeBaets (BD), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SD), Chuck Dummer (CD), Joan Dummer (JD), Joe Gubanyi (JG), Robin Harding (RH), David Heidt (DH), Bill Huser (BH), Joel Jørgensen (JJ), Alice Kenitz (AK), Lee Kenitz (LK), Raymond C. Korpi (RK), Tom Labedz (TL), Gary Lingle (GL), Larry Malone (LM), Will Meeks (WM), Babs Padelford (BP), Loren Padelford (LP), Don Paseka (DP), Lanny Randolph (LR), Alice Rumery (AR), W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Bonnie Simons (BS), David Stage (DS), George Stoppkotte (GS), John Sullivan (JS), Edna Claire Thomas (ET).

The Current Records Committee members are Mark A. Brogie (chair), Stephen J. Dinsmore, Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Joel Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Tom Labedz, and Ross Silcock.

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