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2008 (20th) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

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The functions and methods of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (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.

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 Records Committee 1988) and has been updated two times (NOU Records Committee 1997, 2004). The "Official List" has been appended eighteen times: (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008; Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003).

The American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998) and the Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, Forty-eighth, and Forty-ninth Supplements to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU: 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008) contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds. The following summarizes all 2008 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: 2003" (NBR 72 (2004):108-126).

This report includes all accounts submitted during the 2008 calendar year covering 65 records with accession numbers 1206-1270. One additional record, (Reddish Egret - Keith Co.) was submitted in 2000 (Jorgensen 2002) and was reviewed; but never filed. This record has been assigned an earlier unused accession number (# 873); which corresponds closer to this record's original submittal date.

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 (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.

This report summarizes all records accessioned in 2008, 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 1999-2008. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 2004):

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".

2008 Additions to State List

There was one new species added in 2008. With this addition, the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" now stands at 453 species.

1. Grace's Warbler (*Dendroica graciae*), Accidental, I-P
Insert after: Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

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

The "black-headed gulls" are split from the genus *Larus*:

1. Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) becomes (*Leucophaeus atricilla*).
2. Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) becomes (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*).
3. Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) becomes (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*).
4. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) becomes (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*).
5. Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) becomes (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*).

Changes in Sequence

A change is made in the taxonomic order of the “black-headed gulls” in the “Official List of the Birds of Nebraska”. The new sequence is as follows:

- Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)
- Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)
- Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*)
- Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)
- Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)
- Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*)
- Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)
- Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

The remaining species of *Larus* are in the same sequence as before.

2008 Changes in Frequency of Occurrence

1. Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) Accidental to Casual
2. Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) Accidental to Casual
3. Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) Accidental to Casual
4. Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) Casual to Accidental

2008 Changes in Firmness of Data

1. Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) changed from Class III to Class I-P.

Pre-2008 Accepted Records

Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*)

1. A single bird was observed (Class III, LH) northwest of Lewellen, Garden Co., 30 September 2007. Accession # 1210
2. A single bird was observed (Class III, SJD) in Harrison, Sioux Co., 28 December 2007. Accession # 1255

Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*)

1. A single bird was observed (Class III, KK) at the hanger of the Sidney Municipal Airport, Cheyenne Co., 06-07 October 2007. Accession # 1269
**It has been over 15 years since the last accepted documentation for this species in Nebraska (Brogie, 1992).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, DM) at Omaha, Douglas Co., 19 December 2007. Accession # 1207

Pine Warbler (Dendroica pinus)

1. A single bird, coming to a suet feeder, was photographed (Class I-P, LB) at North Platte, Lincoln Co., 24 December 2007. Accession # 1206

2008 Accepted Records*Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna autumnalis)*

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, GS) at Wagon Train Lake, Lancaster Co., 21-25 July 2008. Accession # 1250

Eurasian Wigeon (Anas penelope)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) at Spikerush WPA, York Co., 05 April 2008. Accession # 1226

Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis)

1. A second-year bird was photographed (Class I-P, KS) at Harlan County Reservoir, Harlan Co., 19 October 2008. Accession # 1262

Neotropic Cormorant (Phalacrocorax brasilianus)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) at Hultline WPA, Clay Co.; 03 June, 2008. Accession # 1238

Reddish Egret (Egretta rufescens)

1. Nebraska's first record for this species; a white morph bird photographed (Class I-P, SJD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 12 October 2000, was discussed in Jorgensen (2002) but was never filed with an assigned accession number. This record has now been assigned an earlier unused accession number which corresponds closer to this record's submittal date (Dinsmore 2001). Accession # 873
2. An adult bird at Funk WPA, Phelps Co., 12 June 2008, was well described (Class III; KS). This represents the second documented record for this species in Nebraska. Accession # 1241

Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)

1. A lone adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Green Wing WMA, Clay Co., 04 May 2008. Accession # 1234

White-tailed Kite (Elanus leucurus)

1. A single bird was observed (Class III, TJW) on the Brady Breeding Bird Survey Route, Lincoln Co., 01 July 2008. Accession # 1246

Yellow Rail (Coturnicops noveboracensis)

1. A single bird was observed (Class III, SJD) at North Kirkpatrick WMA, York Co., 15 May 2008. Accession # 1256

Common Crane (Grus grus)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, ABu) near the Gibbon Bridge, Buffalo Co., 06 March 2008. Accession # 1223
2. Another photograph (Class I-P, ST) of the above bird near the same

location taken on 08 March 2008. Accession # 1222

3. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, TJW) northeast of Hershey, Lincoln Co., 02 April 2008. This location is approximately 120 miles west of the above sightings and may possibly represent a second bird. Accession # 1225
4. Another series of photographs (Class I-P; DWN) of the bird near Hershey, Lincoln Co., 05 April 2008. Accession # 1242

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, BM) at Funk WPA, Phelps Co., 10 May 2008. Accession # 1237

Jaeger (*Stercorarius*) species

1. A jaeger species (voted on as such) believed to be an immature Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) was observed (Class III, DP, JP) at Fort Niobrara NWR, Cherry Co., 10 September 2008. Accession # 1258

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, DF) at a feeder in Ceresco, Saunders Co., 20 February 2008. Accession # 1217
2. An additional photograph (Class I-P, DJ) of the above bird taken 23 February 2008. Accession # 1218
3. An additional photograph (Class I-P, PR) of the above bird taken 23 February 2008. Accession # 1219
4. An additional photograph (Class I-P, JJ) of the above bird taken 23 February 2008. Accession # 1220

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*)

1. A single bird was videotaped (Class I-P, BH) at a feeder in Brule, Keith Co., 01 November 2008. Accession # 1264

Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, TS) south of Ogallala, Keith Co., "sometime in February of 2008". Accession # 1224

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)

1. A lone bird was observed and carefully described (Class III, CK) at Bellevue, Sarpy Co., 02 May 2008. Accession # 1232

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, CH) at Omaha, Douglas Co., 21 April 2008. Accession # 1229
2. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, TS) south of Ogallala, Keith Co., late November 2008. Accession # 1270

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

1. A group of "20-30 adults" was observed (Class III, BN) at Riverside Zoo, Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 13 April 2008. Accession # 1227

Grace's Warbler (Dendroica graciae)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, CG) at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Garden Co., 04 May 2008. Accession # 1233
**This represents the first documented record for this species in Nebraska.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (Dendroica nigrescens)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, SJD) at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Garden Co., 16 May 2008. Accession # 1257

Pine Warbler (Dendroica pinus)

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, CaG) at Pioneers Park, Lancaster Co., 01 November 2008. Accession # 1265

Golden-crowned Sparrow (Zonotrichia atricapilla)

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, CKe) in Creighton, Knox Co., 01 May 2008. Accession # 1230
2. An additional photograph (Class I-P, MAB) of the above bird taken 02 May 2008. Accession # 1231

Painted Bunting (Passerina ciris)

1. An adult male was observed (Class III, PD) at Deweese, Clay Co., 12 May 2008. Accession # 1235
2. A "female or first year male" was observed (Class III, KS) at Kearney, Buffalo Co., 14 May 2008. Accession # 1236

Lesser Goldfinch (Carduelis psaltria)

1. A "black-backed" male was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) at Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co., 26 August 2008. Accession # 1253

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.

Unaccepted Records (Received in 2008)*Mute Swan (Cygnus olor)*

1. Two juvenile Mute Swans were photographed at Wehrspann Lake, Sarpy Co., 01 November 2008. The identification of these birds was not in question; however, this species is commonly kept in captivity, and the provenance of these birds was believed to be not determinable. Class VI.

Accession # 1263. This species is not on the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska".

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

1. A bird photographed at North Lake Basin, Seward Co., 31 July 2008, was believed to be this species by several observers. The photographic evidence provided was not deemed to be definitive enough to rule out the question of hybridization [Glossy Ibis X White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)]. Class IV. Accession # 1248
2. A bird photographed at Tamora WPA, Seward Co., 23 August 2008, was believed to be this species. The photographic evidence provided was not deemed to be definitive enough to rule out the question of hybridization [Glossy Ibis X White-faced Ibis]. Class IV. Accession # 1252

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

1. A written description of an adult bird observed 26 September, 2008 at Spring Creek Audubon Center, Lancaster Co., was received. Although suggestive, the description lacked sufficient details for approval. Class IV. Accession # 1259

Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)

1. A single bird was present in central Omaha, Douglas Co., from 28 September through 02 November 2008. The bird was photographed on 30 September, and while the identification of this bird is not in question, the provenance of this bird was believed to be not determinable. Class VI. Accession # 1260. This species is not on the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska".

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*)

1. A single bird was photographed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., 08 September 2007. Although very suggestive, the photograph provided did not conclusively rule out similar species. Class V. Accession # 1214

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)

1. A single bird was photographed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball Co., 08 September 2007. Although very suggestive, the photograph provided did not conclusively rule out similar species. Class V. Accession # 1213

Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)

1. A single bird was photographed south of Exit 1, Kimball Co., 30 August 2008. Although very suggestive, the photographs provided did not conclusively rule out similar species. Class IV. Accession # 1254

Records Submitted in 2008: Filed Without Votes

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

1. A description (KD) of single "probably female" bird in the company of two Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) one mile east of Scotts-bluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 15 December 2007, was filed. Accession # 1208

Red-necked Grebe (Podiceps grisegena)

1. A photograph (DH) of an adult bird at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 03 September 2006 was filed. Accession # 1244

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (Nyctanassa violacea)

1. A photograph (DH) of a juvenile bird at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 16 September 2006 was filed. Accession # 1243
2. Photographs (KS) of an adult bird at Funk WPA, Phelps Co., 02 August 2008, were filed. Accession # 1249
3. Photographs (RW, SW) of a single juvenile bird present from June through the end of August 2008 in Norfolk, Madison Co., were filed. Accession # 1251

Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)

1. A description (KD) of an adult bird observed just west of Haig, Scotts Bluff Co., 15 December 2007 was filed. Accession # 1209

Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus)

1. Photographs (RHo via TJW) of an adult bird at a nest with young in North Platte, Lincoln Co., 03 July 2008, a remarkable extralimital nesting record. Accession # 1247

Mew Gull (Larus canus)

1. Photographs (PD) of a second-year bird at the sewage lagoons south of Alma, Harlan Co., 29 November 2008, were filed. Accession # 1268

Sabine's Gull (Xema sabini)

1. A photograph (DH) of a juvenile bird at Enders Reservoir, Chase Co., 23 September 2006, was filed. Accession # 1245
2. A photograph (PD) of an adult bird at the sewage lagoons south of Alma, Harlan Co., 08 October 2008, was filed. Accession # 1261

Snowy Owl (Bubo scandiacus)

1. A photograph (JJ) of a first-year bird found northeast of Wahoo, Saunders Co., 23 February 2008, was filed. Accession # 1221

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Tyrannus forficatus)

1. A description (RH) of an immature bird observed north of Milburn Diversion Dam, Blaine Co., 01 June 2008, was filed. Accession # 1239

Pygmy Nuthatch (Sitta pygmaea)

1. Photographs (JJ) of an extralimital bird in Lincoln's Pioneers Park, Lancaster Co., 01 November 2008, were filed. Accession # 1266

Palm Warbler (Dendroica palmarum)

1. A description (RS) of a bird observed near Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 05 November 2008, was filed. The observer was confident that the bird belonged to the Yellow (Eastern) population (*D. p. hypochrysea*). Accession # 1267

Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana)

1. A photograph (KSc) of an extralimital adult male north of Plattsmouth, Cass Co., 26 April 2008, was filed. Accession # 1228

Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina)

1. Photographs (TL) of a single "wintering" bird in Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 06 January 2008, were filed. Accession # 1212

Henslow's Sparrow (Ammodramus henslowii)

1. A photograph (TF) of a "very cooperative singing" bird at Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co., 06 June 2008, was filed. Accession # 1240

Lincoln's Sparrow (Melospiza lincolni)

1. A photograph (TL) of a single "wintering" bird in Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 06 January 2008, was filed. Accession # 1211

Dark-eyed Junco (Junco hyemalis)

1. Multiple photographs (LH) of variously-plumaged birds near Lewellen, Garden Co., taken from November 2007 through February 2008, were filed. Accession # 1215

Northern Cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis)

1. A description (LH) of male and female birds observed near Lewellen, Garden Co., 30 November 2007 and 20 February 2008, was filed. Accession # 1216

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2008 NOU Records Committee Members

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

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