

WESTERN BIRDS



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Western Specialty:

Painted Redstart



Photo by © Ken Lee of Henderson, Nevada:

Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*)

Corn Creek Field Station, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, 17 April 2015. The Painted Redstart occurs as an occasional visitor to the northwest of its normal range from Arizona and New Mexico south to Nicaragua. This photograph documents the 13th record for Nevada endorsed by the Nevada Bird Records Committee, whose report for 2015, by Jeanne Tinsman and Martin Meyers, is published in this issue of *Western Birds* (pp. 274–290). Some Nevada records are from the Spring Mountains, which have forest resembling the Painted Redstart's breeding habitat, but others, such as this one, are from the desert floor. The Painted Redstart's characteristic tail fanning, seen in this photo, functions both in social signaling and flushing insects on which the bird feeds.

NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2015

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ABSTRACT: In 2015, the Nevada Bird Records Committee (NBRC) reviewed 79 reports from the period 4 November 1963–11 September 2015; 67 were endorsed. Three new species were added to the Nevada list following endorsement of first state records: the American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), and Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*). The NBRC reviewed 15 species on the state list that did not have previous committee-endorsed records. Nine of those were removed because of lack of substantiated evidence of occurrence: the American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*), Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*), Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incana*), Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*), Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*), Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), and Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*). Revisions were made to the review list as well. The Nevada state list stands at 486 species, of which 140 are currently on the review list.

The NBRC began 2015 with 27 reports pending review. During 2015, we added 98 reports to the pending queue. The committee completed reviews of 79 reports during the year, leaving 47 in the pending queue. Any mathematical discrepancies result from reports believed to represent multiple occurrences of the same individual and reports withdrawn prior to review. Since the founding of the NBRC in 1994, 1176 reports have been reviewed, of which 1071 (91.1%) 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 Cressman continued to accumulate documentation for "pre-committee" reports. One of the committee's long-term goals has been to organize and review as many of those reports as possible, along with early documentation from other sources. The committee began reviewing pre-committee reports in 2007. Since that time, we have reviewed 147 and endorsed 125. Of the 98 reports added to the pending queue in 2015, 33 preceded the committee's founding.

Of the 79 reports reviewed by the committee in 2015, 67 were endorsed. Photographs accompanied the documentation for 54 of these records. One of those was also accompanied by video/audio recordings, and three were supported by video or audio recordings but no still photos. Seven were supported by museum specimens. Ten of the endorsed records were supported entirely by written descriptions. Only one of the 12 reports not endorsed was supported by photographs; none were supported by video recordings, audio recordings, or specimens.

The NBRC has six voting members, one of whom serves as chair, and a nonvoting secretary. At the beginning of 2015, the committee's voting members were Aaron Ambos, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, Justin Streit, Jeanne Tinsman, and Will Richardson. In June of 2015, Paul Hurtado replaced Will Richardson, who chose to retire from the committee. During

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2015, the committee added a “chair” position and elected Jeanne Tinsman to fill that position. The position of secretary continued to be held by Martin Meyers.

The NBRC’s website at <http://gbbo.org/nbrc> contains a statement of purpose, answers to frequently asked questions, links to a downloadable and online submission form, the state review list, the Nevada state checklist, and the committee’s bylaws. There is a link to a list of all submissions to the NBRC, with the status of each with respect to endorsement and, if available, a photograph. All previous NBRC reports are available through the website as PDFs. NBRC reports through 2007 (1994–1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2005, and 2007) appeared in *Great Basin Birds*, published by the Great Basin Bird Observatory. Reports for 2008 through 2010 are available at the NBRC website. Beginning with the 2011 report, annual reports appear in *Western Birds*.

REVISIONS TO THE NEVADA STATE LIST

In 2015, three new species were added to the Nevada list following endorsement of first state records: the American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), and Couch’s Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*).

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. Certain records in the species accounts section below are noted as “establishing records,” designating the first NBRC-endorsed record of a species that was already on the state list. The number of species on the state list without an endorsed record was 15 at the end of 2014. During 2015 the NBRC endorsed establishing records of five species: the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*), Elf Owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*), Chuck-will’s-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*), Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*), and Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*).

During the same period, nine species were removed from the Nevada list: the American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*), Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*), Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incana*), Hutton’s Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*), Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*), Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), and Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*). The NBRC had endorsed no records of them; pre-1996 reports of the American Black Duck, Wandering Tattler, Gray Jay, and Gray-cheeked Thrush were reviewed in 2015 and are discussed below. At its biennial meeting in September 2015, the NBRC reviewed and discussed all documentation that it was able to uncover for all nine species, including museum search results, reports in various journals, and miscellaneous written documentation, before voting for removal.

The one species left on the list without an endorsed record is the Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). This species has been reported on various surveys of wetlands in southern Nevada, but reviewable documentation has not yet been provided to the NBRC. At the 2015 meeting, the committee tabled a vote on deleting the Black Rail while continuing the search for additional details from surveys and other observations. Thus we are nearly finished

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with the eight-year project to find reviewable documentation for species on the state list with no endorsed records.

The Nevada state list stood at 486 species as of the end of 2015.

REVISIONS TO THE NEVADA REVIEW LIST

At its 2015 biennial meeting, on the basis of total number of endorsed records, regularity of sightings, status in adjoining states, and the judgment of the members, the committee voted unanimously to remove 10 species from the review list: the Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*), Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*), Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), and Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*). In addition, the nine species removed from the state list were also removed from the review list, and the three species added to the state list were added to the review list. The Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) remains on the review list but is now exempt from review in the Meadow Valley Wash–Rainbow Canyon area of southeast Nevada, where it has bred successfully.

There are currently 140 species on the Nevada review list, of which six are exempt from review in some limited geographic area. In addition, two subspecies are currently on the review list: the Mexican Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos diazi*) and Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*A. crecca crecca*). The committee has endorsed four records of the Eurasian Green-winged Teal. The committee placed the Mexican Mallard on the review list in an effort to accumulate data on its occurrence, but we have not, as yet, reviewed any of the reports and have decided to wait to do so until there is more clarity on its taxonomic status and identification criteria.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Each species account is introduced with a header in the following format: English name, *scientific name*, and, in parentheses, the total number of endorsed records of the species (including those endorsed in this report), followed by the number of records endorsed in this year's report. An asterisk preceding the species' name signifies that the species is no longer on the Nevada review list. Two asterisks after the total of records denote that the number of records refers to a restricted review period, usually signifying that the species is no longer on the review list, has been added to the review list because of a perceived drop in population, or is exempt from review in some locations.

After the heading for each species comes each report of that species reviewed in 2015, in the following format: NBRC report number, location (county in parentheses), and date or range of dates of observations submitted to the NBRC. If the report involved multiple birds, the number follows the date information. Then, for endorsed records: the name of each submitter, followed by the notation "(P)," "(V)," or "(A)" if he or she provided a photo, video, or audio recording, respectively. If the initial finder or finders sent doc-

umentation to the NBRC, those names are listed first. A semicolon follows the finders' names if other observers submitted additional documentation.

In cases where a specimen was the subject of review, the collector's or preparer's name is followed by the museum accession number along with age and condition information from the museum tags. The museums cited in this report are the Marjorie Barrick Museum (MBM), formerly at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the collection now housed at the University of Washington Burke Museum, Seattle (UWBM); the University of Nevada, Reno, Museum of Natural History (UNMB), formerly the University of Nevada Museum of Biology; and the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM). In all instances, the committee examined photographs of the specimens, and the photographs are included in the documentation.

Additional information relevant to a record may be provided. If there are multiple observations of the species, they are ordered by date of first sighting. Any discussion of the species in general, not specific to an observation, concludes the account if warranted.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (3**, 1). 2015-003, Overton Wildlife Management Area (WMA) (Clark), 9 Dec 2014–15 Jan 2015, seven birds. N. Parrish (P); R. Fridell (P). Two adults and five immatures, they were accompanied by an adult Tundra Swan (*C. columbianus*). The long-established introduced population of the Trumpeter Swan resident in Ruby Valley is exempt from review, but the NBRC reviews reports of the species away from that location.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK *Anas rubripes* (0**, 0). 2015-028, Fallon (Churchill), 4 Nov 1963. NOT ENDORSED. The last of the unreviewed pre-committee documentation for this species was a supposed band recovery of a bird banded by the New York Conservation Department at Wilson Hill, New York, on 2 Sep 1962 (Alcorn 1988). We have learned, however, that the record no longer exists in the Bird Banding Lab's database (D. Bystrak in litt., 2015), and no specimen was preserved. With the vote not to endorse this record, the NBRC removed the species from the state list and review list at its September 2015 meeting.

BLACK SCOTER *Melanitta americana* (9, 2). 2014-066, Gregg Basin, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA) (Clark), 8 Nov 2014, two adult females. E. Hough (P). Both birds were initially observed in Arizona waters but were then flushed to the Nevada side by powerboats.

2014-069, Boulder Beach, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 14–20 Nov 2014. R. Strickland, D. Ghiglieri (P); S. Page (P), A. Ambos (P), D. Syzdek (P), D. Vogt (P), N. McDonal (P). Female-like plumage.

RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata* (9, 2). 2014-068, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 12 Nov 2014–3 Jan 2015. G. Scyphers (P); D. Vogt (P), R. Strickland, D. Ghiglieri (P), N. McDonal (P), A. Ambos (P), J. Streit (P). Immature.

2015-001, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 12 Dec 2014. N. Parrish (P). Adult in winter plumage.

***NEOTROPIC CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (10**, 3). 2015-002, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 16 Oct 2014–26 Mar 2015. K. Lee (P, Figure 1); J. Boone (P), D. Henderson. Adult.

2015-033, Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs (Clark), 8–13 May 2015. G. Scyphers (P); G. Hawkins (P). Immature.

2015-034, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (BVP) (Clark), 9 May 2015. S. Burrell (P). Immature.

Hamilton et al. (2007) listed 20 records representing 13 individuals in California



Figure 1. The Neotropic Cormorant has increasingly been joining its cousin, the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), on southern Nevada waters in recent years. This adult was observed at the Clark County Wetlands Park over four months, October 2014–February 2015.

Photo by Ken Lee

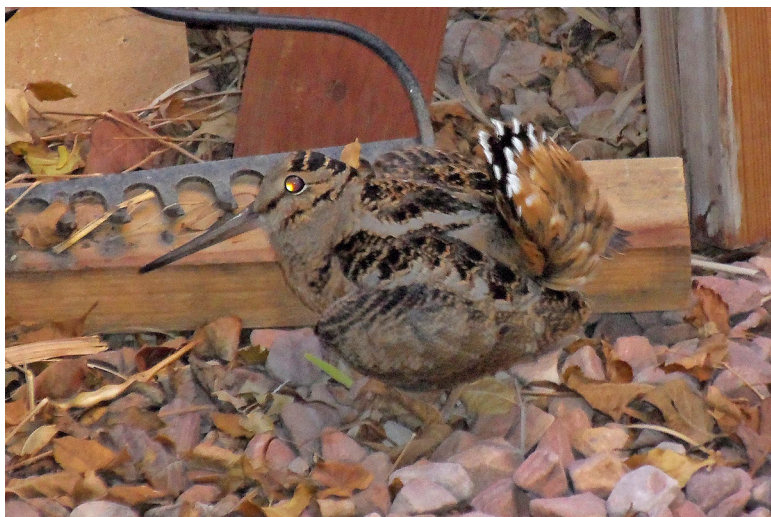


Figure 2. The first American Woodcock for Nevada was found in a northwest Las Vegas back yard on 23 December 2014 and taken to the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary the next day, as it appeared to be ill or injured. It did not survive.

Photo by Brian Heilmann

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from 1971 through 1999. Though no reports were submitted between 2000 and 2006, over the next seven years numbers of sightings increased significantly, resulting in the species' removal from the California review list in January 2014, when there were 49 additional records. Other southwestern states have also witnessed an increase in the Neotropic Cormorant over the last decade. In the most recent Utah Bird Records Committee report covering 2010 through 2012, O'Donnell et al. (2014:115) cited the "dramatic and continuing expansion by the Neotropic Cormorant." Utah also removed this species from its review list in January 2014. Arizona documented the rise in numbers through Christmas Bird Count data and other surveys (Rademaker and Corman 2008). The influx has reached north-central New Mexico as well (Williams 2013; www.eBird.org).

Records of this species in southern Nevada have also increased significantly in the last few years (Meyers 2015, 2016), resulting in its removal from the review list in September 2015.

*BROWN PELICAN *Pelecanus occidentalis* (14**, 3). 2015-056, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 31 Aug–13 Sep 1975. C. S. Lawson (P); originally observed by Terry Peters (Lawson 1977).

2015-055, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 7 Jun 1976. G. Austin (MBM 141 = UWBM 98175, immature ♂, no fat, no molt).

2015-054, Henderson BVP (Clark), 7 Aug 2000. G. Voelker (MBM 8605 = UWBM 98176, immature ♂, emaciated, no molt). This bird died on 9 Aug 2000, when the specimen was recovered.

COMMON BLACK HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* (11**, 0). 2015-049, Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) (Lincoln), 27 Nov 1994. NOT ENDORSED. Some committee members agreed that the written description lacked sufficient comparison with other taxa such as Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*); another concern was the extremely late date. Photographs were mentioned in the report, but unfortunately they were not available for review.

BLACK RAIL *Laterallus jamaicensis* (0, 0). 2015-048, Ash Meadows NWR (Nye), 25 Sep 2007. NOT ENDORSED. Though this and a previous report both failed to gain committee endorsement, the NBRC agreed that this difficult-to-document species warranted further consideration before being removed from the Nevada list. There have been several undocumented observations by both professional surveyors and experienced bird watchers.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* (7, 1). 2014-057, Pahrump (Nye), 9 Oct 2014. D. Feener (P). Juvenile.

WANDERING TATTLER *Tringa incana* (0**, 0). 2014-027, Key Pittman WMA (Lincoln), 28 Apr 1991. NOT ENDORSED. Through multiple reviews of a single written report the committee decided not to endorse this record and to remove the species from the state checklist and review list. Efforts to locate additional reports of the Wandering Tattler in Nevada have been unsuccessful.

RUFF *Calidris pugnax* (5, 1). 2014-059, Mason Valley WMA (Lyon), 9 Sep 2014. R. Lowry. Juvenile.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Calidris subruficollis* (1, 1). 2014-030, Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 26 Aug 1985. M. V. Mowbray. Establishing record. This species had been on the Nevada list without reviewed documentation; with NBRC endorsement, this pre-committee report serves as the establishing record. The single bird was described as being immature. As stated at www.azfo.net/gallery/BBSA_2007.html, "the few Arizona records of this species have come in years when they occurred in above-average numbers along the west coast of the U.S." So it is worth noting that California had up to 16 individuals in fall 1985 (Hamilton et al.



Figure 3. There are now five NBRC-endorsed records for the Common Ground-Dove in Nevada; the species was of “irregular occurrence” from the early 1960s to mid-1970s (Alcorn 1988:183), but since then only four records are confirmed, including the one of this female in Esmeralda County, 7–8 September 2014.

Photo by Greg Scyphers



Figure 4. Another first for Nevada, this Couch's Kingbird delighted local and visiting birders for nearly two months (12 January–4 March 2015). The identification was confirmed by vocalizations and wing formula.

Photo by Ken Lee



Figure 5. This second Thick-billed Kingbird for Nevada was found at the Overton Wildlife Management Area on 7 November 2014, where it remained for over a week. Nevada's first representative of the species was observed in October 1996.

Photo by Rick Fridell



Figure 6. This female Red-eyed Vireo was paired with a Warbling Vireo in July 2013 at Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno.

Photo by Fred Petersen

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2007), and 14 were reported from Florence, Oregon, that season as well (Contreras and Heintz 1985).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax minor* (1, 1). 2014-073, Las Vegas (Clark), 23–24 Dec 2014. B. Heilmann (P, Figure 2). First Nevada record. The bird appeared in a suburban Las Vegas yard, and fortunately the homeowner recognized that it was well out of range, photographed it, and contacted others to confirm the identification. The woodcock was found in poor health and was taken the next day to the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, where it died (but the specimen was not preserved). Records for this species close to longitude 115° W include one from Eureka, Montana (Wright 1996), and two from California (Heindel and Garrett 2008).

PARASITIC JAEGER *Stercorarius parasiticus* (10, 2). 2014-054, south end of Pyramid Lake (Washoe), 24 Aug 2014. R. Lowry (P). Juvenile.

2014-053, south end of Pyramid Lake (Washoe), 13 Sep 2014. J. Hackney (P), R. Strickland, D. Ghiglieri (P). Juvenile.

Though both birds were unanimously endorsed as Parasitic Jaegers from the same location within weeks of each other, a majority of committee members concluded that they represented different individuals because of differences in their coloring, the time between the sightings (this area receives a good amount of attention from birders during the migration seasons), and the species' tendency to rarely stay long at one location during fall migration.

***HEERMANN'S GULL** *Larus heermanni* (13**, 1). 2015-057, near Davis Dam (Clark), 17 Sep 1976. C. S. Lawson. First or second cycle. The review and endorsement of this pre-committee documentation makes this the earliest verified record of Heermann's Gull in Nevada.

***LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus* (19**, 3). 2015-007, Hemenway Harbor, Lake Mead NRA; Henderson BVP; Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark), 13 Jan–7 Mar 2015. G. Scyphers (P); M. Meyers (P), N. McDonal (P), W. Pratt (P), K. Lee (P). First or second cycle. Over the course of this bird's stay in Clark County in early 2015, it was photographed at three locations: Hemenway Harbor, Lake Mead NRA, on 13, 15, and 17 Jan; Henderson BVP on 13 Feb; and the Las Vegas Wash between the Duck Creek and Pabco trailheads on 15 Feb and 7 Mar. The bird had a distinctive pale tip to its bill, among other recognizable plumage and structural characteristics, and the NBRC unanimously endorsed these observations as representing one individual.

2015-009, Virginia Lake, Reno (Washoe), 17–25 Jan 2015. F. Petersen (P); B. Steger (P), M. Meyers (P), K. Drozd (P), M. Andrews, C. Coxé (P), C. Hubbard (P), D. Hubbard (P). Adult.

2015-011, Sparks Marina (Washoe), 8 Mar 2015. M. Meyers (P). First cycle.

***GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus* (17**, 2). 2015-053, Walker Lake (Mineral), 7 Oct 1977. NOT ENDORSED. The identification was questionable because of lack of details and inconsistencies in the written report.

2015-004, Sparks Marina (Washoe), 10–16 Jan 2015. P. Hurtado (P); B. Steger (P), K. Drozd (P), M. Meyers (P). Second cycle or younger.

2015-008, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 15 Jan 2015. M. Meyers (P). First or second cycle.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE *Columbina passerina* (5, 1). 2014-052, Dyer (Esmeralda), 7–8 Sep 2014. G. Scyphers (P, Figure 3); M. Meyers (P). Female. Three of the previous endorsed records are from 2009 and 2012. The other is from 1972, when the species was of "irregular occurrence" in Nevada (Alcorn 1988:183). Several sightings, some of multiple birds, were reported from 1961 to 1976.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti* (3, 1). 2014-067, Overton WMA (Clark), 11 Nov 2014. J. Boone (P). Female. California's first accepted record of this

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species was of a male observed in Inyo County in 1984. Over the following decade, a wave of range expansion was documented (Hamilton et al. 2007), then the number of reports waned until the early 2000s; breeding in California was documented in 2003 (McCaskie 2003). Arizona also saw an upswing in observations in 2005–2006 (<http://www.azfo.org/gallery/rugd.html>). Both of Nevada's previous records of the Ruddy Ground-Dove were loosely associated with these population surges (1995 and 2005). In addition, "New Mexico's first record of the Ruddy Ground-Dove was in 1984, and there have been 55 records of some 80 individuals since" (S. O. Williams in litt., 2016).

The species was removed from the California review list in January 2004 because of the number of records and proof of breeding but re-added in January 2016, as a permanent resident population has not become established.

ELF OWL *Micrathene whitneyi* (1, 1). 2015-018, Ft. Mojave (Clark), 12 Jun 1975. C. S. Lawson (UNMB 1792, adult ♂, moderate fat). Establishing record. In the effort to endorse records of all species on the Nevada checklist, the committee reviewed this specimen collected at a time when Elf Owls were observed regularly in the state. The species occurred in the Fort Mojave area of southernmost Clark County (and in neighboring California along the Colorado River) in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Since that time, the habitat in that area has been destroyed; the Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas (surveys beginning 1997) failed to find the Elf Owl in other apparently suitable locations in southern Nevada (Floyd et al. 2007). The specimen collected on 12 Jun 1975 was one of five or six birds present on that date (Lawson 1977).

The California Bird Records Committee began reviewing reports of the Elf Owl in 2010 because of the number of records decreasing since 2002 (Johnson et al. 2012). Intermittently between 1999 and 2007, this species was detected in Washington County, Utah (<http://www.utahbirds.org/RecCom/RareBirdsIndex.html>).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW *Antrostomus carolinensis* (1, 1). 2015-025, access road to Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 12 Jun 1984. M. V. Mowbray. Establishing record. The documentation indicated that the bird was found dead and was sent to the Nevada State Museum (Kingery 1984), but the specimen cannot be located. The written report, however, provided details sufficient for unanimous endorsement by the committee.

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD *Eugenes fulgens* (1, 1). 2015-047, Jarbidge (Elko), 14 Jun 1986. G. and E. Barneby (P). Establishing record. The NBRC reviewed the photo published by Kingery (1987) but not the original photo, as well as a statement from a former *American Birds* staff person who recalled that the identification was clear in the original image (K. Kaufman, in litt., 2015). On this basis the committee endorsed the record and retained the Magnificent Hummingbird on the state list.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris* (1, 1). 2014-055, Mesquite (Clark), 9 Sep 2014. N. A. Batchelder (P). First Nevada record. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is not an unexpected species for Nevada, as there are records in all neighboring states. But many western vagrants are hatch-year birds and so difficult to identify. Fortunately, this bird, apparently a hatch-year female, was captured, banded, and released by a local hummingbird bander, who was able to document it adequately.

COUCH'S KINGBIRD *Tyrannus couchii* (1, 1). 2015-005, Clark County Wetlands Park Nature Preserve (Clark), 12 Jan–4 Mar 2015. D. Serdehelyi (P); J. Streit (P, V), G. Scyphers (P), M. Meyers (P, V, A), S. Page (P), L. Harter (A), D. Vander Pluym (P), J. C. Ruckdeschel (P), B. d'Amours (P), J. Boone (P), D. Vogt (P), R. Michal (P), K. Lee (P, Figure 4). First Nevada record. Initially reported as a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, this bird was, fortunately, heard giving a diagnostic single-noted "pip" call the next day by Streit. The diagnostic wing formula was visible



Figure 7. The two young fledged by the mixed pair of vireos in Reno did not survive their first month; one specimen was analyzed to confirm hybridization. This nesting was followed by an incursion of additional post-breeding Red-eyed Vireos, detected as singing males.

Photo by Fred Petersen



Figure 8. After the Curve-billed Thrasher was first noted at Searchlight, Nevada, on 7 June 2014, three birds were observed in September 2014. Since that time, reports of one or two individuals continue to come in to the NBRC and are posted at www.eBird.org regularly, though nesting has yet to be documented.

Photo by Martin Meyers



Figure 9. This Olive-backed Pipit, the second for North America, was collected on 16 May 1967 near Reno by Thomas D. Burleigh (1968). The specimen is preserved in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

Photo by Brian Schmidt, Smithsonian Institution



Figure 10. All of Nevada's four accepted records of the Painted Bunting during the 2015 review period were of immature/female-plumaged birds such as this one at the Corn Creek Field Station, Desert National Wildlife Refuge in Clark County, 8 September 2014.

Photo by Greg Scyphers

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in at least one photograph and discussed in written documentation. This individual stayed in a very accessible location for nearly two months, allowing plenty of time for observers to study and document every aspect of its plumage, behavior, and voice. California has two accepted records (Rottenborn and Morlan 2000, californiabirds.org/cbrc_book/update.pdf). Arizona also has two reports, one accepted (Rosenberg et al. 2011) and one under consideration (abc.azfo.org/ABCVote/_ABCReports_Public_View_list.aspx). All five of these records far northwest of the species' normal range are for winter.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (2, 1). 2014-065, Overton WMA (Clark), 7–15 Nov 2014. N. A. Batchelder, D. Boyarski (P); M. Meyers (P), M. Swink (P), J. Tinsman (P), G. Scyphers (P), R. Fridell (P, Figure 5), D. Vogt (P), D. Syzdek (P), A. Ambos (P). Representing the second record for Nevada (following the first on 29 Oct 1996), this was another very cooperative kingbird, affording excellent opportunities for photo documentation.

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (7, 2). 2015-040, Southern Nevada Water Authority's Warm Springs Natural Area (not open to the public) (Clark), 23 May 2015. M. Dorriesfield (V). The bird does not appear in the video; it was recorded to capture audio of the song, and shows the habitat as well.

2015-045, Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs (Clark), 21 Jun 2015. J. Tinsman (A). Audio recordings were stripped from video that did not show the bird or the habitat.

*RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus* (17**, 6). 2015-050, Dyer (Esmeralda), 2 Jun 1980. J. Langham. Earliest Nevada record.

2015-051, Warm Springs township (Nye), 17 Sep 1993. J. Brack.

2015-052, Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 22–23 Sep 1995. M. Patten. Originally found by Chris D. Benesh.

2013-076, Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno (Washoe), 2 Jul–9 Aug 2013, three birds. F. Petersen (P, Figures 6 and 7); M. Andrews, G. Scyphers (P), K. Drozd (P), Z. Ormsby (P), T. McKee, M. Meyers (P). On 2 Jul 2013, Petersen discovered a female Red-eyed Vireo sharing an active nest with a male Warbling Vireo (*V. gilvus*). The two young did not survive; one was taken by a Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) on 13 Jul, and the second was accidentally stepped on by a park visitor on 14 Jul. The latter fledgling is now specimen MVZ 185598 at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley. Further details concerning this hybridization are being reported by T. McKee and D. Yang (pers. comm.).

Interestingly, another pairing of a Red-eyed Vireo and a vireo thought by some to be Warbling, by others to be a hybrid itself, occurred in Juneau, Alaska, in July 2014, as described by S. C. Heintz and A. W. Piston (www.juneau-audubon-society.org/Birds/Reports/2014%20Summer%20-%20SE%20AK%20Bird%20Report.pdf) and mentioned by Tobish (2015) and in the Juneau Audubon Society's newsletter (JAS 2014).

Beginning 26 Jul 2013, almost two weeks after the second fledgling died at Rancho San Rafael Park, observers began hearing male Red-eyed Vireos singing. During the next two weeks, there were reports of between three and six individual Red-eyed Vireos at that location. Record 2013-076 represents both the breeding and subsequent influx of post-breeding singing males; the NBRC concluded that at least three birds were present.

2015-015, Dyer (Esmeralda), 7 Sep 2014. G. Scyphers.

2015-016, Dyer (Esmeralda), 7 Sep 2014. G. Scyphers (P). The locations of 2015-015 and 2015-016 were ~5 km apart.

GRAY JAY *Perisoreus canadensis* (0**, 0). 2015-036, Lee Canyon, Spring Mountains (Clark), 29 Mar 1970. NOT ENDORSED. Not only was the written description insufficient, the report was second-hand. Neither were we able to substantiate a report

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of this species near Lake Tahoe in 1923 (Alcorn 1988) and so keep the Gray Jay off the Nevada list.

BLUE JAY *Cyanocitta cristata* (4, 1). 2015-024, Fallon (Churchill), 14 Dec 1976. J. R. Alcorn (UNMB 29336). Earliest Nevada record.

PURPLE MARTIN *Progne subis* (13, 1). 2015-060, Henderson BVP (Clark), 14 Sep 1994, two birds. M. Cressman (P). Earliest Nevada record.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus* (0**, 0). 2015-037, Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs (Clark), 13 May 1972. NOT ENDORSED.

2015-023, Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 19 May 1974. NOT ENDORSED.

2007-095, Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 10 Nov 1989. NOT ENDORSED.

Review of these older reports, two of which required additional rounds of review, convinced committee members that this difficult-to-identify species requires a higher level of scrutiny and detailed documentation for a first state record to be endorsed. The Gray-cheeked Thrush was one of the species on the Nevada list with no endorsed records and thus was removed.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre* (4, 2). 2014-022, Searchlight (Clark), 7 Jun 2014–27 Oct 2015, three birds. D. Henderson, D. Popelka; L. Harter (A), M. Meyers (P, V, A, Figure 8), G. Scyphers (P, V), J. Streit, D. Vander Pluym (P), D. Serdehely (P). The species remains at this location, with additional observations being reported to the Nevada Bird Listserv and www.eBird.org.

2014-062, Walking Box Road (Clark), 23 Aug 2014. L. Harter (A).

The range of Curve-billed Thrasher seems to be expanding in southern Clark County with additional recent sightings at Walking Box Ranch (east of Searchlight) and in the vicinity of Nelson. In California, there appears to be some site fidelity as well, with birds returning to specific locations in consecutive winters, and, interestingly, one individual residing in Inyo County home for the last four years (www.eBird.org). Scattered sightings have been reported in California, in the last several years, with one bird as far west as Montebello (Los Angeles) in 2009 (Pyle et al. 2011).

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni* (1, 1). 2015-006, Reno (Washoe), 16 May 1967. T. D. Burleigh (USNM 530116, ♂). Establishing record for Nevada and second for North America. As described by the collector, behavior was the first indication that this was not a common species of pipit, as it flushed and “flew to a lower branch of one of the larger trees” (Burleigh 1968). It was identified at USNM as a male of the subspecies *yunnanensis*. Brian K. Schmidt, Division of Birds at the Smithsonian Institution, kindly provided photographs of the specimen (Figure 9).

The first Olive-backed Pipit for North America was found in June 1962 on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska (Sealy et al. 1971). In the lower 48 states since 1968, two additional records have been accepted, both in California (Capitolo et al. 2000, Singer et al. 2016).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH *Parkesia motacilla* (5, 1). 2015-043, Deer Creek Road, Spring Mountains NRA (Clark), 28 May 2015. D. Vogt (P). This record represents the first NBRC-endorsed sighting for this species in Nevada in spring.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (3, 0). 2014-061, Dyer (Esmeralda), 12 Sep 2014. NOT ENDORSED. Through a second-round review of this report, the NBRC maintained that a vagrant of this rarity in Nevada demands a higher level of proof and exceptionally detailed documentation.

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Geothlypis formosa* (7, 1). 2015-029, Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 8 May 2015. G. Scyphers (P); K. Lee (P). Male.

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BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Setophaga fusca* (7, 2). 2014-060, Dyer (Esmeralda), 11 Oct 2014. M. Meyers. Male.

2015-046, Cottonwood Canyon (Mineral), 24 Jun 2015. D. Pavlik. Adult female.

*PAINTED REDSTART *Myioborus pictus* (13**, 2). 2015-026, Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 16–17 Apr 2015. K. Lee (P; see this issue's inside front cover). Adult. When the bird was first reported via www.eBird.org, Greg Scyphers posted a request on the Nevada birding listserv that birders document this rare visitor, and photographer Lee responded.

2015-069, Deer Creek Road, Spring Mountains NRA (Clark), 11 Sep 2015. J. Baker (P). Adult.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW *Ammodramus savannarum* (7, 1). 2015-027, West Wendover (Elko), 24–30 Apr 2015. C. Lundblad (P). The photographs suggest the bird was an adult of the western subspecies *perpallidus*.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (4, 1). 2014-064, Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs (Clark), 29 Oct 2014. A. L. Smith (P). This is the second endorsed record for Clark County.

*PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (14**, 4). 2015-038, Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 5–9 Oct 1974. NOT ENDORSED. Identification was not convincingly established through brief written descriptions contained in seasonal reports.

2015-013, Lida (Esmeralda), 7 Sep 2014. G. Scyphers (P). Immature/female plumage.

2015-014, Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 8 Sep 2014. G. Scyphers (P, Figure 10). Immature/female plumage.

2015-035, Dyer (Esmeralda), 17 May 2015. G. Scyphers (P). Immature/female plumage.

2015-042, Caliente (Lincoln), 26 May 2015. S. Rogers (P). Immature/female plumage.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus* (5, 2). 2015-020, Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs (Clark), 22 Oct 1974. C. S. Lawson (UNMB 1781, immature ♂, moderate fat).

2015-021, Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs (Clark), 29 Oct 1974. C. S. Lawson (UNMB 1780, unsexed adult, moderate fat). By its pale throat and gray rump the bird appeared to be a female. These are the earliest Nevada records.

ORCHARD ORIOLE *Icterus spurius* (13, 4). 2014-056, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 28 Sep 2014. J. Streit (P). Female or hatch-year bird.

2015-032, the private Williams Ranch (Lincoln), 9 May 2015. G. Scyphers (P). Female.

2015-041, Tonopah Cemetery (Esmeralda), 23–24 May 2015. B. Steger (P), G. Scyphers (P); found by Rob Lowry. Adult male.

2015-066, Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 7–8 Sep 2015. J. Streit (P); J. Roombos (P). Hatch-year, unknown sex.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE *Icterus galbula* (11, 3). 2014-058, Southern Nevada Water Authority's Warm Springs Natural Area (not open to the public) (Clark), 7 Sep 2014. J. Ballard (P). Adult male.

2015-030, Corn Creek Field Station, Desert NWR (Clark), 5–8 May 2015. G. Scyphers (P); K. Lee (P). Second-year female.

2015-068, Ferguson Springs (Elko), 4 Sep 2015. N. Paprocki (P). Adult male.

PURPLE FINCH *Haemorhous purpureus* (6, 2). 2015-022, Carson City (Carson City), 7 May 2009. NOT ENDORSED. Most of the committee members decided that the provided photos were of a particularly colorful House Finch (*H. mexicanus*).

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2014-063, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), 18–20 Sep 2014. R. Aracil (P). Female-like plumage. Rutt et al. (2014) reported it as subspecies *californicus*.

2014-070, Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno (Washoe), 28 Nov–26 Dec 2014. J. Hackney (P); B. Steger (P). Two reports of an adult male Purple Finch were submitted separately nearly a month apart, but committee members agreed they represented the same individual bird. It was probably of subspecies *californicus* as well, but the photos do not show the back clearly, as needed for definitive identification of adult males.

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