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6-1996

1994 (Sixth) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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Gubanyi, Joseph A., "1994 (Sixth) Report of the NOU Records Committee" (1996). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 873.
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1994 (SIXTH) 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 three times (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990 and Grenon 1991, Gubanyi 1996).

This report includes accounts submitted during the calendar year of 1994 covering records with accession numbers 359-395, 411, and 412. 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 changes are made to the official list of birds of Nebraska:

Additions

- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*): Accidental, I-P,
insert between Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) and Mourning
Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)
Mountain Chickadee (*Parus gambeli*): Accidental, III,
insert between Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus
atricapillus*) and Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*)

Change in Status

- Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): Accidental, change from III
to I-P
Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): change from III
to I-P
Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*): change from III 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 I-P.

A juvenile was observed and photographed (NBR 62:3) at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas County, 19 November 1993; BR. A written description of this same bird was reported in the

- 1992,1993 annual report.
- Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). Class I-P.
A single bird was observed and photographed near Johnson Wildfowl Production Area, Phelps County, 10 March 1994 (NBR 62:63); JoJ.
- Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*). Class III.
Three birds were observed and photographed at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas County, 22 November 1993; BR.
- King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). Class III.
A single bird was observed and described at Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Douglas County, 14 May 1994; NR.
- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). Class I-P.
A single bird was observed and photographed at Funk Lagoon, Phelps County, 2 May 1994 (NBR 62:99); JoJ.
- Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). Class I-P.
A single red-phased adult was observed and photographed at Sacramento Wildlife Management Area, Phelps County, 19 April 1994 (NBR 62:98,99); JoJ. This is only the second report for this species. The first record was reported in the 1992,1993 annual report (Gubanyi 1996).
- Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).
 1. A single first-winter bird was observed and described below Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 26 February 1994 (Class III); RS.
 2. One adult and 2 first-winter birds were observed and described below Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 14 March 1994 (Class III); PL.
- Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*). Class III.
A single first-winter bird was observed and described below Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 26 February 1994; RS.
- Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). Class III.
A single adult bird was observed and described below Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 26 February 1994; RS. Given the relative abundance of this species in Nebraska during winter, the Records Committee no longer seeks documentation of Glaucous Gulls (Gubanyi 1995).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*).
 1. Two reports were received of 2 adult birds observed and described below Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 26,27 February 1994 (both class III); BP and LP, RS. A single adult bird was observed and photographed 28 February 1994 at the same location (class I-P); JoJ.
 2. A single adult bird was again observed and described at Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 14 March 1994 (class III); PL.
- Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*).
A first-winter and a second-winter bird were observed and described at Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 14 March 1994 (class III); PL.
- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*). Class I-P.
A single bird was observed and photographed 11-16 May 1994 coming to a feeder in Lincoln, Lancaster County; KM. This represents the first documented occurrence for this species in Nebraska. Sight records exist for Oklahoma and Kansas (Johnsgard 1980).
- Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*). Class III.
Two birds were observed and one described in a burnt area in Smiley Canyon near Ft. Robinson State Park, Sioux County, 18 July 1994; JJ, RJ.
- Mountain Chickadee (*Parus gambeli*). Class III.
A single adult bird was observed and described in Gering,

Scotts Bluff County, 5 December 1976; AK. This represents the first documented occurrence for this species in Nebraska. Eleven undocumented records exist for this species in Nebraska (Johnsgard 1980) and 5 individuals were reported on the Scotts Bluff Christmas Bird Count in 1976 (**American Birds** Vol 31, No. 4, p. 742).

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

A single bird was observed and photographed (NBR 61:137) on the Wild Rose Ranch south of Alda, Hall County, 3 April 1993; BR.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*). Class III.

A single bird was observed and described during and after the Omaha Christmas Bird Count in Douglas County, 18,19 December 1993; CK. This record represents an unusually late occurrence for this species (Johnsgard 1980).

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). Class I-P.

A single bird was observed and photographed in Ft. Robinson State Park, Sioux County, 10 October 1993; SL. Few records exist for this species in western Nebraska (Johnsgard 1980).

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). Class I-P.

A single bird was observed and photographed 22 November to 20 December 1993 in Bellevue, Sarpy County; RR. This record represents an unusually late occurrence for this species (Johnsgard 1980).

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*). Class I-P.

A single bird was observed and photographed near Wakefield, Dixon County, 17 January 1993 (NBR 61:90); BR. This is the same bird reported in the 1992,1993 annual report.

In addition to the above records, the following documentations of birds considered regular in the state were received and filed:

Snowy Owl in Stanton County (written; JJ, RJ) and in Wayne County (photograph; JJ, RJ).

Short-eared Owl in Dixon County (photograph; JJ, RJ).

Rufous-sided Towhee (Spotted Race) in Dixon County (photograph; JJ, RJ).

Common Redpoll in Dixon County (photograph; JJ, RJ).

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-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisigena*). Class IV.

Six juvenile birds were observed and described west of Mullen in Hooker County, 9 September 1993. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate all other possibilities.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). Class V.

A single bird was observed and described near Ceresco, Saunders County, 29 August 1994. This would be an unusually early occurrence for this species. The description in this documentation did not eliminate some

phases of Red-tailed Hawk.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). Class V

Eleven birds were observed at Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 14 March 1994. The report lacked a description of the birds seen. Given the relative abundance of this species in Nebraska during winter, the Records Committee no longer seeks documentation of Glaucous Gulls (Gubanyi 1995).

American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*). Class V.

A single bird was observed and described (NBR 45:52) along the Niobrara River, Cherry County, 1 May 1979. The description lacked sufficient details to eliminate other possible species.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).

1. A single bird was observed and described 20 November to 27 December 1993 in Bellevue, Sarpy County (Class V). This is the same bird photographed and reported above in the accepted records. The description lacked sufficient details to eliminate Scarlet Tanager.
2. A single bird was observed and photographed coming to a feeder in Omaha, Douglas County, 31 December 1993 to 2 January 1994 (class IV). The photographs lacked sufficient detail to eliminate Scarlet Tanager. This may be the same bird that visited feeders in Bellevue just prior to the time observed in Omaha.

Records Not Finalized

The Records Committee deliberated over several documentations that were not finalized in time for this report. They will be reported here and in a future annual report after they have been finalized.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).

A juvenile was observed and photographed at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas County, 19-25 November 1993; LP. Committee members wanted more time to study the photograph before casting their vote. Another photograph of the same bird is reported above.

Hybrid Glaucous-Herring Gull (*Larus* sp.).

A single second-winter bird was observed and described below Kingsley Dam, Keith County, 26 February 1994; RS. Committee members requested time to discuss the status of hybrids in general and how the committee should deal with them from a records perspective.

Cave Swallow (*Hirundo fulva*).

A single juvenile was mist-netted, observed and photographed at Ash Hollow State Park, Garden County 31 May 1991 (NBR 60:36-40); CB, MB. This would be the first documented record of Cave Swallow for Nebraska. Committee members wanted more time to study the photographs before casting their vote.

The NOU Records Committee thanks the following observers who have contributed records included in this report: Charles R. Brown, Mary Bomberger Brown, George Canterbury, Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Jan Johnson (JJ), Richard Johnson, Joel Jorgensen (JoJ), Alice Kenitz, Clem Klappbake, Paul Lehman, Sandra Lemmon, E. M. Maddux, Klare Meltvedt, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Neal Ratzlaff, B. J. Rose, Robert Rose,

Ross Silcock, John Vanman.

Current Records Committee members are Mark Brogie (chair), Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Joel Jorgensen, Tom Labeledz, Loren Padelford, Ross Silcock. Past members who acted on records in this report include Alan Grenon and Joe Gubanyi.

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