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2007 (19th) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

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The functions and methods of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (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 updated two times (NOU Records Committee 1997, 2004).

The "Official List" has been appended seventeen times: (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007; Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003). This report includes all accounts submitted during the calendar year of 2007 covering 30 records with accession numbers 1176-1205.

All records mentioned here are available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM), Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian, whose address can be found in the latest issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review* (NBR).

State List

The American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998) and the Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, and Forty-seventh Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007) contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds. The following summarizes all 2007 revisions by the AOU in regards to changes in scientific names, and changes in assignments to family and order of species to the most recently published "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2003" (NBR 72: 108-126).

Additionally, the list reflects changes in frequency of occurrence as determined by the NOU Records Committee, which reviewed records of bird occurrences in Nebraska for 1998-2007. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 2004):

Regular - acceptably reported in 9-10 of the past 10 years.

Casual - acceptably reported in 4-7 of the past 10 years.

Accidental - acceptably reported in 0-2 of the past 10 years.

Extirpated - not acceptably reported in the past 50 years.

Extinct - no longer found alive anywhere in the world.

The frequency of occurrence for any species that is acceptably reported in 3 or 8 of the last 10 years is discussed by the committee and placed in a category felt most appropriate by the committee.

With this report, the following changes are made to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2003".

Changes in Frequency of Occurrence

1. White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) Regular to Casual.

Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions and/or Changes in English or Scientific Names

1. Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*) becomes Taiga Bean-Goose (*Anser fabalis*) as a result of a split in the Bean-Goose complex. *A. f. middendorffii* is the subspecies associated with the sightings in Nebraska (AOU 2007).
2. Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) becomes (*Megaceryle alcyon*) (AOU 2007).

Changes in Sequence

1. The vultures (family - *Cathartidae*) are moved from the order Ciconiiformes and once again placed in the order Falconiformes (AOU 2007). The *Cathartidae* family will be placed at the beginning of the Falconiformes, in front of the *Accipitridae* family in the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska".

Criteria for Accepted Records

In order 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 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 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.

Pre-2007 Accepted Records

Raven (*Corvus*) species unknown

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; JO) near the Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve headquarters, north of Johnstown, Brown Co., 29 December, 2006. Initially submitted as Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) but changed to raven species as bird was not heard. Accession # 1176

2007 Changes in Firmness of Data

1. Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) changed from Class III to Class I-P.

2007 Additions to State List

There were four new additions in 2007. With the addition of these species, the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" now stands at 452 species.

1. Frigatebird: *Fregata* (unknown species)
Insert: Family Fregatidae: Frigatebirds after Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)
Insert: *Fregata* (unknown species), Accidental, I-P after Fregatidae

2. Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*), Accidental, III
Insert between: Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) and Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
3. Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*), Accidental, I-S
Insert after: Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*)
4. Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*), Accidental, I-P
Insert after: House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

2007 Accepted Records

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

1. A first-year bird was photographed (Class I-P, PD) at Harvard WPA, Clay Co., 04 November 2007. Accession # 1203

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

1. A lone adult bird was observed (Class III; EB) south of Bellevue, Sarpy Co., 25 May 2007. Accession # 1187

Frigatebird (*Fregata*) species unknown

1. A frigatebird (unidentifiable to species) was photographed (Class I-P, TG, BT) near the 1st Street Elkhorn River Bridge in Norfolk, Madison Co., at dusk on 28 August 2007. Accession # 1191
**This represents the first documented record for this genus in Nebraska.
2. An all dark frigatebird (unidentifiable to species) was observed below Gavins Point Dam, Cedar Co.; 08 September 2007 (Class III, MG). Accession # 1194

Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*)

1. A single bird was described (Class III; CRB) and photographed (SK) on 25 April 2007 at a "vulture roost" below Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., (near the entrance gate to the Cedar Point Biological Station). The photographic evidence was very suggestive but was deemed insufficient to be stand-alone documentation. Accession # 1186
**This represents the first documented record for this species in Nebraska.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, JG) at Tamora Basin WPA, Seward Co., 17 May 2007. Accession # 1185

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)

1. A second-year bird was observed (Class III; MAB) at Weigand Marina, Knox Co., 03 October 2007. Accession # 1195

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*)

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, DP, JP) at Lake Babcock/Lake North, Platte Co., 08 September 2007. The bird was found dead on 10 September and salvaged (SR) under authorization of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The carcass was donated to the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM), prepared (Class I-S, TL),

and added to the research collection as # ZM-18317 - an adult female in definitive basic plumage (Rehme et al. 2008). Accession # 1192

**This represents the first documented record for this species in Nebraska.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*)

1. A description (Class III, RS) was received of a single bird observed at a feeder in Bellevue, Sarpy Co., 18 & 22 October 2007. Accession # 1200
2. A second written description (Class III, BG) was received of the above bird from observations on 18 & 22 October 2007. Accession # 1201

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

1. One of two birds present was photographed (Class I-P, JT) at Eppley Airfield, Sarpy Co., 03 June 2007. Accession # 1188
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation for this species.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

1. A single bird was observed (Class III, WJM) south of Exit 1, Kimball Co., 28 June 2007. Accession # 1189
2. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, JG) and recorded at the above location 10 July 2007. Accession # 1190
Subsequent sightings at this location in 2007 led to the "First Report of Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) Breeding in the Nebraska Panhandle Region" (Mollhoff et al. 2008).

Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*)

1. A single bird was observed (Class III, AD) at Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 25 October 2007. Accession # 1202

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

1. A single adult male was photographed (Class I-P, KL via DL) coming to a bird waterer south of Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 21 February 2007. Accession # 1180

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) east of Madrid, Perkins Co., 22 April 2007. Accession # 1181

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)

1. A single female was observed (Class III, KD) east of Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 08 May 2007. Accession # 1184

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, JC) coming to a bird feeder near Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 11 December 2007. Accession # 1204

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

1. A single adult was photographed (Class I-P, BW) on White River Road, Sioux Co., 04 May 2007. Accession # 1182

Smith's Longspur (Calcarius pictus)

1. A single male bird was observed (Class III, RE) at Hultine WPA, Clay Co., 10 October 2007. Accession # 1199

Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus)

1. A single immature male bird was observed (Class III, LR, RH) east of Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 15 December 2007. Accession # 1205

Lesser Goldfinch (Carduelis psaltria)

1. A "black-backed" male was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) along Wright's Gap road, Scotts Bluff Co., 01 September 2007. Accession # 1193

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Passer montanus)

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, ELB) near Enola, Madison Co., 03 February 2007. Accession # 1179
**This represents the first documented record for this species in Nebraska (Brogie 2007).

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.

Unaccepted Records (Received in 2007)*Eurasian Wigeon (Anas penelope)*

1. A description of an adult male observed 06 March 2007 at Spikerush WMA, York Co., lacked sufficient details for approval. Class IV. Accession # 1198

Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura)

1. A series of written reports were received of a single bird observed at the Riverside Zoo in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co.; 11 & 15 January 2007. Although very suggestive, the descriptions in these documentations lacked sufficient details for approval. Class IV. Accession # 1177

Slaty-backed Gull (Larus schistisagus)

1. A bird described as "at least a 3-year gull, probably going into the 4th year" was observed at Offutt Air Force Base Lake, Sarpy Co., 21 December 2006. This observation occurred during the time that this

species was present nearby at Lake Manawa, Iowa; however, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for the addition of this species to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska". Class V. Accession # 1178

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

1. A written report was received of a single bird observed near Brownlee, Cherry Co., 29 September 2007. Although very suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for approval. Class IV. Accession # 1197

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)

1. A written report was received of a male and female in an orchard at Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 08 May 2007. The description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for approval (Class IV); however, this was the initial sighting that led to the above Blue-winged Warbler documentation (Accession # 1184) and was, at least in part, undoubtedly correct. Accession # 1183

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*)

1. A photograph was received of an immature *Oporornis* female warbler observed south of Nickerson, Dodge Co., 08 September 2007. Although suggestive, the documentation provided did not conclusively rule out a female Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*), which also may have broken eye rings. Class IV. Accession # 1196

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2007 NOU Records Committee Members

Mark A. Brogie (chair), Paul Dunbar, Joe Gubanyi, Bill Huser, Joel Jorgensen, Loren Padelford, and T.J. Walker.

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