University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Nebraska Bird Review | Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

3-1996

1992, 1993 (Fifth) Report of the NOU Records Committee

Joseph A. Gubanyi
Concordia University, Seward, NE, Joseph.Gubanyi@cune.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev

 Part of the Ornithology Commons, Poultry or Avian Science Commons, and the Zoology Commons

Gubanyi, Joseph A., "1992, 1993 (Fifth) Report of the NOU Records Committee" (1996). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 863.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/863

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska Bird Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Gubanyi, "1992, 1993 (Fifth) Report of the NOU Records Committee," from Nebraska Bird Review (March 1996) 64(1).
Copyright 1996, Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. Used by permission.

1992,1993 (FIFTH) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

Compiled by Joe Gubanyi, Concordia College,
800 North Columbia, Seward, NE 68434

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 birds was last published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988) and has been appended three times (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, and Grenon 1991).

This report includes accounts submitted in late 1991 as well as all records submitted during the calendar years of 1992 and 1993, covering records with accession numbers 295-358. 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 on the back cover of the latest issue of **The Nebraska Bird Review.**

State List

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

Additions

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): Accidental, III, insert between Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) and Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)

Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*): Accidental, I-P, insert between Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) and Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): Accidental, III, insert between Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) and Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

Change in Status

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*): Accidental, change from III to I-P

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*): Regular, change from undocumented to I-R

Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*): Accidental, change from III to I-P

Accepted Records

In order for a record to be accepted, a minimum of 6 votes in favor are required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOU Records Committee 1986). Records in the following classes are 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 written diagnostic documentation 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 initial(s) of observers.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). Class III.
A juvenile was observed and described at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas County, 20 November 1993; RS.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). Class I-P.
An adult was observed and photographed at Desoto National Wildlife Refuge (NBR 60:69), Washington County, 6 May 1992; BR.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*).
A written description (class III; KtK) and a set of photographs (class I-P; PK) were received for a single adult bird observed at Hackberry Lake, Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, Cherry County, 4 September 1993.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). Class I-P.
A single bird was observed and photographed at Lake Yankton, Cedar County, 10 March 1993; RC.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*). Class III.
An immature or female was observed and described at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster County, 27 November 1992; PK, KK.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). Class I-P.
A single bird was observed and photographed at Grove Lake Wildlife Management Area, Antelope County, 5 November 1991; LB.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*).
1. A single bird was observed and photographed at Phillips Marsh, Hamilton County, 10 June 1991 (class I-P); CM, MM.
2. A single bird was observed and photographed at Lake Yankton, Knox County, 30 May 1992 (class I-P); LB.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*).
Two separate reports were received for birds at the same location. Nesting was observed and a single bird was observed and photographed 4 mi east of Antioch along Highway 2, Sheridan County, 5 June 1991 (class I-P); MC. Four birds were observed and described at this location 16 June 1991 (class III); RS.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*). Class I-P.
A single bird was observed and photographed at Lake Babcock North, 4 mi north of Columbus, Platte County, 26 May 1991; MB.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*).
1. A single adult breeding plumage female was observed and described in Phelps County, 1 August 1993 (Class III); LR.
2. A single basic plumage bird was observed and described near Funk, Phelps County, 24 August 1993 (Class III); JoJ.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). Class III.
A juvenile was observed and described near Axtell, Kearney County, 21,22 September 1993; JoJ. This represents the first documented occurrence for this species in Nebraska.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). Class II.
Four reports were received of a single bird observed and described at Conestoga Lake, Lancaster County, 15-17 December 1991; TB, JG, PK, TL.

Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*).
Two written reports (class III; SD, RS) and three photographs (class I-P; SD, JG, BR) were received of a single bird observed and described at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln County, 17-23 December 1992 (NBR 61:88-90). This represents the first documented occurrence for this species

in Nebraska.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). Class III.
A single report of as many as 54 individuals were observed and described at Lake McConaughy, Keith County, 15 June and 27,28 July 1991 (NBR 60:31); RS.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).
1. A single first winter bird was observed and described at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln County, 17 December 1992 (Class III); SD.
2. A single first winter bird was observed and described at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, 18 December 1992 (Class III); SD.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*). Class III.
1. A single immature bird was observed and described at Gavin's Point, Cedar County, 10 November 1991; BH.
2. A single first winter bird was observed and described at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster County, 11 January 1993 (NBR 60:139); BP, LP.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*).
1. A single immature bird was observed and described at Johnson Lake, Gosper County, 28 November 1991 (Class III); PK.
2. A single first winter bird was observed and described (NBR 60:32) at Gavin's Point, Cedar County, 1 December 1991 (Class III); BH.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). Class III.
1. Two reports were received of a single adult bird observed (assumed to be the same bird) and described at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster County, 16 and 24 February 1992; JH, AG. These reports represent the first documented occurrence of Lesser Black-backed Gull in Nebraska.
2. Two reports were received of a single third-winter bird observed and described at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln County, 17 December 1992 (NBR 61:87); SD, RS.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*).
1. A single first-winter bird was observed and described (NBR 60:32) at Gavin's Point, Cedar County, 1 December 1991 (Class III); BH.
2. A single first-winter bird was observed and described at Johnson Lake, Gosper County, 23 December 1991 (Class III); PK.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*). Class I-R.
A single bird was heard and recorded at Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County, during May, 1990; JG. While Alder Flycatchers are thought to be regular in Nebraska, this is the first documented record of its occurrence.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*). Class I-P.
Nesting birds, including fledged young, were observed and a single adult was photographed at Ash Fall Fossil Beds State Park, Antelope County, 17 June 1992; LB. While rock wrens are regular in western Nebraska, this eastern record is out of its normal range (Johnsgard 1980).

Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*).
Two reports were received of a single bird observed and described (NBR 60:140) at Walker Valley View Development Area, Knox County, 18 May and 9 June 1992 (Class III); BH, TB. A photograph of the bird (NBR 60:163-164) taken at the same location on 9 June 1992 was also received (Class I-P); MB. A singing male was observed and recorded at Walker Valley View Development Area, Knox County, 9 June 1992 (class I-R); BP.

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*). Class III.
A single bird was observed during a Christmas Bird Count and described near Gering, Scotts Bluff County, 21 December 1991; AK. This record represents an unusually late occurrence for this species (Johnsgard 1980).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*).
1. A single bird was observed and photographed in western Kimball County, 11 July 1991 (class I-P); SD.
2. A single bird was observed and photographed at Chadron State Park, Dawes County, 11 July 1992 (class I-P); NJ, MJ.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*). Class I-P.
As many as 3 birds were observed and one was photographed south of Chambers, Holt County, 1,3,9,12, and 17 October 1991; LB.

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*). Class I-P.
Three birds were observed and described below Lake Ogallala on the North Platte River, Keith County, 18 December 1992; SD. This record represents an unusually late occurrence for this species (Johnsgard 1980).

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*).
1. One written report (class III; BH) and two photographs (class I-P; LB, JJ) of a single bird that was observed near Wakefield, Dixon County, 2 January to 14 February, 1993 (NBR 61:90).
2. A single bird was observed and photographed in Lincoln, Lancaster County, 31 March to 9 April, 1993 (Class I-P); GA, IA.

In addition to the above records, photographs of a probable Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus* sp.) were received and filed. This species is considered regular in the state.

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.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*). Class V.
A single bird was observed and described along the Platte River, Polk County, 2 June 1991. The observer was unable to see whether the bill was curved or the diagnostic white face pattern of the white-faced ibis.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). Class VI.
A single immature bird was observed and described at Crystal Cove, Dakota County, 9 November 1991. The committee accepted the identification of the bird. However, given the frequent domestication for this species, the committee did not accept the record because evidence was not offered to show that this bird was not a released or escaped bird.

Lesser Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). Class IV.
A single bird was observed and described at Funk Lagoon, Phelps County, 26 September 1992. Although it was believed the identification was correct, some reviewers felt the

description did not exclude Black-bellied Plover. Lesser Golden Plover is now split into two species, Pacific Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) and American Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). Lesser Golden Plover (now called American Plover) is considered regular in the region. Although not expected in Nebraska, Pacific Plover will present more of a challenge to distinguish from American Plover in the field.

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). Class IV.
Two birds were observed near Bertrand, Phelps County, 30 August 1992. Although it was believed the identification was correct, some reviewers felt the description did not exclude Wilson's Phalarope.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). Class IV.
A single first-winter bird was observed and described at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln County, 17 December 1992. While an accepted documentation exists for the same bird, the description in this documentation did not eliminate all other possibilities.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). Class V
A single immature bird was observed and described at Louisville Lakes State Park, Cass County, 24 November 1991. The description lacked sufficient details to eliminate other possible species.

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*). Class IV.
A thorough written documentation was submitted of a single bird observed and described 1 mi. north of exit 1, I-80, Kimball County, 17 May 1992. This is a very interesting documentation. Dusky Flycatcher has not been documented in Nebraska. There are records for Kansas, Oklahoma and South Dakota. It breeds in the Black Hills (Johnsgard 1979) and migrants should be expected in western Nebraska. However, a non-singing *Empidonax* is very difficult to identify (Kaufman 1990), making this a challenging bird to document.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*). Class IV.
A single bird was observed and described in southern Sioux County, 30 August-2 September 1991. Although it was believed the identification was correct, some reviewers felt the description did not exclude other gnatcatcher species. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are considered regular only in the eastern part of the state (Johnsgard 1980) and do not breed in the Black Hills or in areas geographically north of the Pine Ridge.

Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte arctoa*). Class V.
Three birds were observed and described in the Platte River Valley in the Grand Island area, 7 November 1993. The description lacked sufficient details to eliminate other possible species.

Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*). Class V.
Several birds were observed and described in the Platte River Valley in the Grand Island area, 7 November 1993. The description lacked sufficient details to eliminate other possible species.

The NOU Records Committee thanks the following observers who have contributed records included in this report: George Alexander, Irene Alexander, Norris Alfred, Loren Blake, Tanya Bray, Mark Brogie, Robert Chabone, Mary Clausen, Jan DeGarmo, Kevin DeGarmo, Stephen Dinsmore, Alan Grenon, Joe Gubanyi, Jeff Hall, Robin Harding, Helen Hughson, Bill Huser, Mary Jensen, Norm Jensen, Joel Jorgensen (JoJ), Jan Johnson (JJ), Karla Kaufman (KK), Kathryn Kaufman (KtK), Paul Kaufman, Alice Kenitz, Tom Labedz,

Connie McCartney, Mary McCartney, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Scott Purdy, Lanny Randolph, B. J. Rose, Ross Silcock.

Current Records Committee members are Mark Brogie (chair), Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Joel Jorgensen, Tom Labedz, Loren Padelford, Ross Silcock. Past members who acted on records in this report include Tanya Bray, Alan Grenon, Joe Gubanyi, William Scharf, Rick Wright.

Literature Cited

Grenon, A. G. 1990. 1990 (third) report of the NOU Records Committee. *The Nebraska Bird Review* 58:90-97.

Grenon, A. G. 1991. 1991 (fourth) report of the NOU Records Committee. *The Nebraska Bird Review* 59:150-155.

Johnsgard, P.A. 1979. Birds of the Great Plains, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Johnsgard, P.A. 1980. A revised list of the birds of Nebraska and adjacent states. Occasional Papers of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Number 6, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Kaufman, K. 1990. A field guide to advanced birding. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts.

Mollhoff, W.J. 1989. Second report of the NOU Record Committee. *The Nebraska Bird Review* 57:42-47.

NOU Records Committee. 1986. Bylaws of the NOU Records Committee. *The Nebraska Bird Review* 54:72-74.

_____. 1988. The official list of the birds of Nebraska. *The Nebraska Bird Review* 56:86-96.