

# 2010 Nevada Bird Records Committee Report

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Mike San Miguel, 1939 - 2010

For all of us on the NBRC, 2010 will always be remembered as the year we lost Mike San Miguel. As has been written in many different forums and publications, Mike died in a tragic accident while carrying out his favorite activity, conducting bird surveys in the field. His contributions to the NBRC, as a member and as a mentor to all of us will never be forgotten. Personally, memories of long days together in the field and at sea, long drives to distant birding locations, and a multitude of wonderful conversations keep his memory alive. A video tribute to Mike, posted by Terry Hunefeld, is available at:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aW8-13p-IE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aW8-13p-IE)

## INTRODUCTION

The NBRC received submissions of documentation for 89 rarities in 2010. This number is considerably below last year's 128 records, but still significantly above the count for any year prior to 2007. Many of the 2010 submissions involved multiple submitters – there were 144 separate submissions of documentation for the year, provided by 56 different birders. (Note that in 2008, 53 birders submitted documentation, and in 2009, 76 birders provided documentation.) Documentation of a rarity from multiple independent observers provides a wealth of information both for the committee's review process and for use by future researchers.

It should be pointed out that thirteen of the 2010 submissions were for "pre-committee" records found in documentation provided by Jim and Marian Cressman (Jim was the first secretary of the NBRC), and a few others were constructed from documentation published in what is now known as *North American Birds*, a journal of bird occurrence information published by the American Birding Association and the National Audubon Society, and in *Western Birds*, the journal of the Western Field Ornithologists. Nevada field notes provided by Paul Lehman have also been used in constructing these pre-committee records. Many more records will emerge from this treasure trove of early (i.e., pre-1994) documentation in the coming years.

**Website.** You are cordially invited to visit the NBRC website at <http://gbbo.org/nbrc>. There you 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*, a

*Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* section, and a list of every record submitted to the NBRC, along with the status and, where complete, disposition of those records. In addition, a photograph is linked to each record if:

- 1) photos were submitted,
- 2) the record was endorsed by committee vote, and
- 3) we have permission from the photographer or source to display the photo.

**Current membership of the NBRC.** The NBRC has six voting members and one secretary. When 2010 began, voting membership consisted of Dr. John Klicka, Tim Lenz, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Serdehely, Mike San Miguel, and Debbie van Dooremolen. After the untimely death of Mike San Miguel, Carl Lundblad was elected to fill the remainder of Mike's term. Carl was subsequently elected to a full term at the end of 2010. Also at the end of 2010, Debbie van Dooremolen's term expired and she chose not to seek a second term. Jeanne Tinsman has been elected to fill that position beginning in 2011. The position of secretary continues to be held by Martin Meyers.

## **REVISIONS TO THE STATE CHECKLIST AND REVIEW LIST, 2010**

**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).

Four species were added to the *Nevada State Checklist* during the period covered by this report.

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) was added based on the bird found and photographed by Fred Petersen at Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda) on 10/2/10.

A Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*), found and photographed by Mike Swink at Pahrangat N.W.R. (Lincoln) on 6/4/10, added this species to the checklist.

On 6/3/10, Sara Wittenberg photographed a White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) at Ruby Lakes N.W.R. (Elko), adding this species to the list.

A Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) was found by Greg Scyphers at the Duck Creek section of Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark) on 9/24/09. Greg, Randy Michal, and Jim Boone provided documentation for this bird, unanimously endorsed by the committee. (No photos were taken.)

These records brought the official count for species in Nevada to 485 at the end of 2010.

In addition, Mexican Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus arizonae*) replaced Whip-poor-will on the checklist as a result of a split of Whip-poor-will into two species, Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) and Mexican Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus arizonae*). The Mexican Whip-poor-will is the species known to breed in small numbers in two

southern Nevada ranges. Similarly, Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*) replaces Winter Wren on the checklist, with the name Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalus*) now referring only to the bird formerly considered the eastern subspecies. As with the Whip-poor-wills, this is the result of a split published in the AOU's 51st list supplement (2010.) (A submission of a Nevada sighting of Winter Wren *sensu stricto* has been received by the NBRC and will be reviewed in 2011.)

**Revisions to the Nevada Review List.** The *Nevada Review List* is maintained by the NBRC.

After the large number of changes made to the Review List during the committee's 2009 meeting, there were no changes to the review list in 2010 other than the addition of the four new species which were added to the state checklist (see above.)

Current copies of the *Nevada State Checklist* and *Nevada Review List* can be found on the NBRC website.

## **COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS FOR 2010**

In 2010, the NBRC completed reviews of 94 records, of which 40 were submitted in 2010, the remainder in previous years. Of the 94 records reviewed, eight failed to gain endorsement by the committee.

Of the 86 endorsed records, 72 were supported by photographs. Of the eight non-endorsed records, three were supported by photographs.

The acceptance rate for photographed and non-photographed records certainly suggests that records whose documentation includes photographs are more likely to be accepted by committee vote than those with only written documentation. However, it is also clear that records without photographs or other physical evidence, but with detailed written documentation, are also very capable of achieving committee endorsement, but the written documentation for such records requires even more careful and thorough written description.

**Key to the Record Reports.** For each accepted record, the format is:

COMMON NAME, *scientific name*, name(s) of submitter(s) for accepted records only, NBRC record identifier, "Ph" if photos were included in the submission, vote totals (if multiple rounds, initial round votes parenthesized). Vote totals in form *a/b/c* where *a* represents number of votes for acceptance, *b* represents votes for non-acceptance, identification not established, *c* represents votes for non-acceptance, natural origin questioned. First sighting date, location ("Pr" signifies

private property with controlled access), county. If record endorsed as including multiple birds, the number is displayed as “n birds.”

If the record is the first report entry for any given species, the next line contains the total number of records for this species accepted by NBRC as of the end of the report year.

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 observed. 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.

### **RECORDS ENDORSED BY THE NBRC, 2010**

BRANT *Branta bernicla*, Jim Boone, Jonathan Heywood, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, Randall Michal, Carl Lundblad, 2009-066, Ph, 5/0/1; 6/8/2009; Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Brant: 3

There was no disagreement about the identification of this bird. However, one member questioned whether it had arrived in Nevada naturally. The bird was found with a badly damaged wing which rendered it flightless. It died a few days later. Decisions on occurrence are always difficult. In this case, five members felt that it was just as likely to have arrived on its own and to have been injured after (or upon) arrival.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator*, Carl Lundblad; 2009-124, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/16/2009; Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye), 4 birds.

This is the first endorsed record for non-introduced Trumpeter Swan.

Four individuals were observed by Lundblad. Trumpeter Swan has been successfully established in the Ruby Valley for more than fifty years (where it is exempt from NBRC review.) The Ruby Valley flock tends not to wander, so birds found far from the Ruby Valley are presumed to come from wild origins far to the north. The committee must, however, consider the possibility that these birds could be from other introductions which are not yet considered established. There are many such introduced flocks in the U.S. For this record, the committee decided that the location, the fact that it appeared to be a family group, and the lack of collars or bands, supported endorsement as wild birds. (Identification is often a very difficult problem with Trumpeter Swans, but the photographs and written descriptions for these birds were convincing.)



2009-124 Trumpeter Swans  
Photo: Carl Lundblad

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, Martin Meyers, 2009-114, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/27/2009;  
Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Eurasian Wigeon: 13

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, Dennis Serdehely, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2010-002R, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/5/2010; Reno - Hidden Valley / Rosewood Lakes (Washoe)

As denoted by the "R" appended to the record number, this bird is presumed to represent a return visit of a previously endorsed record, 2007-151. (In fact, this is considered the third winter this bird has been present.)

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (Eurasian), *Anas crecca crecca*, Randall Michal, 2009-128; Ph, 5/1/0; 12/24/2009; Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Eurasian Green-winged Teal: 3

A special provision in the NBRC bylaws permits reviewing rare subspecies of otherwise regularly occurring species in the state. In order for such a review to be conducted, the subspecies must have either been considered a full species by the American Ornithological Union at some time in the past or be currently considered so by some other international ornithological society.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (Eurasian), *Anas crecca crecca*, Randall Michal, 2010-005; Ph, 6/0/0, 3/10/2010, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*, Tim Lenz, 2009-002; (4/2/0), 5/1/0; 1/3/2009, Walker Lake, (Mineral)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Long-tailed Duck: 3

Note that this species was added to the review list in September, 2007.

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii*, C.S. Lawson, 2010-007; Ph, 6/0/0, 8/27/1971;  
Lake Mead N.R.A. - Las Vegas Bay (Clark), 3 birds.

Total NBRC endorsed records for Blue-footed Booby: 1

Three individuals were documented. This pre-committee record had been previously published, and the species was on the state checklist.



2010-007 Blue-footed Boobies

Photo: C.S. Lawson

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster*, C.S. Lawson, 2010-009; 6/0/0, 8/27/1971; Lake Mead N.R.A. - Las Vegas Bay (Clark), 2 birds.

Total NBRC endorsed records for Brown Booby: 1

Two individuals were documented. As with the preceding record, this species was already on the state checklist based on this pre-committee published record.

BROWN PELICAN *Pelecanus occidentalis*, Mike Swink, 2010-039; Ph, 6/0/0, 7/15/2010; Pahranaagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Brown Pelican: 4

LITTLE BLUE HERON *Egretta caerulea*, Jack Walters, 2010-010, Ph, 5/1/0; 5/31/1993, Indian Springs (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Little Blue Heron: 1.

WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus*, Carl Lundblad, 2010-016, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/1/2010, Overton W.M.A. (Clark)

Note that this species has bred for several years in the Pahranaagat Valley, where it is exempt from NBRC review. Sightings anywhere else in Nevada, such as this record from Overton W.M.A., should be submitted to the NBRC.

Total NBRC endorsed records for White-tailed Kite: 7.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2009-054, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/24/2009, Rachel (Lincoln)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Harris's Hawk: 4.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*, Paul Dacko, 2010-012, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/13/2010, Clark County Wetlands Park / Upper Las Vegas Wash (Clark)

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*, James and Marian Cressman, Carl Perretta, 2010-028, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/5/2010, Overton W.M.A. (Clark)

BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus*, Diane Wong, 2009-056, 4/2/0, 6/0/0; 5/26/2009, Warm Springs Natural Area (Pr) (Clark)

Note that Broad-winged Hawk is seen regularly at the Goshute Mountains hawk watch, and the species is exempt from review in that mountain range. Sightings from anywhere else in Nevada, such as the two records in this report, should be submitted to the NBRC.

Total NBRC endorsed records for Broad-winged Hawk: 4.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2009-070, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/13/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*, Carl Lundblad, 2010-033, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/2/2010, Ash Canyon Watershed (Lincoln)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Zone-tailed Hawk: 9.



MOUNTAIN PLOVER *Charadrius montanus*, Greg Scyphers, Carl Lundblad, 2009-113, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/24/2009, Amargosa Valley - Ponderosa Dairy (Pr) (Nye), 4 birds.  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Mountain Plover: 5.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*, Carl Lundblad, 2010-027, Ph, 6/0/0;  
5/23/2010, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Ruddy Turnstone: 3.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*, Debbie van Dooremolen, 2010-050, 6/0/0;  
8/31/2010, Clark County Wetlands Park / Upper Las Vegas Wash (Clark)

STILT SANDPIPER *Calidris himantopus*, Martin Meyers, 2009-100, Ph, 6/0/0;  
9/15/2008, Key Pittman W.M.A. (Lincoln)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Stilt Sandpiper: 4.  
Note that this species had been exempt from review in southern Nevada until 2009, when the exemption was removed.

STILT SANDPIPER *Calidris himantopus*, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2009-101,  
Ph, 6/0/0; 5/16/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)

STILT SANDPIPER *Calidris himantopus*, Larry Neel, 2009-083, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/5/2009,  
Carson Lake (Churchill)

HEERMANN'S GULL *Larus heermanni*, Carl Lundblad, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2010-022, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/4/2010, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Heermann's Gull: 6.

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri*, Martin Meyers, 2009-119, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/4/2009,  
Sparks Marina (Washoe)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Thayer's Gull: 9.  
This species had been exempt from review in northwest Nevada until 2007. The committee voted to remove that exemption at their September 2007 meeting, based on the lack of anecdotal reports in the preceding ten years. However, the number of endorsed records since the removal of the exemption suggests that the species is actually a regular, if uncommon, visitor. It is likely that the committee will consider removing the species from the review list at its 2011 meeting.

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri*, Martin Meyers, 2009-122, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/14/2009,  
Sparks Marina (Washoe)

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri*, Martin Meyers, 2009-127, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/23/2009,  
Sparks Marina (Washoe)

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri*, Tim Lenz, 2010-004, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/5/2010, Sparks  
Marina (Washoe)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*, Martin Meyers, Dennis Ghiglieri, Steve Ting, Greg Scyphers, Fred Petersen, 2009-121, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/17/2008, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Lesser Black-backed Gull: 7.

This second-cycle gull represents the earliest (by sighting date) record for the species in Nevada. Some gull experts from around the world expressed the opinion that 2009-121 might be from the Asian “Heuglin’s” subspecies, a subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gull documented only once from North America. However, no consensus was ever reached on subspecies identification. In the following winter, a third-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull (2008-108R) showed up at the same location, Virginia Lake in Reno. That record was endorsed by the committee in 2009. When 2010-003R, an adult, showed up the following winter at the same location, the similarity to 2009-121 (and to 2008-108R), and the age issue (second cycle in 2008, third cycle in 2009, adult in 2010) led the committee to decide that the most likely scenario was that all three records pertain to the same individual. (Individual Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been known to show up at a location winter after winter in other parts of the country.) The “R” notation on the second and third occurrence denotes that the committee considers them to be “Repeat” occurrences. Note that the total for endorsed records, seven, includes the repeat records, so it is likely that only four different Lesser Black-backed Gulls are involved. Incidentally, there are two additional records for this species for 2010, both first-cycle birds, but these have not been reviewed as of the end of this report period.



2009-121 Lesser Black-backed Gull

Photo: Steve Ting

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*, Paul Lehman, Martin Meyers, Carl Lundblad, Randall Michal, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2009-118, Ph, 6/0/0; 11/29/2009, Lake Mead N.R.A. - Hemenway Harbor (Clark)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, Steve Ting, 2010-003R, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/7/2010, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)

WESTERN GULL *Larus occidentalis*, Tim Lenz, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2010-001, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/28/2009, Sparks Marina (Washoe)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Western Gull: 7.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*, Dennis Serdehely, 2009-126, 5/1/0; 12/18/2009, Fallon (Churchill)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Glaucous Gull: 6.

This bird was an adult, the first for that age to be documented in Nevada. The overwhelming number of Glaucous Gull sightings in the lower 48 states are of younger birds.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*, John Luther, 2009-077, 4/2/0, 6/0/0; 7/9/2009, Reese River Valley (Lander)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Arctic Tern: 2.

This bird was observed and carefully documented by John Luther, one of California's most respected birders. The bird was sitting on the highway about 200 yards west of the Reese River crossing!

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus*, Ted Floyd, Martin Meyers, 2000-13, (4/1), (5/1), 6/0/0; 9/9/2000, Pyramid Lake - Sutcliffe Area (Washoe)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Long-tailed Jaeger: 8.

Records 2000-13, 2000-14, and 2000-15 refer to three birds seen on the same day by Floyd and Meyers. Photographs were taken, but there was some confusion over which photos went with which written descriptions when the first reviews were conducted, in 2001. The committee decided to re-review these records in 2010. The results were the same, all three endorsed, but the documentation of the records and the associated committee comments improved as a result of the re-review. 2000-44, a sighting from the same location on the following day, 9/10/2000, which had previously been considered to represent the continued presence of one of the three birds from 9/9/00, was separated from those records in the re-review. It was not endorsed.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus*, Ted Floyd, Martin Meyers, 2000-14, Ph, (5/0), 6/0/0; 9/9/2000, Pyramid Lake - Sutcliffe Area (Washoe)

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus*, Ted Floyd, Martin Meyers, 2000-15, Ph, (2/3), (4/2), 6/0/0; 9/9/2000, Pyramid Lake - Sutcliffe Area (Washoe)

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2008-085, Ph, 5/1/0; 9/21/2008, Walker Lake (Mineral)

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus*, Greg Scyphers, Carl Lundblad, 2009-093, Ph, 6/0/0; 8/17/2009, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

COMMON GROUND-DOVE *Columbina passerina*, C.S. Lawson, 2010-006, Ph, 6/0/0; 2/25/1972, Las Vegas - Mormon Farm (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Common Ground-Dove: 3.

Common Ground-Dove was considered to be of "... irregular occurrence in southern Nevada" by Alcorn in The Birds of Nevada, published in 1988. The latest record he includes is from 1982, which he notes as the first record since 1976. So Lawson's photographic documentation of a collected bird in 1972 is not surprising. The documentation was retrieved from the wealth of pre-committee data made available to the committee by the founding secretary of the committee, Jim Cressman. The two records for this species from 2009, below, appear to be the first records (and are certainly the first documented records) since the 1982 record in Alcorn! It remains to be seen whether this indicates a resurgence of the Common Ground-Doves in the state or just an anomaly.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE *Columbina passerina*, Justin Streit, 2009-087, 6/0/0; 8/20/2009, Virgin River Landing (Clark)

COMMON GROUND-DOVE *Columbina passerina*, Diane Wong, Greg Scyphers,  
2009-105, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/1/2009, Pahrangat N.W.R. (Lincoln)



2009-105 Common Ground-Dove  
Photo: Greg Scyphers

MEXICAN WHIP-POOR-WILL *Caprimulgus arizonae*, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2009-092, 6/0/0; 6/12/2009, Mt. Charleston - Kyle Canyon area (Clark)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Mexican Whip-poor-will: 1.

As noted in the introduction to this report, the American Ornithological Union has split Whip-poor-will into two species, Eastern Whip-poor-will and Mexican Whip-poor-will. Whip-poor-will has, for many years, been recognized as a rare breeder in the Sheep Range and had apparently bred in the Spring Mountains as well. It was exempt from review in the Sheep Range and, as of September 2009, that exemption has been extended to include the Spring Mountains. The breeding birds were known to be of the “Mexican” subspecies, *Caprimulgus vociferus arizonae*, now the full species *C. arizonae*.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris*, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, 2009-123, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/10/2009, Pahrump (Nye)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Broad-billed Hummingbird: 5.



2009-123 Broad-billed Hummingbird  
Photo: Greg Scyphers

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus*, Martin Meyers, 2010-024, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/21/2004, Reno/Sparks (Washoe)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Acorn Woodpecker: 12.

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus*, Rob Lowry, Greg Scyphers, 2010-025, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/6/2010, Carson City - Silver Saddle Ranch/Carson River Park (Carson City)



2010-025 Acorn Woodpecker

Photo: Rob Lowry



ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus*, Georgia Rohrs, 2010-035, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/25/2010, Reno/Sparks (Washoe)

LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2009-107, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/4/2009, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Least Flycatcher: 5.

LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus*, Martin Meyers, 2010-038, Ph, 6/0/0; 7/13/2010, Santa Rosa Mountains (South flank) (Humboldt)  
Least Flycatcher may be more regular in migration than the five endorsed records would indicate. Identification of non-singing birds is notoriously difficult. But this July individual was extraordinary. Fortunately, it was singing vigorously, and the song was captured on video for documentation.



GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus*, Fred Petersen, 2010-053, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/2/2010, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Great Crested Flycatcher: 1.

Great Crested Flycatcher is a significant rarity anywhere in the western U.S. According to "Rare Birds of California", a work by the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC), 45 records have been endorsed by the CBRC, with five of those from the interior desert. Eighty percent of the California records have been between 16 September and 14 October. Birders in Nevada have been expecting to find one of these birds during that general time period, and Petersen succeeded in doing so on 10/2/10. Excellent photographs made the job of the committee easy for this first state record.



2010-053 Great Crested Flycatcher

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus*, Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Randall Michal, Greg Scyphers, 2009-090, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/22/2009, Clark County Wetlands Park / Upper Las Vegas Wash (Clark)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 4.



2009-090 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Photo: Chris Ruiz-Gardner

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus savana*, Mike Swink, 2010-034, Ph, 6/0/0;  
6/4/2010, Pahranaagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Fork-tailed Flycatcher: 1.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher is a “stop the presses” rarity anywhere in the United States, and even more so in the western U.S. There is one CBRC-endorsed record from California. Swink’s well-photographed find at Pahranaagat this year was certainly one of the year’s greatest highlights, made all the more astounding by the next record in this report, seen one day earlier.



2010-034 Fork-tailed Flycatcher

Photo: Mike Swink



WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*, Sara Wittenberg, 2010-031, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/3/2010, Ruby Lakes N.W.R. north (Elko)

Total NBRC endorsed records for White Wagtail: 1.

(Personal note – I sure wish I'd been out birding in eastern and southern Nevada this week!) Nevada's first White Wagtail was found one day before Nevada's first Fork-tailed Flycatcher. The wagtail was photographed and observed by several refuge employees. Unfortunately, birders chasing this bird were unable to find it after 6/3/10. This White Wagtail was determined to be of the subspecies *M.a. lugens*, formerly considered a full-species (Black-backed Wagtail). For perspective, note that the CBRC has endorsed 26 records for White-wagtail, but only one was found east of the Sierra (at Deep Springs, Inyo County), and almost all of the others were near the coast.



2010-031 White Wagtail

Photo: Sara Wittenberg

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*, Greg Scyphers, Randall Michal, Jim Boone, 2009-094, 6/0/0; 9/24/2009, Clark County Wetlands Park / Upper Las Vegas Wash (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Red-throated Pipit: 1.

There are over 200 California records for Red-throated Pipit endorsed by the CBRC (and the species is no longer on their review list.) While most of those records were from coastal locations, a number were from the southern interior desert. So Scyphers' discovery of Nevada's first documented Red-throated Pipit at the Duck Creek area of the Clark County Wetlands Park was perhaps overdue. The bird was seen briefly, and diagnostic calls were heard multiple times. Fortunately, Michal and Boone were nearby to add corroborating documentation.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius pictus*, Paul Lehman, Shawneen Finnegan, 2010-019, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/19/1990, Amargosa Valley (Nye)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Smith's Longspur: 2.

This pre-committee record becomes the first endorsed record for Smith's Longspur (by sighting date.) The only other record for the state was from Fallon (Chuchill) , 12/16/03.



2010-019 Smith's Longspur  
Photo: Shawneen Finnegan

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora cyanoptera*, Marian Cressman, Paul Lehman, Shawneen Finnegan, 2010-008, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/27/1991, Indian Springs (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Blue-winged Warbler: 4.

Another pre-committee record, and another first (by sighting date.) This sighting preceded the previous earliest by just under one year.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora cyanoptera*, Rebecca Serdehely, Dennis Serdehely, Greg Scyphers, 2009-103, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/19/2009, McCarren Ranch (Pr) (Washoe)

Most records of vagrant warblers come from the desert migrant traps in southern and central Nevada. This record proves that even the extremely rare vagrants can show up in the north on occasion.



2009-103 Blue-winged Warbler

Photo: Greg Scyphers



TENNESSEE WARBLER *Oreothlypis peregrina*, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, 2009-098, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/27/2009, Crystal Springs (Lincoln)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Tennessee Warbler: 10.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica*, Adam Ryba, 2010-052, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/23/2010, Kingston Campground Area (Lander)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Chestnut-sided Warbler: 13.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica*, Andrew Lee, Carl Lundblad, 2010-049, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/22/2010, Las Vegas - Sunset Park (Clark)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, David Pavlik, 2010-036, 6/0/0; 6/7/2010, Monitor Mountains (Nye)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Magnolia Warbler: 14.

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2009-106, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/10/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Palm Warbler: 11.



2009-106 Palm Warbler  
Photo: Martin Meyers

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum*, Robert Peloquin, 2010-032, Ph, 6/0/0;  
5/16/2010, Pahranaagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helminthos vermivorum*, John Brack, 2010-018, Ph,  
6/0/0; 5/15/1992, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Worm-eating Warbler: 9.

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus*, Greg Scyphers, 2009-084, Ph, 6/0/0;  
5/30/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Kentucky Warbler: 5.  
Scyphers managed to find two different Kentucky Warblers on the same day in the Fish  
Lake Valley! This record, found at the Sagehen Road trees, was over five miles from  
2009-085 (found at the Dyer Pond), far enough to convince the committee that there were  
two different birds involved.

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus*, Greg Scyphers, 2009-085, 6/0/0;  
5/30/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus*, James and Marian Cressman, Edward  
Sivon, 2010-029, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/12/2010, Corn Creek (Clark)

PAINTED REDSTART *Myioborus pictus*, Neil Graham, 2010-011, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/1/2010,  
Pioche area (Lincoln)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Painted Redstart: 5.  
Prior to April of 2009, there had been only one NBRC-endorsed record for this beautiful  
warbler, although Alcorn's Birds of Nevada considered it an ..."uncommon summer  
resident and transient." Four additional endorsed records in the past two years lends  
credence to Alcorn's assessment.

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Peucaea cassinii*, Shawneen Finnegan, Martin Meyers, Brian  
Daniels, Michael Patten, 2010-043, 6/0/0; 5/28/1989, Dyer (Esmeralda)  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Cassin's Sparrow: 2.  
Another pre-committee record. For many years, a number of California birders traveled  
to Death Valley for Memorial Day weekend, most of them passing through Dyer and  
Lida on their travels. Many great Nevada records were found by this nomadic band of  
birders. (I was lucky enough to be with some of them the day Finnegan caught the song  
of this Cassin's Sparrow from very far out in an agricultural field in Dyer.)

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW *Spizella pallida*, Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Martin Meyers,  
Greg Scyphers, 2009-082, Ph, 6/0/0; 8/30/2009, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark), 2 birds.  
Total NBRC endorsed records for Clay-colored Sparrow: 5.

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2009-  
052, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/23/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)



Total NBRC endorsed records for Lark Bunting: 11.

This species was added to the Nevada Review List in September, 2007. The data obtained since that time suggest that perhaps it is not as rare as we thought it was. It is one of the species that might be considered for removal from the review list at the 2011 meeting.

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*, Martin Meyers, Carl Lundblad, 2009-088, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/18/2009, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), 2 birds.

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*, Greg Scyphers, 2009-117, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/19/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW *Ammodramus savannarum*, Greg Scyphers, 2010-017, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/22/2009, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Grasshopper Sparrow: 3.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii*, Marian Cressman, 2010-015, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/21/1991, Indian Springs (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Le Conte's Sparrow: 3.

SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana*, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2009-111, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/17/2009, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Swamp Sparrow: 7.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris*, Alan de Queiroz, 2009-089, 5/1/0; 9/19/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Painted Bunting: 6.

DICKCISSEL *Spiza americana*, Fred Petersen, 2010-047, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/13/2010, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Dickcissel: 3.



2010-047 Dickcissel  
Photo: Fred Petersen

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*, Ed Harper, Martin Meyers, 2009-120, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/14/2009, Battle Mountain (Lander)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Common Grackle: 10.

BRONZED COWBIRD *Molothrus aeneus*, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, 2010-020, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/7/2010, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Bronzed Cowbird: 2.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE *Icterus galbula*, Marian Cressman, 2010-014, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/1/1994, Las Vegas - Sunset Park (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Baltimore Oriole: 4.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Tim Almond, Billy Almond, 2009-112, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/7/2007, Clark County Wetlands Park / Upper Las Vegas Wash (Clark), 4 birds.

Total NBRC endorsed records for Lawrence's Goldfinch: 12.

Five of the twelve endorsed records, including this one, have involved multiple birds. 2009-112 documented at least four individuals.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Nathaniel Nye, Carl Lundblad, 2009-102, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/1/2009, Mt. Charleston - Kyle Canyon area (Clark), 15 birds.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Larry Teske, 2009-108, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/11/2009, Battle Mountain (Lander)

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2009-110, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/11/2009, Corn Creek (Clark)

## **RECORDS NOT ENDORSED BY THE NBRC, 2010**

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, 2009-116, 4/2/0, 1/5/0; 11/1/2009, Pahrump (Nye)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Eurasian Wigeon: 11.

We received documentation from two individuals for this record. One report was of a single female, the other for three females. Identification of female Eurasian Wigeons is complicated, with a number of details required to eliminate American Wigeon. The committee felt that, despite descriptions for several features suggestive of Eurasian Wigeon, there were not enough of the necessary features covered in the descriptions.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*, 2009-001, Ph, 4/2/0, 4/2/0; 12/27/2007, Walker Lake (Mineral)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Long-tailed Duck: 3.

Very distant views, and very distant photos, were not enough to convince the committee to endorse this record. The record went through two rounds of reviews, with the same vote totals each time, four votes to endorse, two votes not to endorse. In order to gain endorsement from the committee, a record may have no more than one negative vote.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus*, 2000-44, 1/5/0; 9/10/2000, Pyramid Lake - Needles (Pr) (Washoe)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Long-tailed Jaeger: 8.

See discussion under Long-tailed Jaeger, 2000-13 (endorsed records) above.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER *Sphyrapicus varius*, 2009-125, Ph, 2/4/0; 12/18/2009, Amargosa Valley (Nye)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3.

Separation of Yellow-bellied and Red-naped Sapsucker can be one of the most difficult challenges in birding. This is true for adults and juveniles in many cases. This was one of those cases – a juvenile bird showed some characteristics associated with Yellow-bellied, but the documentation lacked sufficient detail to win endorsement.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus*, 2009-095, Ph, 0/6/0; 9/26/2009, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Philadelphia Vireo: 1.

The description for this sighting was accompanied by two photos, but the photos were tiny and blurry, providing little to assist in the identification. The written description was not sufficient to eliminate other species.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica*, 2009-109, 4/2/0, 4/2/0; 5/30/2009, 39.66411, -117.74427 (Churchill)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Chestnut-sided Warbler: 13.

The written description and field sketch of this bird were enough to convince four members to endorse the record. But two other members found inconsistencies and thought some details were lacking. After two rounds of 4-2 votes, the record failed to gain endorsement.

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus*, 2009-096, 3/3/0, 1/5/0; 9/21/2009, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Kentucky Warbler: 5.

A few lines of written documentation of a very brief sighting were not enough to convince most members to endorse this record.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW *Ammodramus savannarum*, 2009-104, 4/2/0, 4/2/0; 10/3/2009, Clark County Wetlands Park / Upper Las Vegas Wash (Clark)

Total NBRC endorsed records for Grasshopper Sparrow: 3.

As often happens with non-endorsed records, all of the members of the committee felt that the observer was almost certainly correct in her identification of this bird. But the job of the committee is not to decide what the observer saw, but to decide whether the

documentation could stand on its own as compelling evidence of that identification. In this case, two members felt that the documentation was not sufficient.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The NBRC thanks everyone who contributed to the accounts described in this report. Thank you for your submissions, photos, advice, comments, and opinions. It is likely that we have left someone off the list who deserves to be on it, and if so, we apologize, but we want to recognize as many of you as possible, so here goes:

Billy Almond, Tim Almond, Jim Boone, John Brack, Jerry Coe, James and Marian Cressman, Paul Dacko, Brian Daniels, Alan de Queiroz, Jon Dunn, Darlene Feener, Shawneen Finnegan, Ted Floyd, Dennis Ghiglieri, Neil Graham, Ed Harper, Jonathan Heywood, Steve Howell, Alvaro Jaramillo, C.S. Lawson, Andrew Lee, Paul Lehman, Tim Lenz, Rob Lowry, Carl Lundblad, John Luther, Martin Meyers, Randall Michal, Larry Neel, Nathaniel Nye, Michael Patten, David Pavlik, Robert Peloquin, Carl Perretta, Fred Petersen, Georgia Rohrs, Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Adam Ryba, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Serdehely, Rebecca Serdehely, Edward Sivon, Justin Streit, Rose Strickland, Mike Swink, Larry Teske, Steve Ting, Jeanne Tinsman, Carolyn Titus, Debbie van Dooremolen, Jack Walters, Strickland Wheelock, Sara Wittenberg, and Diane Wong.

Special thanks to the folks at Great Basin Bird Observatory for their generous logistical support.

Greg Scyphers and Dennis Serdehely also reviewed drafts of this report and contributed much-appreciated input.

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