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## 2010 (22nd) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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## **2010 (22nd) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE**

Compiled by Mark A. Brogie - NOU Records Committee Chairperson  
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The functions and methods of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (NOURC) are described in its bylaws (NOURC 2010). 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. Accidental and casual species for which the NOURC seeks documentation (NOURC Review List) can be found at the NOU website [www.NOUbirds.org](http://www.NOUbirds.org).

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 "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" was first published in 1988 (NOU 1988) and has been updated three times (NOURC 1997, 2004, 2009a). The "Official List" has been appended twenty times: (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009a, 2009b; Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003).

The American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998) and its following supplements: (AOU: 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010), contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds.

The following summarizes all 2010 revisions by the AOU in regards to changes in scientific names and changes in assignments to family and order of species to the most recent published "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009" (NOURC 2009a, [www.NOUBirds.org](http://www.NOUBirds.org)).

This report includes all accounts submitted during the 2010 calendar year covering 73 records with accession numbers 1319-1391.

#### Criteria for Accepted Records:

In order for a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor are required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOURC 2010). Records in the following categories are classified as accepted:

- I-S - a diagnostic, labeled specimen exists
- I-P - diagnostic, labeled photographic evidence 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.

This report summarizes all records accessioned in 2010, discusses any new additions to the state list, and reports any changes in firmness of data of Nebraska birds. 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 2001-2010. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOURC 2009a):

- 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: 2009" (NOURC 2009a).

#### 2010 Additions to State List:

There was one new species added in 2010.

1. Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*), Accidental, Class I-P.  
Insert after Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*).

With this addition, the “Official List of the Birds of Nebraska” now stands at 455 species.

**Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions and/or Changes in English or Scientific Names Based on AOU 2010**

The following changes are made in the taxonomic order in the “Official List of the Birds of Nebraska”.

1. The two forms of Black Scoter are now regarded as full species: Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) in the Old World and Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*) in the New World, the latter being the species found in Nebraska.

2. The family Ardeidae (Bitterns, Herons, and Egrets) and the family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills) are removed from the order Ciconiiformes and are placed in the order Pelecaniformes, taxonomically after the family Pelecanidae (Pelicans).

3. The families Fregatidae (Frigatebirds), Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants), and Anhingidae (Darters) are removed from the order Pelecaniformes and placed in the new order Suliformes, which follows the order Ciconiiformes in the taxonomic sequence.

4. A new family Pandionidae (Osprey) is created and is placed after the family Cathartidae (New World Vultures) in the new order Accipitriformes.

5. Whip-poor-will has been split into the Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), which breeds in eastern North America, and the Mexican Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus arizonae*) of the montane pine forests of the southwestern United States, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Eastern Whip-poor-will is a common regular breeder and spring and fall migrant east, rare central (Sharpe et al. 2001). Unconfirmed reports from Colorado and Montana may be the Mexican Whip-poor-will. To date Nebraska has no accepted records for Mexican Whip-poor-will.

6. Although involving no change to the “Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009” (NOURC 2009a), Winter Wren in North America has been split into two species; the eastern form retains the name Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), while the western form is now called Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*). The two species are best separated by vocalization, but they do differ visually as well (Toews and Irwin 2008). To date Nebraska has no accepted records for Pacific Wren, while Winter Wren status is described as “Uncommon regular spring and fall migrant east, rare casual central and west. Rare regular winter visitor east, rare casual central and west.” (Sharpe et al. 2001)

7. A new family Polioptilidae (Gnatcatchers) is created and placed after the family Troglodytidae (Wrens).

8. Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) becomes *Vermivora cyanoptera*.

9. Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) becomes *Oreothlypis peregrina*.
10. Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) becomes *Oreothlypis celata*.
11. Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) becomes *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*.
12. Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*) becomes *Oreothlypis virginiae*.
13. Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) becomes *Parkesia noveboracensis*.
14. Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) becomes *Parkesia motacilla*.
15. Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*) becomes *Peucaea cassinii*.
16. McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*) becomes *Rhynchophanes mccownii*.
17. Longspurs and Snow Buntings are moved from the family Emberizidae (Emberizids) to the family Calcariidae (Longspurs and Snow Buntings), and will precede the family Parulidae (Wood-Warblers) with the following sequence:
  - Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*)
  - Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)
  - Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)
  - McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*)
  - Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).

#### 2010 Changes in Frequency of Occurrence:

1. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) changed from Accidental to Casual.
2. Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) changed from Casual to Accidental.
3. Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) changed from Casual to Accidental.
4. Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) changed from Casual to Accidental.
5. Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) changed from Casual to Accidental.
6. Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*) changed from Casual to Accidental.
7. Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*) changed from Casual to Accidental.

**2010 Changes in Firmness of Data:**

1. Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) changed from Class I-P to Class I-S. A male bird salvaged (WJM) in Ashland, Saunders Co., 06 May 2010, is now a specimen at the University of Nebraska State Museum (# ZM-18422).
2. Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) changed from Class III to Class I-P.

**Pre-2010 Accepted Records:**Common Crane (*Grus grus*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, JF) northwest of North Platte, Lincoln Co., 12 March 2009. Accession # 1322.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

1. A written report (Class III, SJD) was received of a light morph adult bird observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19 September 2001. Accession # 1332.
2. A photograph (Class I-P, SJD) was received of an adult Long-tailed Jaeger in alternate plumage observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 09 June 2008. Accession # 1333.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

1. A series of photographs (Class I-P, BM) were received of a single bird in Scotts Bluff Co., 27 January 2009. Accession # 1371.

**2010 Accepted Records:**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

1. A pair of birds was photographed (Class I-P, CC) at Pioneers Park Nature Center, Lancaster Co., 14 May 2010. Accession # 1345.
2. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, BD) on a small pond in Omaha (144th & F), Douglas County, 04 September, 2010. The bird was not banded and had intact hind toes. Accession # 1369.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

1. A single bird was observed and described (Class III, JR) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 15 May 2010. Accession # 1342.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; CG) north of Mitchell, Scotts Bluff Co., 02 May 2010. Accession # 1327.
2. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) on a private wetland in Clay Co., 30 April, 2010. Accession # 1328.
3. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) at Straight Water WMA, Seward Co., 03 May 2010. Accession # 1329.
4. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) at North Lake Basin WMA, Seward Co., 03 May 2010. Accession # 1330.

5. Photographs (Class I-P, CG) were received of an adult bird in northern Garden Co., 29 April 2010. Accession # 1334.
6. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; CG) at the Rd. 181 intersection with Hwy. 2, Sheridan Co., 06 May 2010. Accession # 1335.
7. A written description (Class III, WF) was received of an adult bird in western Fillmore Co., 30 June 2010. Accession # 1350.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

1. A single bird was observed (Class III, CK) southeast of the NRD offices at Wehrspann Lake, Sarpy Co., 04 October, 2010. Accession # 1363.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, KS) at LaPlatte wetlands, Sarpy Co., 24 July 2010. Accession # 1352.

Common Crane (*Grus grus*)

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, VC) near Muskrat Run WMA, Lincoln Co., 18 March 2010. Accession # 1323.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

1. A single juvenile bird was observed (Class III, JJ) at Cottonwood WPA, Phelps Co., 06 October 2010. Accession # 1391.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

1. A first winter bird was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) at Branched Oak Lake near Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 30 November 2010. Accession # 1383.
2. A first winter bird was photographed (Class I-P, MN) below Gavins Pt. Dam, Cedar Co., 08 December 2010. Accession # 1388.

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*)

1. A "very pink" adult in non-breeding plumage was videotaped (Class I-P, MAB) on Lake Yankton, Cedar Co., 26 November 2010. Accession # 1379.
2. Additional photographs (Class I-P, GS) of the above bird were submitted. Accession # 1380.
3. Additional photographs (Class I-P, KJ) of the above bird taken on 27 November were submitted. Accession # 1381.
4. Another series of photographs (Class I-P, DB) of the above bird taken on 28 November 2010 was submitted. Accession # 1382.
5. An additional series of photographs (Class I-P, TS) of the above bird taken 01 December 2010 was submitted. Accession # 1384.
6. A single photograph (Class I-P, RD) of the above bird taken 06 December 2010 was submitted. Accession # 1385.
7. Additional frames of a videotape (Class I-P, MS) of the above bird taken on 05-06 November 2010 were submitted. Accession # 1386.
8. An adult in non-breeding plumage was video-taped (Class I-P, JJ) at Branched Oak Lake near Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 03 December 2010. Accession # 1387.

The above represent the 2nd and 3rd NOURC accepted occurrences for this species in Nebraska.

*Long-tailed Jaeger (Stercorarius longicaudus)*

1. A single intermediate-morph juvenile was observed and photographed (Class I-P, PS) at Winter's Creek Lake, Scotts Bluff Co., 18-19 September 2010. Accession # 1358.
2. A written description (Class III, WRS) was received by the second observer of the above bird. Accession # 1359.

*White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus)*

1. A written description (Class III, CK) was received of a singing adult male in northwestern Johnson Co., 02 May 2010. Accession # 1346.
2. A westward adult bird was observed (Class III, MAB) at Imperial, Chase Co., 03 October 2010. Accession # 1362.

*Brown-headed Nuthatch (Sitta pusilla)*

1. A written description (Class III, LE) was received by the initial observer of a single bird observed at Holmes Lake in Lincoln, 08 November 2010. Accession # 1378.
2. Photographs (Class I-P, JJ) of the above bird observed on 11 November 2010 were received. Accession # 1373.
3. Additional photographs (Class I-P, PR) of the above bird observed on 12 November 2010 were received. Accession # 1374.
4. A videotape (Class I-P, MAB) with vocalizations of the above bird observed on 13 November 2010 was received. Accession # 1375.
5. Additional photographs (Class I-P, PS) of the above bird observed on 13 November 2010 were received. Accession # 1376.
6. An additional photograph (Class I-P, JMu) of the above bird observed on 15 November 2010 was received. Accession # 1377.
7. Additional photographs (Class I-P, AB) of the above bird observed on 24 December 2010 were received. Accession # 1389.

The above represent the first NOURC accepted occurrence for this species in Nebraska.

*Varied Thrush (Ixoreus naevius)*

1. A photograph (Class I-P, PR) was received of an adult male near Blair, Washington Co., 01 January 2010. Accession # 1319.
2. An additional photograph (Class I-P, PS) of the above bird observed on 05 January 2010 was received. Accession # 1320.

*Smith's Longspur (Calcarius pictus)*

1. A lone bird was photographed (Class I-P, GW) at Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co., 01 April 2010. Accession # 1324.

*Hermit Warbler (Dendroica occidentalis)*

1. An adult female was photographed (Class I-P, CG) at Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co., 21 May 2010. Accession # 1340.

This represents the 2nd NOURC accepted record and the 1st photographic record for this species in Nebraska.



*Pine Warbler (Dendroica pinus)*

1. A detailed description (Class III, JM) was received of an adult male observed in Pioneers Park in Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 13 April 2010. Accession # 1336.
2. A photograph (Class I-P, DL) of the above bird (taken later on the same day) was received. Accession # 1326.

*Baird's Sparrow (Ammodramus bairdii)*

1. A written description (Class III, TH) was received of three singing males observed along Sugar Loaf Road in the Oglala National Grasslands, Sioux Co., 14-16 May 2010. Accession # 1355.
2. A singing male from the above location was photographed (Class I-P, PS) on 16 May 2010. Accession # 1338.

*Cassin's Finch (Carpodacus cassinii)*

1. A hatch-year bird was netted, banded, and photographed (Class I-P, CW) at Wildcat Hills SRA, Scotts Bluff Co., 13 September 2010. Accession # 1356.

*Lesser Goldfinch (Spinus psaltria)*

1. A "black-backed" male was photographed (Class I-P, CG) at Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co., 27 May 2010. Accession # 1343.
2. One was netted, banded, and photographed (Class I-P, CW) at Wildcat Hills SRA, Scotts Bluff Co., 13 September 2010. Accession # 1364

*Evening Grosbeak (Coccothraustes vespertinus)*

1. Two birds (of a group of 28) were photographed (Class I-P, TH) at Camp Norwesca, Dawes Co., 15 May 2010. Accession # 1353.
2. Photographs (Class I-P, JMu) were received of at least one male and one female (from above group) on the same date. Accession # 1354.
3. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, VC) north of North Platte, Lincoln Co., 04 November 2010. Accession # 1370.

**Unaccepted Records:**

Records in the following categories are considered unaccepted (NOURC 2010):

- 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 non-acceptance of the record.

**Unaccepted Records (Received in 2010):***Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna autumnalis)*

1. An adult bird was videotaped flying over Harvard WPA, Clay Co., 06 June 2010. Accession # 1347.

2. Additional photographs of the Harvard WPA bird, from the same date, were also received. Accession # 1348.

Independent identification by two qualified observers leave little doubt as to the authenticity of the above records; however, several committee members felt the photographic evidence presented (in both cases) was lacking in quality for stand-alone identification, and both records were classified as a Class IV. Neither record was accompanied with a written description.

**Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)**

1. A written report was received of a group of three males and two females in a large backwater of the Calamus River in Loup Co.; 30 March 2010. Accession # 1325. The brevity of the sighting, lack of certain details, especially in describing the females, number of birds, and provenance were all factors listed for non-approval by some committee members.

**Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)**

1. A photograph of a single bird among several Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 15 May 2010 was considered lacking in diagnostic detail for approval. Accession # 1337.

**Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)**

1. A description of an adult in winter plumage observed at Branched Oak Lake near Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 11 November 2010 was considered lacking in diagnostic detail for approval by several committee members. Accession # 1372.

**Non-Review List Records Submitted in 2010: Filed Without Votes**

The following records are of species not on the NOURC Review List. They have been accessioned due to other circumstances (out-of range, non-normal date of occurrence, unusual nesting record, etc.) and filed without NOURC votes.

**Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)**

1. A photograph (TJW) of an adult male, south of North Platte, Lincoln Co., 21 January 2010 was filed. Accession # 1321.

**Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)**

1. A photograph (DL) of a juvenile bird with "a large open wound on the wing - suspected gunshot" near Valley, Douglas Co., 17 October 2010 was filed. Accession # 1365.

**Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)**

1. A written description (JD) of an observation of an adult pair of cranes with one juvenile, indicating "potential breeding success" at County Line WPA, Fillmore Co., 31 August 2010 was received. Accession # 1357.

**Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)**

1. A written description was received (GC) of two adult birds on the Niobrara River, southwest of Niobrara, Knox Co., 23 October, 2010. Accession # 1366.

2. Possibly the same birds as above, two adults were photographed (MAB) at the confluence of the Niobrara and Missouri Rivers, Knox Co., 29 October, 2010. Accession # 1367.
3. Photographs (SS) were received of three birds at Hedgefield WMA, southwest of Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 27 October, 2010. Accession # 1368.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

1. A written description (LH) of an adult bird observed near the Gering sewage lagoons during the Scottsbluff Christmas Bird Count, Scotts Bluff Co., 18 December 2010 was filed. Accession # 1390.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

1. A photograph (KD) of an adult bird at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 24 September 2010 was filed. Accession # 1360.  
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)

1. A photograph (JS) of a juvenile bird found just west of Chadron State Park, Dawes Co., 05 July 2010 was filed. Accession # 1351.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*)

1. Representing one of the few Panhandle records, a photograph (CG) of an adult male at Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co., 18 May 2010 was filed. Accession # 1339.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)

1. A written description (MAB) of a westward adult female observed below Enders Reservoir, Chase Co., 02-03 October 2010 was filed. Accession # 1361.

Northern Parula (*Dendroica americana*)

1. A photograph (CG) of a westward bird at Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co., 27 May 2010 was filed. Accession # 1344.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)

1. A photograph (CG) of a single bird found summering north of Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co., 19 June 2010 was filed. Accession # 1349.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

1. Photographs (LK) of an extralimital adult male observed near Loup City, Sherman Co., 03 May 2010 were filed. Accession # 1331.
2. Representing one of the few Panhandle records, a photograph (CG) of an adult female at Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co., 18 May 2010 was filed. Accession # 1341.

**Corrections to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009."**  
(NOURC 2009a)

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) should be listed as Casual.  
Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) should be listed as Regular.

**Correction to the "2009 (21st) Report of the NOU Records Committee." (Brogie 2009b)**

**White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)**

The additional photographs (Class I-P, PD) of the Lincoln County bird were taken on 29 June, 2009, instead of the stated July date. Accession # 1292.

**Acknowledgments:**

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**2010 NOU Records Committee Members:**

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

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