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1991 (Fourth) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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1991 (FOURTH) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

The functions and methods of the NOU Records Committee (hereinafter, "the committee") have been described previously (*NBR* 54:72-4).

This report includes accounts of records evaluated by the committee in the last year, covering mostly records with accession numbers 247-94. All records mentioned here are available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln.

STATE LIST

Errors made in this section of the third report of the committee should be corrected as follows:

- the genus of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is *Nyctanassa*
- the specific epithet of American Pipit is *rubescens*.

With this report, the following changes are made in the official list of the birds of Nebraska:

Additions

- Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*): Accidental, III, insert after Say's Phoebe

Deletions

- Delete Carolina Chickadee
- Delete "Brown Towhee"

Changes in Status of Evidence

- Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*): Accidental, change from III to I-P
- Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*): Accidental, change from I-P to I-S
- Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*): Accidental, change from II to I-P
- Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*): Regular, change from undocumented to I-R

Accepted Records

Briefly, records in the following classes are listed as accepted:

- I-S—a diagnostic, labeled specimen exists
- I-P—a diagnostic, labeled photograph exists
- I-R—a diagnostic, labeled recording exists
- III—one or two independently written diagnostic documentations exist.

Each account of an accepted record includes a brief statement about the encounter, noting the species, class, date, approximate location, and initials of the observer/s.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). class III.

Two birds were seen 26 May, 1991, on Valentine N. W. R., Cherry County; SD.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).

1. A bird probably in alternate plumage was seen 12 May, 1991, west of Fremont, Dodge County (class III, *NBR* 59:93-4, SD). [Editor's Note: A photograph of this bird, taken by Mark Brogie, was published in *NBR* 59:94].
2. Another bird probably in second year plumage was seen 23 May, 1991, over the Missouri River about eight miles upstream from the Big Sioux River, Dakota County (class III, *NBR* 59:94, BH, JP).

Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*). class III.

A male in an intermediate plumage was seen 3 March, 1991, at Carter Lake, Douglas County; TB, AG.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*). class I-P.

A bird probably in female plumage was photographed 3 May, 1991, at Lake Yankton, Cedar County; LB.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

1. An adult male was seen 30 October, 1990, at the Gering Sewage Lagoons, Scotts Bluff County (class III, AK)
2. An adult and an immature, both males, were seen 12-13 January 1991, at Lake Ogallala, Keith County (class III, SD).

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). class III.

One bird was seen 26 May, 1990, at the Gering Sewage Lagoons, Scotts Bluff County; AK.

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*). class I-P.

An adult and a nest with three eggs were photographed during the interval 21-3 May, 1990, about 5 miles west of Bushnell, Kimball County (NBR 58:98-9); MC.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*). class I-P.

Four birds were photographed 16 May 1991, at Chain Lake, Holt County; LB.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). class I-P.

An adult of a light form was photographed 30 June 1990, at Lewis and Clark Lake, Knox County; MS.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). class I-P.

An adult in alternate plumage was photographed 28 April 1990, below Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar County (NBR 58:99-100); MB. This was probably the same bird photographed there on 27 April, 1990, treated in unaccepted records.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). class I-P.

Three adults in alternate plumage were photographed on 25 May, 1990, at Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes County; SD.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). class III.

One bird in first-winter plumage was seen 12 January, 1991, at Lake Ogallala, Keith County; SD.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). class I-S.

An adult of the race *R. t. tridactyla* found dead 21/2 May 1990, on the shore of Lake Ogallala, Keith County, is the state's first specimen, ZM-16143 at the

University of Nebraska State Museum. The bird apparently starved after the bones of a channel catfish lodged in its esophagus. A written description and photocopy of an intact wing tip are also on file; DB, PJ, TL.

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*). class I-P.

A bird was photographed at a feeder in Orleans, Harlan County, in December, 1990 (NBR 59:96); RSm.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus playtcerus*).

A bird in a female/immature plumage photographed on unspecified dates during the interval of 17-24 October, 1990, at a feeder in Seward, Seward County (class I-P, Am. Birds 45:174, JG), was probably the same bird photographed there on 18 October, 1990 (class I-P, BP), and seen 19 October, 1990 (class III, RS), and 21 October, 1990 (class III, TB).

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*).

A female was photographed on 24 January, 1991, in a yard in Bellevue immediately adjacent to Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County (class I-P, SM). This was probably the same bird seen 14 February, 1991, from Fontenelle Forest's interpretive center (class III, TJ) and within Fontenelle Forest on 27 March, 1991 (class III, RW).

Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*). class I-R.

A singing bird was recorded in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux County, on 9 July, 1991; RS.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). class III.

A relocated newspaper clipping describes a male seen 21 November, 1954, near Carter Lake in Omaha, Douglas County (NBR 23:28-9); RC. This is the first accepted record for the state.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). class III.

A female was seen 19 May, 1991, in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County; JT.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*). class III.

A male was seen 28 April, 1991, in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County; KC.

Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*).

1. A singing male was observed 27 May, 1990, near U. S. highway 34 in Dundy County (class III, BP, LP).
2. Another singing male another 21 June, 1990, about 14 miles south of Morrill, Scotts Bluff County (class III, AK).

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). class III.

A singing male was observed on 4 and 6 May, 1990, at Schilling State Wildlife Management Area, Cass County; CR.

NOU Annual Meeting
May 15-17, 1991
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Mark it on your calendar and make plans to attend!

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*), class I-P.



A bird probably in female plumage was photographed 22 May, 1988, in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff County (NBR 58:107); BH.

In addition to the above records, the following materials documenting birds considered regular in the state have been received and filed by the committee (p, photographs; w, written):

- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Scotts Bluff County (w, AK)
- Ross' Goose (p, NBR 34:46)
- Greater Scaup in Cedar County (p, LB)
- Hooded Merganser (w, JH)
- Mississippi Kite (p, GK)
- Long-billed Dowitcher in Holt County (p, LB)
- Tufted Titmouse in Seward County (p, JG)
- Golden-winged Warbler in Lancaster County (w, JH)
- Prothonotary Warbler (p, MD, NBR 58:106)
- a partially albino Red-winged Blackbird (p, MD, NBR 58:108)
- a partially albino Common Grackle (p, BW, NBR 58:108)
- Rosy Finches (p, HH, NBR 58:56)

Unaccepted Records

Briefly, records in the following classes are listed as unaccepted: class IV, probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt based only on the available evidence; class V, insufficient evidence; class VI, probably released, escaped, or misidentified. Each account includes the species, date, approximate location, reasons for the committee's failure to accept, and class.

American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*).

A description of a bird seen 28 May, 1991, near Greenwood, Cass County, was suggestive, but the circumstances of the encounter did not allow detailed observation, and the record was placed in class V.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*).

A description of a bird seen 22 February, 1989, near Murdock, Cass County, lacked detail, and was placed in class V.

Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*).

Additional information published (*Prairie Nat.* 22:137-8) regarding a bird seen 16 April, 1987, at Mormon Island Crane Meadows, Hall County, does not eliminate Whimbrel (*N. phaeopus*) nor clarify the timing or existence of any notes made during or after the sighting, and was placed in class V.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*).

A description of a bird seen on 30 May, 1991, in Dawes County was not sufficiently detailed to eliminate other *Numenius* spp. and was placed in class IV.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).

Photographs taken of a bird on 27 April, 1990, below Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar County, were not considered clear enough to eliminate other spp. and were placed in class IV. This was probably the same bird photographed there on 28 April, 1990, treated under accepted records.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*).

A description of a singing and calling bird seen 16 May, 1991, in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County, was suggestive, but was prepared at some remove from the date of the encounter. Other *Empidonax* spp. may not have been eliminated by the description, and it was placed in class IV.

Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*).

A published account (*NBR* 42:57) of two birds in hand 16 July, 1974, in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County, does not include specific measurements nor eliminate immature, worn, or molting Black-capped Chickadees (*P. atricapillus*), and was placed in class V.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*).

A description of a bird seen 14 October, 1990, in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County, was of a plumage nearly impossible to distinguish from Mourning Warbler (*O. philadelphia*), and was placed in class IV.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*).

A description of a bird seen 9 May, 1991, in Hastings, Adams County, was suggestive, but did not clearly eliminate female Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) and was placed in class IV.

"Brown Towhee" (*Pipilo* spp.).

This taxon has been recognized by the A. O. U. as including two species. A published account (*NBR* 44:30) of a bird at a feeder 18 September, 1975, in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, lacked sufficient detail to place the bird in one of these taxa and was placed in class V.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*).

A description of a bird seen 13 October, 1990, at Papio Dam Site 11, Douglas County, did not include sufficient detail to eliminate similar species and was placed in class V.

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The committee members are Tanya E. Bray, Mark A. Brogie, Alan G. Grenon, chairman, Joe Gubanyi, Thomas E. Labedz, Wayne J. Mollhoff, Loren Padelford, and Rick Wright. Past members who acted on many of these records are Alice Kenitz and Babs Padelford.

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