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1996 (Eighth) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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1996 (Eighth) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE
Compiled by Mark A. Brogie (NOURC Chairperson)
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The functions and methods of the 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 appended six times (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, 1991, Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c). An update of THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA was last published in 1997 (NOU Records Committee 1997) and includes the additions and changes in status of the 1996 NOURC records.

This report includes all accounts submitted during the calendar year of 1996, covering 153 records with accession numbers 451-479, 491-614. All records mentioned here will be available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the

University of Nebraska State Museum, 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

With this report, the following change is made to "THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA" (NBR 65: 3-16. 1997):

Addition

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*): Accidental, I-P.

This species was inadvertently left off the 1997 version of "THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA."

Accepted Records

In order that a record 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.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 5 November, 1995.
2. A photograph (Class I-P; JS) was received of this species observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 30 October, 1996. An individual (assumed same bird) was observed (Class III; WRS) at the same location, 3 November, 1996.
3. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Stagecoach Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 November, 1996.
4. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Bluestem Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 November, 1996.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*).

1. A juvenile/first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Wagon Train Lake, Lancaster Co., 19 November, 1995.
2. One written report (Class III; WRS) and two photographs (Class I-P; JS, JJ) of presumed same late juvenile/first-winter bird observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 15-22 June, 1996.
3. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas Co., 17 November, 1996.
4. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JS) at Olive Creek Reservoir, Lancaster Co., 17 November, 1996.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*).

1. One written report (Class III; WRS) and two sets of

photographs (Class I-P; JJ, JS) of presumed same juvenile/first-winter bird observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 17-23 November, 1996. These reports represent the first documented occurrence of Yellow-billed Loon in Nebraska.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*).

1. A juvenile/first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) on Lewis & Clark Lake, Knox County, 24 November, 1995.
2. A single basic-plumaged bird was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 21 December, 1995 (NBR 64: 131).
3. A description and photograph (Class I-P; SD) and a written report (Class III; WRS) were received of a molting adult at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., 26-27 September, 1996.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*).

1. Two sets of photographs were received (Class I-P; JJ, LB) and one written report (Class III; BP, LP) of a single bird observed at a small marsh east of Chambers, Holt Co. from 20-30 May, 1996.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) in Cuming County, 29 May, 1996.

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

1. A specimen of an adult bird salvaged (Class I-S; WV of NGP) in Brown Co., 14 April, 1992 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17043 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*).

1. An adult was observed (Class III; TH) at Wolf Lake, Saunders Co. several times during the dates of 23 December, 1995 through 6 January, 1996.
2. A specimen of an adult bird found shot and salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) during the fall, 1991 at Clear Creek WMA, Garden Co. was prepared as specimen # ZM-17009 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
3. A specimen of an adult bird found shot and salvaged (Class I-S; LWB of NGP) 24 November, 1995, Boyd Co. was prepared as specimen # ZM-17292 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
4. A group of four birds were photographed (Class I-P; MB) at Chain Lake, Holt Co., 13 November, 1994.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*).

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Harvard Marsh, Clay Co., 27 April, 1996.
2. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; MB) at Lake Yankton, Cedar Co., 10 March, 1993.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*).

1. A female observed (Class III; WRS) at the North Platte Sewage Lagoons, Lincoln Co., 28 October, 1996 was well described.
2. A female (presumed above bird) and a first-winter Black Scoter were observed (Class III; BL) at the North Platte

Sewage Lagoons, Lincoln Co., 1 November, 1996.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*).

1. A specimen of an immature male found dead along I-80 and salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) in Lincoln Co., 9 September, 1991 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17034 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*).

1. A brown-phase female captured 8 January, 1983 by a licensed falconer in Cherry Co., died in captivity 17 February, 1983; was salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) and prepared as specimen # ZM-16380 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
2. A gray-phase male captured 8 January, 1983 by a licensed falconer in Cherry Co., died in captivity 25 December, 1983; was salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) and prepared as specimen # ZM-16381 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*).

1. A single bird was recorded (Class I-R; JG) at North Basin WMA, Seward Co., 4 June, 1996. A photograph (Class I-P; JS) of the bird taken at the same location on 4 June, 1996 was also received.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*).

1. A single adult was observed (Class III; JG) at North Basin WMA, Seward Co., 7 June, 1996.

Common Crane (*Grus grus*).

1. Two separate written reports by the initial observers (Class III; RJ, JW) and two sets of photographs (Class I-P; GL, MB) were received of an adult bird in Hall Co., 30-31 March, 1996. These sightings represent the fourth record for Common Crane in Nebraska (NBR 64: 80-82).

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*).

1. A group of five adults were photographed (Class I-P; MB) south of Creighton, Antelope Co., 11 April, 1993. This represents one of the eastern-most records for Whooping Crane in Nebraska in the last 100 years.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Harvard WPA, Clay Co., 27 April, 1996.
2. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Mallard Haven WPA, Fillmore Co., 27 April, 1996.

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*).

1. A pair of adult birds were observed (Class III; WRS) in Kimball Co., 15 June, 1996.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*).

1. A single adult was photographed (Class I-P; MB) south of Creighton, Antelope Co., 30 April, 1996. This represents one of NE eastern-most records for this species.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

1. Two written reports (Class III; WRS, BP, LP) were received of a single juvenile observed at Schilling

Refuge, Cass Co., 23 September, 1996.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*).

1. Two juveniles were photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cut-off Rainwater Basin, Platte Co., 24 August, 1996.

Dowitcher sp. (*Limnodromus* sp.).

1. Two dowitchers (Long-billed?) were observed (Class III; SS) in Merrick Co., 8 November, 1996 (notable late date).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; MS) at Lewis & Clark Lake, Knox Co., 30 June, 1990.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).

1. A single second-winter bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., 28 October, 1996; WRS.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*).

1. Two reports were received of a single juvenile bird observed (Class III; JJ, JG) at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 October, 1996. This represents the second documented occurrence of Little Gull in Nebraska.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*).

1. A second-winter bird was observed (Class III; WRS) above Kingsley Dam, Keith Co., 17 February, 1996. This represents the first documented occurrence of Mew Gull in Nebraska.
2. An adult was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 11 May, 1996.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*).

1. An adult was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 27 March, 1996; JJ. This represents one of the eastern-most records for this species in Nebraska.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).

1. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 23 November, 1995.
 2. Of two adults observed, one was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 20 January, 1996.
 3. A first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 20 January, 1996.
 4. A single first-winter bird was described (Class III; KN, LN) and photographed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 March, 1996. The NOURC felt the photographs taken of this bird were not diagnostic enough to stand by themselves.
 5. A first-year bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 15 April, 1996.
 6. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 17 November, 1996.
 7. Two first-winter birds were observed (Class III; WRS) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 December, 1996.
- The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Iceland Gull (Larus glaucooides).

1. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; BP, LP) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 February, 1996.
2. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; KN, LN) and photographed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 March, 1996. The NOURC felt the photographs taken of this bird were not diagnostic enough to stand by themselves.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus).

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., March, 1996.
2. Two written reports (Class III; WRS, BP, LP) were received of a single adult (presumed same bird) observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 17-19 February, 1996.
3. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 24 March, 1996.
4. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; KN, LN) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 March, 1996.

Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus).

1. One second-winter bird was observed (Class III; RH) at Harlan Co. Reservoir, Harlan Co., 27 December, 1995. The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus).

The following documentations presumably may be all of the same bird at Lake McConaughy, Keith County.

1. First-winter bird photographed (Class I-P; JJ); 20 January, 1996.
2. First-winter bird observed (Class III; BP, LP); 5 February, 1996.
3. First-winter bird observed (Class III; WRS); 17-18 February, 1996.
4. First-winter bird photographed (Class I-P; KN, LN); 18 March, 1996.
5. First-summer bird photographed (Class I-P; SD); 4 August, 1996.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla).

1. A first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 21 November, 1995.
2. A first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Summit Lake, Burt Co., 27 November, 1995.
3. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 December, 1995.

Sabine's Gull (Xema sabini).

1. One written report (Class III; BP, LP) and a photograph (Class I-P; JJ) of the presumed same juvenile bird observed at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., 22-26 October, 1995.
2. Two written reports (Class III; LR, RH, WRS) and two sets of photographs were received (Class I-P; JJ, SD) of at least two juveniles observed at Lake Maloney, Lincoln Co., 26-29 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).
3. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake Maloney, Lincoln Co., 26 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).
4. A single juvenile was observed (Class III; JJ) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., 26 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).

5. Two written reports (Class III; JJ, WRS) and a photograph (Class I-P; SD) of a juvenile observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 28 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).

1. A juvenile was observed (Class III; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 1 September, 1996.
2. A juvenile was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 6 September, 1996.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*).

1. A basic-plumaged adult was observed (Class III; WRS) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., on the very late date of 28 October, 1996.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; ET) at Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., 15 October, 1996. This represents the first documented occurrence for Band-tailed Pigeon in Nebraska.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; BM, KM) in Malcolm, Lancaster County, 13 May, 1994. This represents the third documented occurrence for White-winged Dove in Nebraska.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*).

1. A female/immature was observed (Class III; SD) coming to a feeder in Harrison, Sioux Co., 4 August, 1995.
2. A female/immature was observed (Class III; WRS) coming to a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., 3 August, 1996.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*).

1. A probable female belonging to this complex was observed (Class III; WRS) coming to a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., 3-4 August, 1996.
2. A female/immature belonging to this complex was photographed (Class I-P; SD) at a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., 10 August, 1996.

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*).

1. Two sets of photographs submitted (Class I-P; LB, MB) taken 19 May, 1996 of a single adult bird coming to a feeder stocked with oranges near Chambers, Holt County. This bird was seen daily from 18-21 May, 1996 and constitutes the first documented record for Acorn Woodpecker in Nebraska.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*).

1. A single adult was observed (Class III; BL) at a feeding station at Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., 2 November, 1996.

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*).

1. One bird from a group of approximately 40 was photographed (Class I-P; MB) in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co., 29 December, 1986.

Mountain Chickadee (*Parus gambeli*).

1. An initial report was received of seven birds observed and documented (Class III; LM) at Stateline Island Unit of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge, Scotts Bluff Co., 5 October, 1996. A second documentation (Class III; AK) of three birds at the same location on 12 October, 1996 was also received.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Riverside Park, Scotts Bluff Co., 27 October, 1996.
3. A single bird photographed (Class I-P; DC, JC), actually feeding out of the hand, in Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 12 November, 1996.
4. A specimen of a female found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; RSm) in Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 23 November, 1996 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17444 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*).

1. One of the few records away from the Platte or Missouri River systems; a single bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) near Wisner, Cuming Co., 29 October, 1994.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*).

1. A single (out of normal range) bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) near Malcolm, Lancaster Co., 5 November, 1995.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*).

1. One photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Hormel Park, Dodge Co., on the very late date of 31 December, 1995.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*).

1. Of a group of four birds observed, one was photographed (Class I-P; BP, LP) south of I-80 Exit 1, Kimball Co., 18 July, 1996.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; LM) at the base of Chimney Rock, Morrill Co., 2 September, 1996.

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; LK) south of Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 2 July, 1996. This represents the first documented record for Curve-billed Thrasher in Nebraska since the 1960's.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*).

1. An unusual mid-winter record of a single bird observed (Class III; RH, LR) near Hazard, Sherman Co., 1 January, 1996 was received.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*).

1. A single first-fall bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Schramm Park, Sarpy Co., 15 September, 1996.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 10 October, 1996.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*).

1. A specimen of an adult female found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 18 May, 1993 was prepared as specimen # ZM-16966 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*).

1. A specimen of an adult male found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; AG) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 12 May, 1993 was prepared as specimen # ZM-16910 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
2. A specimen of an adult male found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 13 May, 1993 was prepared as specimen # ZM-16911 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*).

1. A specimen of an immature female found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 11 October, 1994 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17097 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*).

1. An adult female was observed (Class III; SG, SK) at Schramm Park, Sarpy Co., 11 May, 1996 (NBR 64: 83).

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*).

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; BP, LP) at Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 18 May, 1996.
2. An adult male was observed (Class III; DS) at Wilderness Park, Lancaster Co., 12 May, 1996.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; WRS) at N.P. Dodge Park, Douglas Co., 27 May, 1996.
2. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; MB) at Schramm Park, Sarpy Co., 30 May, 1996.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*).

1. A specimen of an adult male found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 10 May, 1994 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17033 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*).

1. A report of one adult male and two females (accompanied by a photograph of the adult male; Class I-P; MBH) coming to a feeding station near the Belmont Dam, Morrill Co., 12 May, 1996 was received.
2. Two sets of photographs were submitted (Class I-P; EV, MB); taken 30 May, 1996 of a single female-plumaged bird coming to a feeder at Crane Meadows Nature Center, Hall County.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Courthouse Rock, Morrill Co., 11 May, 1996.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*).

1. A single singing bird was observed (Class III; JJ) along Long Canyon Road, Banner Co., 11 May, 1996.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; SZ) at Burchard Lake, Pawnee Co., 6 May, 1985 (NBR 53: 82).
2. A single bird was recorded (Class I-R; JG) at Burchard Lake, Pawnee Co., 1 June, 1996.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Jack Sinn WMA, Lancaster County, 15 September, 1996.

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*).

1. A single adult male was observed (Class III; LM) at a bird feeder in Crawford, Dawes Co., 28 January, 1996.
2. A group of three males and two females were observed (Class III; WRS) at a feeding station at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., 26-27 October, 1996.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*).

Out-of-normal range records received included:

1. Photographs of several individuals (Class I-P; GF) of a group of 15 birds at Kearney, Buffalo Co., 20 July, 1996.
2. Two heavily streaked birds were observed (Class III; RH, LR) south of Gibbon, Buffalo Co., 3 August, 1996.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*).

1. A photograph of several individuals (Class I-P; JJ) of a group of seven birds at Oakland Cemetery, Burt Co., 17 March, 1996.

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.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). Class V.

1. A written report was received of a bird observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 22 June, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate all other possibilities.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*). Class V.

1. A written report was received, describing a bird flying up the Platte River, Sarpy Co., 22 June, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate all other possibilities.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). Class IV.

1. A scoter was photographed at Olive Creek Reservoir, Lancaster Co., 17 November, 1996; however, the photograph did not show enough details to identify to species.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). Class IV.

1. A written report of a single bird briefly observed in flight after being flushed from a wet meadow at Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co. during the spring of 1995. The description in this documentation lacked sufficient

details to eliminate other species.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).

1. A first-winter bird was observed above Kingsley Dam, Keith Co., 18 February, 1996. The description in this documentation lacked sufficient details to eliminate other species. (Class IV).
2. An adult gull was observed and photographed at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 5 December, 1996. The photographs in this documentation lacked sufficient details to eliminate other species. (Class IV).
3. A single first-winter bird was observed and described at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19 February, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate all other possibilities. (Class IV).

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*). Class V.

1. A first-winter gull was observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 December, 1996. Identified as Iceland by some observers, others considered it a small Glaucous (NBR 65: 22). Resolution not considered possible by some NOURC members.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). Class IV.

1. A first-winter bird was observed and described at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19 February, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate other possibilities.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). Class VI.

1. A first-winter bird was observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 December, 1996. Identified as Iceland by some observers, others considered it a small Glaucous (NBR 65: 22). Resolution not considered possible by some NOURC members.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*). Class VI.

1. A very interesting report received of a single bird at Offut AFB, Sarpy Co., 19 September, 1993. While there are fall records for inland states such as Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Illinois, making this record a possibility, several reviewers noted that there was no description of the bird's primary wing pattern, which is a key differentiating characteristic to separate this species. One reviewer also noted, "This bird was described as having 'the classic black cap,' a feature which almost certainly rules out Royal Tern, as the latter species possesses a black cap only for a very short time in March-May, while Caspian retains the black cap March-September."

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). Class IV.

1. A single bird was observed at Lake Alice, Scotts Bluff Co., 27 September, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate other possibilities.

Acknowledgments

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(LWB), Loren Blake (LB), Mark A. Brogie (MB), Dan Clark (DC), Jamalee Clark (JC), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SD), Glen Falk (GF), Sue Gentes (SG), Amy Goedert (AG), Joe Gubanyi (JG), Robin Harding (RH), Thomas A. Hoffman (TH), Mary B. Hunt (MH), Robert Jassen (RJ), Joel Jorgensen (JJ), Sandy Kovanda (SK), Alice Kenitz (AK), Lee Kenitz (LK), Ray Korpi (RK), Tom Labeledz (TL), Gary Lingle (GL), Bob Livermore (BL), Larry Malone (LM), Bonnie Meltvedt (BM), Klare Meltvedt (KM), Jim Mountjoy (JM), Nebraska Game & Parks personnel (NGP), Kenny Nichols (KN), LaDonna Nichols (LN), Babs Padelford (BP), Loren Padelford (LP), Lanny Randolph (LR), Roger Schmidt (RS), Rod Smith (RSm), Mark Schubert (MS), Glenna Schwalbe (GS), Paul Schwalbe (PS), Don Shower (DS), W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Steven Stoppkotte (SS), John Sullivan (JS), Edna Claire Thomas (ET), W.L. Vodehual (WV), Eric Volden (EV), Jim Williams (JW), Soheil Zende (SZ).

Current Records Committee members are Mark A. Brogie (Chair), Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Joel Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Tom Labeledz, Loren Padelford, and Ross Silcock.

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