

Report of the Nevada Bird Records Committee for 2000

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The actions taken by the Nevada Bird Records Committee (NBRC) on bird sightings submitted in 2000 and actions on previous incomplete records are reported herein. Thirty-nine (39) documentations were submitted in 2000 as compared with thirteen (13) in 1999 compared with 36 in 1998. 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 most cases. The committee has discussed the immense task of listing viable, historical state records.

In spite of the increased number of documentations, only a small percentage of the Nevada bird sightings that are on the Nevada Birds to be Documented List and were submitted to Field Notes are documented and submitted to the NBRC. We continue to encourage all to submit. We are considering the possibility of documentation seminars and would like your feedback on this idea.

The NBRC does take a conservative approach when reviewing reports. Individuals who submitted reports 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 at times even that is not adequate. The committee strongly encourages photographing or sketching a bird and recording field notes while the bird is in sight. This documentation should accompany the written report. Nevada is partitioned into three reporting regions. While a bird may be rare in one area of the state, it may be common in another area. The list of Nevada bird species to be reported by geographic area, *Nevada Birds to be Documented*, may be found on the Great Basin Bird Observatory web page at gbbo.org or obtained as a hard copy from Jim Eidel, secretary, at eidel@att.net or 4150 Meadow Wood Road, Carson City, Nevada, 89703.

Fred Ryser served out his second three year term on the NBRC and was replaced by Greg Scyphers. Pete Bradley resigned from the NBRC and was replaced by Mike San Miguel. The other four members are Dorothy Crowe, Chris Elphick, Ted Floyd, and Gary Voelker.

The NBRC met for the first time in September 2001. In addition to discussing individual records, the NBRC Guidelines were revised as NBRC By-laws. Important changes in the By-laws include:

1. As many as two non-Nevada residents may now serve on the NBRC with staggered terms if the non-resident member is familiar with species occurring in Nevada and elsewhere, is an active birder in Nevada, and is familiar with the Nevada birding community;
2. A record will be considered accepted if it receives a vote of 6-0 or 5-1;
3. A 4-2 vote on the first round will be re-circulated; and
4. The NBRC will now consider and/or re-consider pre-1994 bird records.

The following table shows those records that were accepted or rejected by the committee. Votes in favor of acceptance are indicated by a Y, and votes against acceptance are indicated by an N.

2000 SIGHTINGS ACCEPTED BY THE NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

BRANT (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) A black brant was found by Kevin Mack and Ted Floyd at Lemmon Vayyey, Washoe County on May 18, 2000. Alcorn (1988) reports 10 sightings. The writer is aware of three more sightings including this one, all appearances occurring after storms. This record was accepted as Brant species; however, two reviewers requested further information regarding the sub-species. A case was made for it being the intermediate or "pale-bellied" subspecies. 5-Y, 0-N

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*) Jack Walters found and photographed a female Black Scoter at Pyramid Lake, Washoe County on November 16, 2000. Alcorn (1988) reports seven Nevada Black Scoter records including a specimen. A 1995 Black Scoter from Henderson Ponds, Clark County was documented and accepted by the NBRC. 4-Y, 1-N

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*) Found by Carolyn and Richard Titus at Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County on July 13, 2000. Other subsequent observers. Soaring and roosting with Turkey Vultures. Previously noted at Pahrangat NWR in 1980, Kingery (1980). Two other occurrences noted by Alcorn (1988). 6-Y, 0-N

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) On September 9, 2000 Martin Meyers and Ted Floyd found and watched three apparent Long-tailed Jaegers for approximately two hours at the fish hatchery on Pyramid Lake, Washoe County. Martin photographed all three birds. Ted documented all three birds. The birds were seen together and with a California Gull and Western Grebes.

A detailed description and photo of the first bird left no doubt of the identity. One member questioned whether this bird might be a Parasitic Jaeger. Two Parasitic Jaegers were seen at the same sight over subsequent days but were not documented. The "plethora" of jaegers caused many observers to descend on Pyramid Lake. As many as seven individual jaegers were described during the following week.

Alcorn (1988) called the Long-tailed Jaeger hypothetical. Kingery (1980) indicates that one was reported from Pyramid Lake in 1979.

Bird number one is the first documented and photographed state record. 4-Y, 1-N

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) The second bird also had a detailed description and the photo of bird left no doubt of the identity. The bird had longer tail feathers than the first.

Bird number two is the second documented and photographed state record. 5-Y, 0-N

The third bird was described as a juvenile. The photograph was a silhouette. It was submitted to the committee with further documentation. (see below)

WESTERN GULL (*Larus occidentalis*) Martin Meyers located and photographed a probable second winter Western Gull at the lakeside fish hatchery at Sutcliff, Pyramid Lake, Washoe County on November 19, 2000. The bird was photographed resting and from the underside with its wings raised. The dark-backed gull was the second Western Gull found by Martin and the third documented and photographed Nevada record, the second for northern Nevada. 5-Y, 0-N

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*) An adult and a juvenile Arctic Tern were spotted by Greg Scyphers and seen by Ted Floyd at Pyramid Lake, Washoe County, September 23, 2000. The adult was seen and documented on September 24 by Dennis Serdehely. Greg took eight close view photographs of the birds both sitting and flying. Ted had predicted the appearance of an Arctic Tern previously. 4-Y, 0-N

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*) Ken Voget banded and photographed an adult Red-eyed Vireo in hand at Torrance Ranch, Nye County on May 24, 2000. Alcorn (1988) and Kingery (1980) report 10 Red-eyed Vireo records. There have been at least two records, one photographed and accepted by the NBRC since 1995. 6-Y, 0-N

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO (*Vireo flavoviridis*) John Brack located a Yellow-green Vireo at his home in Tonopah, Nye County on June 24, 2000. Greg Scyphers observed and documented the bird on June 27. Alcorn (1988) cites no Yellow-green Vireos and does not consider the bird hypothetical. This is the second record accepted by the NBRC and the first as far north as Tonopah. 5-Y, 0-N

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) Found by John Brack, refound by Greg Scyphers and Martin Meyers and photographed by Martin Meyers at Lida, Esmeralda County on May 21, 2000. Excellent

description and photograph. The species is not cited in Alcorn (1988). This is the first documented state record. A banded White-eyed Vireo at Overton, Clark County and one that was photographed at Corn Creek, Clark county in 2000 were not submitted to the NBRC. 6-Y, 0-N

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*) Ken Voget banded and photographed a male Brown Thrasher at the Torrance Ranch north of Beatty, Nye County on September 17, 2000. Kingery (1985) reported a previous Brown Thrasher at Beatty. 6-Y, 0-N

TENNESEE WARBLER (*Vermivora peregrina*) Found by Thomas Wurster and subsequently seen by Mike San Miguel at Indian Springs, Clark County on June 5, 2000. One or more seen in two of last three years at or north of Tonopah. The four records cited in Alcorn (1988) were all from southern Nevada. The species appears to be a rare migrant throughout Nevada. 6-Y, 0-N

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) The Big Canyon willows at Pyramid Lake, Washoe County yielded a Chestnut-sided Warbler to Greg Scyphers on October 22, 2000. Greg submitted three photographs that he obtained with considerable difficulty. Alcorn (1988) cites ten records, one collected. This is the fourth bird documented and submitted to the NBRC. 5-Y, 0-N

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Dendroica caerulescens*) Male bird found by Greg Scyphers and John Brack at Miller's Rest Stop, ten miles west on Tonopah, Nye County on October 20, 2000. Photographed and documented by Greg Scyphers. Alcorn (1988) cites 32 records. This is the second record submitted to the NBRC. At least three Black-throated Blue Warbler birds have been previously photographed. 5-Y, 0-N

BLACKPOLL (*Dendroica striata*) Fall banding at Timberlakes at the end of the Carson River, Churchill County yielded an immature (hatch year) Blackpoll for bander Diane Wong on September 8, 2000. The bird with yellow feet was photographed by Jane Thompson and also observed by Ray Nelson. 6-Y, 0-N

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helminthos vermivorus*) Ken Voget banded a Worm-eating Warbler at the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Elko County on June 22, 2000. The bird was recaptured on July 2, 2000. Ken took four photographs of the bird in hand including a close-up of the crown. This was the first record for northern Nevada. 6-Y, 0-N

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*) Michael Patten spotted and documented a Prothonotary Warbler at Indian Springs, Clark County on September 23, 2000. The bird was also seen by Brenda Smith. It was a male and was foraging in tamarisk. 6-Y, 0-N

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*) Ken Voget banded a male Prothonotary Warbler at the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Elko County on September 14, 2000. 6-Y, 0-N

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) Greg Scyphers located an Ovenbird At Torrance Ranch, seven miles north of Beatty, Nye County on May 28, 2000. Alcorn (1988) cites ten Ovenbird records from Corn Creek-Dyer-Pyramid Lake. Ovenbirds continue to be seen; however, this is the first documented Ovenbird for the NBRC. 5-Y, 0-N

CANADA WARBLER (*Wilsonia canadensis*) Ken Voget banded and photographed a male Canada Warbler at the Torrance Ranch north of Beatty, Nye County on September 22, 2000. Alcorn (1988) cites Lawson reporting two at Lake Mead in September 1972 and a single bird at Tule Springs in October, 1977 and Kingery reporting one at Boulder City in October, 1982. 6-Y, 0-N

HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*) Female found by Ted Floyd at Sunset Park, Las Vegas, Clark County on May 15 2000. At least eight other birders observed this bird and its behavior and plumage were described in detail. Hooded Warblers have become almost annual spring visitors in southern Nevada. 5-Y, 0-N

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) Male found, seen and heard by Joanne Lorrey and Bruce Sillitoe in Sunset Park, Las Vegas, Clark County, on May 1, 2000. The bird was also seen and heard by Carolyn Titus. The bird was observed for over three hours by observers that had lived with cardinals in Massachusetts. He black facial pattern and conical bill excluded a Pyrrhuloxia. The bird was not a vivid red but almost rose-colored. The single negative vote accepted that the bird was wild but would have preferred a discussion of same. Alcorn (1988) reports four previous birds , all in southernmost Nevada. 5-Y, 1-N

LeCONTE'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus leconteii*) Jim Pike located a LeConte's Sparrow at Miller's Rest Stop, 10 miles west of Tonopah, Nye County on September 30, 2000. The bird was photographed and documented by Mike San Miguel and seen by Ted Floyd, Martin Meyers, and Greg Scyphers. It was reported as a juvenile. One member of the committee questioned the age of the bird as compared to variable juveniles of the same genus. 4-Y, 1-N

LAPLAND LONGSPUR (*Calcarius lapponicus*) Bird located and photographed in the grass at Miller's rest Stop, ten miles west of Tonopah, Nye County by Greg Scyphers on October 20, 2000. Ridgway reported Lapland Longspurs in flocks of Horned Larks around Carson City in 1877. Alcorn (1988) cites more than seven records. This is the first photographed Lapland Longspur submitted to the NBRC. 5-Y, 0-N

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*) Male found, seen and photographed by Greg Scyphers at Tonopah, Nye County, on May 20, 2000. This is the second documented Baltimore since 1994 and the fourth that has been seen from Fallon-Tonopah-Corn Creek. 5-Y, 0-N

2000 SIGHTINGS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

COMMON BLACK HAWK (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) Bird seen at Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge on July 16, 2000. The record was not accepted because of the very brief viewing time, the brief description, and the occurrence of dark morph Swainson's Hawks with white rump patches. 2-Y, 3-N

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*) This bird sighted at Corn Creek, Clark County on October 10, 2000 was rejected because of the short viewing time and incomplete description. 2-Y, 4-N

RUFFED GROUSE (*Bonasa umbellus*) Seen north of Paradise Valley, Santa Rosa Range, Humboldt County on May 3, 2000. There was no doubt that this photographed bird was a Ruffed Grouse. Because of the introduced status of Ruffed Grouse approximately seven years ago the bird was not placed on the NBRC Review List. The Committee was agreeable to reconsider placement of Ruffed Grouse on the Review List at a later date. 3-Y, 3-N

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) Jack Walters photographed a Sharp-tailed Grouse with a radio transmitter in Elko County on August 28, 2000. The Secretary of the NBRC solicited submission of this bird as a record of a successful reintroduction and the location of the bird. The NBRC voted 3-Y, 3-N on the bird with the no votes not questioning the identification, but the recent reintroduction. This record will be recorded as part of the history of the reintroduction of Sharp-tailed Grouse in Nevada.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) On September 9, 2000 Martin Meyers and Ted Floyd found and watched three apparent Long-tailed Jaegers for approximately two hours at the fish hatchery on Pyramid Lake, Washoe County. The third bird was described as a juvenile. The photograph was a silhouette. An apparent juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger was also seen on September 10, described, and submitted separately. These records were submitted to the committee as a single bird. The records were not accepted because of confusion in the size of the bird and some question if the bird described was more than one bird. 2-Y, 3-N

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*) Observed at Dyer Ponds, Esmeralda County on June 10, 2000.

Reviewers cited the extreme rarity of the find, the difficulty of the identification and the fact that the bird was not heard. Reverse migration of the Ashy-tailed Swift was also mentioned as a possibility. The bird was observed flying with violet-green swallows for size comparison and the description of the flying bird was good. 1-Y, 5-N

2000 SIGHTINGS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) Received late, first circulation.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*) Received late, first circulation.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*) First circulation.

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*) 4-Y, 2-N Recirculated.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) Received late, first circulation.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (*Anthus spragueii*) 4-Y, 1-N Recirculation requested.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*) 4-Y, 2-N Recirculated.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys pugetensis*) First circulation.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*) 4-Y, 2-N Recirculated.

1999 SIGHTINGS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Dendroica discolor*) 4-Y, 2-N Recirculated.

1999 SIGHTINGS Accepted by NBRC in 2000

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*) Photo submitted. Accepted second circulation 6-Y, 0-N. Bird banded and photographed by Ken Voget at Torrance Ranch, seven miles north of Beatty, Nye County on September 29, 1999.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER Photo submitted. Accepted second circulation 6-Y, 0-N. Female bird banded and photographed by Ken Voget at Torrance Ranch, seven miles north of Beatty, Nye County on September 29, 1999. Alcorn (1988) cites 32 records. This is the first record submitted to the NBRC. At least two Black-throated Blue Warbler birds have been previously photographed.

Alcorn, R., 1988, The Birds of Nevada, Fairview West Publishing, Fallon, Nevada.

Kingery, H.E., 1980, Mountain West, American Birds.