

2007 Nevada Bird Records Committee Report

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INTRODUCTION

In March of 2007, the position of secretary of the Nevada Bird Records Committee (NBRC) changed hands. Former secretary Jack Cochran stepped down and this author took over the position. The committee takes this opportunity to thank Jack for his considerable assistance in making the transition as smooth as possible.

The two years preceding the transition were ones during which the committee was largely inactive. However, the committee is once again at full strength and aggressively attempting to get caught up. We have now reviewed all of the records that had been received prior to the transition. Due to the inactivity during 2005 and 2006, very few records were submitted to the committee during those two years. However, 2007 saw a large number of record submissions for sightings made during those two preceding years as well as many submissions for sightings during the current year. The total number of submissions received in 2007 was 152.

While 152 submissions in one year is more than three times the highest number received in any previous year, it must be added that most of those submissions come from a very small number of birders. The committee fervently hopes that a much larger segment of the Nevada birding community will join in the effort to increase the knowledge of the occurrence and abundance of rare and unusual birds in our state by submitting their sighting records in the future.

Website. One significant change that has occurred since the transition involves a complete overhaul of the NBRC website. Great Basin Bird Observatory (GBBO) has been of immense assistance in that effort. Special thanks go to Dana Hartley, GBBO's web administrator.

The address of our website is www.gbbo.org/nbrc. Visitors to that website will find a statement of purpose of the NBRC, a link to a downloadable sighting submission form, the *Nevada State Checklist*, the *Nevada Review List*, and a list of every record submitted to the NBRC since its inception in 1994, along with the status and, where complete, disposition of those records. In the coming year, we hope to add links to many of the photographs submitted with those records.

What to Submit. There are two major categories of bird species which should be documented and submitted to the NBRC for review. One class involves any species which *does not* currently appear on the *Nevada State Checklist*, i.e., any bird which has not yet been acceptably documented to have occurred within the state. The other class is

any bird species which *does* appear on the *Nevada Review List* (and is not noted as exempt in the region in which the sighting occurred.) The concept of “regional exemption” allows the committee to fine-tune the review list so that a species which may be expected in one area but which is rare in other areas of the state can be documented and reviewed for those areas in which the species is not regularly expected. (For example, a Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) in southern Nevada is not rare, and the NBRC would not expect anyone to submit sightings of that species from the south. The same species seen anywhere in the northern part of the state, however, would add to our knowledge of distribution of that species in Nevada. Such a sighting should be documented and submitted to the committee for review.) Please consult the *Nevada Review List* on our website for a definition of the three major reporting regions (northeast, northwest, and south).

In addition, the committee is interested in receiving documentation of sightings for subspecies or identifiable forms which are rare in Nevada, even if other subspecies/forms of the same species are expected in the state. An explanation of the committee’s bylaws regarding subspecies submissions is explained below in the accepted record for the Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal (*Anas penelope*)(2005-07). Any questions as to whether or not a particular subspecies/form sighting should be submitted to the committee should be directed to the secretary via email at nbrc@gbbo.org.

How to Document Sightings. If you observe a bird which meets the criteria described above as a “reviewable” sighting, you are encouraged to fill out and send in the “Submission Form” available from our website. That form will provide you with considerable guidance as to the kinds of information the committee considers important for determining whether or not the sighting should be endorsed by the NBRC as a verified record for the state of Nevada.

Written descriptions can be, and often are, sufficient for gaining committee acceptance of a sighting. However, additional documentation, such as photos, sketches, sound recordings, etc., is extremely valuable as supplementation to the written description. Field notes taken at the time of a sighting can be particularly convincing.

While you are welcome to use the official “Submission Form” to provide the details of your sighting, we are happy to receive your documentation in any format that provides the necessary information in a clear and readable fashion. However, if you choose not to use the submission form, please take a careful look at that form to see the kinds of information the committee is interested in receiving. We are particularly anxious to receive documentation in an electronic format whenever possible.

What Does a Committee Decision Mean? Please be aware that the decision reached by the committee as to whether or not to endorse a particular record is entirely based on whether or not the submitted documentation provides satisfactory evidence that a particular bird was present on a given date at a given location within the state of Nevada. It is not the intent of the committee, nor is it even theoretically possible, to tell you what you observed or didn’t observe. That’s up to you. Nor is it the intent of the committee to tell you whether or not you should count a particular sighting on any sort of list you wish to keep of your bird sightings. That, too, is your decision. If the committee votes not to accept a particular record, that decision only means that, in the opinion of the committee,

the submitted documentation was not sufficient to provide the level of evidence required to place that record within the category of verified occurrences of that species for the state of Nevada.

Moreover, whether a record is accepted by the committee or not, the documentation, along with the written deliberations of the committee members, becomes part of the NBRC archives, available for research. In fact, this archiving of record submissions may well be the most important facet of any bird record committee's work.

Revisions to the Nevada State Checklist. The *Nevada State Checklist* is maintained by the NBRC. It was originally based on the *Field List of the Birds of Nevada* (Titus 1996). Three species were added to the *Nevada State Checklist* in 2007, and one was removed. The first addition, Elf Owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*), was missing due to an oversight. The former species Blue Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) has been split by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) into Sooty Grouse (*D. fuliginosus*) and Dusky Grouse (*D. obscurus*). Since both of the subspecies which were elevated to full species status by the split have been documented as breeding within Nevada (Floyd et al. 2007), both species now appear on the *Nevada State Checklist*. In addition, the AOU has split Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) from Canada Goose (*B. canadensis*). The committee reviewed and endorsed two records of Cackling Goose in 2007, so that species has also been added to the *Nevada State Checklist*. Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*) was on the checklist at the beginning of 2007. However, the only Nevada report of that species was reviewed but not accepted by the NBRC (Record 1997-22), so the species has been removed from the list. This brings the official count of species for Nevada to 475. Submissions for two species, Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) and Little Gull (*Larus minutus*), were received in 2007 but have not yet been reviewed. These would represent additions to the Checklist, if they are endorsed by the committee.

Revisions to the Nevada Review List. The *Nevada Review List* is maintained by the NBRC (see "Comprehensive Revision of the Nevada Bird Records Committee Review List", Elphick 2001).

Significant revisions were made to the *Nevada Review List* during our committee's meeting in Las Vegas during September, 2007. The committee's bylaws (available on the NBRC website) specify the rules for revising the Review List. In general, any member may, at any time, initiate a change to the list by providing a motion to the secretary, accompanied by written documentation supporting the change. This information is then provided to the full committee for discussion and, eventually, for a vote.

This procedure does not include any arbitrary required number of accepted records in order to approve a status change. Rather, it depends on the judgment of the committee members based on the presented justification. A major factor is, of course, the number of records accepted by the NBRC, but the decision may also include such considerations as other published records not submitted to the NBRC (e.g., historical published records, data from the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada*, Floyd et al. 2007), and knowledge and experience of the committee members.

For the September meeting, Greg Scyphers, committee member, put in considerable hard work to research and document proposed changes, which were then voted on by the full committee. Here is a list of those changes:

Added to Review List:

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), reviewable in all regions.
Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), reviewable all regions.
Sooty Grouse (*D. fuliginosis*), reviewable in northeast region.
Dusky Grouse (*D. obscurus*), reviewable in northwest region.
Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), reviewable in all regions.
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*), reviewable in all regions.
Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*), reviewable in northwest and northeast regions.
Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), reviewable in all regions.
Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte australis*), reviewable in northwest region.
Cackling Goose (*B. hutchinsii*) was added to the review list when it was added to the state checklist.

Changes to Regional Exemptions:

Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*), exempt from review in southern region.
Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), exempt from review in northwest region.
Thayer's Gull (*L. thayeri*), now reviewable in all regions (formerly exempt in northwest).
Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), exempt from review in northwest region (and continues to be exempt in southern region).
Eastern Phoebe (*Sayonoris phoebe*), exempt from review in southern region.
Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), exempt from review in southern region.
Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), exempt from review in southern region.
Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*), exempt from review in southern region.
Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*), exempt from review in southern region.
Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*), now reviewable in all regions (formerly exempt in south).
Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*), exempt from review in northwest region (and continues exempt in southern regions).

Removed from Review List:

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), (should not have been on the list, as it is not on the State Checklist. Only species which are on the checklist can be on the review list. By definition, any species not on the State Checklist is automatically "reviewable").
Northern Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*).
Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) and Cordilleran Flycatcher (*E. occidentalis*): Both species removed from the review list pending emergence of additional identification criteria.
Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*).

Further changes to the *Nevada State Checklist* and/or the *Nevada Review List* will be announced to the birding community via the Nevada bird listserv and in a future volume of *Great Basin Birds*. Current copies of the checklist and review list can be found on the NBRC website.

Current membership of the NBRC. The NBRC has six voting members and one secretary. The voting membership through 2007 consisted of Dr. John Klicka, Tim Lenz, Scott Page, Mike San Miguel, Greg Scyphers, and Dennis Serdehely. At the end of 2007, Scott Page's term expired. Debbie Van Dooremolen has been elected to a three-year term beginning in 2008 to fill that vacancy.

COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS FOR 2007

This report includes all records circulated in 2007 (including a few for which the review cycle extended into January 2008). The NBRC has reviewed 122 records since the change of secretaries in March 2007. Of these, 44 were circulations of records received prior to the transition (but on which a final decision had not been reached at the time of the transition). Of the 122 records, 112 were endorsed by the committee.

Key to the Record Reports. For each accepted record, the format is: COMMON NAME, *scientific name*, (name(s) of submitter(s), NBRC record identifier, “Ph” if photos were included in the submission, vote totals (if multiple rounds, initial round vote parenthesized).

For non-accepted records, the submitter’s name is not included. Note that the NBRC record identifier is composed of the year in which the record was *submitted* to NBRC plus a sequence number. (The submission year may not correspond to the year the bird was sighted.)

The record order is based on the current AOU taxonomic (species) ordering. For multiple records of the same species, the records are ordered by sighting date. For each sighting location, the location’s county is included in parentheses.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

CAACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii* (Martin Meyers, 2007-019, Ph, 6-0) One found at University Farms, Reno, (Washoe), 11/27/05. This record established the species for the state checklist, although there are many historical (unreviewed) records.



2007-019 Cackling Goose
Photo: Martin Meyers

CAACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii* (Martin Meyers, 2007-020, Ph, 6-0) One in Reno, (Washoe), 3/9/07. Initially found by Fred Petersen. Second NBRC accepted record.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-053, Ph, 6-0) One male in Reno (Washoe), 12/14/02. Third NBRC accepted record. A male Eurasian Wigeon was found at this location (ponds on a local golf course) for six consecutive winters; the documentation for this record applies to the third of those winters. It is probable that the same bird was present all of those years, but that was not documented and is not included in the committee's decision.



2007-053 Eurasian Wigeon
Photo: Greg Scyphers

GREEN-WINGED TEAL, Eurasian race *Anas crecca crecca* (Carolyn Titus, Jane Thompson, 2005-07, Ph, 5-1). Male at the sewer ponds at Lemmon Valley (Washoe), 2/9/05. Only NBRC accepted record. The committee bylaws specify that any subspecies which is recognized by any international ornithological society as a separate species, or which has ever been considered a separate species by the AOU, and which is rare in Nevada, may be reviewed, even though other subspecies of that species may be common in Nevada. In this case, AOU does not recognize the split of Green-winged Teal, but other international authorities do consider that two species exist, with the Eurasian race typically referred to as Common Teal. The male Common Teal is separable in the field from the North American race (*A. c. carolinensis*), and it was one male of this race which was submitted for this record. (Note that intergrades have also been reported in various locations, including Nevada.)

BLACK SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-004, Ph, 6-0) One male in a ranch pond at Dyer (Esmeralda) on 11/5/06 was quite a surprise. This species is usually associated with larger water bodies when it shows up inland. Third NBRC accepted record.



2007-004 Black Scoter
Photo: Greg Scyphers

RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-028, Ph, 6-0) One at Las Vegas Bay (Clark), 11/11/06. This is the first NBRC accepted record, although the species was already on the state checklist based on historical records.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (Nancy Hoffman, 2007-027, Ph, 6-0), Fig. 1. This bird was seen and photographed at Walker Lake (Mineral) on 4/19/97. Nancy submitted it to the NBRC at that time, but for some reason the record languished somewhere in the archives and was not reviewed until 2007. Second NBRC accepted record (by sighting date.)



2007-027 Yellow-billed Loon
Photo: Nancy Hoffman

BROWN PELICAN *Pelecanus occidentalis* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-056, Ph, 6-0) At least 23 Brown Pelicans showed up at Las Vegas Bay (Clark) in July of 2004. Many, perhaps all, failed to make the return trip to the sea. This submission was from 7/17/04. Second NBRC accepted record.

WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus* (Martin Meyers, 2000-43, 6-0) This bird was found by Mike San Miguel and seen by several Nevada birders. It was at Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area (Lincoln), with the submission sighting on 7/5/00. First NBRC accepted record.

WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus* (Dennis Serdehely, Greg Scyphers, 2007-032, Ph, 6-0) Found by Dave McNinch and Dennis Serdehely at Carson Lake (Churchill) on the Fallon Christmas Bird Count (12/18/06) and present for months. Greg saw the bird on 12/20 and submitted additional documentation. Second NBRC accepted record.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (Martin Meyers, 2003-16, Ph, 5-0) Found by Greg Scyphers and Martin Meyers at Highland Park in Tonopah (Nye) on 5/17/03. Fourth NBRC accepted record.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* (Rita Schlageter, 2005-06, 6-0) Found about one mile south of Floyd Lamb State Park (Clark), on 9/7/05. Third NBRC accepted record.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* (Rose Strickland, Carolyn Titus, Dennis Serdehely, Greg Scyphers, 2004-01, Ph, 5-0) Found by Rose Strickland and Dennis Ghiglieri at Overton Wildlife Management Area (Clark). While the identification was never in doubt, there was considerable discussion about the origin of this bird, as Harris's Hawks are popular with falconers. However, the location, behavior, and plumage described by the four submitters, combined with well-documented dispersal of the species during the general time period of this observation, were enough to convince all members that the occurrence should be considered natural. The bird was first reported on 1/23/04 and last reported 3/6/04. First NBRC accepted record.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albontatus* (Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2007-045, Ph, 6-0) Found and photographed convincingly on 4/9/07 at Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Clark). Fourth NBRC accepted record.



2007-045 Zone-tailed Hawk
Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri

MOUNTAIN PLOVER *Charadrius montanus* (Dennis Serdehely, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2003-13, Ph, (3-2), 6-0) Dennis Serdehely and Greg Scyphers discovered these birds (at least two individuals) at Carson Lake (Churchill) on 8/16/03, and Dennis provided written documentation. In the first round of reviews, the record received two non-accept votes. The members expressed concerns about the distance of the observation and the lack of some description details. Subsequently, the committee received excellent photo-documentation of these birds from Dennis Ghiglieri and Rose Strickland, with photos taken 8/19/03. The second round of reviews resulted in unanimous acceptance. First NBRC accepted record.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER *Charadrius montanus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-015, Ph, 6-0) Found by Martin Meyers and Greg Scyphers in Dyer (Esmeralda) on 10/8/05. Three individuals were documented. Second NBRC accepted record.



2007-015 Mountain Plover
Photo: Greg Scyphers

HEERMANN'S GULL *Larus heermanni* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-057, Ph, 6-0) Found at Pyramid Lake (Washoe) on 10/24/04. Second NBRC accepted record.

MEW GULL *Larus canus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-068, Ph, 6-0) Reno (Washoe), 12/20/03. Third NBRC accepted record, based on sighting date. This species is now exempt from review in the northwest region, as of 9/07.

MEW GULL *Larus canus* (Carolyn Titus, Jane Thompson, 2005-08, Ph, 6-0) Lemmon Valley (Washoe), 2/9/05. Fourth NBRC accepted record.

MEW GULL *Larus canus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-074, 6-0) Pyramid Lake (Washoe), 1/1/07. Fifth NBRC accepted record.

MEW GULL *Larus canus* (Martin Meyers, 2007-043, Ph, 6-0) Lemmon Valley (Washoe), 2/19/07. Sixth NBRC accepted record.

MEW GULL *Larus canus* (Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2007-033, Ph, 6-0) Reno (Washoe), 2/24/07. Seventh NBRC accepted record.

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri* (Martin Meyers, 2007-047, Ph, 6-0) This adult gull, observed at Walker Lake (Mineral) on 3/9/07, was somewhat unusual in having yellow eyes. All other features, particularly wing pattern and head shape, were sufficient to convince the committee to accept the record unanimously. This represented the first NBRC accepted record, despite a number of previous sightings, since the species had been exempt from review in the northwest until this year.



2007-047 Thayer's Gull
Photo: Martin Meyers

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri* (Martin Meyers, 2007-148, Ph, 6-0) Reno (Washoe), 11/8/07. Second NBRC accepted record.

WESTERN GULL *Larus occidentalis* (Tim Lenz, 2004-17, Ph, 6-0) Tim provided written and photographic documentation of this bird, which he found at Walker Lake (Mineral), 10/1/04. Third NBRC accepted record.

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-058, Ph, 6-0) Originally found by volunteers at the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark). Greg's sighting was 6/6/03. Third NBRC accepted record. (The first accepted record was also from Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve).

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum* (Jennifer Rycenga, 2007-092, 6-0) This bird was seen at Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (Lyon), 7/20/07 by Jennifer Rycenga and Peggy Macres. An excellent written description by Jennifer assured unanimous acceptance. Fourth NBRC accepted record.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* (Walter Wehtje, 2001-13, (3-3), 5-1) Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Elko), 6/28/2001. This species is only "reviewable" in the northeast portion of Nevada (i.e., it is *exempt* from review in the south and northwest). California birder Walter Wehtje found this bird at Ruby Lake and provided his report to the committee. The record was accepted on a 5-1 vote on its second round of reviews. There have been no other northeast Nevada records submitted to the committee. (This record was originally published in *Great Basin Birds*, vol. 8, as "not accepted." However, the vote on which that report was based was 3/3, which, according to the bylaws, required a second circulation.) First NBRC accepted record.

PARASITIC JAEGER *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Dennis Serdehely, 2004-02, 5-0) Dennis Serdehely and Greg Scyphers spotted this bird at Pyramid Lake (Washoe) on 9/16/04. Dennis's written documentation for this difficult-to-identify species (immature jaegers are particularly difficult) convinced all members of the committee. The fact that the bird was observed by several other birders, including 34 participants at the American Birding Association Regional Conference, may have helped. Second NBRC accepted record. All accepted Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaeger records are from September (except one Long-tail found in the last week of August).

PARASITIC JAEGER *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Carolyn Titus, Richard Titus, 2004-10, Ph, 5-1) Found at Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Clark) on 9/27/04. This sighting, documented with written description and photographs, was accepted on a 5-1 vote by the committee. Some concerns were expressed about the distance of the observation for this notoriously difficult identification problem, but the details in the written description, along with the rather distant photographs, proved sufficient to convince five of the members. Third NBRC accepted record.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus* (Will Richardson, 1999-14, Ph, 6-0)
This record is for a bird found dead at Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe (Washoe), 8/25/1999.
A number of excellent photographs accompanied Will's submission. The bird was found
by Benjamin and Ron Knauss. David Lukas then posted a story about the find on the
Nevada Birding listserv. Will followed up on that post to submit the record to NBRC.
First NBRC accepted record (by sighting date) for Long-tailed Jaeger.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus* (Tim Lenz, Dennis Serdehely,
2004-03, Ph, 5-1) Found by Elisabeth Ammon and Tim Lenz at Pyramid Lake (Washoe),
9/25, and also seen 9/27/2004. A written description from Dennis was accompanied by
several photos from Tim. There was some concern as to whether the two observations
necessarily were of the same bird, and some members felt that the written description did
not entirely match some plumage details in the photos. Nonetheless, the record was
accepted by all but one of the reviewers. Fourth NBRC accepted record.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (Carolyn Titus, Richard Titus,
2004-12, Ph, 6-0) Found by Je Anne Branca and Paul Richard at Henderson Bird
Viewing Preserve (Clark), 10/28/2004. Excellent written documentation and photographs
(extracted from video) easily achieved unanimous acceptance by the committee. First
NBRC accepted record.



2004-12 Groove-billed Ani
Photo: Richard Titus

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris* (Larry Tripp, Carolyn Titus, Martin Meyers, 2004-08, Ph, 6-0) This female hummingbird was first found by Larry Tripp. It remained at Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Clark) from 2/1/2004 through 2/13/2004, where it was seen and photographed by many observers. Third NBRC accepted record.



2004-08 Broad-billed Hummingbird
Photo: Martin Meyers

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris* (Scott Page, Patrick Gaffey, Philip Worts, 2005-09, Ph, 6-0) Originally found by Sue Ellen Pearson at a backyard feeder in Las Vegas (Clark) on 12/15/05. Fourth NBRC accepted record.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD *Calypte costae* (Dennis Serdehely, 2007-041, 6-0) Seen 4/22/06 in Fernley (Lyon). First NBRC accepted record, but note that the species had been exempt from review in the south, and, as of 2007, is now also exempt from review in the northwest.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD *Calypte costae* (Alan Wallace, 2007-052, 6-0) Alan found this male hummingbird at his feeder on 4/18/07, Reno (Washoe). It remained through 4/21/07. Second NBRC accepted record.

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-035, Ph, 6-0) There was a significant invasion of this species into Nevada in 2003. Five records were submitted to the committee (all accepted), and several other reports showed up on other venues. 2007-035 was found at Verdi (Washoe) by Richard Brune, with the documentation by Greg from a sighting on 6/16/03. This bird was seen by many observers. Third NBRC accepted record.

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-036, Ph, 6-0) Greg Scyphers and Martin Meyers found this bird at Lida (Esmeralda), 9/13/03. Fourth NBRC accepted record.

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-037, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 9/21/03. Fifth NBRC accepted record.

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-038, Ph, 6-0) Corn Creek (Clark), 9/27/03. Sixth NBRC accepted record.

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-039, Ph, 5-1) Corn Creek (Clark), 10/26/03. One member was not convinced that this bird was a different individual than 2007-038. However, careful analysis of the photos convinced the other five members that two different birds were involved. Seventh NBRC accepted record.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER *Sphyrapicus varius* (Martin Meyers, 2007-026, 6-0) Documentation for an adult sapsucker seen 9/27/96 at Pyramid Lake (Washoe) was submitted to the committee in 1996, but it was never reviewed. In 2007, the (unchanged) record was reviewed and endorsed unanimously, and while it was the third record to be accepted by the NBRC, it is the second in terms of sighting date.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER *Sphyrapicus varius* (Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2007-002, Ph, 5-1) This immature bird was found at Bunkerville (Clark) on 1/26/07. Rose's submission contained additional expert opinion that bolstered the identification. Third NBRC accepted record (by sighting date).

NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER *Picoides nuttalii* (Dave McNinch, 1997-04, Ph, 5-1)
Another record that was submitted, but not reviewed until many years later. Sighting by Dave was on 12/28/91 along the Carson River (Churchill). At the time of the sighting, there was no NBRC. An early version of the bylaws of the committee said that records that predated the formation of the committee would not be reviewed. Those bylaws were changed not long afterward, but this record fell through the cracks until 2007. Accepted on a 5-1 vote, it furnishes the first NBRC accepted record, and appears to be the first report of the species for the state.



1997-04 Nuttall's Woodpecker
Photo: Dave McNinch

DOWNY WOODPECKER *Picoides pubescens* (Gary Zachman, 2006-02, Ph, 6-0) While this species is quite common in the north (and exempt from review in northwest and northeast), it is a review species for southern Nevada. Gary found this bird at the Clark County Wetlands (Clark), 12/24/06, and submitted the documentation. This is the only NBRC submission for the species.

PILEATED WOODPECKER *Dryocopus pileatus* (Dennis Serdehely, 2007-042, 6-0)
This charismatic woodpecker is found in Nevada only on the east shore of Lake Tahoe, where it is presumed to have a very small breeding population. Jim Eidel was the first to report the species there. Record 2007-042 was observed near Chimney Beach at Lake Tahoe (Washoe) on 4/6/07. This was only the second NBRC accepted record. However, based on breeding evidence, it should be considered for a limited exemption from review (perhaps just for Tahoe's east shore) at some time in the near future.

EASTERN PHOEBE *Sayornis phoebe* (Rita Schlageter, 2000-22, (4-2), 6-0) Observed at Floyd Lamb State Park (Clark) on 10/24/00. This required two rounds of reviews and was accepted unanimously on the second round. Third NBRC accepted record.

EASTERN PHOEBE *Sayornis phoebe* (Rick Saval, Kathy Robertson, 2001-33, (4-2), 6-0) Rick found this phoebe on 11/22/01 at Corn Creek (Clark). On the next day, Kathy spotted the bird at the same location. Both Rick and Kathy provided documentation to the committee. Endorsed unanimously on its second round. Fourth NBRC accepted record.

EASTERN PHOEBE *Sayornis phoebe* (Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2007-046, Ph, 6-0) Two individuals were present for weeks, seen by many observers. First spotted at Corn Creek (Clark) on 4/10/07 by Lawrence and Mary Katherine Rolls, visiting birders from New Hampshire. They showed it to Dennis and Rose, who submitted the description and photographs. Eastern Phoebe is exempt from review in southern Nevada, as of 9/07. Fifth NBRC accepted record.



2007-046 Eastern Phoebe
Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus* (Bruce Lund, 2006-01, Ph, 6-0) Well-photographed, this 5/13/06 sighting on the Upper Muddy River (Clark) represents the third NBRC accepted record.

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-031, Ph, 6-0) Seen at Dyer (Esmeralda) on 5/30/05. Fourth NBRC accepted record.



2007-031 White-eyed Vireo
Photo: Greg Scyphers

BLUE JAY *Cyanocitta cristata* (Loretta Cartner, 2004-14, Ph, 6-0) Ely (White Pine). First found by Loretta on 11/6/04. It hung around until 12/2/04, then disappeared until 1/15/05, when it made an unexpected reappearance. Thoroughly diagnostic photos made the unanimous vote pretty easy. This is the only NBRC accepted record.

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrine* (Peter LaTourette, 2001-31, (4-2), 5-1) Endorsed on its second round of reviews. Peter discovered this warbler while he was busy photographing a lovely Sabine's Gull that spent some time on the shore of Washoe Lake (Washoe). The Tennessee was seen there on 9/30/01. Fourth NBRC accepted record.

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrine* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-055, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 9/21/03. Sixth NBRC accepted record.

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrine* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-030, Ph, 6-0) Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda) on 5/28/05. Seventh NBRC accepted record.

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrine* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-123, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 9/23/07. Eighth NBRC accepted record.

NORTHERN PARULA *Parula americana* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-051, Ph, 6-0) Sierra Vista Apartments, Tonopah (Nye), 9/21/03. Based on sighting date, this was the second NBRC accepted record for the species. With numerous subsequent records and incidental reports, this species was exempted from review in southern Nevada, 9/07.

NORTHERN PARULA *Parula americana* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-016, Ph, 6-0) Found by Martin Meyers and Greg Scyphers at Dyer (Esmeralda), 9/10/05. Third NBRC accepted record.

NORTHERN PARULA *Parula americana* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-017, Ph, 6-0) Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), 9/9/06. Fourth NBRC accepted record.



2007-017 Northern Parula
Photo: Greg Scyphers

NORTHERN PARULA *Parula americana* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-071, Ph, 6-0) Corn Creek (Clark), 4/11/07. Fifth NBRC accepted record.

NORTHERN PARULA *Parula americana* (Martin Meyers, 2007-078, Ph, 6-0) Found by Greg Scyphers and Martin Meyers at Dyer (Esmeralda), 5/19/07. Sixth NBRC accepted record.

NORTHERN PARULA *Parula americana* (Greg Scyphers, David Vander Pluym, 2007-084, Ph, 6-0) First found by a group including Jon Dunn, Dennis and Becca Serdehely, Dennis Ghiglieri, Rose Strickland, Andy Zdon, Martin Meyers, and Greg Scyphers at Tonopah Cemetery (Esmeralda), 5/26/07. Later found independently by David Vander Pluym and Daryl Coldren, visiting from California. Seventh NBRC accepted record.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica* (Dennis Serdehely, 2004-06, 6-0) Reno (Washoe), 6/10/2004. Fifth NBRC accepted record.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-010, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 10/1/2005. Sixth NBRC accepted record.



2007-010 Chestnut-sided Warbler
Photo: Greg Scyphers

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia* (Martin Meyers, 2002-14 Ph, 6-0) This bird was found by Greg Scyphers and documented with written description and photographs by Martin. Sighting was at the Sierra Vista Apartments, Tonopah (Nye) on 5/26/01. First NBRC accepted record. As with a few other records that were still pending when the 2007 transition of the committee occurred, the bylaws of the committee had prevented this record from being completed when it was first reviewed several years earlier. At that time, the bylaws stated that any member of the committee who had observed the bird being reviewed was forced to abstain from voting on the record. As a result, several records were in limbo, as a quorum could not be obtained to vote on them. The bylaws have since been revised.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-014, Ph, 6-0) Greg Scyphers and Martin Meyers spotted this bird at Dyer (Esmeralda), 10/8/06. Third NBRC accepted record.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER *Dendroica caerulescens* (Will Richardson, 2004-13, Ph, 6-0) This eastern vagrant defied tradition and showed up away from all of the “migrant traps”. Fortunately for Nevada’s records, it showed up at an area where Will Richardson was doing his Ph.D. research, Marlette Lake (Washoe). Found on 6/8/04. Will’s very early morning photograph won’t win any art awards, but it was good enough! Fourth NBRC accepted record.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER *Dendroica caerulescens* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-008, Ph, 6-0) Corn Creek (Clark), 10/14/06. Fifth NBRC accepted record.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER *Dendroica caerulescens* (David Vander Pluym, Martin Meyers, 2007-079, Ph, 6-0) David found this female warbler at Dyer (Esmeralda) on 5/26/07. Later in the day, Jon Dunn, Dennis and Becca Serdehely, Dennis Ghiglieri, Rose Strickland, Andy Zdon, Martin Meyers, and Greg Scyphers, unaware of David’s find, came across the same bird and more photographs were obtained. Sixth NBRC accepted record.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-034, 6-0) When Greg saw this bird at Lida (Esmeralda) on 5/18/03, he called out to me and I rushed over to try to get a look at this extremely rare Nevada visitor. I believe I saw the tail-feathers as it disappeared! (But I don’t believe it enough to add it to my own state list.) Greg’s documentation was sufficient to convince the entire committee. This is the only NBRC accepted record for this species.

PRAIRIE WARBLER *Dendroica discolor* (Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2002-15, Ph, 6-0) This very cooperative bird was in the sagebrush at Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda) on 9/21/02, and numerous photographs were obtained. Third NBRC accepted record.



2002-015 Prairie Warbler
Photo: Martin Meyers

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-061, Ph, 6-0) This bird was originally found by Jim Eidel on 10/16/02 at Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), and then refound by Greg on 10/19/02. Greg provided written and photographic documentation to the committee. Third NBRC accepted record (by sighting date).

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-062, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 10/10/2004. Fifth NBRC accepted record.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-048, Ph, 6-0) Pyramid Lake (Washoe), 9/14/04. Fourth accepted NBRC record, and one of only two for northwest Nevada. (By the end of 2007, there were 11 accepted records for Nevada, and the species was exempted from review in southern Nevada.)

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-049, Ph, 6-0) Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), 9/18/04. Fifth NBRC accepted record.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-040, Ph, 6-0) Greg found this bird at Dyer (Esmeralda), 9/18/04, only about an hour after finding the previous record (2007-049) at Miller's Rest Stop. Sixth NBRC accepted record.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-005, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 9/18/05. Seventh NBRC accepted record.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-006, Ph, 6-0) Found by Dennis Ghiglieri at Dyer (Esmeralda) on 9/16/06. This was the second sighting of the day for this species. The birding group included Carolyn and Dick Titus and Rose Strickland in addition to Dennis and Greg. The two sightings were fairly close together (geographically). Since it was not possible to determine for sure that two different birds were involved, the record was accepted as representing one individual. Eighth NBRC accepted record.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata* (Marshall Iliff, 2007-065, 6-0) Marshall Iliff, a visiting easterner with strong Nevada ties (he was part of the first GBBO survey team, and has a number of NBRC accepted records) found this Blackpoll at Corn Creek (Clark) on 9/28/06. Ninth NBRC accepted record.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-007, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 10/1/06. Tenth NBRC accepted record.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata* (Martin Meyers, 2007-109, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 9/15/07. Eleventh NBRC accepted record.

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-003, Ph, 6-0) American Redstart has been exempt from review in southern Nevada since the inception of the NBRC, but it is reviewable in the northwest and northeast regions. This record, from Porter Springs (Pershing) on 5/22/05, is the first NBRC accepted record.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Prothonotaria citrea* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-054, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 9/26/04. Fifth NBRC accepted record (based on sighting date.) By the end of 2007, the committee had accepted a total of 11 records for this beautiful warbler, 9 of which came from southern Nevada. The species is now exempt from review in the southern region.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Prothonotaria citrea* (Harvey Farber, 2004-04, 6-0) Las Vegas (Clark), 10/11/04. Sixth NBRC accepted record.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Prothonotaria citrea* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-022, Ph, 6-0). The late Dennis Trousdale found this bird at Dyer (Esmeralda) on 5/30/05. When Greg refound the bird a bit later in the day, he obtained photographs. His documentation describes the bird as having a reddish breast, cheek, and forehead, with the color on the chest forming a crescent, and his photograph shows this feature well (although the color appears perhaps more orange than red in the photo). *Field Guide to Warblers of North America* (Dunn and Garrett 1997) describes a variant with orange head and breast, and this bird must have been a variant of that variant. Seventh NBRC accepted record.



2007-022 Prothonotary Warbler
Photo: Greg Scyphers

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Prothonotaria citrea* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-023, Ph, 6-0) On 9/17/05, Greg, along with Dennis Ghiglieri and Rose Strickland, found two different Prothonotary Warblers in Dyer (Esmeralda). 2007-023 documents a bright bird at a row of trees on Sagehen Road, while 2007-024 describes a bird from a ranch several miles from there. Both birds were seen again on the following day (in their respective locations). Eighth NBRC accepted record.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Prothonotaria citrea* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-024, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 9/17/05. See 2007-023. Ninth NBRC accepted record.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Prothonotaria citrea* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-025, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 10/1/05. Careful documentation of plumage shows this bird to be a different individual from either of the Prothonotary Warblers reported from two weeks earlier (2007-023 and 2007-024), even though this bird was at the same ranch location as 2007-024. Tenth NBRC accepted record.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Prothonotaria citrea* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-089, Ph, 6-0) Torrance Ranch (10 miles north of Beatty) (Nye), 6/12/07. Eleventh NBRC accepted record.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum* (Rick Saval, 2001-25, (3-3), 5-1) Corn Creek (Clark), 9/1/2001. Rick's report of this warbler required two rounds of reviews, ultimately being endorsed by the committee on a vote of 5-1. Second NBRC accepted record. (This report was originally published in *Great Basin Birds*, vol. 8, as "not accepted." However, the vote on which that report was based was 3/3, which, according to the bylaws, required a second circulation.)

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum* (Elizabeth Seebeck, Tim Lenz, 2004-15, Ph, 6-0). This must have been a very pleasant surprise for Elizabeth when it showed up in her yard in Henderson (Clark)! Found 10/8/04, it remained through 10/11/04. Seen by a number of Nevada birders, including Huston Shoopman, Jim Healey, the late Jack Walters, Tim Lenz, Rita Schlageter, Je Anne Branca, Carol Perry, and Joan Clark. Tim provided photographic documentation. Third NBRC accepted record.



204-015 Worm-eating Warbler

Photo: Tim Lenz

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helminthos vermivorum* (Scott Page, 2007-021, Ph, 6-0) This bird was found by Scott at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park (Clark) on 5/8/05. Careful documentation included GPS coordinates and photo. Fourth NBRC accepted record.

MOORING WARBLER *Oporornis Philadelphia* (Dennis Serdehely, Martin Meyers, 2004-05, Ph, 6-0) Greg Scyphers first saw this bird at a ranch pond at Dyer (Esmeralda) on 5/29/04. It was re-found the next day, and some really awful photos were taken. (I can say that – they were mine.) Second NBRC accepted record.

HOODED WARBLER *Wilsonia citrine* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-050, Ph, 6-0) This warbler, found on 5/8/04 at Dyer (Esmeralda), was the fifth NBRC accepted record. By the end of 2007, there were five more, and the species was exempted from review in southern Nevada, 9/07. (All ten accepted records are from the southern region.)

HOODED WARBLER *Wilsonia citrine* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-013, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 6/1/05. Sixth NBRC accepted record.

HOODED WARBLER *Wilsonia citrine* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-070, Ph, 6-0) Torrance Ranch (Nye), 4/15/07. Seventh NBRC accepted record.

HOODED WARBLER *Wilsonia citrine* (Maureen Kammerer, 2007-083, Ph, 6-0).
Maureen took some incredibly beautiful photos of this male Hooded Warbler in Red
Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (Clark) on 5/8/07. Eighth NBRC accepted
record.



2007-083 Hooded Warbler
Photo: Maureen Kameron

HOODED WARBLER *Wilsonia citrine* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-086, Ph, 6-0) Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), 5/27/07. Ninth NBRC accepted record.

HOODED WARBLER *Wilsonia citrine* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-085, Ph, 6-0) Lida (Esmeralda), 6/2/07. Tenth NBRC accepted record.

SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana* (Nancy Santos, Dennis Serdehely, Fred Petersen, Martin Meyers, Jane Thompson, 2003-03, Ph, 6-0) Nancy and Jane found this bird at Lemmon Valley (Washoe) on 2/11/03. It remained for several days, last reported on 2/17/03. Many birders were able to observe it, with several providing additional written and photographic documentation. Some observers felt that two different individual birds were present, but the committee decided that the documentation was only conclusive in establishing the presence of one individual. Second NBRC accepted record.

SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-029, Ph, 6-0) Dyer (Esmeralda), 5/3/06. This was the third NBRC accepted record for the state, and the first for the southern region.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR *Calcarius ornatus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-059, Ph, 6-0) This very cooperative bird allowed close photographs by Greg Scyphers and Martin Meyers as it fed and dust-bathed at Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda) on 10/26/03. The record is the first to be submitted to the NBRC, but the species is probably regular in fall and winter, based on anecdotal reports. More winter coverage of appropriate habitat is strongly encouraged. By the end of 2007, there were four accepted records (some of multiple birds). Two records were from the northwest region and two from the southern region.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR *Calcarius ornatus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-009, Ph, 6-0) Five individuals were documented at Washoe Lake (Washoe) on 12/18/05, during the Carson City Christmas Bird Count. They remained at least through 12/20/05. Second NBRC accepted record.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR *Calcarius ornatus* (Fred Petersen, Martin Meyers, 2007-108, Ph, 6-0). A long-staying single-species flock was first found by Fred at Lemmon Valley (Washoe) on 1/3/06. A number of birders were able to see these birds over the next three weeks. The committee voted to accept the record as pertaining to at least eight individuals. Third NBRC accepted record.



2007-108 Chestnut-collared Longspur
Photo: Fred Petersen

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR *Calcarius ornatus* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-139, 6-0) One individual found by Jon Dunn and Greg at Dyer (Esmeralda), 10/27/07. Fourth NBRC accepted record.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-018, Ph, 6-0). Jim Holmes, from Sacramento, found this female bunting on 9/4/06 at Corn Creek (Clark). Greg was able to relocate it on 9/11/06, and it is Greg's written documentation and photo that formed the basis for the NBRC acceptance. Reports of Painted Bunting are always suspect as to origin, since the striking males are popular cage-birds. However, it is now generally believed that many migration and early winter records are of wild birds (see analysis in *Rare Birds of California* (Hamilton, et al. 2007), and the September date for this female falls squarely into the period of highest occurrence in California. The committee considered these factors and decided unanimously to accept the record as a natural occurrence. Second NBRC accepted record.



2007-018 Painted Bunting
Photo: Greg Scyphers

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-087, 6-0) Female seen only briefly at Dyer (Esmeralda) on 5/19/07. However, the unique color and bill shape were noted, along with other features including unmarked tail, lack of wingbars, and plain face. The May date also fits the known pattern of occurrence in the west. Another observer had a momentary view of the bird in flight, but he was not able to get a good enough look to see anything other than size and color, and, while he is quite sure the identification by Scyphers was correct, he does not consider his own sighting sufficient. Do I sound bitter? Third NBRC accepted record.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (Dennis Trousdale, 1997-21, 5-1) Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), 5/20/1997. This record, along with the following record (1997-23), had somehow been lumped into a single record in an earlier round of reviews. The committee managed to get that issue cleared up a decade later, and both records were then circulated individually. The Miller's Rest Stop record was endorsed on a 5-1 vote, and is the second NBRC accepted record. (This record, with both sightings as a single record, was originally published in *Great Basin Birds*, vol. 2.)

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (Dennis Trousdale, 1997-23, Ph, 6-0) Fernley (Lyon), 6/4/1997. See previous record (1997-21). Third NBRC accepted record.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (Greg Scyphers, 2007-012, Ph, 6-0) This bird was found by Martin Meyers at Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), 5/27/06. It was observed by several birders over the next three days. Fifth NBRC accepted record.



2007-012 Common Grackle
Photo: Greg Scyphers

HOODED ORIOLE *Icterus cucullatus* (Dennis Serdehely, 2003-08, (3-2), 5-1) Dennis found this oriole at a feeder just outside his kitchen window, in Fernley (Lyon). Initially observed 4/27/03, it was present until 4/30/03. On the first circulation, in 2005, the vote was inconclusive, with two members concerned that Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) had not been eliminated. As prescribed in the NBRC bylaws, a second circulation was conducted, this in 2007. In a re-circulation, comments from the first round are distributed and discussion among the members is encouraged. (Such discussion is not permitted during a first round, by the way.) On the second round, five members were convinced, although one, who had voted against the record on the first round, maintained that position. (The current NBRC bylaws state that a record receiving no more than one non-accept vote is considered “accepted”.) Second NBRC accepted record. Hooded Oriole is now exempt from review in the northwest and southern regions.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (2007-001, 0-6) A report of six Trumpeter Swans at Pyramid Lake (Clark) on 3/3/07 did not receive any support in the committee. The consensus was that there simply were not enough description details in the documentation to conclusively establish the identification. Differentiation of Trumpeter and Tundra Swans is notoriously difficult, and some features formerly thought to be diagnostic are not reliable. (For example, while no Trumpeter Swan shows a yellow spot in front of the eye, the lack of such a spot is not diagnostic, as a small percentage of Tundras also lack the yellow.) Subtle issues of head and bill shape can be very tricky. For adult swans only, the shape of the black facial skin at the eye and on the forehead are more reliable, but these were not noted in the documentation. Size (in direct comparison between the two species) and voice are very useful features, but these were not discussed in the documentation.

While all non-accept votes were based on identification, it should also be noted that the question of origin is also very tricky with Trumpeter Swans. The introduced population at the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge is well-established, but the birds from that population do not wander very much. (Sightings from the Ruby Valley are exempt from review.) There are newer introduced and re-introduced colonies throughout North America which are not yet considered fully established. And birds from their native range do wander south – for example, at least one record from California was of a collared individual traced to a natural colony in northeast Idaho.

Keeping in mind that Trumpeter Swan sightings from the Ruby Valley are exempt from review, the NBRC has no accepted records for the species.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* (2001-03, (4-2), 4-2) A record from Warm Springs Ranch (Clark), 3/30/01, went through two circulations. On the first circulation, there were two votes against acceptance. After distributing the comments from those votes among the membership, a re-circulation resulted in the same 4-2 vote. The current bylaws state that if a second round vote retains more than one non-accept vote, the record is considered “non-accepted”. For this record, all members expressed the opinion that the observer almost certainly did see a Common Black-hawk, but two

members felt that the level of detail provided was inadequate to establish the identification. As of the end of 2007, there were three NBRC accepted records for this species.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus* (2005-03, Ph, 0-6) A bird seen by several birders at Carson Lake (Churchill) on 4/18/05 received no support from the committee. The description and photo did not rule out Swainson's Hawk, an expected species at that location. There was some question about whether the photo was of the same bird described in the written documentation, which further confused the issue. As of the end of 2007, there were no accepted records for this species. (The species is exempt from review in the Goshute Mountains of northeast Nevada, where it is regular in small numbers in migration.)

SHORT-TAILED HAWK *Buteo brachyurus* (2005-04, 0-6) A bird seen at Dyer (Esmeralda) on 5/11/05 received no support from the committee. While Short-tailed Hawk has been expanding its range recently (into southern Arizona and southern Texas), this seemed to all members to be a very unlikely record. More importantly, the committee feels strongly that any first state record (which this would, of course, have been) needs to be supported by physical evidence (photos, for example) or, lacking physical evidence, by multiple independent, very thorough and carefully documented reports.

LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus* (2004-16, Ph, 2-4) The documentation for this 9/11/04 record from Sierra Vista Apartments in Tonopah (Nye) certainly suggested that Least Flycatcher was the correct identification. But four of the members felt that it just was not thorough enough to warrant acceptance. *Empidonax* identification being what it is, even the two photos were not enough to close the deal. There remains only one NBRC accepted record for this species.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (2005-05, 1-5) This species is not entirely unlikely for Nevada, as it tends to wander, especially in late fall, when a few reach the west coast nearly every year. However, this sighting from Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (Clark), 5/12/05, would have represented a first state record, and the requirements for committee endorsement of such a record are, necessarily, quite high. The documentation did not meet those requirements.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius* (2004-11, 1-5) A vireo observed at Corn Creek (Clark), 10/22/04, was identified by the submitter as Blue-headed Vireo. The documentation described several features that suggested that species. However, the difficulties involved in separating Cassin's Vireo from Blue-headed Vireo are immense (and underrated). Some important field marks for separation, such as the sharpness of face/throat contrast, were not addressed in the documentation. Based on California records, the date is reasonable for Blue-headed, but not beyond the window for Cassin's. So once again, we have a situation where committee members felt that the identification was possibly, even probably in some people's minds, correct, but that the documentation simply was not strong enough to confirm such a rarity. There is one NBRC accepted record, from 1996.

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens* (2001-12, (4-2), 0-6) This bird, seen 6/2/01 at the Sierra Vista Apartments in Tonopah (Nye) generated considerable controversy. On its first circulation, there were two non-accept votes. That review was in 2002. After that, the record required a second circulation, which did not occur until 2007. As mentioned earlier, second round circulations differ from first rounds in that discussion among members is permitted (and encouraged). That discussion ended up convincing all members that there were just too many questions about the description and circumstances of the sighting to warrant endorsing the record. There is one NBRC accepted record, a carefully described bird from 1998.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Dendroica fusca* (2000-11, (4-2), 1-5) This record, from Sunset Park in Las Vegas (Clark), 5/22/2000, involved two individual birds seen together. On the first round, this sighting received two non-accept votes. That circulation took place in 2001. The NBRC bylaws in place at that time required that any record receiving more than one non-accept vote and no more than three non-accept votes, must be recirculated. The recirculation occurred in 2007. In the second round, some members questioned whether the documentation satisfactorily eliminated all other candidates, such as Townsend's Warbler. Some of the key differentiating features, most notably the pale "braces" on the backs of all plumages of Blackburnian Warbler, were not addressed in the description. As of the end of 2007, there was just one NBRC accepted record for this species.

BAIRD'S SPARROW *Ammodramus bairdii* (2004-07, 0-6) A few Baird's Sparrows probably pass through Nevada in migration. They are known to winter as close as southeast Arizona, and there are four accepted California records (three of which are from that most magical of all vagrant traps, the Farallon Islands). However, the documentation for the sighting of two sitting on a fence on 9/11/04 in Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Clark) fell considerably short of the stringent requirements for a first state record.

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