



Report of the Nevada Bird Records Committee for 1997

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This report reflects the actions taken by the Nevada Bird Records Committee (NBRC) on bird sightings reported in 1997. Reports of birds sighted in Nevada prior to the establishment of the NBRC in 1994 are yet not centralized in a single location. For this reason, comments regarding state records, including the number of sightings, have been omitted in many cases.

Nevada is partitioned into three reporting regions. While a bird may be common in one area of the state, it may be rare in another area. Therefore, documentation of a bird that may appear to be common in Nevada is sent to the NBRC when that species is considered to be rare in the reporting region.

All documentation received on bird sightings is turned over to the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV, after consideration by the NBRC and can be made available to the University of Nevada Reno.

Please note that individuals should not be overly concerned if the NBRC voted not to accept a report on a specific bird sighting. In many cases, it is almost impossible to identify some species unless one has the bird in hand and maybe not then. One of the writers has held an *Empidonax* flycatcher in his hand that had a teardrop-shaped eye ring on one side and a symmetrical eye ring on the other.

The committee strongly encourages the acquisition and submission of a photograph or sketch of the bird and the recording of field notes while the bird is in sight. Members of the committee have had their own submittals vetoed in the past. Committee members do not vote on birds they submit.

A list of Nevada Birds to be Documented and documentation forms are available via email or as hard copy from Jim Eidel, secretary, at eidel@worldnet.att.net or 4150 Meadow Wood Road, Carson City, Nevada, 89703.

In the following table yes votes are indicated by a **Y** and no votes are indicated by an **N**.

1997 Sightings Accepted by the Nevada Bird Records Committee

- VERMILLION FLYCATCHER *Pyrocephalus rubinus* First bird found December 5, 1996 at Bill Mewaldt's house in Fallon. Documented by Larry Neel. Observed by Neel, Mewaldt and Bob Flores Second observation April 5, 1997 by Bob and Debbie Borowick on Cabin Slough Road, Carson Lake. The bird was photographed and documented by Jack Walters. 5-Y 0-N
- YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. Found on Mud Lake, Douglas County 10 miles south of Gardnerville December 14, 1996 by Ed Harper. Documented by Harper and Dave McNinch. Photographed by McNinch. 5-Y 1-N
- PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva*. Found by independently by Jack Walters and Martin Meyers at Big Soda Lake, approximately seven miles northwest of Fallon in mid-May, 1997. Documented and photographed by Dave McNinch. 4-Y 2-N
- GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax*. Found by Rita Schlageter in Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 15 May 1997. Documented by Schlageter and Jim Eidel. 5-Y 1-N
- RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. Found by Luke Cole at Carson Lake, Fallon on April 20, 1997. Photographed and documented by Luke Cole. Third state record. 6-Y 0-N
- AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*. Found at Carson Lake, Fallon by Ed Harper on April 26, 1997. Documented by Harper and Ed Greaves. 6-Y 0-N
- BLACK SKIMMER *Rynchops niger*. Found at the Henderson sewage ponds on August 18, 1997 by Jim and Marian Cressman. Photographed by the Cressmans and documented by Jim Cressman and Rita Schlageter. First state record. 5-Y 0-N
- MEW GULL *Larus canus*. Found by Kevin DesRoberts and photographed by Jeanne Tinsman on May 26 1997 at Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Documented by Jeanne Tinsman. 5-Y 1-N
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus americanus*. Found and photographed near the Narciss boat landing, Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge by Jeanne Tinsman on June 8, 1997. Documented by Jeanne Tinsman. 6-Y 0-N
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH *Seiurus motacilla*. Caught in mist net by Jeanne Tinsman at Cave Creek, Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge on July 26, 1997. Photographed and documented by Jeanne Tinsman. Second state record. 6-Y 0-N
- CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre*. Found in Jim Shammot's yard on Neal Avenue, Las Vegas on August 11, 1997. Photographed by Carolyn Titus. Documented by Titus and Rita Schlageter. 5-Y 1-N
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK *Buteo lineatus*. Found at Ruby Lake National Wildlife

refuge, Unit E by Jeanne Tinsman on September 2, 1997. Documented by Jeanne Tinsman. 6-Y 0-N

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cyanthus latirostris*. Found by Dean Townsend at Corn Creek, Desert National Wildlife Refuge on September 4, 1997. Photographed by Marian Cressman. Documented by Townsend and Cressman. 6-Y 0-N

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica*. Located in South fork of Veatch Canyon, 3 miles South of Austin by Scott Fleury, Jennifer Long and Shannon Parsons on June 16, 1997. Documented by Fleury. 5-Y 1-N

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus*. Found at the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area headquarters by Larry Neel on October 1, 1997. Photographed and documented by Martin Meyers. 6-Y 0-N

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea*. Bird located by Carolyn Titus at Tule Springs - Floyd Lamb State Park on October 31, 1997. Documented by Titus. 5-Y 1-N

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*. Birds found by Dennis Trousdale at Miller's rest stop, Nye County on May 20 and Spruce Drive, Fernley on June 4, 1997. Photographed and documented by Trousdale. 6-Y 0-N

1997 Sightings Not Accepted by the Nevada Bird Records Committee

TROPICAL KINGBIRD *Tyrannus melancholicus*. Observed on the Wetlands trail off of 147/167 west Lake Mead on June 28 1997. No photograph. 2-Y 4-N

STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE *Icterus pustulatus*. Bird located at Miller's rest stop. Seen by a number of observers but documented by only one. No sketches or photograph. 1-Y 5-N

1997 Sightings Still Under Consideration by Committee

POMARINE JAEGER. *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Second vote in progress.

PARASITIC JAEGER *Stercorarius parasiticus* Second vote in progress.

Checklist of Birds of Lassen County, California

A field card checklist of Lassen County birds, prepared by Tim Manolis and Bradley M. Stovall for Eagle Lake Audubon Society, is available from Tim Manolis, 808 El Encino Way, Sacramento, CA 95864. The list was prepared in August 1997. A donation of \$1.00/checklist to Eagle Lake Audubon Society is requested. The authors welcome reports of bird observations that would update the checklist.