

## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

MARTIN MEYERS, Secretary, Nevada Bird Records Committee, c/o Great Basin Bird Observatory, 1755 E. Plumb Lane #256, Reno, Nevada 89502; nbrc@gbbo.org

**ABSTRACT:** This report covers the 115 records reviewed by the Nevada Bird Records Committee in 2011, of which 110 were endorsed. These 115 records cover sightings from 24 October 1971 through 26 November 2011, 37 in 2011, 20 antedating the formation of the committee in 1994. Three species are added to the Nevada list (and to the committee's review list): the Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), and Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*). The Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*) is removed from the Nevada list (and review list) because evidence to substantiate the record is insufficient. Ten species are removed from the review list because of the number of records or regularity of occurrence. The Nevada state list now stands at 488 species, of which 167 are on the review list.

The Nevada Bird Records Committee (NBRC) began 2011 with 66 records pending review. During the year, an additional 114 reports were received and added to the database. The committee completed reviews of 115 records during the year, so at the end of 2011, the queue contained 65 pending records. Since the founding of the NBRC in 1994, a total of 789 records have been reviewed, of which 726 have been endorsed.

At its founding in 1994, the committee decided not to review any sightings prior to that year but reversed that decision several years later. Fortunately, founding secretary James Cressman and his wife Marian continued to accumulate documentation for "pre-committee" records. That accumulated documentation has been provided to the current committee, and one of our long-term goals is to organize and review as many of those records as possible. Of the 114 "new" records received and added to the database in 2011, 15 precede the committee, dating back to 24 October 1971.

Of the 115 records reviewed by the committee in 2011, 37 were of birds found during 2011; 20 preceded the committee's founding. Reviewed records thus extended from 24 October 1971 to 26 November 2011. Of the 110 endorsed records, 84 were supported by photographs. Five records, none supported by photographs, failed to gain endorsement. The endorsement rate for birds photographed and not photographed implies that records with photographs are more likely to be endorsed than are those with only written documentation, but records with only detailed written documentation can achieve committee endorsement as well.

The NBRC has six voting members and a nonvoting secretary. In 2011, the committee welcomed new member Jeanne Tinsman, who joined continuing members John Klicka, Tim Lenz, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, and Dennis Serdehely. The position of secretary continues to be held by Martin Meyers. At the close of 2011, Greg Scyphers rotated off the committee (term-limited) and was replaced by Will Richardson for 2012.

The NBRC's website at <http://gbbo.org/nbrc> contains a statement of purpose, links to a downloadable submission form, the committee's bylaws, the Nevada state checklist maintained by the NBRC, the review list, and answers to frequently asked questions. There is a link to a list of every submission to

## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

the NBRC, with the endorsement status and, if available, a photograph. New in 2011, all previous NBRC reports are available as PDF files. The reports up through 2007 (1994–96, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2005, and 2007) appeared in *Great Basin Birds*, published by the Great Basin Bird Observatory.

### REVISIONS TO THE NEVADA STATE LIST IN 2011

During the period covered by this report, three new species were added to the Nevada list, and one species was removed. Added were the Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*), Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*, on the basis of a good description antedating the split of the Pacific [*T. pacificus*] and Winter wrens; Chesser et al. 2010), and Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*).

Removed: the Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*) was on the Nevada list on the basis of a bird banded at Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), 28 April 1973. Other than a band number and a one-line comment containing no details, there is no documentation for this record. It was never submitted to the committee (it antedates the formation of the committee by two decades.) After the NBRC exerted considerable effort to find additional information without success, a motion to delete the species was discussed and received unanimous agreement in September 2011.

These changes brought the count of species recorded in Nevada to 488 at the end of 2011.

### REVISIONS TO THE NEVADA REVIEW LIST IN 2011

The only species the NBRC added during 2011 to the list of species it reviews were the three species new to Nevada, discussed above.

At the committee's biennial meeting in September, it removed 10 species from the review list. Justification for removal from the review list included the total number of endorsed records, regularity of sightings, evidence of occurrence from similar nearby habitats in adjoining states, plus the personal experiences, knowledge, and judgment of the members. These species were removed: Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*), Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*), Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*S. pensylvanica*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*S. caerulescens*), Palm Warbler (*S. palmarum*), Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), and Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*). There are currently 167 species on the Nevada review list, of which seven are exempt from review in some limited geographic area. Six of those seven exemptions are for very localized breeding populations. The seventh, the Broad-winged Hawk, is exempt in the Goshute Mountains, where multiple birds are observed annually in migration (Smith et.al. 2008).

### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

For each species, the format is English name, *scientific name*, (total number of endorsed records of the species, number of records endorsed in this year's report). Two asterisks after the total of records signify that the

## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

number of records refers to a restricted review period, usually signifying that the species is no longer on the review list, was placed on the review list as a result of a perceived drop in population, or is exempt from review in some locations. Note that the total number of records for a species is not necessarily the total number of individual birds reported.

After the heading for the species is each record of that species reviewed in 2011, in this format: NBRC record number, name of each submitter, date or range of documented dates, and location (county in parentheses.) If the record involved multiple individual birds, the number follows the county. "(P)," "(V)," or "(A)" following a submitter's name indicates that he or she provided a photo, video, or audio recording, respectively. Discussion of a particular sighting follows that sighting's data, whereas that related to the species in general is at the end of the species account. If there are multiple records of the species, the records are ordered by date of first sighting.

Certain records in these accounts are noted as "establishing" records. The NBRC uses the term "establishing" record for the first NBRC-endorsed record for any species on the checklist of which there is not yet at least one endorsed record. Early in its history, the NBRC adopted an existing checklist (Titus 1996) based on numerous sources that constituted the most reliable information available at the time. All but 30 of the review species on the state list now have at least one endorsed record. The committee is pursuing documentation of these 30, and we have had some significant success in this quest. However, it will probably be a few years before we conclude that we have exhausted all possibilities. At that time, we will reevaluate the status of those species still without an endorsed record.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope* (15\*\*, 2). 2011-053, Paul Lehman, 19 November 1990, Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area (WMA) (Lincoln).

2010-067, Martin Meyers, 5 November 2010, Lemmon Valley (Washoe). Species removed from the review list September 2011.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (EURASIAN) *Anas crecca crecca* (4, 1). 2011-028, Martin Meyers (P), 14 December 2006, Damonte Ranch Wetlands, Reno (Washoe). The NBRC's bylaws permit, but do not require, reviews of rare subspecies of species otherwise common in Nevada, but only if the subspecies has previously been considered a full species by the AOU or is currently considered a full species by other similar international organizations.

BLACK SCOTER *Melanitta americana* (6, 2). 2010-077, Dennis Ghiglieri (P), Rose Strickland, Dennis Serdehely, Greg Scyphers (P), 14–15 November 2010, west shore of Pyramid Lake (Washoe).

2010-078, Dennis Ghiglieri (P), Rose Strickland, 14 November 2010, south end of Pyramid Lake (Washoe). This is the first time the NBRC has received documentation of two Black Scoters nearby on the same day

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* (4\*\*, 1). 2011-006, Alan de Queiroz (P), Fred Welden (P, Figure 1A), Nancy Devon (P), Martin Meyers (P, Figure 1B), Fred Petersen (P), 3 February–14 May 2011, Virginia Lake, Reno (Washoe). The plumage changed during the bird's stay. The bird alternated between feeding on the Truckee River near downtown Reno and sleeping on a pond in a city park farther upstream, occasionally it visited a city park several miles from either of those locations. This species has been on the review list only since 2007, when it was added because of a dearth of recent records.

## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata* (3, 1). 2011-003, Andrew Lee (P), Dennis Serdehely, 1–17 January 2011, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA) (Clark).

LITTLE BLUE HERON *Egretta caerulea* (2, 1). 2007-100, NOT ENDORSED. 24 July 1993, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark). The brief written description lacked some critical identification criteria. On its first round, the record received four votes to endorse and two not to endorse. On the second round, the record received no votes for endorsement.

2011-021, Tim Almond (P), Andrew Lee (P), 21 April 2011, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark).

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (1, 1). 2011-064, Vincent Mowbray, Marian Cressman, Robert Rucker, 12–13 September 1992, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln). This record established the Tricolored Heron on the Nevada state list.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (3, 2). 2010-013, Carl Lundblad (P), 25 April 2010, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark).

2010-023, Greg Scyphers (P), Jon Dunn (P), Carl Lundblad (P), 21–22 May 2010, Dyer (Esmeralda). These two records followed on the heels of Nevada's first state record, 24 May 2009 (Meyers 2010).

WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus* (10\*\*, 3). 2011-067, Vincent Mowbray, Mark Kasprzyk (P), 18 September 1982, Mormon Farm, Las Vegas (Clark).

2011-020, Dennis Serdehely, 15 April 2011, private property at Warm Springs Natural Area (Clark).

2011-019, Scott Krammer (P), 20 April 2011, Las Vegas (Clark). A very small population of the White-tailed Kite breeds in the Pahrnagat Valley, where the species is exempt from committee review.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* (8, 4). 2010-063, Richard Saval (P), 2 April 2004, Corn Creek (Clark).

2010-030, Carl Lundblad (P), Martin Meyers (P), Greg Scyphers (P), Tim Almond (P), Figure 2), 29–30 May 2010, Meadow Valley Wash (Lincoln), 2 birds, observed (and photographed) engaging in talon-grappling and other displays. The species breeds in Utah less than 8 km from the Nevada border and approximately 48 km from Meadow Valley Wash (R. Fridell pers. comm.). It is probably only a matter of time before breeding of the Common Black-Hawk is confirmed in Nevada.

2011-018, Aaron Ambos (P), 11 April 2011, Meadow Valley Wash (Lincoln). One member voted not to endorse this record, stating that he thought the bird was probably correctly identified but that some of the documentation was ambiguous and that the photograph was not completely convincing on its own.

2011-061, Greg Scyphers (P), 15 June 2011, Corn Creek (Clark).

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* (5, 1). 2011-016, David Henderson, 6 April 2011, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln). An additional four records of Harris's Hawk, one of an apparent family group, are awaiting committee review. The question of origin is the main issue with occurrences of this species, used frequently for falconry.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus* (13, 4). 2010-040, Eric Hough (P), Greg Scyphers (P), Diane Wong, 16 May–30 August 2010, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln), 2 birds, at least one of which remained through the summer. Hough described the birds defending territory near a nest. He observed the birds during multiple surveys between 16 May and 14 June 2010, but they did not nest successfully.

2011-031, Dennis Serdehely, 29 May 2011, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln).

2011-065, David Henderson, 17 August 2011, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln). One member voted not to endorse this record, stating that the identification was almost certainly correct but that other dark buteos were not adequately eliminated.

## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

2011-066, David Henderson, 17 August 2011, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln). The NBRC endorsed four records of the Zone-tailed Hawk in 2011, representing a minimum of one adult and one immature bird, possibly as many as four different birds. As with the Common Black-Hawk, it is probably just a matter of time before breeding of the Zone-tailed Hawk is confirmed in Nevada.

BLACK RAIL *Laterallus jamaicensis* (0, 0). 2008-081, NOT ENDORSED. 5 May 2008, Ash Meadows NWR (Nye). Carl Lundblad submitted documentation of a bird only heard in response to a tape during a survey. Several members commented that the documentation was convincing, but only one member found it sufficient for an establishing record. Lundblad is a member of the committee and was confident of the identification but recognized that the documentation would fall short, and even voted against endorsement. Nonetheless, he submitted the sighting to place the data into the permanent record, where it belongs, even without committee endorsement.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* (2, 2). 2010-083, Vincent Mowbray, 20 May 1985, Corn Creek (Clark). This record established the Upland Sandpiper's occurrence in Nevada. The record received two votes against endorsement on the first round but only one on the second. A vote of 5–1 is sufficient for endorsement.

2010-021, Carl Perretta, 13 May 2010, Hidden Valley (Clark). Interestingly, the voting on this record went the same way as that on 2010-083.

STILT SANDPIPER *Calidris himantopus* (5\*\*, 1). 2011-042, Andrew Lee (P), 8 August 2011, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark), 2 birds. This species had been exempt from review in southern Nevada until 2009, when the exemption was removed because of a lack of recent reports. There remains just one endorsed record from northern Nevada.

RED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* (7, 1). 2011-015, Greg Scyphers (P), 17 October 2010, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln).

HEERMANN'S GULL *Larus heermanni* (8, 2). 2010-054, Rob Lowry (P), 17 October 2010, Washoe Lake (outside state park) (Washoe); bird in its second plumage cycle.

2011-017, David Shen (P), 3 April 2011, Walker Lake (Mineral). This adult represents the earliest spring record of Heermann's Gull for Nevada; the other four spring records extend from 19 April through 3 June. The three fall records extend from 16 October through 28 October. Six of the eight records are from northern Nevada.

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri* (11\*\*, 2). 2011-002, Andrew Lee (P), Rick Fridell (P), Martin Meyers (P), Robert Wilkin (P), David Syzdek (P), 1 January–5 February 2011, Hemenway Harbor, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 2 birds. Thayer's Gull had been exempt from review in northwest Nevada until 2007. The exemption was removed in 2007 after several years with very few reports. Since that time, there have been endorsed records in the northwest every year, with multiple endorsed records in all but one of those years. The committee voted to remove Thayer's Gull from its review list in September 2011. This record of two individuals together is the only committee-endorsed record for southern Nevada.

2011-007, Alan de Queiroz (P), Martin Meyers (P), Dennis Serdehely (P), Rob Lowry (P), 8–9 February 2011, Virginia Lake, Reno (Washoe).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoideus* (1,1). 2011-004, Fred Petersen (P), Martin Meyers (P, Figure 3), Greg Scyphers (P), Jon Dunn, Fred Welden (P), 24 January–9 February 2011, Paradise Park, Reno (Washoe). This third-cycle "Kumlien's" Gull was found by Fred Petersen on 24 January 2011 and observed and photographed by numerous birders from Nevada and California during its stay. Originally found at Paradise Park in Reno, it alternated between that location and Sparks Marina, often being seen at Paradise Park in the morning and Sparks Marina in the afternoon. The one vote against endorsing this record was more concerned with the taxonomic issues



## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

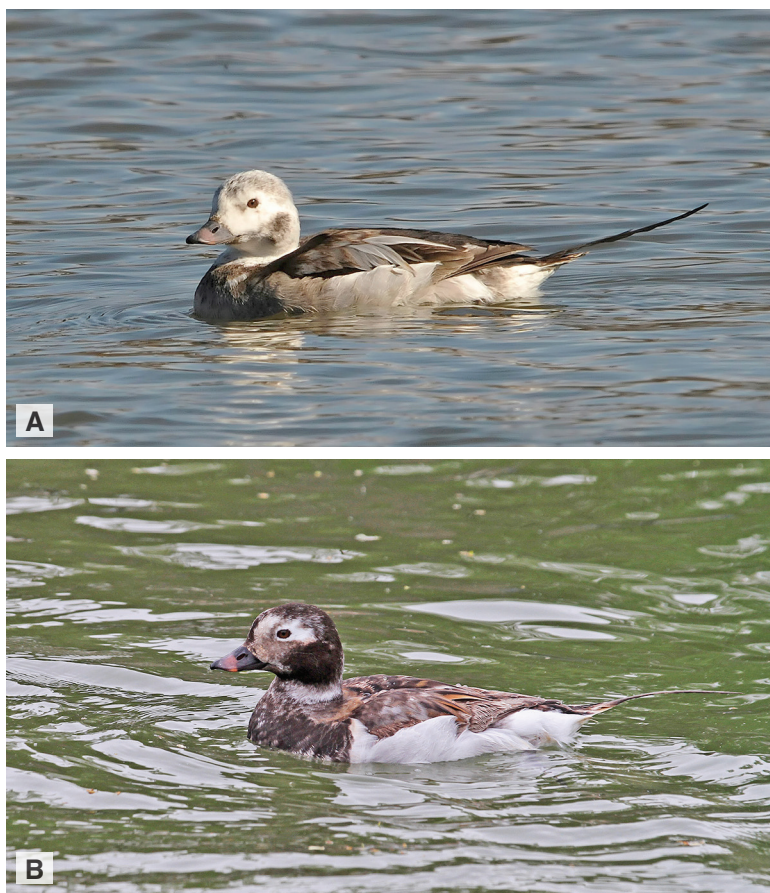


Figure 1. This Long-tailed Duck (2011-006) was observed and photographed at three different locations around Reno from its initial discovery on 3 February 2011 to the last sighting on 14 May 2011. During that time, it went through substantial plumage changes, as seen in these photos, taken 7 February 2011 (A) and 14 May 2011 (B).

Photos by Fred Welden (A) and Martin Meyers (B)

than with the identification of this individual bird. As to the taxonomic issues regarding the Iceland (including “Kumlien’s”) and Thayer’s Gulls, the committee’s position is to follow the American Ornithologists’ Union’s current classification.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (10,3). 2010-061, Martin Meyers (P), 29 October 2010, Sparks Marina (Washoe).

2010-065, Greg Scyphers (P), 1 November 2010, Carson City (Carson City).

2011-022, Andrew Lee (P), 21 April 2011, Hemenway Harbor, Lake Mead NRA (Clark). Of the ten Nevada records, three have been judged to represent repeated occurrences of the same individual over three successive years. The first committee-



Figure 2. This Common Black-Hawk (2010-030) was with another of its species in Meadow Valley Wash, Lincoln Co., 29–30 May 2010 (photo taken 30 May). The two were observed engaging in talon-grappling and other displays.

Photo by Tim Almond

endorsed Lesser Black-backed Gull arrived in Nevada during the winter of 2007–2008 (Meyers 2010). Since that time, there have been at least two documented in the state every year except 2011, when only one was found. Through 2011, sightings in the northern portion of the state (6) slightly outnumbered those in the south (4).

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* (7, 1). 2011-005, Martin Meyers (P, Figure 4), Jon Dunn, 26–29 January 2011, Sparks Marina (Washoe). This beautiful large gull showed up to accompany Nevada's first Iceland Gull (see 2011-004 above), and many of the observers who came to see the Iceland Gull were able to enjoy this bird as a bonus. While the Iceland Gull alternated between Paradise Park and Sparks Marina, the Glaucous Gull was observed at Sparks Marina only.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* (3, 1). 2010-066, Greg Scyphers (P), Martin Meyers (P), 5 November 2010, The Willows, Pyramid Lake (Washoe). The two previous endorsed records for this species were from 1975 and 1995 (Meyers 2010). Several anecdotal reports precede the committee's establishment, and we have some documentation for a few additional records from the late 1980s to the mid 1990s that we are reviewing. However, there is a gap of almost 15 years with no documented reports or even anecdotal reports preceding this 2010 record. We have documentation for two subsequent records for 2011 pending review.

LEAST TERN *Sternula antillarum* (12, 1). 2011-024, Andrew Lee (P), 3 May 2011, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark). All endorsed records fall between 29 April and 20 July, and all but two are for the southern part of the state.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* (5, 3). 2010-084, Paul Lehman, Shawneen Finnegan (P), 11 October 1990, Ash Meadows NWR (Nye).

2010-070, Greg Scyphers (P), 23 May 2010, Ash Springs (Lincoln).

## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

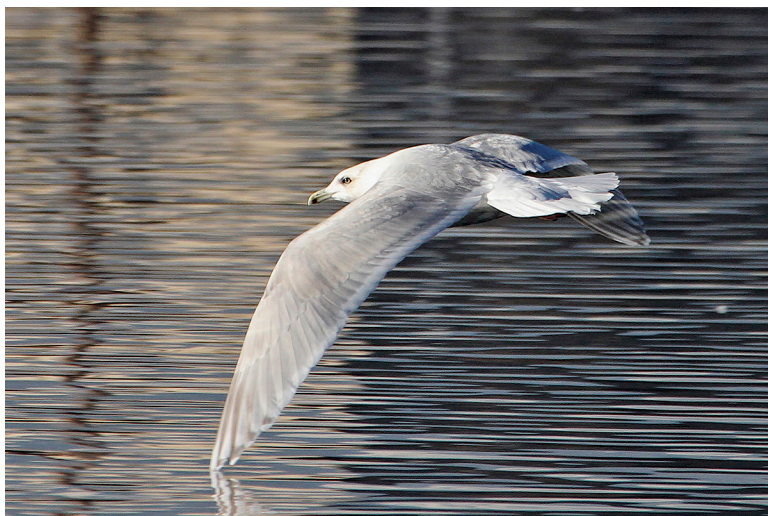


Figure 3. This Kumlien's Iceland Gull (2011-004) represents the first record of the Iceland Gull for Nevada. It was extensively documented (25 photos, three written descriptions, and additional opinions from experts were submitted.) The bird was found 24 January 2011 and remained until 9 February 2011, alternating between Paradise Park in Reno and Sparks Marina, Washoe Co. These photos were taken 25 January 2011.

*Photos by Martin Meyers*



## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT



Figure 4. Many birders who visited the Reno/Sparks area in January 2011 to observe Nevada's first Iceland Gull (2011-004) received a bonus with this Glaucous Gull (2011-005), as both were often seen sitting on the same set of floats at the Sparks Marina, Washoe Co. The Glaucous Gull was present 26–29 January; this photo was taken 28 January 2011.

Photo by Martin Meyers

2010-042, Martin Meyers (P), 1 September 2010, The Willows, Pyramid Lake (Washoe).

PARASITIC JAEGER *Stercorarius parasiticus* (5, 1). 2010-073, Greg Scyphers (P), 14 September 2010, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark).

GREAT GRAY OWL *Strix nebulosa* (0, 0). 2011-039, NOT ENDORSED. 6 July 2011, Mountain City (Elko). The documentation described a relatively brief sighting of a flying bird, viewed without binoculars at a distance reported as approximately 150 yards. Some details provided were consistent with the identification as this species, but the committee was unanimous in not endorsing what would have been an establishing record. The Great Gray Owl is on the Nevada list on the basis of a bird reported from Little Valley (Washoe County) in 1980 (Alcorn 1998). The committee has been unable to come up with any meaningful documentation for that record, but we have not yet given up hope of uncovering some. (See the note under "Revisions to the Nevada State List" above for discussion of related issues.)

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (1, 0). 2010-037, NOT ENDORSED. 26 June 2010, Great Basin National Park (White Pine). This record was documented rather thoroughly, but the details were obtained piecemeal in response to repeated requests. During the first round, that bothered some members, two of whom voted not to endorse the record. In the second round, the dissenting opinions from the first round convinced all members that the documentation was not fully satisfactory for such a rare sighting, despite the likelihood that the identification was correct.

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus* (14\*\*, 2). 2011-052, C. S. Lawson (P), 31 October 1971, Boulder City (Clark).

## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT



Figure 5. This Philadelphia Vireo (2010-059) at Floyd Lamb Park, Tule Springs, Clark Co., 19–23 October 2010 (photo taken 21 October), is the second to be satisfactorily documented in Nevada. This cooperative bird pleased birders who had been waiting for 15 years since the state's first record (1995-22), at Indian Springs, Clark Co., 23 September 1995.

*Photo by Greg Scyphers*



Figure 6. The Purple Martin has been satisfactorily documented to the NBRC only eight times. This bird (2011-030) was at Dyer, Esmeralda Co., 28 May 2011.

*Photo by Greg Scyphers*



Figure 7. This wonderful photo left no doubt in anyone's mind about the identification of Nevada's first recorded Sedge Wren (2011-101). The bird was found 15 October 2011 at a ranch in Dyer, Esmeralda, Co., and was gone by the next day.

*Photo by Greg Scyphers*



Figure 8. The fourth Yellow-throated Warbler (2011-001) to be endorsed by the NBRC was at Moapa National Wildlife Refuge, Clark Co., 2-16 January 2011 (photo taken 16 January).

*Photo by Greg Scyphers*



## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

2011-032, Steve Ting (P), 4 June 2011, Verdi (Washoe). Species removed from the review list, September 2011.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER *Sphyrapicus varius* (6, 3). 2010-074, Greg Scyphers (P), 26 October 2008, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda).

2010-075, Greg Scyphers (P), 7 November 2008, Corn Creek (Clark).

2010-089, Greg Scyphers (P), 6 December 2010, Corn Creek (Clark).

LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus* (6, 1). 2011-037, Robert Williams (V), 18 June 2011, Ruby Valley (Elko). A beautiful close-up video of this bird, singing its "che-bek" song repeatedly, supports this record.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris* (2,2). 2011-060, Vincent Mowbray, Kevin Wallace, 13 June 1987, Corn Creek (Clark). Another of the pre-committee records from the data provided by the Cressmans, this record established the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher on the Nevada list.

2010-041, Eric Hough, 27 July 2010, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln). This record had trouble on its first two rounds, primarily because it would have represented an establishing record. In both of those rounds, two members believed the identification was probably correct but that the documentation was insufficient for a first record. However, 2010-041 was brought up for an additional review after 2011-060 was endorsed as the first state record. On that single round of reconsideration, it was endorsed unanimously.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus* (6, 2). 2010-045, William Pratt, Greg Scyphers (P), James Hulsey (P), Jim Healy (P), Cathy Tobin, Michelle Tobin (P), 7 September–3 October 2010, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark). Initially and again on 14 September 2010, this Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported from the Duck Creek section of the park. On 1 October 2010, what the committee judged to be the same individual was observed at the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve. The distance between these two locations is less than one-half mile.

2011-026, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri (P), 13 May 2011, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus* (2, 1). 2010-059, Joan Clarke, Rita Schlageter, Greg Scyphers (P, Figure 5), Martin Meyers (P), 19–23 October 2010, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark). The first Philadelphia Vireo the NBRC endorsed was found in 1995 (Cressman et al 1998). Nevada birders had been looking eagerly for another for 15 years before Clarke and Schlageter discovered the second.

PURPLE MARTIN *Progne subis* (8, 4). 2010-072, Greg Scyphers (P), 7 September 2009, Key Pittman WMA (Lincoln).

2010-026, Carl Lundblad (P), 23 May 2010, Ash Meadows NWR (Nye).

2011-030, Dennis Serdehely, Greg Scyphers (P, Figure 6), 28 May 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda).

2011-033, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 4 June 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda).

WINTER WREN *Troglodytes hiemalis* (1, 1). 2010-079, Michael J. San Miguel, Jr., 9 November 2000, Corn Creek (Clark), one of the classic desert migrant traps. San Miguel originally reported his sighting as of an "Eastern" Winter Wren, then, after the split of the Pacific Wren and Winter Wren was announced (Chesser et al. 2010), provided his complete notes on the sighting to the committee. The record was endorsed on a 5–1 vote, the one negative voice expressing concern that this first state record was based on a single observer providing only written evidence. That's an issue the committee's bylaws so far do not address. Another Winter Wren found at Pahrnagat NWR in 2011 (amazingly, on the exact same date 11 years later) was seen and documented by many observers; the NBRC's review of that record will be published in its report for 2012.

SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus platensis* (1,1). 2011-101, Greg Scyphers (P, Figure

## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

7), Dennis Ghiglieri (P), Rose Strickland, 15 October 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda). Found by Scyphers at a private ranch at another of Nevada's best migrant traps.

BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum* (11, 2). 2010-086, Peter Shen (P), Bonnie Dunman, Jeanne Tinsman, 4 December 2010–29 March 2011, Corn Creek (Clark).

2011-038, Paul Lehman, Barbara Carlson, 4 July 2011, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda). When this sighting was first announced, some expressed surprise at the mid-summer date. However, Nevada has endorsed records of the Brown Thrasher for every season—including a previous one for July (see <http://gbbo.org/nbrc> for specific dates.)

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR *Calcarius ornatus* (8\*\*, 1). 2011-044, C. S. Lawson, 28 January 1973, Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs (Clark). Lawson (1974) collected the specimen, which one member suggested should be reexamined. The eight endorsed records represent 40 individuals. Species removed from the review list, September, 2011.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum* (10, 1). 2011-010, Greg Scyphers (P), 26 September 2010, Pahrnatagat NWR (Lincoln). A submission for this species from the same general area on 8 October will be considered in the NBRC's report for 2012, addressing the question of whether that sighting represents a continuation of 2011-010.

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Geothlypis formosus* (6, 1). 2010-071, Greg Scyphers (P), Carl Lundblad (P), 26 September–1 October 2010, Pahrnatagat NWR (Lincoln). The records of this species are evenly divided between spring (all May) and fall (all September, with the 2010 record extending to 1 October.)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Setophaga magnolia* (17\*\*, 3). 2010-062, Richard Saval (P), 10 June 2006, Corn Creek (Clark).

2010-087, Greg Scyphers (P), 16 September 2010, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark).

2010-085, Carl Lundblad (P), 1 October 2010, Crystal Springs (Lincoln). Species removed from the review list, September 2011.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Setophaga pensylvanica* (15\*\*, 2). 2011-055, Susanne Luther, Don Roberson, Joe Morlan, 27 May 1976, Lida (Esmeralda).

2011-054, Jeri Langham, 1 June 1980, Dyer (Esmeralda). Species removed from the review list, September 2011.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER *Setophaga caerulescens* (17\*\*, 8). 2011-051, C. S. Lawson (P), 24 October 1971, Boulder City (Clark), 2 birds.

2011-043, Rebecca Benedetti, Ed Mark, Jane Thompson (P), 18 October 1992, Wadsworth (Washoe).

2011-048, John Brack (P), 22 October 1993, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda).

2011-056, Scott Terrill (P), 23 September 1995, Indian Springs (Clark).

2011-057, Marian Cressman (P), 11 December 1996, Corn Creek (Clark).

2011-027, NOT ENDORSED. 1 September 2002, Lahontan Diversion Dam (Churchill). This record was submitted 9 years after the sighting and contained brief field notes which had been taken at the time. The documentation strongly suggested a correct identification, but several members concluded that other species (particularly the Orange-crowned Warbler, *Oreothlypis celata*) had not been satisfactorily eliminated. An additional factor in the decision was the date, 1 September being earlier by two and a half weeks than any other endorsed record of the Black-throated Blue Warbler in Nevada, and earlier than any fall record for California (Hamilton et. al. 2007). The record received a 4–2 vote on the first round and a 2–4 vote on the second and final round.

2010-088, Greg Scyphers (P), 17 October 2010, Pahrnatagat NWR (Lincoln).



## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

2010-060, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri (P), 25 October 2010, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda).

2010-069, Andrew Lee (P), Peter Shen (P), 13 November–5 December 2010, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark). Note that five of the eight records endorsed in 2011 are based on much earlier sightings. Species removed from the review list, September 2011.

PALM WARBLER *Setophaga palmarum*, (15\*\*, 4). 2011-046, John Brack (P), 2 October 1993, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda).

2011-041, Scott Page, Gareth Pearson (P), 23 April 2006, Corn Creek (Clark). This record was documented with a single photograph (and almost no written description.) One member did not find that sufficient for endorsement, but the remainder of the members voted to endorse.

2010-080, Carl Lundblad (P), 1 October 2010, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln).

2011-011, Greg Scyphers (P), 17 October 2010, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln). Species removed from the review list, September 2011.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Setophaga dominica* (4, 3). 2010-081, Bruce Sorrie, Barbara Fearis, 22 April 1977, Kingston Campground (Lander).

2010-082, Michael Perrone, 24 October 1979, Duckwater (Nye).

2011-001, Bruce Lund (P), Richard Titus (P), Richard Saval (P), Martin Meyers (P), Greg Scyphers (P, Figure 8), 2–16 January 2011, Moapa NWR (Clark). This record is only the second of the Yellow-throated Warbler since the 1994 formation of the NBRC. This very cooperative bird remained for at least two weeks, permitting many Nevada birders to enjoy it.

PRAIRIE WARBLER *Setophaga discolor* (5, 2). 2010-044, Greg Scyphers (P), Jon Dunn, Carl Lundblad (P), 5–6 September 2010, Dyer (Esmeralda).

2010-064, James Stuart (P), Richard Saval (P), Joyce Marie Stewart (P), 31 October–3 November 2010, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (Clark). The dearth of Nevada records of this species may seem surprising to California birders, but it should be noted that only about 5% of California's records are from the interior (Hamilton et al. 2007).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER *Setophaga virens* (2, 2). 2010-051, Andrew Lee (P), Richard Saval (P), Greg Scyphers (P), 30 September–2 October 2010, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark). This is the first record of the Black-throated Green Warbler to be submitted to the NBRC. Its unanimous endorsement establishes the species on the Nevada state list.

2010-068, Andrew Lee (P), 6 November 2010, Sunset Park, Las Vegas (Clark). After Lee documented Nevada's first Black-throated Green Warbler in September, 2010, he went out and found another one in November!

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW *Spizella pallida* (8, 3). 2011-069, William Pratt, 31 August 2011, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark).

2011-078, Dennis Serdehely, 21 September 2011, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda).

2011-079, Andrew Lee (P), 6 October 2011, Sunset Park, Las Vegas (Clark), 2 birds.

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys* (15\*\*, 4). 2011-050, Marian Cressman (P), 31 August 1996, Hiko (Lincoln).

2011-009, Greg Scyphers (P), 5 September 2010, Dyer (Esmeralda).

2010-076, Greg Scyphers (P), Carl Lundblad (P), 19 September 2010, Highland Park, Tonopah (Nye).

2011-077, Greg Scyphers (P), Martin Meyers (P), 17 September 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda), 2 birds. Species added to the review list in September 2007 and removed in September 2011.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW *Ammodramus savannarum* (5, 2). 2011-082, Rick Fridell (P), 29 September 2009, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda). A Grasshopper

## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Sparrow had been documented at this same well-known vagrant trap by Scyphers (2010-017) only one week before Fridell's sighting (Meyers 2011). Excellent photos of both birds convinced all members of the committee that two different individuals were involved.

2010-057, Greg Scyphers (P), Martin Meyers (P), 24 October 2010, Key Pittman WMA (Lincoln). Some older field guides show the breeding range of the Grasshopper Sparrow as encompassing nearly the entire state of Nevada. All the field work for the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada* (Floyd et.al. 2007), however, revealed only two birds, one "possible breeder" in Lander County and one "probable breeder" in White Pine County. In July 2001, one year after field work for the atlas was completed, Walter Wehtje observed an adult carrying an object—perhaps a fecal sac—in Lincoln County (Floyd et al. 2007). If the Grasshopper Sparrow does breed in Nevada, it is extraordinarily rare. And, as the number of endorsed records shows, it is a very rare visitor at any time.

SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana* (12, 5). 2011-013, Martin Meyers, 3 January 1998, Walker Lake (Mineral).

2010-058, Martin Meyers, 17 October 2010, Corn Creek (Clark).

2011-085, Martin Meyers, 16 October 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda).

2011-091, Paul Lehman, 30 October 2011, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln).

2011-100, G. Scott Clemson, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri (P), 24–26 November 2011, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln).

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (5, 1). 2010-056, Greg Scyphers (P), Martin Meyers (P), 24 October 2010, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln). All but the single spring (23 May) record of the Scarlet Tanager for Nevada fall between 16 October and 26 November.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (11, 1) . 2011-012, Greg Scyphers (P), 4 February 2010, Beatty (Nye).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE *Icterus galbula* (5, 1). 2011-081, Rick Fridell (P), 16 September 2004, Corn Creek (Clark)

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei* (17\*\*, 5). 2011-047, C. S. Lawson,(P), 1 October 1972, Corn Creek (Clark), 2 birds.

2011-045, Paul Lehman, Shawneen Finnegan (P), 14 October 1990, Indian Springs (Clark).

2011-049, Marian Cressman (P), 11 October 1992, Corn Creek (Clark).

2010-048, Greg Scyphers (P), Dennis Serdehely, 5–9 September 2010, Dyer (Esmeralda).

2011-059, Greg Scyphers (P), 22 May 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda), 2 birds, observed carrying nesting material, but the outcome of this attempt was not determined. This is the first known attempt of Lawrence's Goldfinch to nest in Nevada. The 17 endorsed records represent 41 individual birds. Species removed from the review list, September 2011.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The NBRC thanks everyone who contributed to the accounts contained in this report. All submissions, photos, advice, comments, and opinions are greatly appreciated. We apologize to anyone who may have been overlooked. Some of the contributors on this list are no longer with us, but their contributions are no less appreciated.

Tim Almond, Aaron Ambos, Rebecca Benedetti, Ned Bixler, John Brack, Barbara Carlson, Joan Clarke, G. Scott Clemson, James and Marian Cressman, Brian Day, Alan de Queiroz, Nancy Devon, Bonnie Dunman, Jon Dunn, Barbara Fearis, Shawneen Finnegan, Rick Fridell, Dennis Ghiglieri, Jim Healy, David Henderson,

## 2011 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Eric Hough, James Hulsey, Jeri Langham, Tony Leukering, Mark Kasprzyk, Scott Krammer, C.S. Lawson, Andrew Lee, Paul Lehman, Rob Lowry, Bruce Lund, Carl Lundblad, Susanne Luther, Bruce Mactavish, Ed Mark, Martin Meyers, Joe Morlan, Vincent Mowbray, Christina Nycek, Scott Page, Gareth Pearson, Carl Perretta, Michael Perrone, Fred Petersen, William Pratt, Peter Pyle, Don Roberson, Rya Rubenthaler, Robert Rucker, Michael J. San Miguel, Jr., Richard Saval, Rita Schlageter, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Serdehely, David Shen, Peter Shen, Bruce Sorrie, Joyce Marie Stewart, Rose Strickland, James Stuart, Brian Sullivan, David Syzdek, Scott Terrill, Jane Thompson, Steve Ting, Jeanne Tinsman, Carolyn Titus, Richard Titus, Cathy Tobin, Michelle Tobin, Alan Wallace, Kevin Wallace, Fred Welden, Robert Wilkin, Robert Williams, Diane Wong.

Special thanks to the entire staff of the Great Basin Bird Observatory for their generous logistical support. Greg Scyphers and Dennis Serdehely reviewed early drafts of this report and contributed much-appreciated input. Kristie Nelson reviewed the first submitted draft thoroughly, and her comments were invaluable, as were those from Dan Gibson. Will Richardson performed the final review and made substantial improvements. Thank you to editor Philip Unitt for his help with this report's final stages.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Alcorn, J. R., 1988. *The Birds of Nevada*, Fairview West Publishing, Fallon, NV.
- Chesser, R. T., Banks, R. C., Barker, F. K., Cicero, C., Dunn, J. L., Kratter, A. W., Lovette, I. J., Rasmussen, P. C., Remsen, J. V., Rising, J. D., Stotz, D. F., and Winker, K. 2010. Fifty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds. *Auk* 127:726–744.
- Cressman, J., Baessler, D., Biale, A., Crow, D., Hoskins, L., Neel, L., Ryser, F. Jr., and Eidel, J. 1998. Initial report of the Nevada Bird Records Committee: 1994–96 Records. *Great Basin Birds* 1:63–67.
- Floyd, T., Elphick, C. S., Chisholm, G., Mack, K., Elston, R. G., Ammon, E. M., and Boone, J. D. 2007. *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada*. Univ. of Nev. Press, Reno.
- Hamilton, R. A., Patten, M. A., and Erickson, R. A. 2007. *Rare Birds of California*. W. Field Ornithol., Camarillo, CA.
- Lawson, C. S., 1974. First Nevada record of Chestnut-collared Longspur. *Auk* 91:432.
- Meyers, M. 2010. 2008/2009 Nevada Bird Records Committee Report. [www.gbbo.org/nbrc/GBB\\_2008\\_2009\\_Report.pdf](http://www.gbbo.org/nbrc/GBB_2008_2009_Report.pdf).
- Meyers, M. 2011. 2010 Nevada Bird Records Committee Report. [www.gbbo.org/nbrc/GBB\\_2010\\_Report.pdf](http://www.gbbo.org/nbrc/GBB_2010_Report.pdf).
- Smith, J. P., Farmer, C. J., Hoffman, S. W., Kaltenecker, G. S., Woodruff, K. Z., and Sherrington, P. F. 2008. Trends in autumn counts of migratory raptors in western North America, in *State of North America's Birds of Prey* (K. L. Bildstein, J. P. Smith, E. Ruelas I., and R. R. Veit, eds.), p. 217–251. Nuttall Ornithol. Club and Am. Ornithol. Union Ser. Ornithol. 3.
- Titus, C. K. 1996. *Field List of the Birds of Nevada*. Red Rock Audubon Soc., Las Vegas, NV.

*Accepted 18 October 2012*