


12-2009

2009 (21st) Report of the NOU Records Committee

Mark A. Brogie

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev>

 Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#), [Poultry or Avian Science Commons](#), and the [Zoology Commons](#)

Brogie, Mark A., "2009 (21st) Report of the NOU Records Committee" (2009). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 1087.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/1087>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska Bird Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

2009 (21st) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

Compiled by: Mark A. Brogie - NOU Records Committee Chairperson
508 Seeley Street, Box 316
Creighton, Nebraska 68729

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 three times (NOU Records Committee 1997, 2004, 2009). The "Official List" has been appended nineteen times: (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009; 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), contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds. The following summarizes all 2009 revisions by the AOU in regards to changes in scientific names and changes in assignments to family and order of species included in the most recently published "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009" (NOU Records Committee 2009). This report includes all accounts submitted during the 2009 calendar year, covering 48 records with accession numbers 1271-1318.

Criteria for Accepted Record

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 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 2009, 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 2000-2009. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 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. This report summarizes the 2009 changes made to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009".

2009 Additions to State List

There were two new species added in 2009.

1. Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) Accidental, Class III.
Replaces (*Fregata* species).
2. Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*), Accidental, Class III.
Insert after American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).

With these additions, the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" now stands at 454 species.

Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions and/or Changes in English or Scientific Names Based on AOU 2009

1. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) changed to Nelson's Sparrow.
2. Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) becomes *Acanthis flammea*.
3. Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) becomes *Acanthis hornemanni*.
4. Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) becomes *Spinus pinus*.
5. Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*) becomes *Spinus psaltria*.
6. American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) becomes *Spinus tristis*.

2009 Changes in Sequence Based on AOU 2009

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

In the Order GALLIFORMES, Family Odontophoridae: Quail now precedes Family Phasianidae: Partridges, Grouse, and Turkeys.

On the basis of new information on their phylogenetic relationships, the (*Piranga*) tanagers were moved (retaining their same sequence) from the Family Thraupidae to the beginning of the Family Cardinalidae: Cardinals and Allies. Thus the family Thraupidae was removed from the "Official List".

2009 Changes in Frequency of Occurrence

1. Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) changed from Regular to Casual.

2009 Changes in Firmness of Data

1. Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*) changed from Class III to Class I-P.

Pre-2009 Accepted RecordsNeotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, DC) were received of a single bird observed at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co., 01 July 2006. Accession # 1290.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

1. A detailed description (Class III, CS) was received of an adult male observed on the south channel of the Missouri River around Goat Island, Cedar Co., 29 August 2007. This record was originally submitted to the South Dakota Records Committee with the following review: "This report was an acceptable sight record with two observers, so it would constitute a first state record. However; the committee was unsure of whether the sighting occurred in what is legally defined as South Dakota or Nebraska. The record will be listed as hypothetical pending the outcome of the litigation over the boundary dispute involving Goat Island." (Swanson 2008). From information received, regardless of the NE/SD boundary dispute, the NOURC deemed that the bird was clearly within Nebraska during part of the observation. Accession # 1310.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, NG) were received of a male bird banded (Rocky Mtn. Bird Observatory) at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., 25 September 2008. Accession # 1313.

Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*)

1. A photograph (Class I-P, HH) was received of a bird at Wind Springs Ranch, southern Sioux Co., 15 January 2001. Accession # 1311.

2009 Accepted RecordsBlack-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, SN via NN) at Pier Park in Grand Island, Hall County, 30 December 2008. Although a late date, the bird was unbanded and had an intact right hind toe (an indication of a wild bird). Accession # 1271.
2. Two birds were photographed (Class I-P, WL) at a game farm north of Cairo, Howard County. Both birds had intact hind toes on the right foot and were present from 21 June through mid-July, 2009. Accession # 1306.

Eurasian Wigeon (Anas penelope)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, KS) at Funk WPA, Phelps Co., 05 March 2009. Accession # 1275.
2. An additional photograph (Class I-P, PD) of the above bird taken 06 March 2009. Accession # 1276.
3. Two adult males were observed (Class III, LH) at Bridgeport SRA, Morrill Co., 11 October 2009. Accession # 1308.

Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis)

1. An immature bird was observed (Class III, DP, JP) at Lake Babcock, north of Columbus, Platte Co., 15 May 2009. Accession # 1285.

Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)

1. Two adult birds were photographed (Class I-P; TB via CG) in southern Sheridan Co., 30 April 2009. Accession # 1277.

White-tailed Kite (Elanus leucurus)

1. A single adult was photographed (Class I-P, MAB) southwest of Brady, Lincoln Co., 25 June 2009. Accession # 1287.
*This is the same location at which a bird was observed 01 July 2008 (Brogie 2009).
2. Additional photographs (Class I-P, PD) of the above bird observed on 26 July 2009 were received. Accession # 1292.
3. A single adult bird was observed (Class III, LS) along I-80 west of Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 30 May 2009. Accession # 1318.

Yellow Rail (Coturnicops noveboracensis)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, JR) of a "half decomposed (nearly mummified)" bird was discovered 23 November 2009 at Indian Creek Nursery, Omaha, Sarpy County. The carcass was turned over to the UNSM for skeletal material. Accession # 1315.

Common Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus)

1. Members of a family group (2 adults, 10 chicks) were photographed (Class I-P, JJ) at North Lake Basin, Seward Co., 01 August, 2009. Accession 1294.

Common Crane (Grus grus)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, BHo) at Crane Valley Ranch near Lewellen, Garden Co., 18-21 March 2009. Accession # 1277.

Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicarius)

1. An adult in non-breeding plumage was photographed (Class I-P, PD) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 07 November 2009. Accession # 1307.

Laughing Gull (Leucophaeus atricilla)

1. A single adult bird was observed (Class III, DL) at Lake North/Lake Babcock, Platte Co., 16 May 2009. Accession # 1283.

Inca Dove (Columbina inca)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, TS) in Benkelman, Dundy Co., 08 June 2009. Accession # 1296.

Red-naped Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus nuchalis)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, HH) at Wind Springs Ranch, southern Sioux Co., 18 May 2009. Accession # 1286.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (Myiarchus cinerascens)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, TH) south of Exit 1, Kimball Co., 23 June 2009. Accession # 1288.

White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus)

1. A bird "calling regularly" was photographed (Class I-P, PS) at Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 02 May 2009. Accession # 1280.
2. An adult "molting bird" was observed (Class III, MAB) near Schindler Creek, northwest of Verdigre, Knox Co., 29 July 2009. Accession # 1293.

Fish Crow (Corvus ossifragus)

1. A detailed report (Class III, JJ) was received of a single bird first observed at mile 1.2 of the Platte River, Cass/Sarpy Co., 29 May 2009 and again at the same location on 24 July 2009. Accession # 1291.
*This represents the first documented record for this species in Nebraska.
2. An additional report (Class III, WRS) was received of a Fish Crow observed at the above location on 15 August 2009. Accession # 1299.

Mountain Chickadee (Poecile gambeli)

1. A single bird, present since early January, was photographed (Class I-P, CM) at Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 22 February 2009. Accession # 1273.

Bewick's Wren (Thryomanes bewickii)

1. A single adult was observed (Class III, LE) at Holmes Lake Park, Lancaster Co., 13 April 2009. Accession # 1301.

Varied Thrush (Ixoreus naevius)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, KS) at Kearney, Buffalo Co., 17 May 2009. Accession # 1282.

Lesser Goldfinch (Spinus psaltria)

1. A "black-backed" male was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) at Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co., 10 August 2009. Accession # 1298.
2. Photographs (Class I-P, JJ) were received of several birds in various locations in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co., 16 August 2009. Accession # 1300.
3. A "black-backed" male was photographed (Class I-P, DS) northwest of Gretna, Douglas Co., 20-21 May 2009. Accession # 1302.
*This represents the easternmost record for this species in Nebraska.
4. Two "black-backed" males were photographed (Class I-P, MAB) south of Exit 1, Kimball Co., 06 September 2009. Accession # 1303.

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 2009)**Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)**

1. A description of a bird observed at Ender's Reservoir, Chase Co., 22 May 2009 was very suggestive of the species, but lacked sufficient details for approval. Class IV. Accession # 1284.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

1. A single bird was observed and described near Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., 12 September 2009. Although most likely correct, some reviewers believed the description lacked sufficient details to eliminate other possible species. Accession # 1289.

Records Submitted in 2009: Filed Without Votes**Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)**

1. A photograph (KS) of a single "blue-phase" individual near Kearney, Buffalo Co., 05 March 2009, was filed. Accession # 1274.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

1. Photographs (JJ) of a single bird at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 24 October 2009 were filed. Accession # 1305.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

1. A photograph (PD) of an adult bird in Hastings, Adams Co., 09 June 2009 was filed. Accession # 1295.

Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*)

1. A report (DP, JP) of an "out of range and out of season" bird discovered at Buckley Park in Stromsburg, Polk Co., 23 October 2009 was filed. Accession # 1309.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

1. A photograph (TS) of a single bird in Dundy Co., 08 May 2009 was filed. Accession # 1297.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*)

1. A photograph (MA via TJW) of a single bird at Medicine Creek Reservoir, Frontier Co., 10 June 2009 was filed. Accession # 1317.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)

1. A photograph (NG) of a female banded (Rocky Mtn. Bird Observatory) at Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., 13 September, 2008 was filed. Accession # 1314.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

1. Photographs (TP) of a single bird coming to a suet feeder in Walton, Lancaster Co., 04 December 2009 were filed. Accession # 1316.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*)

1. A photograph (CH via KD) of an adult male in Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., 03 May 2009 (present since 30 April) was filed. Accession # 1281.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*)

1. A description (EB) of an "adult female or possible immature" observed at Bellevue, Sarpy Co., 12 October 2009 was filed. Accession # 1304.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

1. Photographs (EM) of an extralimital adult male observed in Omaha, Douglas Co., 28-30 April 2009 were filed. Accession # 1279.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*)

1. A photograph (BH) of a single bird coming to a feeder in Ogallala, Keith Co., 03 January 2009 was filed. Accession # 1272.
2. A photograph (HH) of a single bird of the "Gray-cheeked" or "Hepburn's" form at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co., 15 January 2001 was filed. Accession # 1312.

Acknowledgments

The NOU Records Committee would like to thank the following observers who contributed records included in this report: Mack Alspaugh (MA), Tim Baerwald (TB), Elliot Bedows (EB), Mark A. Brogie (MAB), Dave Carter (DC), Kathy DeLara (KD), Paul Dunbar (PD), Larry Einemann (LE), Nancy Gobris (NG), Cory Gregory (CG), Tim Hajda (TH), Luke Hamilton (LH), Charlotte Herrell (CH), Barbara Hoover (BHo), Helen Hughson (HH), Bill Huntley (BH), Joel Jorgensen (JJ), Daniel Leger (DL), William Lemburg (WL), Connie McKinney (CM), Elizabeth Molloy (EM), Nate Nye (NN), Stephen Nye (SN), Don Paseka (DP), Janis Paseka (JP), Theresa Pester (TP), Justin Rink (JR), Colleen Satyshur (CS), Larry Semo (LS), Ross Silcock (WRS), Kent Skaggs (KS), Tim Smith (TS), Dave Stage (DS), Phil Swanson (PS), and T.J. Walker (TJW).

2009 NOU Records Committee Members

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

Literature Cited

- American Ornithologists' Union [AOU]. 1998. Check-list of North American birds, 7th ed. Washington DC: American Ornithologists' Union.
- , 2000. Forty-second supplement to the AOU check-list of North American birds. *Auk* 117:847-858.
- , 2002. Forty-third supplement to the AOU checklist of North American birds. *Auk* 119:897-906.
- , 2003. Forty-fourth supplement to the AOU checklist of North American birds. *Auk* 120:923-931.
- , 2004. Forty-fifth supplement to the AOU checklist of North American birds. *Auk* 121:985-995.
- , 2005. Forty-sixth supplement to the AOU checklist of North American birds. *Auk* 122:1026-1031.
- , 2006. Forty-seventh supplement to the AOU checklist of North American birds. *Auk* 123:926-936.
- , 2007. Forty-eighth supplement to the AOU checklist of North American birds. *Auk* 124:1109-1115.
- , 2008. Forty-ninth supplement to the AOU checklist of North American birds. *Auk* 125:758-768.
- , 2009. Fiftieth supplement to the AOU checklist of North American birds. *Auk* 126:705-714.
- Brogie MA. 1997. 1996 (Eighth) report of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union [NOU] Records Committee. *The Nebraska Bird Review* [NBR] 65(3):115-126.
- , 1998. 1997 (Ninth) report of the NOU Records Committee. *NBR* 66(4):147-159.
- , 1999. 1998 (Tenth) report of the NOU Records Committee. *NBR* 67(4):141-152.
- , 2003. 2002 (14th) report of the NOU Records Committee. *NBR* 71(3):136-142.
- , 2004. 2003 (15th) report of the NOU Records Committee. *NBR* 72(2):59-65.
- , 2005. 2004 (16th) report of the NOU Records Committee. *NBR* 73(2):78-84.
- , 2006. 2005 (17th) report of the NOU Records Committee. *NBR* 74(2):69-74.

- , 2007. 2006 (18th) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 75(3):86-94.
- , 2008. 2007 (19th) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 76(3):111-119.
- , 2009. 2008 (20th) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 77(2):80-90.
- Grenon AG. 1990. 1990 (Third) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 58(4):90-97.
- , 1991. 1991 (Fourth) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 59(4):150-155.
- Gubanyi JG. 1996a. 1992, 1993 (Fifth) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 64(1):30-35.
- , 1996b. 1994 (Sixth) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 64(2):38-42.
- , 1996c. 1995 (Seventh) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 64(4):132-138.
- Jorgensen JG. 2001. 1999 (11th) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 69(2):85-91.
- , 2002. 2002 [sic] (12th) report of the NOU Records Committee. (mistitled 2000 report) NBR 70(2):84-90.
- , 2003. 2001 (13th) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 71(2):97-102.
- Mollhoff WJ. 1989. 1989 (Second) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 57(2):42-47.
- NOU Records Committee. 1986. Bylaws of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 54(4):72-74.
- , 1988. The official list of the birds of Nebraska. WJ Mollhoff, compiler. NBR 56(4):86-96.
- , 1997. The official list of the birds of Nebraska. JG Gubanyi, compiler. NBR 65(1):3-16.
- , 2004. The official list of the birds of Nebraska: 2003. MA Brogie, compiler. NBR 72(3):108-126.
- , 2009. The official list of the birds of Nebraska: 2009. MA Brogie, compiler. NBR 77(3):112-131.
- Swanson DL. 2008. 2007 report of the Rare Birds Records Committee. South Dakota Bird Notes 60(2):56-59.