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## 2004 (16th) Report of the NOU Records Committee

Mark A. Brogie  
*Nebraska Ornithologists' Union*

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2004 (16th) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

Compiled by Mark A. Brogie (NOURC Chairperson)  
508 Seeley  
Creighton, NE 68729

The functions and methods of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union 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 fourteen times: (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, 1991, Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003). This report includes all accounts submitted during the calendar year of 2004 covering 25 records with accession numbers 1085 -1109. All records mentioned here will be 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*.

**State List**

The American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998) and the Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-third, and Forty-fourth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2003) contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds. The following summarizes all 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" (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 1995-2004. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 1988):

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 Firmness of Data**

1. Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*) 1-P to 1-S  
(UNSM # ZM-17444)

**Changes in Frequency of Occurrence**

1. Brant (*Branta bernicla*) Accidental to Casual
2. Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) Accidental to Casual
3. Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) Casual to Regular
4. Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) Casual to Regular
5. Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Casual to Regular
6. White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) Casual to Regular
7. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) Casual to Regular

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

1. The Canada Goose complex is split into two species:  
Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) consists of the High Arctic-breeding, smaller-bodied birds of the former subspecies *B.c. asiatica* ("Bering") (extinct), *B.c. hutchinsii* ("Richardson's"), *B.c. leucopareia* ("Aleutian"), *B.c. minima* ("Cackling"), and *B.c. taverneri* ("Taverner's"), all smaller members of the lesser complex.  
Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) now consists of the more southerly-distributed, larger-bodied taxa of *B.c. canadensis* ("Atlantic"), *B.c. fulva* ("Vancouver"), *B.c. interior* ("Interior"), *B.c. maxima* ("Giant"), *B.c. moffitti* ("Moffitt's"), *B.c. occidentalis* ("Dusky"), and *B.c. parvipes* ("Lesser"), all larger members of the lesser complex.
2. Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) becomes *Actitis macularius*.
3. Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) becomes *Helmitheros vermivorum*.

**Changes in Sequence**

A change is made in the taxonomic order of the genus *Branta* in the Official Checklist. The new sequence is as follows:

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)  
Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)  
Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

**2004 Additions to State List**

1. Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). Regular 1-S (UNSM # ZM-11999)

With this addition, the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" stands at 448 species.

### Criteria for Accepted Records

For a record to be accepted, a minimum of six 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 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-2004 Records Accepted

#### Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

1. A single adult male (presumably the same bird present each winter since 1999) was photographed (Class I-P; SJD) on Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 19 December 2003.

#### Little Gull (*Larus minutus*)

1. A basic adult bird was observed (Class III; SJD) on Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19, 21 December 2003.

#### Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

1. One adult in basic plumage was photographed (Class I-P; SJD) at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 19 December 2003.

#### Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

1. A written description was received of a first winter bird (Class III; WRS) at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 25 December 2003.

#### White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; EP) in Kearney, Buffalo Co., 16 August 2003.

#### Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

1. A single bird in the yard of Robin Harding and Lanny Randolph, 5 miles SSE of Gibbon, Buffalo Co., was photographed (Class I-P; GL) on 11 May 2003.

#### Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

1. A lone bird was observed (Class III; RH, LR) on the rocks near Ogallala Beach, Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., on 21 December 2003.

**Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)**

1. A second-year male was netted, banded, and photographed (Class 1-P; MH, SH) near West Point, Cuming Co., 25 May 2003.

**2004 Accepted Records****Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)**

1. A group of four birds was observed (Class III; PM) on a farm pond in northwest Lancaster Co., 24 May 2004.

**Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)**

1. An adult male was photographed (Class 1-P; JJ) at Hupp WMA, Thayer Co., 14 March 2004.

**Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)**

1. A bird in near-alternate plumage was photographed (Class 1-P; JO, PL) at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co., 27 May and 02 June 2004.

**Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)**

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class 1-P; SD) on Harlan County Reservoir, Harlan Co., 20 June 2004.

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

1. A juvenile bird was photographed (Class 1-P; EB, MB) in Creighton, Knox Co., 09 June 2004.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*)**

1. A single non-breeding adult bird was observed (Class III ; TJW) at Jeffrey Lake, Lincoln Co., 31 October 2004.

**Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)**

1. A first-winter bird was described in detail (Class III; MI) from Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19 January 2004.

**Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)**

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; JD) approximately 13 miles west of Geneva in Clay Co., 26 November 2004. This is the second accepted record for this species in Nebraska.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)**

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class 1-P; NP) near Filley, Gage Co., 25 June 2004.

**Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*)**

1. A single bird was photographed (Class 1-P; TJW) at Wapiti WMA, Lincoln Co., 30 August 2004.

**MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*)**

1. An adult male was netted, banded, and photographed (Class 1-P; MH, SH) near West Point, Cuming Co., 29 May 2004.

*Savannah Sparrow (Passerculus sandwichensis)*

1. An adult bird was observed (Class III; CF, LF) near Nebraska City, Otoe Co., 22 January 2004.

*Scott's Oriole (Icterus parisorum)*

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; CD) in Kearney, Buffalo Co., 29 June 2004.

*Pine Grosbeak (Pinicola enucleator)*

1. A male was photographed (Class 1-P; SD) in Grant, Perkins Co., 20 December 2004.

**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.

**2004 Unaccepted Records***Greater Roadrunner (Geococcyx californianus)*

1. A written report was received of a single bird observed running across a gravel road near Funk Lagoon, Phelps Co., 29 March 2004. Although suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for this species to be placed on the Official State List.

**2004 Records Still Under Review***Acadian Flycatcher (Empidonax virescens)*

1. A photo of a bird netted and banded at the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey, Thomas Co., 03 September 2003, is still under review.

*Hammond's Flycatcher (Empidonax hammondi)*

1. A photo of a bird netted and banded at the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey, Thomas Co., 03 September 2003, is still under review.

### Acknowledgments

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2004 NOU Records Committee members: Mark A. Brogie (chair), Joe Gubanyi, Joel Jorgensen, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, W. Ross Silcock, and Jerry Toll.

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#### **Correction to the 2002 NOURC Report**

##### **1. Black-legged Kittiwake**

The date this species was observed in Cedar Co. should be corrected to 25 October 2002. *The Nebraska Bird Review* 71 (2003): 139.

#### **Correction to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2003"**

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiaca*) becomes *Bubo scandiacus*. *The Nebraska Bird Review* 72 (2004): 112 & 118.