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2002 (12th) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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2002 (12th) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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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 eleven times (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, Grenon 1991, Gubanyi 1996a, Gubanyi 1996b, Gubanyi 1996c, Brogie 1997, Brogie 1998, Brogie 1999). An update of the OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA was first published in 1997 (NOU Records Committee 1997).

2000 Additions to the State List

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) Accidental, I-P

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), Accidental, I-P

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*), Accidental, I-P

Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*), Accidental, III

With these additions, the state list now includes 445 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—on 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 of the observer(s).

2000 Accepted Records

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia Stellata*)

1. An individual was observed at Winter' Creek Lake, Scotts Bluff County on 30 September 2000 (Class III; KL).
2. An individual was observed at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff County on 12 November 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

1. An individual was observed at Burchard Lake State Special Use Area on 20 July 2000 (Class III; WRS). The bird was also subsequently photographed on 22 July 2000 (Class I-P; MO).

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*)

1. A white morph bird, probably a subadult, was observed at the west end of Lake McConaughy, Keith County, between 27 September and 14 October (Class I-P; SJD).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

1. A juvenile was observed at Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes County, on 20 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

1. An adult was observed at McMurtrey Refuge, Clay County, on 7 May 2000 (Class III; JGJ). This is the second Nebraska Record.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

1. An adult was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 17 May 2000 (Class III; SJD, AB). This is the second record for this species in Nebraska.

Tufted Duck (*Athya fuligula*)

1. A male was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 26 November 2000 (Class III; SJD). This is possibly the same bird present during the winter of 1999-2000.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

1. Two juveniles were observed at Oliver Reservoir State Recreation Area, Kimball County, on 26 August 2000 (Class III: SJD).

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

1. An individual was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 15 January 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)

1. A juvenile was observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith County, on 22 August 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

1. Two juveniles were observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith County, on 8 and on 10 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

1. A juvenile was observed at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff County on 11 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*)

1. A first-year bird was observed at Massie Waterfowl Production Area on 7 May 2000 (Class III; JGJ).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus graellsii*)

1. A first-year bird was observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith County, on 30 April 2000 (Class III, SJD).

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*)

1. A second-year bird was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 13 December 2000 (Class III; SJD)

Black-legged Kittawake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

1. An adult was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 29 January 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

1. A molting adult was photographed at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff County on 20 September 2000 (Class I-P; SJD). This is the first accepted record of this species in Nebraska.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*)

1. An adult was photographed visiting a Gering feeder, Scotts Bluff County, between 15 and 16 May 2000 (Class I-P; JC). A written report was also received from 17 May 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

1. An adult male was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 26 October and again on 2 November 2000 (Class I-P; SJD).

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)

1. An individual was mist-netted and measured in the hand at Oliver Reservoir on 31 August 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)

1. An individual was observed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball County, on 24 May 2000 (Class III; CW).
2. An individual was observed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball County on 2 September 2000 (Class III; JG).

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*)

1. An individual was mist-netted, measured, and photographed at Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball County, on 31 August 2000 (Class III; SJD). This is the first accepted state record for this species.
2. An individual was mist-nested, measured, and photographed at Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball County, on 7 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).
3. An individual was observed at Mud Springs State Historical Site, Morrill County, on 11 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).
4. An individual was mist-nested and measured at Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball County, on 20 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).
5. An individual was observed at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux County on 20 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

1. An individual was observed at Cedar Point Biological Station, Keith County, on 25 October 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*)

1. An individual was observed at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux County, on 20 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)

1. A male was observed in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff County, on 6 May 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*)

1. A immature was observed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball County, on 26 August 2000 (Class III; SJD).
2. An adult male was observed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball County, on 3 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)

1. An individual was observed along Steamboat Trace Trail, Otoe County, on 25 May 2000 (Class III; LF). This is the second state record for this species.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*)

1. A male was observed in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff County, on 6 May 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*)

1. A bird was observed at Ft. Kearny State Park on 19 March 2000. The committee also accepted the supspecific identification as the eastern race, *D.p. hypochrysea* (Class III; RD).

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*)

1. A very late bird was observed in Lincoln, Lancaster County, on 11 November 2000 (Class III; MU).

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*)

1. A singing male was observed at Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge, Washington County, on 12 June 2000 (Class III; JT)

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

1. An individual was observed at Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge on 22 May 2000 (Class III; JT).

Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*)

1. A male was observed along Henry Road, in southwestern Sioux County, on 12 November 2000 (Class III; SJD). This is the first accepted state record for the species.

2. As many as 4 individuals were observed at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux County, on 13 and on 31 December and on 10 February 2001 (Class III; SJD).

Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)

1. Two birds were photographed in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, on 13 June 2000 (Class I-P; JC).

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

1. A male was observed at Cottonwood Canyon, Lincoln County, on 29 December 2000 (Class III; WRS).

In addition, records were filed for Cinnamon Teal-Blue-winged Teal hybrid, Red Knot, and Red-bellied Woodpecker.

1999 Unaccepted Records:

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

IV-Probably correct, but not beyond a 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.

Garganey (*anas querquedula*)

1. A male was on the North Platte River, below the Keystone Diversion Dam, Keith County, on 20 December 2000 (Class IV). The committee believed the description was suggestive of the species; but the sighting was very brief, and the bird was not relocated.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus shistisagus*)

1. An adult was observed and photographed at Harlan County Reservoir, Harlan County, on 22 January 2000 (Class IV). While the description was suggestive of the species and seemed to eliminate other gull species, key field marks such the pattern of the primary mirrors were not viewed due to the brevity of the observation. Given the complexities of large gull identification and the possibility of a hybrid, the committee narrowly voted against the record.

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax olberhoseri*)

1. An individual was observed at Wellfleet Lake SRA, Lincoln County, on 21 July 2000 (Class IV). While the description was suggestive and the observer made a strong case for the occurrence of this species in western Nebraska in fall, at the time of this observation, Nebraska lacked a precedent of accepted records (the first was recorded later during this fall, see above). Given the complexities of *Empidonax* flycatcher identification and the lack of a precedent, the committee narrowly voted against the record.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

1. An individual was observed Riverside Park, Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, on 4 September 2000 (Class IV). The description did not eliminate other similar *myiarchus* flycatchers.

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