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## 2011 (23rd) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

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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-one times: (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009a, 2009b, 2010; 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, 2011) have made many taxonomic changes affecting Nebraska birds. This report covers all revisions made by the AOU in 2011 affecting changes in taxonomic status of species on the most recent published "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 2011 calendar year covering 51 records with accession numbers 1392-1441.

### 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 (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 - diagnostic, labeled recording exists
- II - three or more independently written diagnostic documentations of the same
- 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 initials of observer(s).

This report summarizes all records accessioned in 2011, discusses any new additions to the state list, and reports any changes in firmness of data of Nebraska birds. Additionally, the report reflects changes in frequency of occurrence, as determined by the NOU Records Committee, which reviewed records of bird occurrences in Nebraska for 2002-2011. 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).

#### **2011 Additions to State List:**

- There were no new species added in 2011.
- The "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" stands at 455 species.

#### **Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions and/or Changes in English or Scientific Names Based on AOU 2011:**

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

The Fifty-second supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds 2011, Auk 128(3): 600-613 has been published. The

following are changes to the “Official List of the Birds of Nebraska”  
([www.noubirds.org](http://www.noubirds.org)).

1. Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) changes common and scientific name to: Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*).
2. Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) changes scientific name to: (*Charadrius nivosus*).
3. The following are the changes in scientific names and the new sequence to the Parulidae of Nebraska:

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)  
 Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*)  
 Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*)  
 Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*)  
 Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)  
 Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*)  
 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)  
 Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*)  
 Swainson’s Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)  
 Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*)  
 Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*)  
 Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*)  
 Virginia’s Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*)  
 Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*)  
 MacGillivray’s Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*)  
 Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*)  
 Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*)  
 Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)  
 Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*)  
 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*)  
 Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*)  
 Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*)  
 Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*)  
 Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*)  
 Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*)  
 Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*)  
 Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*)  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*)  
 Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*)  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*)  
 Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*)  
 Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*)  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*)  
 Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*)

Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*)  
Grace's Warbler (*Setophaga graciae*)  
Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)  
Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*)  
Hermit Warbler (*Setophaga occidentalis*)  
Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*)  
Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*)  
Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*)  
Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)

**Pre-2011 Accepted Records:****Mew Gull (*Larus camus*)**

1. A written report (Class III, BH) was received of a single bird in adult winter (definitive basic) plumage on Lake Yankton, Cedar Co., 28 November 2010. Accession # 1405.

**Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*)**

1. A photograph (Class I-P, SW) was received of a single bird at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 02 October 2010. Accession # 1396.

**2011 Accepted Records:****Brant (*Branta bernicla*)**

1. A sub-adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, PD) at Lake Hastings, Adams Co., 04 March 2011. This bird was of the taxon *B. b. nigricans*, and represents the first NE spring record for this western North American migrant. Accession # 1392.

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

1. A written description (Class III, MAB) was received of an adult male at LaPlatte Bottoms, Sarpy Co., 15 May 2011. Accession # 1413.

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

1. An adult in winter plumage was photographed (Class I-P, RD) on Lewis and Clark Lake in Yankton Co., SD, and continuously observed (MAB) as it moved into Knox Co., NE., 27 March 2011, where it was seen (RD) the following day. Accession # 1393.
2. The above bird was initially discovered and photographed (Class I-P, BH) on Lake Yankton, Cedar Co., before it was observed flying over the north end of Gavins Point Dam and over Lewis and Clark Lake, Knox Co., 25 March 2011. Accession # 1404.

*Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)*

1. A written description (Class III, MAB) was received of a single bird observed with other ibis on a playa SE of Creighton, Antelope Co., 27 April 2011. Accession # 1407.
2. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, PD) in Clay Co., 29 April 2011. Accession # 1409.
3. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, JGJ) at Kissinger WMA, Clay Co., 04 May 2011. Accession # 1411.
4. A single adult (possibly the above bird) was photographed (Class I-P, PD) at Kissinger WMA, Clay Co., 17 May 2011. Accession # 1414.
5. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, JGJ) at Moger WMA, Clay Co., 12 May 2011. Accession # 1416.

*Common Gallinule (Gallinula galeata)*

1. A single bird was observed (Class III, EB) at Whitehead Saline Wetlands in Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 25-26 April 2011. Accession # 1406.
2. A bird "...that stood out from the coots..." was observed (Class III, JT) at the NE corner of Carter Lake, Douglas Co., 22 April 2011. Accession # 1410.
3. A description (Class III, BF) was received of a single bird observed at LaPlatte Bottoms Marsh, Sarpy Co., 18 May 2011. Accession # 1422.

*Red Knot (Calidris canutus)*

1. A written description (Class III, MAB) was received of a juvenile bird observed at Lazy River Acres, Knox Co., 09 September 2011. Accession # 1427.

*Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicarius)*

1. A breeding plumaged female was photographed (Class I-P, JGJ) near the intersection of Roads Q & 2 in York Co., 21 May 2011. Accession # 1418.

*Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)*

1. A first winter bird was photographed (Class I-P, DP) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 28 March 2011. Accession # 1394.

*Laughing Gull (Leucophaeus atricilla)*

1. A first-year bird was photographed (Class I-P, JGJ) at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 27 May 2011. Accession # 1419.

*Mew Gull (Larus canus)*

1. A photograph (Class I-P, PD) was received of a single bird in adult winter (definite basic) plumage on the Alma Sewage Lagoon, Harlan Co., 11 November 2011. Accession # 1435.
2. A second winter (basic II) bird was photographed (Class I-P, LJ via MAB) below Gavins Point Dam, Cedar Co., 05 December 2011. Accession # 1437.
3. The above bird (# 2) was initially found and photographed (Class I-P, DS) below Gavins Point Dam, Cedar Co., 02 December 2011. Accession # 1438.

4. An adult winter bird was photographed (Class I-P, PD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 09 December 2011. Accession # 1439.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

1. A written description (Class III, BF) was received of a first winter bird observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 17 March 2011. Accession # 1402.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

1. A written description (Class III, JG) was received of an adult bird observed at Hughes Pond, Seward Co., 11 May 2011. Accession # 1412.
2. A westward adult bird was observed (Class III, MAB) at Imperial, Chase Co., 03 October 2010.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

1. A single male bird was observed (Class III, MAB) east of Creighton, Knox Co., 02 April 2011. Accession # 1395.
2. A written description (Class III, CK) was received of a group of 11 birds observed at Wachiska Berg Prairie, south of Talmage, Nemaha Co., 01 November 2011. Accession # 1434.

Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, PD) in Hastings, Adams Co., 17 May 2011. Accession # 1415.
2. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, JGJ) in Seward, Seward Co., 14 May 2011. Accession # 1417.

Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*)

1. A written description (Class III, RH) was received of a singing adult male at Gremlin Cove Park, Harlan Co., 17 April 2011. Accession # 1403.

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*)

1. A hatching-year bird was netted, banded, and photographed (Class I-P, CW) at Wildcat Hills SRA, Scotts Bluff Co., 09 September 2011. Accession # 1429.
2. A second Cassin's Finch was netted, banded, and photographed (Class I-P, CW) at Wildcat Hills SRA, Scotts Bluff Co., 16 September 2011. Accession # 1430.

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*)

1. Two black-backed males were photographed (Class I-P, JGJ) at Wright's Gap, Banner Co., 19 August 2011. Accession # 1424.
2. A single black-backed male was photographed (Class I-P, RT) in Cedar Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co., 23 August 2011. Accession # 1425.
3. A black-backed male was netted, banded, and photographed (Class I-P, CW) at Wildcat Hills SRA, Scotts Bluff Co., 06 September 2011. Accession # 1428.

**Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)**

1. A male bird (with three females) was photographed (Class I-P, TH) at Halsey National Forest, Thomas Co., 11 April 2011. Accession # 1401.

**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 2011):****Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)**

1. A description of a bird observed at Harvard WPA, Clay Co., 17 April was very suggestive of the species, but lacked sufficient details for approval. Class IV. Accession # 1408.

**Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)**

1. A 1951 written account of "...a large male sage grouse in full display..." by a very qualified (now deceased) observer lacked any additional description and was not approved. This record will be discussed in the future. Class IV. Accession # 1431.

**Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)**

1. A description of a bird observed north of I-80 and Milford Interchange, Seward Co., 20-21 August 2011 was very suggestive of the species, but lacked sufficient details for approval to qualify as the first state record. Class V. Accession # 1426.

**Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)**

1. A description was received of single "adult, probably female" bird observed at Smith Lake SWMA, Sheridan Co., 25 June 2011. Several reviewers felt that this record was probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt, due to the brevity of the sighting and lack of definitive evidence to constitute a first state record. Class IV. Accession # 1420.



**Non-Review Records Submitted in 2011 Filed Without Votes:**

The following records are those 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.

**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)**

1. Photographs (BH) were filed of a stilt nest with eggs, near K Ave. & Hwy 35 in Dakota Co., 03 August, 2011, providing a remarkable extralimital nesting record for the species. Accession # 1423.

**Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)**

1. A photograph (PD) of a bird at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 09 December 2011 was filed. Accession # 1440.

**Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassini*)**

1. One of two birds observed was photographed (JGJ) at the Bushnell Cemetery, Kimball Co., 01 June 2011. This represents the first spring record for this species in Nebraska. Accession # 1432.

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

1. Photographs (BD via NR) of one of two eastward birds found near 84th and Pacific Streets in Omaha, Douglas Co., 05 May 2011 were filed. Accession # 1421.

**Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*)**

1. A written description (JJ) of an "immature or female" in rural Dixon Co., 24 October 2011 was filed. Accession # 1433.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)**

1. Photographs (AS) of a male in winter plumage in Omaha, Douglas Co., 19 December 2011 were filed. Accession # 1441

**Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)**

1. Photographs (JT) of a first-winter male at a feeder in Omaha, Douglas Co., 03 December 2011 were filed. Accession # 1436.

**Records Submitted in 2011 Still Under Review:****Hooded Crane (*Grus monacha*)**

1. Accession numbers 1397, 1398, 1399, & 1400 of this species are still under review. The investigation as to the possibility of this individual being an escaped or released bird continues.

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**2011 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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