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1995 (Seventh) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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1995 (SEVENTH) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE
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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 birds was last published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988), and has been appended five times (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, 1991, Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b).

This report includes accounts submitted during the calendar year 1995 and covering records with accession numbers 396-450, 480-490. 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 on the latest issue of The Nebraska Bird Review.

State List

With this report, the following changes are made to the official list of birds of Nebraska:

Additions

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*): Accidental, I-P, insert between Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) and Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*).

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*): Accidental, I-P, insert between Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) and Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*).

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*): Accidental, I-P, insert between Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) and Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*).

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*): Accidental, III, insert between Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) and Northern Parula (*Parula americana*).

Change in Status

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*): change from III to I-P.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*): change from II to I-P.

Accepted Records

In order for a record to be accepted, a minimum of 6 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*). Class III.

A bird was observed and described at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster County, 5 November 1995; JM.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). Class III.

A juvenile and a bird in breeding plumage were observed and described at Lake McConaughy, Keith County, 14 June 1995; BP, LP.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). Class III.

An adult bird was observed and described at Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, Cherry County, 19 July 1995; JG.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*). Class I-P.

One adult and 1 subadult were observed and photographed at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas County, 17 March 1995; JJ.

Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*). Class III.

A blue morph Ross' goose was observed and described 1 mile south of Pierce, Pierce County, 19 March 1994; MB.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). Class I-P.

A single bird was observed and photographed at Pintail Wildlife Management Area, Hamilton County, 2 April 1995; JJ.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*). Class I-P.

An adult female was observed and photographed at Zorinsky Lake, Douglas County, 14 November 1994; JJ.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*).

1. A single female or first winter bird was observed and photographed at Stagecoach Lake, Lancaster County, 22 November 1994 (Class I-P); JJ.
 2. A single bird was observed and described at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas County, 12 April 1995 (Class III); JJ.
- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*).
1. An adult female was observed and photographed in Ogallala, Keith County, 9 July 1994 (Class I-P); MB.
 2. A bird was observed and described at Nebraska National Forest near Halsey, Thomas County, 11 September 1994 (Class III); TJ
- Harris' Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*). Class III.
An adult bird was observed and described at North Platte National Wildlife Refuge, Scotts Bluff County, 13 and 27 January 1995 ; LM.
- King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). Class I-R.
A single bird was heard and recorded at Jack Sinn Wildlife Area, Lancaster County, 11 May 1995; JG.
- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).
1. A single bird was observed and described (NBR 64:71) at Kissinger Basin Wildlife Management Area, Clay County, 6 May 1995 (Class III); SD.
 2. A single bird was observed and described (NBR 64:71) at Ayr Lake, Adams County, 6 May 1995 (Class III); SD.
- Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*). Class III.
Two birds were observed and described in a prairie west of Bushnell, Kimball County, 18 May 1995 ; SD.
- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*).
1. A single bird was observed and described at Griess Wildlife Production Area, Fillmore County, 27 April 1995 (Class III); SD.
 2. A single bird was observed and described at Lake McConaughy, Keith County, 18 May 1995 (Class III); SD.
- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*). Class I-P.
An adult post-breeding bird was observed and photographed at Sinniger Wildlife Production Area, York County, 13 August 1995; JJ.
- Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*). Class III.
A molting adult was observed and described on the North Platte River below Keystone Lake Diversion Dam, Keith County, 23 December 1994 (NBR 64:79,80). This is an incredibly late occurrence for this species which was recorded on the Lake McConaughy Christmas Bird Count; RS.
- Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*). Class I-P.
A juvenile was observed and photographed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster County, 1 October 1995; JJ.
- Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). Class III.
A single first-winter bird was observed and described at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln County, 22 December 1994 (NBR 63:66,67); RS.
- Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). Class III.
An adult bird was observed and described at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, 16 December 1993; RR. This is an unusually late occurrence for this species.
- Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). Class I-P.
A written report (Class III; RS) and photograph (Class I-P; JJ) were received for an adult alternate plumage bird observed at Wehrspann Lake, Sarpy County, 26 April 1995. This represents the first documented occurrence for this species in Nebraska.

Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri).

1. An adult was observed and described at Lake McConaughy, Keith County, 23 December 1994 (Class III); JJ.
2. A first-winter bird was observed and described below Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 5 March 1995 (Class III); RS.

Iceland Gull (Larus glaucooides).

1. An adult was observed and photographed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, 27 January 1995 (Class I-P); JJ.
2. A first-winter bird was observed and described at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, 20 February 1994 (Class III); RR.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus).

1. An adult was observed and described at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster County, 12 March 1995 (Class III); JM.
2. An adult bird was observed and photographed at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas County, 10 April 1995 (Class I-P); JJ.

Glaucous-winged Gull (Larus glaucescens). Class I-P.

A first-winter bird was observed and photographed below Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 12 April 1995 (NBR 64:3,4); DR. This represents the first documented occurrence for this species in Nebraska.

White-winged Dove (Zenaida asiatica).

A written report (class III; AK) and photographs (class I-P; LM) were received for a single bird visiting a feeder in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, 15-21 April 1995. This represents the second documented occurrence in Nebraska for this species, which was first documented in May 1994 in Lancaster County.

Calliope Hummingbird (Stellula calliope). Class I-P.

A photograph was received of a specimen collected on a ranch in Sioux County, 23 June 1994; JH, VH. The specimen is to be displayed in the future at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center in Scottsbluff County.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (Selasphorus platycercus). Class III.

A female/immature male was observed and described coming to a feeder in Harrison, Sioux County, 20 August 1995; BH.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Empidonax flaviventris). Class III.

A single bird was observed and described at Schramm State Park, Sarpy County, 30 May 1995; BP, LP.

Hammond's Flycatcher (Empidonax hammondii). Class III.

A single bird was observed, described and photographed in Adams County, 2 September 1995. Although the photographs were strongly suggestive of Hammond's Flycatcher, the committee did not feel they were diagnostic. The very thorough written description was diagnostic; JO.

Vermilion Flycatcher (Pyrocephalus rubinus). Class I-P.

A single male was observed and photographed in rural Lancaster County, 16 May 1995; AB. This represents the first documented occurrence for this species in Nebraska.

Bewick's Wren (Thryomanes bewickii). Class III.

A single bird was observed and described in Geneva, Fillmore County, 15 April 1995; SD.

Sprague's Pipit (Anthus spragueii).

1. A single bird was observed and described at Clear Creek Refuge, Keith County, 23 April 1995 (Class III); RS.
2. Two birds were observed and described near Geneva, Fillmore County, 27 April 1995 (Class III); SD.

Blue-winged Warbler (Vermivora pinus).

1. A single bird was observed and described in the Washington County portion of Neale Woods, 8 May 1995 (Class III); JJ.

2. A single bird was observed and described at Dodge Park, Douglas County, 10 May 1995 (Class III); JJ.
3. A single bird was observed and described in the Douglas County portion of Neale Woods, 17 May 1995 (Class III); JJ.

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*). Class III.

A single bird was observed and described in Morrill, Scotts Bluff County, 22 May 1995; ET. This represents the first documented occurrence for this species in Nebraska.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*).

1. A single bird was observed and recorded at Hormel Park, Dodge County, 10 May 1995 (Class I-R); JG.
2. A single bird was observed and recorded at Schramm State Park, Sarpy County, 11 May 1995 (Class I-R); JG.
3. A single bird was observed and described at Dodge Park, Douglas County, 11 May 1995 (Class III); JJ.
4. A single bird was observed and described at Dodge Park, Douglas County, 24 May 1995 (Class III); JJ.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*). Class I-P.

A single bird was observed and photographed at the University of Nebraska East Campus, Lancaster County, 8 May 1995; JG.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*).

1. A single bird was observed, recorded and photographed near Bennett, Lancaster County, 25 May 1994 (Class I-R, I-P); JG.
2. A single bird was observed and recorded near Denton, Lancaster County, 1 June 1994 (Class I-R); JG.
3. Two birds were observed and described north of Fremont, Dodge County, 7 October 1995 (Class III); DP, JP.

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

1. Four birds were observed and one photographed at Jack Sinn Wildlife Management Area, Lancaster County, 9 October 1994 (Class I-P); JJ.
2. One bird was observed and recorded at Jack Sinn Wildlife Management Area, Lancaster County, 12 May 1995 (Class I-R); JG.

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.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopus*). Class VI.

A single bird was observed and described in Phelps County, March 1995. The identification of the bird was accepted by the committee. However, Barnacle Geese observed in the continental United States are generally considered to be escapees.

Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*). Class IV.

A single bird was observed and described in Nebraska City, Otoe County, 24 March 1995. The documentation was convincing. However, given the fact that Carolina Chickadees

are not known to wander north and the fact that Black-capped Chickadees do wander and have been known to mimic Carolina Chickadee calls, the committee felt that the identification was not beyond reasonable doubt. Given the difficulty in distinguishing between Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees, it may require a captured bird to document this unlikely species for Nebraska.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*). Class IV.

A single female was observed and described at Omadi Bend, Dakota County, 13 May 1995. The description lacked sufficient details to eliminate other possible species.

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

A single bird was observed and described near Fremont, Dodge County, 14 May 1995. The description lacked sufficient details to eliminate other possible species.

Corrections

The 1992, 1993 NOU Records Committee Annual Report (Gubanyi 1996a) incorrectly reported the Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) photographed near Wakefield, Dixon County as last observed 14 February 1993. The bird was last observed 5 March 1993.

The 1992, 1993 NOU Records Committee Annual Report (Gubanyi 1996a) incorrectly stated the common names of the AOU Lesser Golden-Plover split, stating that the Lesser Golden Plover was now split into two species, Pacific Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) and American Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). The report should have stated that the Lesser Golden-Plover is split into two species, Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) and American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*).

The 1994 NOU Records Committee Annual Report (Gubanyi 1996b) incorrectly reported three Black Scoters (*Melanitta nigra*) observed and photographed at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas County, 22 November 1993 as Class III. The documentation should be classified as I-P.

Acknowledgments

The NOU Records Committee thanks the following observers who have contributed records included in this report: Mark Brogie (MB), Ardis Bundy (AB), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SD), Joe Gubanyi (JG), Tim Hatch (TH), Vonie Hatch (VH), Bill Huser (BH), Todd Jensen (TJ), Joel Jorgensen (JJ), Alice Kenitz (AK), Larry Malone (LM), Jim Mountjoy (JM), John O'Brien (JO), Babs Padelford (BP), Loren Padelford (LP), Don Paseka (DP), Janis Paseka (JP), Don Roberson (DR), Richard Rosche (RR), Ross Silcock (RS), Edna Claire Thomas (ET).

Current Records Committee members are Mark Brogie (chair), Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Joel Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Tom Labedz, Loren Padelford, Ross Silcock. Joe Gubanyi, a past member, voted on records in this report.

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