

A comprehensive revision of the Nevada Bird Records Committee Review List

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Herein is provided the first major revision of the Nevada Bird Records Committee (NBRC) Review List (Table 1). The NRBC was formed in 1994 to provide a mechanism for better documenting the occurrence of bird species in Nevada. Birders who observe rare species are requested to send descriptions, field sketches, photographs, tape recordings, and any other pertinent information to the committee secretary for review. The review list includes all of the species reported in Nevada (see Alcorn 1988, Titus 1996) for which documentation is requested by the committee. Documentation also is requested for any species that is not known to have occurred previously in the state.

When the committee was formed, an initial list of review species was compiled and made available to anyone who requested it from the secretary. The goals of this revision are as follow: (1) to improve the consistency with which species are included or excluded from the list, (2) to regionalize the list, and (3) to increase the availability of the list and encourage birders to submit documentation of their sightings.

Ensuring that standard criteria are used for deciding which species are included on the list is difficult because the birds of Nevada are poorly known and there generally is little documentation of unusual species. Hence, one cannot easily use some simple criterion, such as the frequency or number of occurrences, and inclusion remains somewhat subjective. The inclusion of a species on the current review list was based on its status as given in Titus (1996). After consultation with several birders from Nevada and California (Pete Bradley, Graham Chisholm, Marian Cressman, Jim Eidel, Ted Floyd, Mark Ports, Mike San Miguel, and Carolyn Titus), the list was modified and expanded to include species of uncertain status (*e.g.*, as a result of a species split), species for which status has apparently changed over time (*e.g.*, former breeders now thought to be extirpated), and species for which additional distribution information would add greatly to our knowledge of the

state's avifauna (*e.g.*, certain rare but regular breeders).

Nevada is a large state with extremely diverse habitats. We have followed the precedent (Titus 1996) of subdividing the state into three regions in order to provide a better understanding of species occurrence and distribution throughout the state. The three regions are (1) Northwest: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Humboldt, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, and Washoe Counties; (2) Northeast: Elko, Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties; and (3) South: Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye Counties. These designations differ slightly from those defined by Titus (1996), who included the northernmost parts of Nye county in the Northeast region. Many species are exceedingly rare in some parts of the state, but regular or even common elsewhere. A Common Tern in the northwest, for example, is relatively commonplace, while the same species has yet to be reported from the northeast. Equally, a Verdin in Winnemucca would be a significant record, even though the species breeds commonly in the Mojave Desert to the south. When reports of a species are only warranted from certain regions, this fact is noted in the list (see Table 1). For example, reports of Red-necked Grebe are requested from the Northeast and South regions only. In contrast, Yellow-billed Loons from anywhere in the state should be reported. In a few cases, primarily involving extremely localized breeders, documentation is requested from anywhere in the state except for the small area where the species occurs frequently (*e.g.*, Trumpeter Swan, Whip-poor-will).

By publishing this revised review list, it is hoped that awareness of the NBRC will increase and that birders will be encouraged to submit their records. Reports of some of the more "common" rarities are extremely valuable and allow us to ascertain whether these species really warrant inclusion on the review list, thus providing a better understanding of the status of these species in the state. In general, this revision adopts a conservative approach, retaining several species that are seen quite frequently until enough records have accumulated for accurately describing occurrence patterns. As knowledge of the state's birds improves, the NBRC will revise the review list periodically. Indeed, it is hoped that a major review of the state bird list will be conducted in the near future, thereby clarifying the status of some of these species further. Comments on the current review list should be sent to the NBRC secretary, Jim Eidel (4150 Meadow Wood Road, Carson City NV 89703; eidel@att.net). The NBRC secretary is also the person to whom all documentation of rare or unusual birds in Nevada should be submitted.

In addition to the species on the review list, documentation of

breeding records is requested for any species that has not been confirmed as a breeding bird during the Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas project (see the article that begins on p. 53 for a list of species that were not confirmed as breeders). The committee also would be interested in receiving information on unusual subspecies found in the state, and it encourages birders to identify rare birds to the subspecies level whenever possible. Currently, the committee does not have a direct policy of reviewing rare subspecies of those species that are otherwise common in the state (*e.g.*, Fox Sparrow). However, we anticipate that this policy may change as more subspecies data are received, and we hope to develop a list of subspecies for review.

Table 1. The Nevada Bird Records Committee Review List. Sightings of all species on this list require documentation, except where exemptions are noted. Species that are not on this list and that do not appear in Titus (1996) also require documentation. Documentation should be sent to the Nevada Bird Records Committee (NBRC) secretary, Jim Eidel (4150 Meadow Wood Road, Carson City NV 89703) for evaluation and permanent archiving. Areas of exemption: NE, Northeast; NW, Northwest; S, Southwest (see text for definitions of these areas).

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| 1. Red-throated Loon | 19. Brant |
| 2. Yellow-billed Loon | 20. Trumpeter Swan (Ruby Valley in NE exempt) |
| 3. Red-necked Grebe (NW exempt) | 21. Eurasian Wigeon |
| 4. Least Storm-Petrel | 22. American Black Duck |
| 5. Blue-footed Booby | 23. Harlequin Duck |
| 6. Brown Booby | 24. Black Scoter |
| 7. Brown Pelican | 25. White-tailed Kite |
| 8. Neotropic Cormorant | 26. Mississippi Kite |
| 9. Magnificent Frigatebird | 27. Common Black-Hawk |
| 10. Little Blue Heron | 28. Harris's Hawk |
| 11. Tricolored Heron | 29. Broad-winged Hawk (Goshute Mountains in NE exempt) |
| 12. Reddish Egret | 30. Zone-tailed Hawk |
| 13. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | 31. Gyrfalcon |
| 14. Roseate Spoonbill | 32. Himalayan Snowcock (Ruby Mountains in NE exempt) |
| 15. Wood Stork | |
| 16. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck | |
| 17. Fulvous Whistling-Duck | |
| 18. Ross's Goose (NW and S exempt) | |

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| 33. Gray Partridge (NW and NE exempt) | 71. Glaucous-winged Gull (NW and S exempt) |
| 34. Ruffed Grouse (NE exempt) | 72. Glaucous Gull |
| 35. Sharp-tailed Grouse (NE exempt) | 73. Sabine's Gull (NW and S exempt) |
| 36. Gambel's Quail (S exempt) | 74. Black-legged Kittiwake |
| 37. Yellow Rail | 75. Red-legged Kittiwake |
| 38. Clapper Rail | 76. Common Tern (NW and S exempt) |
| 39. Purple Gallinule | 77. Arctic Tern |
| 40. American Golden-Plover | 78. Least Tern |
| 41. Pacific Golden-Plover | 79. Black Skimmer |
| 42. Mountain Plover | 80. Ancient Murrelet |
| 43. Spotted Redshank | 81. White-winged Dove (S exempt) |
| 44. Wandering Tattler | 82. Inca Dove (S exempt) |
| 45. Upland Sandpiper | 83. Common Ground-Dove |
| 46. Whimbrel (NW and S exempt) | 84. Ruddy Ground-Dove |
| 47. Hudsonian Godwit | 85. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (S exempt) |
| 48. Ruddy Turnstone | 86. Greater Roadrunner (S exempt) |
| 49. Black Turnstone | 87. Groove-billed Ani |
| 50. Red Knot (NW and S exempt) | 88. Snowy Owl |
| 51. Sanderling (NW and S exempt) | 89. Northern Pygmy-Owl (NW and S exempt) |
| 52. Semipalmated Sandpiper (NW and S exempt) | 90. Elf Owl |
| 53. Red-necked Stint | 91. Spotted Owl |
| 54. Pectoral Sandpiper (NW and S exempt) | 92. Great Gray Owl |
| 55. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 93. Lesser Nighthawk (S exempt) |
| 56. Curlew Sandpiper | 94. Chuck-will's-widow |
| 57. Stilt Sandpiper (S exempt) | 95. Whip-poor-will (Sheep Range in S exempt) |
| 58. Buff-breasted Sandpiper | 96. Black Swift |
| 59. Ruff | 97. Broad-billed Hummingbird |
| 60. Short-billed Dowitcher (NW and S exempt) | 98. Magnificent Hummingbird |
| 61. Red Phalarope | 99. Costa's Hummingbird (S exempt) |
| 62. Pomarine Jaeger | 100. Anna's Hummingbird (NW and S exempt) |
| 63. Parasitic Jaeger | 101. Allen's Hummingbird |
| 64. Long-tailed Jaeger | 102. Red-headed Woodpecker |
| 65. Laughing Gull | 103. Acorn Woodpecker |
| 66. Heerman's Gull | 104. Gila Woodpecker |
| 67. Mew Gull | |
| 68. Thayer's Gull (NW exempt) | |
| 69. Yellow-footed Gull | |
| 70. Western Gull | |

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| 105. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 139. Gray Jay |
| 106. Ladder-backed Woodpecker
(S exempt) | 140. Blue Jay |
| 107. Nuttall's Woodpecker | 141. Purple Martin |
| 108. Downy Woodpecker (NW
and NE exempt) | 142. Black-capped Chickadee
(NE exempt) |
| 109. White-headed Woodpecker
(NW exempt) | 143. Verdin (S exempt) |
| 110. Three-toed Woodpecker (NE
exempt) | 144. Cactus Wren (S exempt) |
| 111. Black-backed Woodpecker
(NW exempt) | 145. American Dipper (NW and
NE exempt) |
| 112. Gilded Flicker (S exempt) | 146. Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
(S exempt) |
| 113. Pileated Woodpecker | 147. Veery |
| 114. Greater Pewee | 148. Gray-cheeked Thrush |
| 115. Eastern Wood-Pewee | 149. Wood Thrush |
| 116. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 150. Gray Catbird (S exempt) |
| 117. Least Flycatcher | 151. Brown Thrasher |
| 118. Pacific-slope Flycatcher | 152. Bendire's Thrasher (S exempt) |
| 119. Cordilleran Flycatcher (NE
exempt) | 153. Curve-billed Thrasher |
| 120. Eastern Phoebe | 154. Crissal Thrasher (S exempt) |
| 121. Vermilion Flycatcher (S
exempt) | 155. Le Conte's Thrasher
(S exempt) |
| 122. Dusky-capped Flycatcher | 156. Yellow Wagtail |
| 123. Brown-crested Flycatcher (S
exempt) | 157. Olive-backed Pipit |
| 124. Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher | 158. Sprague's Pipit |
| 125. Tropical Kingbird | 159. Phainopepla (S exempt) |
| 126. Cassin's Kingbird (S exempt) | 160. Blue-winged Warbler |
| 127. Thick-billed Kingbird | 161. Golden-winged Warbler |
| 128. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | 162. Tennessee Warbler |
| 129. White-eyed Vireo | 163. Lucy's Warbler (S exempt) |
| 130. Bell's Vireo (S exempt) | 164. Northern Parula |
| 131. Gray Vireo (S exempt) | 165. Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| 132. Yellow-throated Vireo | 166. Magnolia Warbler |
| 133. Cassin's Vireo (NW exempt) | 167. Cape May Warbler |
| 134. Blue-headed Vireo | 168. Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| 135. Hutton's Vireo | 169. Black-throated Green Warbler |
| 136. Philadelphia Vireo | 170. Blackburnian Warbler |
| 137. Red-eyed Vireo | 171. Yellow-throated Warbler |
| 138. Yellow-green Vireo | 172. Grace's Warbler (S exempt) |
| | 173. Pine Warbler |
| | 174. Prairie Warbler |
| | 175. Palm Warbler |
| | 176. Bay-breasted Warbler |

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| 177. Blackpoll Warbler | 207. Smith's Longspur |
| 178. Cerulean Warbler | 208. Chestnut-collared Longspur |
| 179. Black-and-white Warbler
(S exempt) | 209. Snow Bunting |
| 180. American Redstart (S exempt) | 210. Northern Cardinal |
| 181. Prothonotary Warbler | 211. Pyrrhuloxia |
| 182. Worm-eating Warbler | 212. Rose-breasted Grosbeak
(S exempt) |
| 183. Ovenbird (S exempt) | 213. Blue Grosbeak (NW and S
exempt) |
| 184. Northern Waterthrush
(S exempt) | 214. Indigo Bunting (NW and S
exempt) |
| 185. Louisiana Waterthrush | 215. Painted Bunting |
| 186. Kentucky Warbler | 216. Dickcissel |
| 187. Connecticut Warbler | 217. Tricolored Blackbird (NW
exempt) |
| 188. Mourning Warbler | 218. Rusty Blackbird |
| 189. Hooded Warbler | 219. Common Grackle |
| 190. Canada Warbler | 220. Bronzed Cowbird |
| 191. Red-faced Warbler | 221. Orchard Oriole |
| 192. Painted Redstart | 222. Hooded Oriole (S exempt) |
| 193. Hepatic Tanager (S exempt) | 223. Streak-backed Oriole |
| 194. Summer Tanager (S exempt) | 224. Baltimore Oriole |
| 195. Scarlet Tanager | 225. Scott's Oriole (NE and S
exempt) |
| 196. Abert's Towhee (S exempt) | 226. Brambling |
| 197. Cassin's Sparrow | 227. Pine Grosbeak (NW
exempt) |
| 198. Rufous-crowned Sparrow
(S exempt) | 228. Purple Finch |
| 199. Clay-colored Sparrow | 229. White-winged Crossbill |
| 200. Field Sparrow | 230. Common Redpoll |
| 201. Grasshopper Sparrow | 231. Hoary Redpoll |
| 202. Le Conte's Sparrow | 232. Lawrence's Goldfinch |
| 203. Swamp Sparrow | |
| 204. Golden-crowned Sparrow
(NW and S exempt) | |
| 205. McCown's Longspur | |
| 206. Lapland Longspur (NW and
S exempt) | |

LITERATURE CITED

- Alcorn, J.R. 1988. **The Birds of Nevada**. Fairview West (Fallon).
- Titus, C.K. 1996. **Field List of the Birds of Nevada**. Red Rock Audubon Society (Las Vegas).