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2001 (13th) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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2001 (13th) 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, Jorgensen 2001 and Jorgensen 2002).

An update of the OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA was first published in 1997 (NOU Records Committee 1997).

2001 Additions to the State List

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), Accidental, III

With this addition, the state list now includes 446 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.

Changes in Firmness of Data

Brambling changes from III to I-P

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

2001 Accepted Records

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

1. An adult was observed at Swanson Reservoir, Hitchcock Co, on 29 April 2001 (Class III; SJD). This is the third state record for this species.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

1. Two adults were observed with a large flock of White-faced Ibis at Harvard Waterfowl Production Area, Clay Co, between 14 and 20 July 2001 (Class III, WRS, SJD). This is the third state record for this species.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

1. A first-year bird was photographed at Funk WPA, Phelps Co on 19 August (Class I-P, MU). This is the third state record for the species.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

1. A gray morph adult was observed below Keystone Dam, Keith Co, on 1 January 2001 (Class III; SJD).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*)

1. A basic-plumaged bird was observed at the north unit of Hultine WPA, Clay Co, on 15 June 2001 (Class III; WRS).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

1. A light-morph adult was seen at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co, on 21 July 2001 (Class III; SJD).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

1. An adult was observed at 2211 2nd Avenue, Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co, on 11 May 2001 (Class I-P; PD).

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*)

1. Two documentations were reviewed of an immature coming to a feeder at 725 E. 5th Street in Lexington, Dawson Co, on 11 November 2001. One documentation was a written description (Class III:RH); the second included both a written description as well as a series of photographs. Two committee members voted the photographs as not diagnostic by themselves, thus the record is accepted as Class III (MU). This is the first record, documented or otherwise, for Nebraska.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*)

1. An individual of the subspecies *caniceps* (Gray-headed Junco) was photographed at the Riverside Zoo, Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co, on 2 February 2001 (Class I-P; KL).

Black Rosy-finch (*Leucosticte atrata*)

1. 3 Males and 3 females or immatures were observed along Henry Road, southwestern Sioux Co, on 21 January 2001 (Class III; SJD).
2. A male was observed at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, Sioux Co, on 10 February 2001 (Class III; SJD).

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*).

1. A male was observed at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co, on the unusual date of 16 June 2001 (Class III; SJD).

Pre-2001 Accepted Records**Black-bellied Whistling-duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)**

1. A pair of adults was reported at North Harvard Basin (Clay County Wetland #1) on 2 August 1999, and presumably the same pair was photographed at North Hultine Waterfowl Production Area, Clay Co, on 22 August 1999 (Class I-P; JGJ).

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

1. A photograph was submitted of a mounted sub-adult male that was taken on 6 November 1992 below Calamus Reservoir, Garfield Co (Class I-P; SW).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

1. A light-morph adult was noted at Merritt Reservoir, Cherry Co, between 28 and 29 August 1999 (Class I-P; JS).

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

1. A singing bird was observed from 23 May through 13 June 2000 in the Tyler Falls area of Ft. Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Cherry Co. The bird's song was recorded on 23 May (Class I-R; CA).

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

1. An adult was photographed at Ashfall State Historical Park, Antelope Co, on 27 May 1999 (Class I-P; MB).

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)

1. A singing male was observed and heard singing east of Buffalo Bridge on the north side of the Niobrara River within Ft. Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Cherry Co, on 4, 5, and 19 June 2000. The bird was described and the was song recorded on 19 June (Class I-R; CA).

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*)

1. A sub-adult male was videotaped at a feeder in West Point, Cuming Co, on 6 January 1999 (Class I-P; WRS). This is an additional record of the same bird accepted in Jorgensen (2001).

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

1. A female coming to a feeder in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co, was photographed between 18 and 19 April 1999 (Class I-P; SJD). The photograph supplements a previously reviewed written description by the same observer and reported in Jorgensen (2001).

Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)

1. A green-backed male was photographed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co, on 22 August 1999 (Class I-P, JG). This is another record of likely the same individual accepted in Jorgensen (2001)

An additional record was filed for Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

2001 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.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

1. A female was found at Walnut Creek State Recreation Area on 1 April 2001 (Class IV). While suggestive, the description did not adequately eliminate Common Goldeneye.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

1. A description of the call of a bird heard on the early morning of 9 July at Facus Springs, Morrill Co, was very suggestive, but was not convincing to accept (Class IV).

Sage Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*)

1. An adult was observed at the gate to pasture #245 of the Oglala

National Grassland, Sioux Co (Class IV). While very suggestive, enough committee members believed the description was too brief.

Pre-2001 Unaccepted Records

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

1. Photographs of a female or immature hummingbird that visited a feeder at Gretna, Sarpy Co, September 2000 (Class IV) did not show diagnostic field marks that would allow certain identification.

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