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2014 (26th) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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2014 (26th) 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).

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, 2009). The "Official List" has been appended twenty-four times: (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009a, 2009b; 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014; 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, 2012, 2013, 2014), contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds.

The following summarizes all revisions made by the AOU in 2014 including scientific name changes and taxonomic realignment that affect the current published "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009" (NOURC 2009, www.NOUBirds.org). This report includes all accounts submitted during the 2014 calendar year covering 84 records with accession numbers 1607 - 1690.

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 - 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 2014, discusses any new additions to the state list, and reports any changes in firmness of data (i.e. placement in the above acceptance categories) 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 2005-2014. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOURC 2009):

- 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 2009).

2014 Additions to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska":

There were two new species added to the Nebraska "Official List" in 2014.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

1. The first NOURC accepted record of Mute Swan is represented by photographs, video, and a description (Class I-P, MAB) of a pair (male and female) of adult birds present on a remote farm pond in Dixon Co., 07 November 2014. Both swans were unbanded, each had both halluces (hind-toes) and both were capable of strong flight. These factors in conjunction with the birds' age, sexes, timing of the sighting, remoteness of the sighting

location, birds' appearance and association with other migrating waterfowl, the birds' wary behavior, and the increasing numbers of this species in eastern North America were believed indicative of wild provenance. Accession # 1680.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

1. A Brown Booby, discovered at Hansen Lake, Sarpy Co., 28-30 June 2014 constitutes the first *Sulidae* record for Nebraska. Photographs (Class I-P, JBe via DC, JR) were received of an adult male Brown Booby of the nominate Atlantic race *S. l. leucogaster*, taken 30 June 2014. Accession # 1649.

*** With these two additions, the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" now stands at **461** species.

Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions (AOU 2014):

The Fifty-fifth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds (AOU 2014) has effected the following change to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" (www.noubirds.org).

1. Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) becomes (*R. crepitans*).
Clapper Rail (*R. longirostris*) is split into three species, two of which occur in North America. Ridgway's Rail (*R. obsoletus*), mostly a salt-water species occurs in western Mexico, Arizona and California while Clapper Rail (*R. crepitans*) occurs along the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico shoreline. The single record for Clapper Rail for Nebraska is that of a specimen (UNSM ZM14120) caught in a mink trap east of Stapleton, Logan Co., 30 January 1951. Examination of this specimen confirmed its identity as belonging to the Atlantic Coast subspecies *R. c. crepitans* (Rapp and Rapp 1951).

2014 Changes in Frequency of Occurrence:

1. Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) changed from Extirpated to Accidental, based on acceptance on 26 May 2013 record (Brogie 2014)
2. Common Crane (*Grus grus*) changed from Accidental to Casual
3. Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) changed from Casual to Accidental
4. Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) changed from Accidental to Casual
5. Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) changed from Casual to Accidental

6. Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*) changed from Casual to Accidental
7. Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) changed from Casual to Accidental

2014 Accepted Records:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

1. Two birds were photographed (Class I-P, RR via MV) at Methodist Cove, Harlan County Reservoir, Harlan Co., 25 July 2014. Accession # 1657.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

1. A written description (Class III, EB) of a drake at Walnut Creek SRA, Sarpy Co., 21 February 2014 was received. The description of the hen associated with this bird did not contain enough details to be accepted by the NOURC. Accession # 1610.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, JR) at Carter Lake, Douglas Co., 12 January 2014. Accession # 1608.
2. Additional photographs (Class I-P, MW) were received of the Carter Lake bird, 22 February 2014. Accession # 1609.

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*)

The following represents the second record for this species in Nebraska.

1. Photographs (Class I-P, JR) were received of a juvenile/female bird observed at La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co., 11 July 2014. Accession # 1650.
2. Additional photographs (Class I-P, MAB) of the above bird from 11 July 2014 were received. Accession # 1651.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, MD via CK) at Boyer Chute NWR, Washington Co., 04 June 2014. This represents Nebraska's third record for this species. Accession # 1642.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

1. A photograph (Class I-P, MW) was received of a single bird at the Sutherland Reservoir Cooling Basin, Lincoln Co., 29 December 2014. This represents the first winter record for this species in Nebraska. Accession # 1687.

Common Crane (*Grus grus*)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, MAB) were received of a single bird found northwest of the I-80 Elm Creek exit, Buffalo Co., 05 April 2014. This species is now considered casual in Nebraska, although the number of individuals represented is unknown. Accession # 1619.

Long-tailed Jaeger (Stercorarius longicaudus)

1. A photograph (Class I-P, MW) was received of a juvenile discovered at Capitol Beach Lake, Lancaster Co., 29 August 2014. Accession # 1662.
2. An additional photograph (Class I-P, NA) of the above bird taken later in the day was also received. Accession # 1663.
3. Photographs (Class I-P, JTr) were received of a single bird observed by members of the Colorado Field Ornithologists convention field trip to Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 04 September 2014. Accession # 1668.

Little Gull (Hydrocoloeus minutus)

A single bird in juvenile plumage observed below Gavins Pt. Dam, Cedar Co. was well documented.

1. Photographs (Class I-P, KP) 01 September 2014. Accession # 1664.
2. A single photograph (Class I-P, MAB) 02 September 2014. Accession # 1665.
3. Photographs (Class I-P, MW) 01 September 2014. Accession # 1666.
4. A series of photographs (Class I-P, JC, ShS) 02 September 2014. Accession # 1667.

Laughing Gull (Leucophaeus atricilla)

1. A second-cycle bird (found 27 May 2014, JR) was photographed (Class I-P, BrP) at Carter Lake, Douglas Co., 28 May 2014. Accession # 1636.
2. Additional photographs (Class I-P, JR) of the above bird, by the original observer, were taken 28 May 2014. Accession # 1637.
3. An additional photograph (Class I-P, MW) from 29 May 2014 of the Carter Lake bird was also received. Accession # 1639.

Iceland Gull (Larus glaucooides)

1. A video and photographs (Class I-P, JGJ) were received of an adult (Kumlien's) bird at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 22 March 2014. Accession # 1614.
2. Additional photographs (Class I-P, MW) were received of the above bird, 23 March 2014. Accession # 1615.
3. Photographs (Class I-P, SM) were received of a third-cycle (Kumlien's) gull observed at Carter Lake, Douglas Co., 24 March 2014. Accession # 1616.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (Archilochus alexandri)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, GB, JB) at the K-1 Cabin Area, Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 29 June 2014. This represents the fourth NOURC accepted record of this species for Nebraska. Accession # 1647.

Calliope Hummingbird (Selasphorus calliope)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, GB, JB) at the K-1 Cabin Area, Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 25 July 2014. Accession # 1656.

American Three-toed Woodpecker (Picoides dorsalis)

The following would document the 3rd and 4th records for this species in Nebraska (assuming the following represent a single individual of each gender).

1. A written description (Class III, JBi) of an adult male bird observed in East Ash Creek Canyon, Dawes Co., 04 June 2014. Accession # 1659.
2. A written description (Class III, ND) of an adult male bird observed in East Ash Creek Canyon, Dawes Co., 13 September 2014. Accession # 1672.
3. A photograph (Class I-P, SJD) of an adult male observed in East Ash Creek Canyon, Dawes Co., 22 September 2014. Accession # 1673.
4. A photograph (Class I-P, MAB) of an adult female adult observed in East Ash Creek Canyon, Dawes Co., 19 October 2014. Accession # 1675.
5. Additional photographs (Class I-P, EMB) of the female, 19 October 2014. Accession # 1676.
6. Another set of photographs (Class I-P, BH) of the female, 19 October 2014. Accession # 1677.
7. A photograph/video (Class I-P, JGJ) of the female at the above location, 24 October 2014. Accession # 1678.

Dusky Flycatcher (Empidonax oberholseri)

1. A written description (with wing/culmen measurements) and a series of photographs (Class I-P, JL) were received of a bird netted/banded at Chadron State Park, Dawes Co., 10 September 2014. Accession # 1670.

White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus)

1. A description (Class III, MAB) was received of a singing adult male observed near Lynch, Boyd Co., 11 May 2014. Accession # 1626.
2. A description (Class III, MW) was received of a male bird observed at Pioneers Park, Lancaster Co., 01 May 2014. Accession # 1646.

Steller's Jay (Cyanocitta stelleri)

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, SM) along Old Stage Hill Road, Scotts Bluff Co., 3 January 2014. Accession # 1607.

Mountain Chickadee (Poecile gambeli)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, MW) in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 21 December 2014. Accession # 1686.

Canyon Wren (Catherpes mexicanus)

1. A written description (Class III, KDy) was received of a single bird observed at Gotte Park, Kimball Co., 31 August 2014. This represents the fourth NOURC accepted record for Canyon Wren in Nebraska. Accession # 1689.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, VC) north of North Platte, Lincoln Co., 20 November 2014. Accession # 1682.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, RM, SM) were received of at least one bird encountered at Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co., 11 October 2014. Accession # 1674.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*)

1. A description (Class III, JR) was received of an adult observed near Orchard Hill, Douglas Co., NE, 13 May 2014. Accession # 1629.
2. A written description (Class III, MAB) was received of an adult male bird observed during the 2014 NOU Spring Field Trip at Hummel Park, Omaha, Douglas Co., 17 May 2014. Accession # 1634.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*)

1. A description (Class III, JT) was received of an adult bird observed south of the I-680 Bridge along the Missouri River in Douglas Co., 22 May 2014. Accession # 1648.

Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*)

An adult male bird found (JR) 09 May 2014 at Towl Park, Omaha, Douglas County, was well documented.

1. A photograph (Class I-P, CO) 10 May 2014. Accession # 1623.
2. A photograph (Class I-P, JG) 14 May 2014. Accession # 1630.
3. Photographs (Class I-P, PS) 15 May 2014. Accession # 1631.
4. A photograph (Class I-P, AS) 16 May 2014. Accession # 1633.
5. A photograph (Class I-P, TC) 16 May 2014. Accession # 1635.

Another 2014 Cape May Warbler was found in Lancaster County, Nebraska.

6. A description/photograph (Class I-P, JK, MW) was received of an adult male at Pawnee Lake SRA, Lancaster Co., 11 May 2014. Accession # 1624.

Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*)

1. A written description (Class III, JK, MW) was received of a singing adult male at Pawnee Lake SRA, Lancaster Co., 11 May 2014. The last NOURC accepted record of this species was 06 May 2000 (Jorgensen 2002). Accession # 1625.

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*)

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, VC) north of North Platte, Lincoln Co., 26 August 2014. Accession # 1658.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

1. A description was received of an adult male (Class III, DA) and possible female (description lacking; no vote) along Hwy 81, just north of mile marker 13, near Hebron, Thayer Co., 19 June 2014. Accession # 1643.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

The second NOURC accepted record of this species was well documented.

1. A female was photographed (Class I-P, LD via TJW) at a feeder southeast of North Platte, Lincoln Co., 15 February 2014. Accession # 1684.
2. Additional photographs (Class I-P, PD) were received of the above bird observed 16 December 2014. Accession # 1685.
3. Photographs (Class I-P, MAB) were received of the above bird taken 30 December 2014. Accession # 1688.

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 2014):**Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)**

1. Distant photographs of a group of three birds seen April 2014 in Colfax County were lacking in detail as to identity of the species and/or wild provenance. Class VI - Accession # 1638.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

1. A set of photographs taken 06 November 2014 by one of the original observers of the Dixon County birds (discussed above) failed to show legs or feet. The possession/lack of toe-clipping and leg bands may help to distinguish possible captive/wild provenance. Class VI - Accession # 1679.

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*)

1. Photographs taken at La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co., 11 July 2014 were believed by some NOURC members to be lacking in detail to rule out similar species. Class IV - Accession # 1652.

2. Additional photographs were received of a bird observed at the above location 12 July 2014. Several NOURC members believed these photos were lacking in detail for a positive stand-alone identification. Class IV - Accession # 1653.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)

1. A written description of a bird observed in Howard Co., 23 March 2014 lacked details to rule out similar species. Class IV - Accession # 1654.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

1. Photographs were received of a single bird observed at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., 13 November 2014. Although very suggestive, several NOURC members believed the photographs provided were lacking in detail for stand-alone approval. Class IV - Accession # 1681.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

1. A report was received of single bird seen in flight at Wilkinson WMA, Platte Co., 15 May 2014. Although very suggestive, several committee members believed the description provided was lacking in detail for approval. Accession # 1632.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)

1. A dark juvenile, observed/photographed by several individuals at Capitol Beach Lake, Lancaster Co., 29 August 2014 was undoubtedly a Laughing Gull; however, several committee members believed that the two sets of photographs provided were lacking in detail for a definitive stand-alone identification. Class IV - Accession # 1660; Class 4 - Accession # 1661.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

1. A single adult bird was photographed below Gavins Pt. Dam, Cedar Co., 29 March 2014. Although very suggestive of the species, several committee members believed the photographs provided were lacking in detail to rule out similar species. Class IV - Accession # 1683.
2. A first-cycle bird was photographed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 29 March 2014. Although very suggestive for Iceland Gull (Kumlien's), several committee members believed the photographs provided were lacking in detail for stand-alone evidence. Class IV - Accession # 1690.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*)

1. A first-cycle basic individual was photographed at N.P Dodge Park, Douglas Co., 02 April 2014. Although very suggestive, the photographs/description provided were lacking details for approval. Class 4 - Accession # 1617.
2. Additional photographs of the above bird, 03 April 2014 were also received. These also were very suggestive of the species, but lacked detail to rule out hybridization. Class IV - Accession # 1618.

Hammond's Flycatcher (Empidonax hammondi)

1. Although very suggestive of the species, several committee members believed the photographs submitted were lacking in detail for stand-alone approval. Class IV - Accession # 1669.

Non-Review List Records Submitted in 2014: Filed Without Votes:

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

Greater Prairie-Chicken (Tympanuchus cupido)

1. A photograph (SS) was received of a male bird "booming" along HWY 275, south of Beemer, Cuming Co., 19 March 2014. Accession # 1613.
2. A photograph (EMB) was received of a male bird "sounding off" along Hwy 15, north of Wayne, Wayne Co., 06 April 2014. Accession # 1620.

Sabine's Gull (Xema sabini)

1. An adult bird was photographed (MAB) at Lake Yankton, Cedar Co., 14 September 2014. Adult Sabine's Gulls are infrequently encountered in Nebraska. Accession # 1671.

California Gull (Larus californicus)

1. Photographs of a possible second-year bird (JR) from Carter Lake, Douglas Co., 13 March 2014 were filed. Accession # 1612.

Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)

1. A written description (SM) of an adult breeding bird observed near the eastern side of Tamora WPA, Seward Co., 21 June 2014 was received. Accession # 1644.

White-winged Dove (Zenaida asiatica)

1. A single recently fledged bird was photographed (JGJ) on the UNK Campus, Buffalo Co., 14 July 2014. This species is an infrequent breeding species in Nebraska. Accession # 1655.

Northern Saw-Whet Owl (Aegolius acadicus)

1. Photographs (WJM) were received of four chicks and an un-hatched egg in a nest-box in Scotts Bluff Co., NE, 10 May 2014. This represents the first verified nesting record for this species in Nebraska (Mollhoff 2014). Accession # 1627.
2. Additional (13 May 2014) photographs (KD, WJM) of the above young were also received. Accession # 1628.

3. One additional photograph (MW) of a juvenile at the above location, 25 May 2014 was filed. Accession # 1640.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)

1. A description (RH, LR) of a westward adult male observed near Hebron, Thayer Co., 22 June 2014 was received. Accession # 1645.

Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*)

1. A photograph (KD) was filed of a westward bird found east of Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 04 May 2014. Accession # 1622.

Cassin's Sparrow (*Peucaea cassinii*)

1. A recording (MS) of a singing male near Cody, Cherry Co., 05 June 2014 was received. This represents the most northeastward record for this species in Nebraska. Accession # 1641.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

1. An eastward adult male was photographed (CK) south of the Platte River near Bellevue, Cass Co., 28 April 2014. Accession # 1621.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

1. A written description (TH) was received of an eastward adult male bird at Moore Farm Hilltop, Douglas Co., 15 June 2001. Accession # 1611.

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2014 NOURC Members:

Mark A. Brogie (chair), Joe Gubanyi, Tim Hajda, Joel Jorgensen, Loren Padelford, Justin Rink, Kent Skaggs, and T.J. Walker

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