

2008/2009 Nevada Bird Records Committee Report

MARTIN MEYERS

*Secretary, Nevada Bird Records Committee
Great Basin Bird Observatory, 1755 E. Plumb Lane #256,
Reno, NV 89502, email: nbrc@gbbo.org*

INTRODUCTION

2008 and 2009 were very active years for the Nevada Bird Records Committee. We received 114 submissions during 2008 and 128 submissions during 2009. While each of these years had fewer submissions than 2007's total of 152, it should be remembered that in 2007, we received many submissions for birds which had been observed during the two previous years, when the committee had been almost completely inactive. To put these numbers into perspective, the most submissions received in any year prior 2007 was 43 (in 2000.)

The committee is particularly pleased that the number of different birders submitting sightings has increased. In 2007, there were 40 birders who submitted their sightings for review. In 2008, that number was 53. And in 2009, 76 different individuals provided documentation. It should be pointed out that some of the 2009 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.

Another trend, which we strongly encourage, is that of multiple observers submitting descriptions and photos for the same rarity. 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.

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. New to our website in 2008, you can now see documentation photos for many of the submissions on the records list. We now have one photograph 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. The voting membership was unchanged for 2008 and 2009, consisting of Dr. John Klicka, Tim Lenz, Debbie Van Dooremolen, Mike San Miguel, Greg Scyphers, and Dennis Serdehely. The position of secretary continues to be held by Martin Meyers.

Note. In the NBRC 2007 Report published in GBB, Volume 10, we included discussion of which observations should be submitted to the committee for review, how to document your sightings, and just what a committee decision means. Please consult that volume for those topics. (Those issues are also addressed in the “Frequently Asked Questions” section of our website.)

REVISIONS TO THE STATE CHECKLIST AND REVIEW LIST, 2008/2009

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).

Five species were added to the *Nevada State Checklist* in 2008. Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) was added based on a well-documented occurrence in September 2008 at Dyer.

The state’s first Little Gull (*Larus minutus*), discovered by visiting birders at Key Pittman W.M.A. in November, 2007, was observed by several Nevada birders thanks to communications from those visiting birders. (Alas, some Nevada birders were not so successful, sigh...)

A species which had been eagerly anticipated for several years, Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), finally put in its first appearance in January, 2008, at one of the state’s most productive gull sites, Virginia Lake in Reno.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) was added to the checklist based on a November, 1976, record from Lake Mead N.R.A. This sighting had been published in *Western Birds*, (Lawson 1977), the quarterly journal of Western Field Ornithologists. However, it had been erroneously identified as a Parasitic Jaeger. Excellent detective work by committee member Mike San Miguel, along with Jon Dunn and Steve Howell, resulted in the correct identification and a new bird for Nevada.

Baird’s Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) was not high on anyone’s list of anticipated birds for Nevada, but one was kind enough to put in a brief appearance in Tonopah in September, 2008, and it politely posed for photographs. One of those photographs graced the cover of *Western Birds*, (Vol. 40, No. 1, 2009)

These records brought the official count for species in Nevada to 480 at the end of 2008.

Two species were added to the *Nevada State Checklist* in 2009. Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) was added based on a well-documented occurrence in May, 2009, at Pahrangat N.W.R. This species has been expected for a few years, as sightings have occurred in several surrounding states.

The other species new to the checklist in 2009 is Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*.) The NBRC determined that this introduced species met the criteria established in the NBRC bylaws. Essentially, this required that at least one population of the species in the state has been present and self-sufficient for at least 15 years, with a population that is either increasing or stable after initial increases, and has expanded to fill adjacent suitable habitat. Information provided by the Nevada Department of Wildlife convinced the committee that those conditions did, in fact, exist, and the committee voted unanimously to add the species to the checklist. The complete requirements can be found by viewing the bylaws on our website.

These records brought the official count for species in Nevada to 482 as of the end of 2009. One additional new species, Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) was reported in the state in 2009, but the record submission has not yet been reviewed by the committee. If the committee votes to endorse that record, it will be added to the checklist in 2010.

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

After the large number of changes made to the Review List during the committee’s 2007 meeting (and reported in Volume 10 of GBB, which also included a brief discussion of the rules and procedures covering such changes), the changes in 2008 were rather modest. However, 2009 brought another major wave of changes.

Added to Review List, 2008: The only species added to the review list in 2008 were some of the additions to the *Nevada State Checklist*, specifically Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*), Little Gull (*Larus minutus*), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), and Baird’s Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*).

Removed from the Review List, 2008: Eight species were removed from the Review List in 2008. Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) had been added to the Review List when it was added to the *Nevada State Checklist* in 2007. The rationale at that time was that, while we had considerable historical data about “small” Canada Geese in Nevada, the split of Canada/Cackling Goose did not align itself exactly along the lines of what have often been reported as “large” vs. “small” Canada Geese. Specifically, the difficulties dealt with the group previously known as “Lesser” Canada Geese, which contained two subspecies, *B. parvipes* and *B. taverneri*. The American Ornithological Union placed *B. taverneri* within the new species, Cackling Goose, leaving *B. parvipes*

within Canada Goose. Since there was no way to determine to which of those two former subspecies many of the earlier records for “small” Canada Geese should be assigned, the committee decided to review records of Cackling Goose. During 2008, the NBRC endorsed twelve records for this species, of which nine came from the winter of 2007/2008. The committee concluded that this provided ample evidence that Cackling Goose was a regular, if uncommon, visitor to our state, and the species is no longer on the Review List.

Seven species which had previously been exempt from review in the northwest and southern regions of the state (i.e., were only reviewable in northeast) were removed completely from the Review List during 2008. These were:

- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)
- Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*)
- Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)
- Sabine’s Gull (*Xema sabini*)
- Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)
- Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)
- Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

Changes to Review List exemption status, 2008: Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), known to have a small breeding population in the Carson Range on the east shore of Lake Tahoe, was made exempt from review in the northwest region. It continues to be reviewable in the northeast and southern regions as of the end of 2008.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), which had previously been exempt from review in the southern region, is now also exempt in the northeast region, where breeding has been confirmed. It continued to be reviewable in the northwest region as of the end of 2008.

Major changes to Review List approach in 2009: Beginning with the 2001 “Comprehensive Revision”, the Review List included all species known to have occurred in the state which the committee felt were statewide rarities. While the term “statewide rarities” was not defined in a quantitative way, species to be added to or removed from the Review List would go through a voting process, and the judgment of the committee was relied on to provide that definition. (Nothing has changed in this regard.)

In addition, species which were not “statewide rarities”, but which were deemed rare in some portion of the state were also placed on the Review List. This was accomplished using a “regional exemption” approach. Rather than attempting to describe that approach in detail, a few examples should make the idea clear. Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) is a breeding species in much of southern Nevada, and is abundant in many areas in the south. However, it is decidedly rare in the northwest or northeast portions of the state. So Verdin was a species that was on the Review List, but *exempt from review* in the southern region. (The exact borders of the regions were drawn along county lines and are not critical to this discussion.)

One other example is Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*.) Northern Waterthrush does not breed in Nevada, but it is a regularly occurring migrant in small numbers. Most observations of this species are in the southern region of the state, where most of the “migrant traps” are found. Any area of green surrounded by miles of desert can draw large numbers of migrating birds, and such areas are where most of our less common (and downright rare) migrating species are found. As a result, Northern Waterthrush was *exempt from review* in the southern region.

At the 2009 NBRC meeting (September, Las Vegas), the committee voted to greatly modify our approach to *regional exemptions*. This was a somewhat contentious issue, but consensus was eventually reached. The members decided that the *exempt from review* status should be maintained, but it should apply only to species present in Nevada in very low numbers in very restricted breeding ranges in the state, or, in the case of migrant species, only to those which are found during migration in very narrow corridors in very small numbers.

While every member strongly supported the view that population changes within the state should be monitored carefully, the consensus was that there are other resources for that monitoring, including the Great Basin Bird Observatory and state and federal agencies. Moreover there are three publication sources for such information (as well as for occurrences of uncommon to rare migrants throughout the state.) These are posts to the Nevada Birding Listserv, records published in *North American Birds*, and records sent to the publicly accessible *eBird* project maintained by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. These three sources vary widely in the amount of vetting the records receive, and none of them provide the sort of detailed committee review carried out by the NBRC. However, our decision was that the type of stringent review process used by the NBRC was better reserved for those true statewide rarities, and that these other sources were perfectly designed for the species that are “rare” based only on their location within the state.

The result of this committee decision is that 65 species which had previously been on the Review List but exempt in one or more regions were removed completely from the Review list in 2009.

At present, only seven species with any sort of exemption status remain on the Review List, and in all seven cases, the exemption area is much smaller than was the case with the pre-2009 *regional exemption* approach.

Species currently on the Review List with an exemption status:

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*): Exempt from review in the Ruby Valley
White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*): Exempt from review in the Pahranaagat Valley
Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*): Exempt from review in the Goshute Range
Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*): Exempt from review in the Carson Range
Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*): Exempt from review in the Spring and Sheep Ranges
Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) : Exempt from review in the Carson Range
Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*): Exempt from review in the Carson Valley

Added to Review List, 2009: The only species added to the review list in 2009 was Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). In addition, Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*), which had previously been exempt from review in southern Nevada, was kept on the Review List and the exemption was removed. Stilt Sandpiper is now reviewable anywhere in the state. There are 169 species on the Review List as of the end of 2009.

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

COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS FOR 2008/2009

In 2008, the NBRC completed reviews of 143 records. Of these, all but three were endorsed by committee vote. This is a remarkably high acceptance rate, the reasons for which are not entirely clear. However, my personal view is that the increasing use of digital photography in the field contributes to this phenomenon. Of the records reviewed in the 2008, 112 were accompanied by photographs. All 112 of those records received committee endorsement. Of the remaining 31 records (i.e., those without photo documentation), 28 received committee endorsement, 3 were not endorsed.

The NBRC completed reviews of 115 records during 2009. Of these, all but eleven were endorsed by committee vote. Of the records reviewed in the 2009, 87 were accompanied by photographs or other physical evidence (e.g., sound recordings.) Eighty-five of those records received committee endorsement. Twenty-eight submitted records in 2009 did not include photographic (or other physical) evidence. Seventeen of those records were endorsed by the committee.

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, county.

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, 2008

ACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, C.S. Lawson, 2008-080, Ph, 5/1/0; 10/25/1970, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Cackling Goose: 14.

This represents the chronologically oldest sighting for this species accepted by the NBRC. This pre-committee record was retrieved from archival information provided by James and Marian Cressman (Jim was the first secretary of the NBRC.)

ACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, C.S. Lawson, 2008-079, Ph, 6/0/0; 11/9/1979, Overton W.M.A. (Clark)

The documentation included a photo of seven Cackling Geese. As with the previous record, this documentation was retrieved from the archives.

ACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, Martin Meyers, 2008-014, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/4/2004, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)

ACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, Fred Petersen, Martin Meyers, 2008-013, Ph, 6/0/0; 3/8/2007, Reno - Rancho San Rafael (Washoe)

ACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, Denise Doetsch, Chris Kruger, 2008-009, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/20/2007, Carson City (Carson City)

ACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, Martin Meyers, 2008-011, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/13/2007, Reno - Idlewild Park (Washoe)

CAACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, Martin Meyers, 2008-010, Ph, 6/0/0; 2/14/2008, Reno - Damonte Ranch Wetlands (Washoe)

CAACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, Fred Petersen, Martin Meyers, 2008-008, Ph, 6/0/0; 2/15/2008, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)

CAACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, Martin Meyers, Fred Petersen, 2008-012, Ph, 6/0/0; 2/16/2008, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)
Harry Krueger of Idaho provided additional commentary on identification of this individual.

CAACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, Martin Meyers, Fred Petersen, 2008-017, Ph, 6/0/0; 2/28/2008, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)
There was discussion in the committee reviews as to whether or not this individual was a “new” bird rather than the bird documented in record 2008-008. The committee voted 5/1 to consider this a new individual, based on detailed photo comparisons.

CAACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, Fred Petersen, 2008-036, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/22/2008, Reno - Idlewild Park (Washoe)
Ed Kurtz originally reported this bird from Idlewild Park, Reno (Washoe). Petersen subsequently photographed it on 4/22/08 and submitted the record.

CAACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*, Randall Michal, 2008-040, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/18/2008, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, Dave McNinch, Jane Thompson, 2008-022, Ph, 6/0/0; 11/8/1991, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)
Total NBRC accepted records for Eurasian Wigeon: 7.
This record previously published in *American Birds*, Spring/1992. Chronologically, this is the second earliest record for the species among the seven NBRC accepted records.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, Martin Meyers, 2008-015, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/4/2004, Lemmon Valley (Washoe)

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2007-151, Ph, 6/0/0; 11/20/2007, Reno - Hidden Valley / Rosewood Lakes (Washoe)
Found by Scyphers on 11/20. The bird remained through at least 12/24/07, when it was photographed by Ghiglieri. This individual was probably the same bird as one reported (but not submitted to the NBRC) the previous year at the same location.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, Carl Lundblad, 2008-039, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/30/2008, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)
Continued through at least 5/4/08.

HARLEQUIN DUCK *Histrionicus histrionicus*, Karen Hamilton-Galat, 2008-024, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/24/1977, Pyramid Lake - Needles (Pr) (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Harlequin Duck: 2.

This record was developed from an article in *Western Birds*, Vol. 8, No. 3, 1977. The bird was a male.

HARLEQUIN DUCK *Histrionicus histrionicus*, Dave McNinch, 2008-025, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/1/1992, Reno/Sparks (Washoe)

This submission was initially developed from *American Birds*, Summer 1992. However, the committee was able to obtain an original photograph from McNinch to accompany the documentation. This female-plumaged Harlequin spent the winter of 1991/1992 along the Truckee River in Reno. Dave took the photo on 1/1/1992.

BLACK SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*, Joe Barnes, 2008-006, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/25/2008, Lake Mojave (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Black Scoter: 4.

This young male Black Scoter was photographed in the company of three other ducks, one of which was a male White-winged Scoter (not a review species, but certainly uncommon in our state), a female/immature Surf Scoter (also uncommon, although perhaps a bit more regular than White-winged Scoter), and an unidentified bird which might possibly have been a second Black Scoter. (The photos that include this fourth bird are inconclusive, and female Surf Scoter could not be ruled out.)

RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata*, Rick Fridell, Martin Meyers, 2007-150, Ph, 6/0/0; 11/20/2007, Bowman Lake (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red-throated Loon: 2.

Found by Fridell on 11/20/07, it remained through at least 11/26/07 when documented by Meyers.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*, Dennis Serdehely, 2003-01, 5/1/0; 1/1/03, Pyramid Lake (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Yellow-billed Loon: 3.

This entry in the report corrects a previous error/oversight. The record was initially reviewed in 2005 and incorrectly recorded as a 4-2 decision (non-accept). Under the bylaws, it would have required re-circulation, which never occurred. However, an analysis of the documentation and reviews shows that it actually received a vote of 5-1, which is the required vote for acceptance. This report is the first publication for the record. As such, it is the second record for the species to be endorsed by the NBRC. A third record was accepted in 2007.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*, Marshall Iiff, 2007-066, Ph, 5/0/0; 9/28/2006, Pahranaagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red-necked Grebe: 3.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*, Joe Barnes, 2008-003, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/8/2008, Lake Mojave (Clark)

REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens*, Rick Fridell, Greg Scyphers, 2007-072, Ph, 5/0/0; 9/11/2004, Pahranaagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for Reddish Egret: 2.

Fridell, Larry Tripp, and Kevin Wheeler located this great find on 9/11/04. Scyphers observed it the following day.

WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus*, Robert Wilkin, Erik Enbody, Greg Scyphers, 2008-044, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/26/2008, Pahranaagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for White-tailed Kite: 4.

This record provides the first NBRC-documented record of nesting for White-tailed Kite in Nevada. Wilkin's observation on 4/26/08 was of a single bird, but Enbody documented a pair with a nest on 6/8/08. Scyphers contributed additional documentation from 6/14/08. Subsequently, NBRC has received documentation of two immature birds, assumed to be the offspring from this nesting effort.

WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus*, Carl Lundblad, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2008-037, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/8/2008, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

Lundblad first observed this bird on 5/8/08. Meyers and Scyphers joined Lundblad to see the bird on 5/11/08.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus*, Marshall Iliff, 2007-063, Ph, 5/0/0; 9/28/2006, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Broad-winged Hawk: 2.

Broad-winged Hawk is rare anywhere in Nevada away from the Goshutes Mountains hawk watch site (where it is exempt from review). But Iliff's photo-documented dark morph Broad-wing is not just a rare bird; it is a rare color morph of a rare bird. It is also the first NBRC-accepted record for the species.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus*, Greg Scyphers, 2008-045, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/31/2008, Tonopah Cemetery (Esmeralda)

This bird was also observed flying across the county line into Nye County.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*, Carl Lundblad, 2008-034, 6/0/0; 4/6/2008, Buck Spring, Spring Mountains (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Zone-tailed Hawk: 6.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*, Gary Botello, 2008-062, Ph, 6/0/0; 8/30/2008, Las Vegas - Sunset Park (Clark)

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway*, Martin Meyers, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, 2008-078, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/20/2008, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Crested Caracara: 1.

This record establishes the first documented record for this species for Nevada and places Crested Caracara on the Nevada State Checklist. It remained until at least 9/21/08 and was seen by a number of Nevada birders. Committee deliberations on this record not only included identification (which was convincingly documented in photographs and written descriptions), but also consideration of natural occurrence. For a number of years, extralimital sightings of Crested Caracara have been considered likely escapees from captivity. However, in recent years, there has been an explosion of sightings, not only throughout states adjoining known populations, but also of birds far from such populations. There is general, although not universal, agreement that many of these sightings represent naturally occurring wanderers, and that was the decision made by the NBRC on this particular record.



2008-078 Crested Caracara
Photo: Greg Scyphers

MOUNTAIN PLOVER *Charadrius montanus*, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2007-137, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/21/2007, Amargosa Valley (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Mountain Plover: 3.

A number of documentation photos showed a large flock of Mountain Plovers on 10/21/07. At least seventeen birds were observed. Mountain Plover is a species that has been documented convincingly to the NBRC on only three occasions, but it is probably regular in migration and perhaps in winter.

STILT SANDPIPER *Calidris himantopus*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-075, Ph, 5/0/0; 8/21/2004, Soda Lake (Churchill)

Total NBRC accepted records for Stilt Sandpiper: 1.

While this record is the first to be endorsed by the NBRC, readers need to be aware that the species was exempt from review in the southern portion of the state. (Note that the exemption status changed in 2009 – see “Added to Review List, 2009” above.)

RED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-112, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/3/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red Phalarope: 5.

It must have been a very pleasant surprise to spot this rarity spinning around on a small farm pond in Dyer. There are four previous NBRC-accepted records, all of which came from the northwest region of the state.

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-077, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/6/2004, Walker Lake (Mineral)

Total NBRC accepted records for Laughing Gull: 1.

Also observed by others on 9/8/04. It is the first record for this species to be endorsed by the NBRC. However, an earlier record has been documented to the committee (10/10/1992, Lake Mead N.R.A.) That record had not been reviewed as of the end of this reporting period.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*, Scott Barnes, Linda Mack, Greg Scyphers, Rita Schlageter, 2007-149, Ph, 6/0/0; 11/24/2007, Key Pittman W.M.A. (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for Little Gull: 1.

This is the first documented occurrence of Little Gull in Nevada (and, in fact, the first report -- I know of no anecdotal claims for this species prior to this well-documented record.) Based on the committee endorsement of this record, the species is added to the Nevada State Checklist. Barnes and Mack, visiting from New Jersey, found and photographed this gull on 11/24/07 at the Nesbitt Lake unit of the Key Pittman N.W.R. (Lincoln). They called Paul Lehman, a friend of theirs who was in New Jersey at the time and reported the sighting to him. Lehman, a frequent visitor to Nevada, quickly alerted Scyphers, who was able to view and photograph the bird on 11/26/07. Scyphers spread the word as quickly as he could and a few other Nevada birders were fortunate enough to see it as well. One Nevada birder foolishly left his cell phone turned off until dark on 11/26, and despite driving right past Key Pittman on the 26th, didn't hear about the bird until that evening. I (er, I mean, that foolish birder) looked for the bird on 11/27, but it was gone. Drat!



2007-149 Little Gull
Photo: Greg Scyphers

HEERMANN'S GULL *Larus heermanni*, Dave McNinch, Jane Thompson, 2008-026, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/3/1991, Reno - Paradise Park (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Heermann's Gull: 4.

This pre-committee record was constructed from a report in *American Birds*, Winter 1991. In addition, McNinch provided an original photo as part of the documentation reviewed by the committee. This record represents the earliest occurrence of the species to be documented to the committee.

HEERMANN'S GULL *Larus heermanni*, Martin Meyers, 2008-047, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/16/1996, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*, Dennis Ghiglieri, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2008-005, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/27/2008, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1.

Gull enthusiasts have been expecting this species to show up in the state for several years. Populations of Lesser Black-backed Gull have increased dramatically in eastern North America over the past couple of decades and the species has been spreading into the west in increasing numbers. Finally, on 1/27/08, an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was spotted by Dennis Ghiglieri and Rose Strickland at Virginia Lake. It was later pointed out that Fred Petersen had independently found this same bird on the same day. The gull was present through the afternoon, was observed flying off with the gull flock late in the day, and was never seen again. Incidentally, a second-cycle bird thought by many to also be a Lesser Black-backed Gull had been present on Virginia Lake for ten days.

Documentation of this sub-adult gull was subsequently submitted to the NBRC as another Lesser Black-backed Gull, but the committee has not yet completed review of that record. It was present on the ice at the same time the adult was observed and photographed.

2008-005 was endorsed unanimously by the committee and this record places the species on the Nevada State Checklist.

WESTERN GULL *Larus occidentalis*, Vincent Mowbray, C.S. Lawson, 2008-051, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/13/1980, Lake Mead N.R.A. - Boulder Beach (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Western Gull: 6.

This record is one of several previously unreviewed records from the NBRC archives. In the early days of the NBRC, records which preceded the 1994 formation of the committee were not subject to review. That portion of the bylaws has subsequently been revised, and the committee is actively attempting to review as many of these "pre-committee" records as we possibly can. This Western Gull was first observed on 10/13/1980. It remained until at least 12/15/1980, when it was photographed by Lawson. There are now six records for the species to be endorsed by the NBRC – this one is the earliest sighting of those six.

WESTERN GULL *Larus occidentalis*, Tim Lenz, Dennis Serdehely, 2007-147, Ph, 5/1/0; 12/30/2006, Walker Lake (Mineral)

Lenz found this gull on 12/30/06, and Serdehely observed it the following day. Photographs of the swimming bird, along with detailed written descriptions, convinced five of the six voting members of the committee. The sixth member expressed concerns that the failure to observe the leg color left open the possibility that the bird was the much less likely Yellow-footed Gull. Nevada has only one accepted record for Yellow-footed Gull, a long staying individual at Las Vegas Bay in the 1990's.

WESTERN GULL *Larus occidentalis*, Donna Crail-Rugotzke, Marbry Hopkins, Martin Meyers, 2007-146, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/26/2007, Las Vegas - Sunset Park (Clark)
When this bird was found, it was in poor health, with an injury or ailment affecting one wing. It was never observed in sustained flight. It remained at the park's duck pond for a few months before succumbing to its health problems. The committee voted unanimously to endorse the record despite some question about its ability to have arrived under its own power.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*, Dave McNinch, 2008-023, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/31/1991, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)
Total NBRC accepted records for Glaucous Gull: 3.
This record was first published in *American Birds*, Summer, 1992. McNinch provided an original photograph to the committee for review. The report in *American Birds* is credited to McNinch, D. Boardman, and Ursula Kepler. McNinch's photo was taken 1/4/1992. Chronologically earliest sighting of the NBRC-accepted records.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*, Martin Meyers, 2008-020, Ph, 6/0/0; 11/25/1996, Reno - Virginia Lake (Washoe)
Present through at least 12/6/1992.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*, C.S. Lawson, 2008-052, Ph, 6/0/0; 2/18/1975, Davis Dam (Clark)
Total NBRC accepted records for Black-legged Kittiwake: 2.
Record constructed from documentation in pre-committee archives. Found by John & Kay O'Connell on February 17, 1975. Photographed on 2/18/1975 by Lawson.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*, Carolyn Titus, 2007-102, 5/1/0; 12/16/1995, Lake Mead N.R.A. - Las Vegas Bay (Clark)
Found at Gypsum Wash.

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*, Vincent Mowbray, 2008-030, 6/0/0; 7/6/1986, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)
Total NBRC accepted records for Least Tern: 6.
This record (and 2008-031 below) are pre-committee records retrieved from archives.

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*, Marian Cressman, 2008-031, 6/0/0; 7/8/1992, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

POMARINE JAEGER *Stercorarius pomarinus*, Mike San Miguel, C.S. Lawson, 2007-104, Ph, (3/1), 6/0/0; 11/24/1976, Lake Mead N.R.A. – Boulder Beach (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Pomarine Jaeger: 1.

C.S. Lawson documented this record in *Western Birds* (Vol.8, No. 3, 1977), displaying photos he had taken at Lake Mead N.R.A. In the *Western Birds* article, the bird was identified as Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). It is not clear who actually made the identification. Subsequently, San Miguel, with additional comments from Jon Dunn and Steve Howell, determined that the original identification had been incorrect, and that the bird was, in fact, a Pomarine Jaeger, a species not yet documented to have occurred in Nevada. The NBRC conducted a partial review of this record in 2001 and 2002, but the circulation was never completed. In 2008, the committee conducted a new review of the record and unanimously accepted it, placing Pomarine Jaeger on the Nevada State Checklist.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER *Stercorarius longicaudus*, Dave McNinch, Larry Neel, 2008-027, Ph, 6/0/0; 7/15/1989, Carson Lake (Churchill)

Total NBRC accepted records for Long-tailed Jaeger: 3.

Originally documented in *American Birds*, Winter 1989, crediting Neel and Leslie Dubuc. A photo taken by Neel on 7/15/1989 appeared in the article. McNinch provided an original photo directly to the committee. That photo was taken 8/11/1989.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti*, Carolyn Titus, Marian Cressman, 2007-101, Ph, 5/1/0; 11/18/1995, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Ruddy Ground-Dove: 2.

Subsequent to the review of this record, a photograph of this bird taken by Marian Cressman on 11/19/95 was located in archival documentation. While that photo was not included in the material considered for the original (2008) review, an additional vote (held at the committee meeting in 2009) resulted in a vote of 6/0/0.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti*, Gary Zachman, 2008-056, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/22/2005, Las Vegas (Clark)

This well-documented bird was found in a yard. It remained through at least 11/07/05, where it was observed by many southern Nevada birders.

NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER *Picoides nuttallii*, Greg Scyphers, Carl Lundblad, 2007-111, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/1/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Nuttall's Woodpecker: 3.

Originally spotted by Scyphers on 9/1/07, this bird remained until at least 2/10/08 when last observed by Lundblad. The earliest NBRC-accepted record for this species came from Churchill County in 1991. Since that sighting there have been two accepted records (including the current record) from Dyer, and specifically from one birder-friendly ranch in Dyer. (The additional record was from 1998.) Anecdotal records came from the same ranch in 2001, but those observations were never submitted to the NBRC.

LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus*, Martin Meyers, 2008-016, 6/0/0; 5/26/2001, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Least Flycatcher: 3.

This Empidonax flycatcher was heard singing repeatedly and seen by many observers on 5/26/01 and again on 5/27/01.

LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-144, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/27/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Non-singing Empidonax flycatchers are notoriously difficult identifications, so this fall bird from Dyer presented the committee with a real challenge. However, careful description of the call, along with meticulous written physical description and multiple photos led to unanimous NBRC endorsement. Jon Dunn, birding with Scyphers, first found the bird based on call.

EASTERN PHOEBE *Sayornis phoebe*, Carolyn Titus, Steve Ganley, 2007-096, 6/0/0; 10/19/1991, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Eastern Phoebe: 7.

All but one of the seven accepted records are from southern Nevada (including one sighting of two individuals birds). The committee considered NBRC records plus a number of published but unreviewed additional records from southern Nevada and decided to exempt the species from review in the south (as of 9/2007.)

EASTERN PHOEBE *Sayornis phoebe*, Bill Mewaldt, 2007-081, Ph, 5/1/0; 11/14/2004, Fallon (Churchill)

This bird, photographed in Fallon is the only NBRC-accepted record for Eastern Phoebe outside of southern Nevada. The somewhat soft photograph was not enough to convince one member, but the 5-1 vote was sufficient for record acceptance

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons*, Ken Voget, 2007-145, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/16/2007, Torrance Ranch (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Yellow-throated Vireo: 2.

Voget banded this vireo at the Nature Conservancy's Torrance Ranch. He provided two stunning in-hand photos for the committee, making the review process very simple.

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus*, Rebecca Serdehely, 2008-007, 5/1/0; 8/20/2005, Porter Springs (Pershing)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red-eyed Vireo: 5.

The documentation for this record was written "second-hand", i.e., the observer described her observation to another individual who wrote the submitted document. This resulted in the one non-accept vote.

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus*, Greg Scyphers, 2008-084, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/14/2008, Crystal Springs (Lincoln)

PURPLE MARTIN *Progne subis*, Jennifer Rycenga, 2007-143, (4/2/0), 5/1/0; 4/14/2006, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Purple Martin: 2.

Three individual birds were observed and documented. On its first committee circulation, there were two non-accept votes. A first-round vote of 4-2 or 3-3 automatically receives a second circulation. On the second round, the vote was 5-1 and the record was accepted.

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens*, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2007-130, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/15/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Veery: 2.

Reports of non-singing, out-of-range Veeries are looked upon with considerable skepticism by bird records committees (see Hamilton, 2007.) The difficulties involved in separating this species from the bright Pacific coast race of Swainson's Thrush and, on occasion, even from some of the other *Catharus* thrushes, are severely underestimated by many birders. This thrush was extensively photographed. The report generated many comments on the internet listserv dedicated to difficult identification issues (ID-Frontiers). Most, but not all, of the comments supported the identification as Veery. Supporting opinions from Alvaro Jaramillo and Dan Lane, co-authors of *Birding* magazine's three-part series on thrush identification (Lane, 2000), were very helpful to the committee, as was a supporting opinion from Jon Dunn (co-editor of the National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America.)



2007-130 Veery
Photo: Martin Meyers

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina*, Greg Scyphers, James and Marian Cressman, 2007-141, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/13/2007, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Wood Thrush: 3.

Also observed 10/14/07.

BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum*, Martin Meyers, 2008-019, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/21/1996, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Brown Thrasher: 8.

This record consisted of only one photo plus date, time, location, and weather. The photo was considered conclusive by the committee.

BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-076, Ph, 5/0/0; 12/22/2001, Stillwater N.W.R. (Churchill)

BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum*, Tim Lenz, 2008-018, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/10/2004, Corn Creek (Clark)

BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum*, Fred Petersen, 2007-107, Ph, 5/0/0; 6/25/2005, Reno/Sparks (Washoe)

Petersen didn't have to leave his back yard to photograph this Reno rarity.

BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum*, Laura Cunningham, 2008-087, 6/0/0; 9/25/2008, Parker Ranch (Pr) (Nye)

BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum*, Carl Lundblad, 2008-095, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/14/2008, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera*, Maureen J. Kammerer, Je Anne Branca, 2007-134, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/15/2007, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Golden-winged Warbler: 3.

Kammerer found and photographed this beautiful male Golden-winged Warbler at Corn Creek. She got the word out quickly and Branca was able to re-find the bird later in the day and provided additional documentation. This was only the second NBRC-accepted record for the species, with the first almost a decade earlier.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-135, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/16/2007, Corn Creek (Clark)

After being alerted to the presence of a Golden-winged Warbler at Corn Creek on 9/15/07 (2007-134 above), several birders descended on Corn Creek (Washoe) on 9/16/07 in hopes of re-finding the bird. After about an hour, Scyphers called out that he had found it, and birders converged on the location. Everyone had nice views, but Maureen Kammerer, who had found the bird the previous day, was convinced it was not the same bird she had seen. Photos of the two birds conclusively demonstrated that they were, in fact, different Golden-winged Warblers!

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrina*, Carl Lundblad, 2008-077, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/20/2008, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Tennessee Warbler: 9.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica*, Fred Petersen, 2007-106, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/11/2007, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Chestnut-sided Warbler: 11.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica*, Greg Scyphers, 2008-067, 6/0/0; 6/14/2008, Corn Creek (Clark)

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica*, Carl Lundblad, 2008-070, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/12/2008, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark)

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2008-083, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/13/2008, Dyer (Esmeralda)

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica*, Tom Edell, 2008-086, 6/0/0; 9/27/2008, Beowawe (Eureka)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, Marshall Iliff, Greg Scyphers, 2008-074, 6/0/0; 6/1/2005, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Magnolia Warbler: 11.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, Dennis Serdehely, Greg Scyphers, 2007-082, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/28/2007, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, Dennis Serdehely, 2007-113, 6/0/0; 9/23/2007, Fernley (Lyon)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, Maureen J. Kammerer, 2008-043, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/24/2008, Corn Creek (Clark)

A report of the same bird the previous day was not submitted to the committee.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, Jonathan Heywood, 2008-076, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/17/2008, Reno/Sparks (Washoe)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2008-094, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/27/2008, Lida (Esmeralda)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, Carl Lundblad, 2008-093, 6/0/0; 10/4/2008, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, Carl Lundblad, 2008-096, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/14/2008, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

Lundblad's written description and photographs demonstrated that this was a different individual than 2008-093 (above).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER *Dendroica caerulescens*, Dennis Serdehely, Fred Petersen, 2007-110, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/18/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)
Total NBRC accepted records for Black-throated Blue Warbler: 9.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER *Dendroica caerulescens*, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, 2008-091, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/26/2008, Dyer (Esmeralda)

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER *Dendroica caerulescens*, Carl Lundblad, 2008-092, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/3/2008, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Dendroica fusca*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-136, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/22/2007, Lida (Esmeralda)
Total NBRC accepted records for Blackburnian Warbler: 4.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Dendroica fusca*, Dennis Serdehely, 2007-117, 6/0/0; 9/30/2007, Las Vegas - Sunset Park (Clark)

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Dendroica fusca*, Alan de Queiroz, 2008-048, 5/1/0; 6/1/2008, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

One member felt that the description did not adequately rule out the similar (and much more common) Townsend's Warbler, but five members voted to endorse the record.

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum*, Vincent Mowbray, 2008-032, 5/1/0; 10/11/1992, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Palm Warbler: 9.

This is another pre-committee record gleaned from archival documentation. One member felt that the documentation, while suggestive of Palm Warbler, did not conclusively eliminate some other species. However, the required five votes were obtained for acceptance.

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum*, Fred Petersen, 2007-114, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/26/2007, Reno - Rancho San Rafael (Washoe)

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum*, Rick Fridell, 2007-129, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/7/2007, Las Vegas - Sunset Park (Clark)

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-140, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/27/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER *Mniotilta varia*, James Pawlicki, 2008-059, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/7/2008, Ruby Lakes N.W.R. north (Elko)

Total NBRC accepted records for Black-and-white Warbler: 2.

Visiting birder Pawlicki found and photographed this warbler on the Cave Creek Trail at Ruby Lakes. Black-and-white Warbler is exempt from review in the southern region. Two records have been endorsed by the committee – this record from the northeast region, the other from the northwest.

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla*, Dave McNinch, 2008-021, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/20/1995, Reno/Sparks (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for American Redstart: 5.

Documentation for this record consisted of the 1995 Truckee Meadows Christmas Count documentation plus an original photo provided to the committee by McNinch. American Redstart has been exempt from review in the southern region since the committee's formation. All five accepted records are from northwest Nevada.

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla*, Dennis Serdehely, 2008-057, 6/0/0; 7/31/2008, Fernley (Lyon)

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla*, Rose Strickland, Greg Scyphers, 2008-069, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/11/2008, Reno - Rancho San Rafael (Washoe)

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla*, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2008-075, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/14/2008, Luning (Mineral)

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Prothonotaria citrea*, Vincent Mowbray, 2008-054, 6/0/0; 5/26/1984, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Prothonotary Warbler: 13.

Another pre-committee record retrieved from NBRC archival material. This species was made exempt from review in the southern region in September, 2007. However, the committee is anxious to review old records such as this, which establish the earliest of the thirteen NBRC-accepted records for Prothonotary Warbler

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Prothonotaria citrea*, Hugh Judd, 2007-152, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/25/2007, Carson Lake (Churchill)

Although exempt from review in the southern region, records from the northeast and northwest regions remained reviewable through 2008. This record represents only the second NBRC-accepted record from the northwest region. (There is also one from the northeast region.)

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum*, Greg Scyphers, 2008-065, 6/0/0; 7/1/2001, Warm Springs Natural Area (Pr) (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Worm-eating Warbler: 7.

All but one of the seven accepted records are from the southern region. (The one exception is a record from Ruby Lakes N.W.R. in 2000.)

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum*, Darlene Feener, 2007-080, 5/1/0; 5/25/2007, Red Rock Canyon N.C.A. (Clark)

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum*, Rick Fridell, 2007-128, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/5/2007, Pahrnagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

OVENBIRD *Seiurus aurocapillus*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-090, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/29/2007, Porter Springs (Pershing)

Total NBRC accepted records for Ovenbird: 4.

This species is exempt from review in the southern region. Record 2007-090 is the first NBRC-accepted record from the northwest region.

CANADA WARBLER *Wilsonia canadensis*, Maureen J. Kammerer, Dennis Ghiglieri, Greg Scyphers, 2007-120, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/17/2007, Mt. Charleston - Kyle Canyon area (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Canada Warbler: 2.

Kammerer found and photographed this gem on 9/17/07. The bird remained for several days, permitting several other Nevada birders to enjoy it. Additional photos were taken by Ghiglieri and Scyphers on 9/20/07.

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons*, Jeffrey Johnson, Carolyn Titus, Rita Schlageter, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2007-094, Ph, 6/0/0; 8/2/2007, Mt. Charleston - Kyle Canyon area (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red-faced Warbler: 1.

This bird was initially discovered by Johnson on 8/2/07 in Fletcher Canyon. It remained until at least 8/17/07 and was observed by many happy birders! The only previous mention of Red-faced Warbler is from Alcorn (1988) reporting two or perhaps three Red-faced Warblers in the Spring Mountains during September of 1974.



2007-094 Red-faced Warbler
Photo: Greg Scyphers

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW *Spizella pallida*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-121, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/12/2007, Lida (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Clay-colored Sparrow: 4.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW *Spizella pallida*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2007-119, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/22/2007, Tonopah Cemetery (Esmeralda)

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW *Spizella pallida*, Dennis Serdehely, 2007-118, 5/1/0; 9/27/2007, Key Pittman W.M.A. (Lincoln)

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-060, Ph, 5/0/0; 9/8/2002, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Lark Bunting: 7.

These six accepted records reviewed in 2008, all but one of which were observed in 2007, brought the total to seven. However, it is important to note that the species had only been added to the Review List in September, 2007. (Obviously, if the committee sees numbers like this in future years, it will have to reconsider whether the species belongs on the Review List.)

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-122, Ph, 5/0/0; 5/12/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-124, Ph, 5/0/0; 9/1/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-125, Ph, 5/0/0; 9/2/2007, Tonopah - Highland Park (Nye)

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-126, Ph, 5/0/0; 9/8/2007, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*, Rick Saval, 2007-132, Ph, 5/0/0; 10/22/2007, Corn Creek (Clark)

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW *Ammodramus savannarum*, Rick Saval, 2007-131, Ph, 5/1/0; 10/22/2007, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Grasshopper Sparrow: 2.

For many years, the range maps in various field guides showed Grasshopper Sparrow's range as covering much of Nevada. Only recently has the rarity of this species in the state been reflected in the literature.

BAIRD'S SPARROW *Ammodramus bairdii*, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2008-068, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/6/2008, Tonopah - Highland Park (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Baird's Sparrow: 1.

This most surprising visitor of the year was observed and extensively photographed at Highland Park on 9/6/08. While Baird's Sparrow winters (in rather small numbers) in Arizona, it is very rarely seen anywhere during migration, due to its furtive habits. This bird was creeping around in tall grass in a city park. It remained in view for most of about forty minutes, then disappeared and was never seen again. This record establishes the species on the State Checklist.



2008-068 Baird's Sparrow

Photo: Martin Meyers

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii*, Fred Petersen, 2007-105, Ph, 6/0/0;
9/6/2007, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Le Conte's Sparrow: 2.

Like Baird's Sparrow (above), this is another of those birds that tends to creep around in the grass like a mouse. Petersen found it on the lawn at Miller's Rest and managed to get some great photos of it. Amazingly, the only other accepted record was also found at Miller's Rest Stop (10/1/2000).



2007-105 Le Conte's Sparrow

Photo: Fred Petersen

SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana*, C.S. Lawson, 2008-053, Ph, 6/0/0;
10/18/1971, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Swamp Sparrow: 5.

Another record from the archives. It is not clear who originally found the bird (on 10/11/71) but it was photographed by Lawson on 10/18/71. Of the five NBRC-accepted records (that includes the two in this report), Lawson's is the earliest sighting.

SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana*, Dennis Serdehely, Robin Wolcott, 2008-001, 6/0/0; 1/7/2008, Rye Patch Reservoir (Pershing)

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius mccownii*, Jon Dunn, 2008-033, 6/0/0;
10/23/2000, Amargosa Valley (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for McCown's Longspur: 2.

This record documented two individual McCown's Longspurs. (Any such multi-bird record counts as a single accepted record.)

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius mccownii*, Jon Dunn, Martin Meyers, 2007-133, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/20/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Fortunately, this bird was carefully documented in the write-ups, as the distant, blurry photos by Meyers added little to the documentation. The number of accepted records (2) is probably not representative of the actual status of the bird as a fall and winter visitor. Longspurs tend to show up in places that are not regularly birded, and at times when fewer birders are in the field. Nonetheless, it is probably true that Lapland (no longer reviewable) and Chestnut-collared Longspurs (reviewable statewide) are significantly more common in Nevada than McCown's. (Smith's is by far the rarest of the four.)

NORTHERN CARDINAL *Cardinalis cardinalis*, Kimball Garrett, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2007-116, Ph, 5/0/1; 9/28/2007, Las Vegas - Sunset Park (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Northern Cardinal: 2.

This bird was found during the Western Field Ornithologist's meeting in Las Vegas. It was in Sunset Park, a large park in Las Vegas which features typical city park habitat (ball fields, duck ponds, picnic tables) but which also has a significant expanse of native vegetation plus relatively lush (for Nevada) ornamental plantings. The Cardinal was in an area where ornamental and native vegetation exist together, a location where other rarities have been found over the years. On 9/28/07, Garrett was birding with Ted Floyd, Ed Pandolfino, Donn Blake, and Marty McLelland when he heard a chip note that he immediately recognized as sounding like a Cardinal. Floyd had a very brief look and remarked that the bird was a female Cardinal. On 9/29/07, several other birders including Meyers and Scyphers, managed to get better looks at the bird and several diagnostic photographs were obtained. The committee expressed no reservations about the identity of the bird, but as is the case with all out-of-range Northern Cardinals in the west, there were immediately questions about origin. The species is a popular cage-bird and an escaped bird finding its way to a city park in Las Vegas did not seem unlikely. However, the breeding range of the species extends to northern Arizona along the Colorado River, so the possibility of a truly wild bird was considered at least equally likely. Eventually, five members voted to accept the record as of natural occurrence, based on range, plumage condition, and extremely wary behavior typical of southwestern Northern Cardinals. One member voted against natural occurrence. On a five to one vote, the record was accepted. The only other accepted record was a male from the same park in Las Vegas in 2000.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Dave Straley, 2007-103, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/27/2001, Incline Village (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 4.

This species is exempt from review in southern Nevada. The two records accepted by the committee in 2008 were both from the Lake Tahoe area. Of the four accepted records, three are from the northwest region, one from the northeast region.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Jennifer Rycenga, 2007-091, 6/0/0; 8/14/2006, Spooner Lake (Douglas)

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris*, anonymous (fide Pete Bradley, Lois Ports), 2008-038, Ph, 5/0/1; 5/4/2008, Lamoille (Elko)

Total NBRC accepted records for Painted Bunting: 5.

A photo of a male Painted Bunting reached the committee as a result of a posting on the Nevada listserv by former committee member Pete Bradley followed by a forwarding of the photo by Lois Ports. The location and date were verified by these two impeccable sources. The photographer has chosen to remain anonymous. The committee was somewhat reluctant to deal with the record under these circumstances, but eventually decided that with the "certification" by Bradley and Ports, we should proceed with a review. The identification of the bird was never in question (it is just about impossible to misidentify an adult male Painted Bunting, surely one of the most distinctive species in North America.) However, as with record 2007-116, Northern Cardinal (above), the question of origin always surfaces when this popular cage-bird is reported. Not too many years ago, most sightings of this species in the west were assumed to be escapees, but patterns of natural occurrence have now been well-documented in California and Arizona. While most of these have involved fall birds, a few have been spring records, and Nevada has two other NBRC-accepted spring records as well. The rather remote location of this bird, plus the condition of the plumage evident in the photo, proved to be enough to convince five members to accept the record.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris*, Carl Lundblad, 2008-089, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/26/2008, Dyer (Esmeralda)

The date fits very well into the fall pattern of occurrence in surrounding states, and the location, one of Nevada's best known vagrant traps, also strongly indicated wild occurrence. The record was endorsed unanimously.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*, Jon Dunn, 2008-100, 6/0/0; 10/9/2001, Big Smoky Valley (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Common Grackle: 7.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-088, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/12/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

ORCHARD ORIOLE *Icterus spurius*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-073, Ph, 5/0/0; 5/22/2004, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Orchard Oriole: 2.

Females of this species represent a difficult identification challenge due to similarity to female Hooded Oriole (a much more expected bird in Nevada). However, Scyphers' photo and written description were sufficient to gain a unanimous endorsement.

BLACK ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte atratus*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-142, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/17/2006, Carson City (Carson City)

Total NBRC accepted records for Black Rosy-Finch: 1.

One, possibly two with large flock of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches. Photos show only one Black Rosy-Finch, and Scyphers was not certain if one or two birds were present, so the committee elected to endorse the record as containing one individual. While Black Rosy-Finch is a breeder on higher peaks in the northeast region of the state (where exempt from review), and has often been seen in winter flocks in the southern region (where it is also exempt), this species is exceedingly rare in the Sierra Nevada range of California and would be expected to be rare in the northwest region of Nevada. While this is the only accepted record, there are unreviewed documented reports, including specimens, which the committee hopes to review at some future date.

PURPLE FINCH *Carpodacus purpureus*, Rick Fridell, 2007-138, Ph, (4/2/0), 5/1/0;
10/4/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Purple Finch: 2.

The photographs, while not of the highest quality, show several of the key features which differentiate this very rare visitor to Nevada from the much more common Cassin's Finch. Particularly useful were the off-white background color of the underside (Cassin's tends to have a clean white background color), and the very broad, blurry dark streaking below. While Cassin's can sometimes appear to have somewhat broad streaks, they typically appear sharply defined. Another feature evident in one of the photos was the complete lack of any white eyering. Cassin's has a very thin white eyering, easy to miss, but one which should have been evident in this photo. As the vote shows, the committee had to wrestle with this one, but on the second round, five members were convinced and the record was accepted.

COMMON REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-069, Ph, 5/0/0;
12/31/2003, Spring Creek (Elko)

Total NBRC accepted records for Common Redpoll: 2.

Three Common Redpolls were reported to be visiting a feeder in Spring Creek. Scyphers was able to photo-document the record on 12/31/03. The late Dennis Trousdale and his son Ryan were also able to view the birds on that date. With excellent written documentation and photos, the record easily received unanimous endorsement by the committee. While this is only the second NBRC-accepted record for Common Redpoll, it has probably visited the northeast corner of the state during a number of winters. Incidentally, there is also one accepted record (2001-35) for Redpoll (sp) – for that record, while most likely Common Redpoll, the description was not sufficient to rule out the much less likely Hoary Redpoll, and two members of the committee chose to cast their votes for acceptance only to the level of “Redpoll”.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Marshall Iliff, 2007-064, 5/0/0;
9/28/2006, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Lawrence's Goldfinch: 6.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Greg Scyphers, 2007-127, Ph, 5/0/0;
9/23/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Dave Krueper, Mike San Miguel, Martin Meyers, 2007-115, Ph, 5/0/0; 9/29/2007, Spring Mountain Ranch S. P. (Clark)
At least two individual birds (both males) present and photographed.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Jon Dunn, 2008-004, Ph, 6/0/0;
11/3/2007, Dyer (Esmeralda)

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Dawn Fletcher, 2008-029, Ph, 6/0/0;
3/25/2008, Newberry Mountains (Clark)
At least four individual birds present.

RECORDS NOT ENDORSED BY THE NBRC, 2008

BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus*, 2007-098, 2/3/0; 4/16/1993, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Broad-winged Hawk: 2.

A submission for a raptor observed at Corn Creek (Clark) was not endorsed by the committee. This species has the highest “non-accept” rate for all NBRC submissions. There have been seven submissions for Broad-winged Hawk, but only two have been accepted by committee vote. In the case of 2007-098, the committee members felt that the bird described was probably a Broad-winged Hawk, but that the written description simply did not include enough detail and, perhaps more importantly, did not include a thorough discussion of how other species were eliminated from consideration. In addition, some inconsistent features were noted. One member also commented that the date was quite early for the species in the west.

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*, 2007-097, (3/3/0), 0/6/0; 10/18/1992, Lake Mead N.R.A. – Las Vegas Bay (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Least Tern: 6.

This record received three votes for acceptance on the first round. This automatically resulted in a second circulation of the record. The bylaws applicable to additional circulations require that the comments provided by all members in the previous round be included in the second round documentation, and that discussion among members is allowed and, in fact, encouraged. (On initial circulations, no communication between voting members is permitted.) In the case of this record, the comments that accompanied the non-accept votes in the first round proved to be convincing to the other members. Questions were raised about the description of bill color, size, and mid-October date, among other concerns.

SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana*, 2007-067, 1/4/0; 4/28/2007, Washoe Lake S.P. (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Swamp Sparrow: 5.

There was very little support in the committee for this report. The primary concern was that the observer failed to provide sufficient details.

RECORDS ENDORSED BY THE NBRC, 2009

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna autumnalis*, Michael Patten, 1999-04, Ph, (3/0/3), 6/0/0; 5/30/1999, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: 3.

This record was published as “Not Accepted – Origin Uncertain” in Great Basin Birds, Volume 4. However, the 3-3 vote that resulted in that decision should not have been final – votes of 4 accept, 2 non-accept, or 3-3 require a second circulation. Therefore, the NBRC recirculated this record in 2009, and the committee voted unanimously to accept. It should be noted that there was already one accepted record from the same location (4/8/95) plus another accepted record from Floyd Lamb Park (9/30/98).

ROSS'S GOOSE *Chen rossii*, Dennis Serdehely, Martin Meyers, 2009-021, Ph, 6/0/0; 2/24/2009, Battle Mountain (Lander)

Total NBRC accepted records for Ross's Goose: 1.

Like a number of other species common in some parts of Nevada, Ross's Goose was still reviewable in the northeast region in 2009. As of September/2009, the species is no longer on the Review List.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, Becky Carazzone, Je Anne Branca, 2008-097, Ph, 5/1/0; 11/9/2008, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Eurasian Wigeon: 11.

Rather distant photos from Becky Carazzone, with very limited written documentation, were sufficient to convince five members.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, Greg Scyphers, 2008-111R, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/12/2008, Reno - Hidden Valley / Rosewood Lakes (Washoe)

The “R” appended to the NBRC ID, 2008-111R, indicates that the committee considers this Eurasian Wigeon to be a repeat visit from the individual observed in the previous year at the same location (Hidden Valley Golf Course), record 2007-151.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2009-035, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/3/2009, Wells (Elko)

This is the only NBRC-accepted record from the northeast section of the state.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*, Je Anne Branca, Mitchell Colgan, Martin Meyers, Randall Michal, 2009-047, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/24/2009, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*, Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Randall Michal, Babette d' Amours, Martin Meyers, James Hulsey, Je Anne Branca, Greg Scyphers, 2009-006, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/19/2009, Las Vegas - Sunset Park (Clark), 4/6/2009, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Long-tailed Duck: 2.

This long-staying adult male provided wonderful viewing and photo opportunities for many Nevada birders. It was first found at Sunset Park in Las Vegas, and then reappeared later in the winter at Henderson. The total of two NBRC-accepted records for this species is somewhat misleading – it was only added to the Review List in September/2007. (There are also two records awaiting a second-round circulation as of the end of 2009.)



2009-006 Long-tailed Duck
Photo: Chris Ruiz-Gardner

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*, Greg Scyphers, 2009-068, Ph, 6/0/0;
5/29/2009, Walker Lake (Mineral)

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*, Marian Cressman, Carolyn Titus, Paul
Lehman, 2009-024, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/22/1991, Lake Mead N.R.A. - Hemenway Harbor
(Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Yellow-billed Loon: 6.

This is the earliest record for Yellow-billed Loon to be accepted by the NBRC. Like
several other records in this report, it predates the formation of the NBRC and, while the
documentation was provided, it was not reviewed until this year. (The original bylaws of
the NBRC prohibited reviewing “pre-committee” records. That’s been changed,
obviously.)

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*, Carl Lundblad, Jim Boone, 2008-109, Ph,
6/0/0; 12/18/2008, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

One of two Yellow-billed Loons in Nevada during the winter of 2008/2009.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*, Tim Lenz, Greg Scyphers, Will Richardson,
Martin Meyers, 2008-114, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/27/2008, Sparks Marina (Washoe)

This cooperative bird remained at the Sparks Marina for most of the winter.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*, Carl Lundblad, 2009-010, Ph, 6/0/0;
12/12/2008, Lake Mojave (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red-necked Grebe: 5.

Red-necked Grebe had been exempt from review in the northwest region of the state
since the inception of the NBRC. It has now been removed completely from the Review
List.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*, Martin Meyers, 2009-043, Ph, 6/0/0;
5/10/2009, South Fork S.R.A. (Elko)

BROWN PELICAN *Pelecanus occidentalis*, Greg Scyphers, 2008-066, 6/0/0;
8/25/2006, Las Vegas Bay (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Brown Pelican: 3.

While this and one of the other accepted records each involved one bird, a record from
July/2004 was for twenty-three birds.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, Carl Lundblad, 2009-053, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/24/2009, Pahrnagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for Glossy Ibis: 1.

This species, common on the east coast of the U.S., has seen a major range expansion, reaching the far west in the past decade or so. The first record to be accepted by the California Bird Records Committee was from 5/27/2000. The species has also been observed in other western states over roughly the same time period. It was only a matter of time before one would be found in Nevada. On 5/24/09, several birders headed to Pahrnagat N.W.R. with hopes that the time had come, and sure enough, a Glossy Ibis was found in a flock of the very similar (but common here) White-faced Ibises. Alas, one of the birders was turned back by two flat tires only a few miles from Las Vegas and missed the event (but at least he gets to write about it in this report, and did get to see it the following day.) The acceptance of this record by the committee added the species to the Nevada State Checklist.



2009-053 Glossy Ibis
Photo: Greg Scyphers

ROSEATE SPOONBILL *Platalea ajaja*, Richard Castetter, 2009-012, Ph, 6/0/0;
6/5/1977, Mercury (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Roseate Spoonbill: 1.

This record predates the committee formation by a decade and a half. It was published in *Western Birds* in 1979. Photos and additional documentation were obtained from the wealth of material provided to the committee by James and Marian Cressman, described in the introductory portion of this report. In many cases (such as this one), the species was on the Field List of the Birds Of Nevada (Titus, 1996) when the committee adopted that list as the foundation for the current Nevada State Checklist. The NBRC hopes to be able to process as many of these “establishing” records as possible, i.e., records which established the species on the checklist but which have not yet been reviewed by the NBRC.

WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus*, Robert Gotschall, 2009-031, Ph, 6/0/0;
4/19/2006, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for White-tailed Kite: 6.

WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus*, Carl Lundblad, Laurie Mooney, Eric Hough,
2009-033R, Ph, 6/0/0; 3/29/2009, Pahranaagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

This record is considered by the committee to represent at least some of the same individuals previously accepted as record 2008-044. A pair of White-tailed Kites has now bred successfully (apparently in two consecutive years) at Pahranaagat. Record 2009-033R pertains to the returning breeding pair, but also includes observations of two offspring. The decision to include all four of the birds in this one “Repeat” record seemed like the most effective way to handle the record, although it is a bit unorthodox. Based on this successful, repeated nesting, the committee decided to exempt White-tailed Kite in the Pahranaagat Valley from further review, at least for the time being.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis*, Justin Streit, 2009-078, Ph, 6/0/0;
7/12/2009, Meadow Valley Wash (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for Mississippi Kite: 5.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus*, Justin Streit, 2009-097, Ph, 6/0/0;
9/16/2009, Meadow Valley Wash (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for Common Black-Hawk: 4.

Common Black-Hawks have bred very close to Nevada (in Utah), and it is not entirely unlikely that they could breed in our state. And Meadow Valley Wash, where Justin Streit found and photographed this individual, would be a likely place for that to happen one of these days, according to the [Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada](#).

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*, Carl Lundblad, 2009-030, Ph, 6/0/0;
3/27/2009, Overton W.M.A. (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Zone-tailed Hawk: 8.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*, Carl Lundblad, 2009-074, Ph, 6/0/0;
6/21/2009, Meadow Valley Wash (Lincoln)

This species breeds in Arizona (and fairly far north in that state), so it is another species (like Common Black-hawk) that could conceivably be found breeding here some day. The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada suggests that birds which summered at Pahranaagat N.W.R. were potential breeders, and the atlas also reports what appears to be an attempt at breeding near Searchlight. Carl Lundblad's documentation for record 2009-074 involved two birds together in Meadow Valley Wash.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER *Charadrius montanus*, Jim Eidel, Martin Meyers, 2009-045, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/26/1996, Washoe Lake (outside state park) (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Mountain Plover: 4.

All of the accepted records involved multiple birds. There were two birds present at Washoe Lake, as documented in this record.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*, Vincent Mowbray, Marian Cressman, 2009-011, Ph, 6/0/0; 7/28/1992, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red-necked Stint: 1.

This is another of the "establishing records" (see Roseate Spoonbill account above.) Convincing photographs and written documentation allowed all members of the committee to vote for acceptance of this record. It is the only accepted record for the species. Another very intriguing record for this species is discussed below in the "Records not endorsed" section.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*, Carl Lundblad, 2008-035, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/9/2008, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Ruff: 3.

RED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*, Steve Ting, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2009-081, Ph, 6/0/0; 8/28/2009, Washoe Lake (outside state park) (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red Phalarope: 6.

Many of you are probably familiar with Steve Ting's wonderful photography, so it should come as no surprise that this record was extraordinarily well-documented.

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla*, Marian Cressman, Paul Lehman, Jane Thompson, 2008-061, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/10/1992, Lake Mead N.R.A. – Las Vegas Bay (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Laughing Gull: 2.

This pre-committee record, while the second to be accepted by the NBRC, is the earliest by sighting date.

HEERMANN'S GULL *Larus heermanni*, Fred Petersen, 2009-039, Ph, 6/0/0;
4/26/2009, Reno – Virginia Lake (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Heermann's Gull: 5.

A great photo by Fred Petersen made the committee vote on this adult gull very easy.



2009-039 Heermann's Gull
Photo: Fred Petersen

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri*, Martin Meyers, 2008-101, Ph, 6/0/0; 11/19/2008, Sparks Marina (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Thayer's Gull: 5.

Thayer's Gull was exempt from review in the northwest region until September, 2007, at which time the exemption was removed. The reasoning behind removing the exemption was that, while the species had been quite regular around Reno until the mid-1990's, none had been reported in the next decade or so. However, the number of records coming from the northwest since lifting the exemption might justify reconsidering whether or not this species should remain on the Review List. There are an additional three records pending as of the end of 2009.

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri*, Tim Lenz, 2009-005, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/3/2009, Walker Lake (Mineral)

THAYER'S GULL *Larus thayeri*, Dennis Serdehely, Fred Welden, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2009-008, Ph, 5/1/0; 1/24/2009, Sparks Marina (Washoe)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, Steve Ting, Will Richardson, 2008-108, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/18/2008, Reno – Virginia Lake (Washoe), Sparks Marina (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Lesser Black-backed Gull: 4.

The first accepted record for Lesser Black-backed Gull for Nevada occurred in January/2008 (2008-005.) In 2009, the committee accepted an additional three records for the species. Two more records are pending as of the end of 2009. Some questions remain for the committee to consider concerning whether some of these records pertain to the same individual returning for additional winters.



2008-108 Lesser Black-backed Gull

Photo: Steve Ting

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*, Carolyn Titus, Richard Titus, Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2009-022, Ph, 6/0/0; 2/28/2009, Lake Mead N.R.A. - Boulder Beach (Clark)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*, Carl Lundblad, 2009-023, Ph, 6/0/0; 3/13/2009, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*, Alan de Queiroz, Will Richardson, Greg Scyphers, 2008-113, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/30/2008, Sparks Marina (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Glaucous Gull: 5.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*, Carl Lundblad, 2009-019, Ph, 6/0/0; 2/21/2009, Amargosa Valley (Nye)

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*, Robert Wilkin, 2008-055, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/1/2008, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Least Tern: 11.

This 2008 record brought the total number of NBRC-endorsed records to seven. Then, in 2009, an additional four Least Terns were convincingly documented, by far the most reports of this species in any single year since the committee's formation.

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*, Don Molde, Kirk Hardie, 2009-059, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/10/2009, Carson Lake (Churchill)

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*, Tim Almond, 2009-058, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/29/2009, Clark County Wetlands Park / Upper Las Vegas Wash (Clark)

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*, Carl Lundblad, 2009-071, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/16/2009, Ash Meadows N.W.R. (Nye)

LEAST TERN *Sterna antillarum*, Mary Mitchell, 2009-080, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/21/2009, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

PARASITIC JAEGER *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Greg Scyphers, 2008-063, Ph, 6/0/0; 8/31/2008, Soda Lake (Churchill)

Total NBRC accepted records for Parasitic Jaeger: 4.

All four records are of immature birds, which are notoriously difficult to identify.

BLACK SWIFT *Cypseloides niger*, Jeanne Tinsman, 2008-042, 6/0/0; 5/26/2008, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Black Swift: 2.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, Vincent Mowbray, Carolyn Titus, 2009-025, Ph, 6/0/0; 11/4/1991, Pahrnagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red-headed Woodpecker: 1.
Two small, grainy, but 100% diagnostic photos accompanied this submission, another of those “establishing records” from the pre-committee data pile.

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus*, C.S. Lawson, 2009-032, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/27/1972, Las Vegas (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Acorn Woodpecker: 9.
The earliest (by sighting date) of the accepted records for Acorn Woodpecker in Nevada.

ACORN WOODPECKER *Melanerpes formicivorus*, Maureen J. Kammerer, Scott Page, Jim Boone, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2008-110, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/22/2008, Las Vegas (Clark)

This bird hung around Las Vegas long enough to allow observation by many birders.

DOWNY WOODPECKER *Picoides pubescens*, Laura Cunningham, 2009-076, Ph, 5/1/0; 6/29/2009, Table Mountain Wilderness (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Downy Woodpecker: 2.
Downy Woodpecker has been exempt from review in the northeast and northwest regions since the committee was formed. The species was removed from the Review List in September, 2009.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens*, James F. Holmes, Cindy Chang, 2009-017, 5/1/0; 6/7/2004, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Eastern Wood-Pewee: 2.
Jim and Cindy carefully documented the song that initially attracted them to this bird at Corn Creek. They also documented the physical appearance, but it was the song that clinched the committee decision. Silent Eastern Wood-Pewees are extremely difficult to distinguish from the common Western Wood-Pewee.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, Greg Scyphers, 2008-082, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/21/2008, Mina (Mineral)

Total NBRC accepted records for Vermilion Flycatcher: 3.
This species has been exempt from review in southern Nevada since the committee began in 1994. The records accepted by the NBRC consist of one from Fallon (Churchill) in winter 1996/1997 plus the two listed in this report. The species was removed from the Review List in September, 2009.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, Justin Streit, Bruce Lund, 2009-079, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/14/2009, Majors Place (White Pine)

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons*, John Walshe, 2008-073, 6/0/0; 6/8/2008, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Yellow-throated Vireo: 4.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons*, Greg Scyphers, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2009-063, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/7/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)

This record was supported by several photos and by a sound recording of its song, made by Greg Scyphers on his cell phone.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius*, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2008-072, Ph, 5/1/0; 9/14/2008, Pahrnagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for Blue-headed Vireo: 2.

This record generated considerable discussion and debate even before it was submitted to the committee for consideration. Ever since “Solitary” Vireo was split by the AOU into three separate species, Cassin’s Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, and Blue-headed Vireo, western records of Blue-headed Vireos have been controversial. Separating this species from bright Cassin’s Vireos is extremely difficult, and birds which would be called Blue-headed Vireos in their normal range in the east or far north are subject to far more scrutiny when reported out of range. However, all but one member of the committee were convinced of the identification by the numerous photos, detailed written documentation, and numerous supplemental opinions submitted with the documentation. (Not all of the supplemental opinions supported the identification, but the majority did.)



2008-072 Blue-headed Vireo

Photo: Martin Meyers

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus*, James F. Holmes, Cindy Chang, 2009-015, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/30/2005, Corn Creek (Clark)
Total NBRC accepted records for Red-eyed Vireo: 6.

PURPLE MARTIN *Progne subis*, Carl Lundblad, 2009-064, 6/0/0; 5/8/2009, Overton W.M.A. (Clark)
Total NBRC accepted records for Purple Martin: 3.

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens*, Rita Schlageter, Joan Clarke, Eric Hough, 2009-069, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/25/2009, Pahrnagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)
Total NBRC accepted records for Veery: 3.

There are few species that generate as much identification controversy as out of range Veeries. The California Bird Records Committee accepts only four of every ten reports. Even with good photos, the challenge is still considerable. But this record was easy! Eric Hough pointed his digital camera at the woods, turned on the video function, and recorded a lovely scene of deep woods with no birds visible. But the absolutely unmistakable, haunting song of a Veery drifted out of those woods and onto the video. Written descriptions of the bird were also provided by Eric (yes, he saw it in addition to hearing it) and Schlageter and Clarke.

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina*, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, 2008-064, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/1/2008, Torrance Ranch (Nye)
Total NBRC accepted records for Wood Thrush: 4.
This cooperative bird remained at the Nature Conservancy's Torrance Ranch (north of Beatty) for several weeks.

BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum*, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Ghiglieri, Carl Lundblad, Rose Strickland, 2009-057, Ph, 5/1/0; 5/24/2009, Pahrnagat N.W.R. (Lincoln)
Total NBRC accepted records for Brown Thrasher: 9.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus*, John Brack, 2009-028, 6/0/0; 5/17/1992, Lida (Esmeralda)
Total NBRC accepted records for Blue-winged Warbler: 2.
Another of the "pre-committee" records, the documentation for this extremely rare visitor to Nevada was unanimously accepted. While it is the second record to be accepted, it is the earliest by sighting date. An additional record for the species from Washoe County in September, 2009 is still pending.

NORTHERN PARULA *Parula americana*, Greg Scyphers, 2008-112, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/21/2008, Carson City (Carson City)
Total NBRC accepted records for Northern Parula: 8.
Northern Parula is one of the more regular "eastern warblers" in Nevada during migration, and it was exempt from review in the south beginning in 2007, and as of 2009,

it is no longer on the Nevada Review List. But nobody could have predicted this sighting. It was found by Dave McNinch on the Carson City Christmas Bird Count, foraging in the snow along the Carson River. Photographed by Greg Scyphers.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, Greg Scyphers, 2009-055, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/23/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Magnolia Warbler: 13.

Magnolia Warbler is found almost annually in southern Nevada. Nearly half of the thirteen accepted records are from the “desert migrant traps” in Esmeralda County.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*, Dennis Serdehely, 2009-072, 6/0/0; 6/14/2009, McCarren Ranch (Storey) (Pr) (Storey)

The third record from northern Nevada.

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Dendroica tigrina*, C.S. Lawson, Vincent Mowbray, 2009-014, Ph, 6/0/0; 7/28/1977, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Cape May Warbler: 3.

This is the earliest documented record for Cape May Warbler in Nevada. The NBRC is anxious to review as many of these “establishing records” as we can – there are several in this year’s report, and more on the way.

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Dendroica tigrina*, Rita Schlageter, Constance Lyons, Therese Werst, 2009-027, 6/0/0; 5/25/1991, Corn Creek (Clark)

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Dendroica striata*, Kathy Fraker, 2009-065, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/23/2009, Fallon (Churchill)

Total NBRC accepted records for Blackpoll Warbler: 12.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum*, Greg Scyphers, Martin Meyers, 2009-041, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/3/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Worm-eating Warbler: 8.

This hungry vagrant wandered around on a mowed lawn at a private ranch in Dyer for a couple of days, allowing great views and photographs.

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus*, James Shammot, 2009-029, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/8/1987, Las Vegas (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Kentucky Warbler: 2.

Another pre-committee record from the treasure trove of documentation provided by the Cressmans. It is the earliest record for the state, and one of only two accepted by the NBRC as of the end of 2009. However, there were an additional three submission for the species in 2009, all pending committee review. (California also experienced a significant influx of this species in 2009.)

CANADA WARBLER *Wilsonia canadensis*, Laura Cunningham, 2009-061, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/30/2009, Parker Ranch (Pr) (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Canada Warbler: 3.

A thoroughly enjoyable series of photographs of this bird were displayed on the internet (and announced on the Nevada Listserv).

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons*, Robert Gotschall, Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Dennis Ghiglieri, Rose Strickland, 2009-075, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/22/2009, Mt. Charleston – Kyle Canyon area (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red-faced Warbler: 2.

In August of 2007, a Red-faced Warbler was discovered by Jeff Johnson in Fletcher Canyon on Mt. Charleston. It was the first sighting of this species in Nevada in over thirty years. Less than two years later, this bird was found in the same area. There was speculation as to whether this record might pertain to the same individual bird as seen in 2007, but there was not enough evidence to support such a decision. (Reports of sightings in the Spring Mountains in 1974 are published, but documentation has not been reviewed by the NBRC.)

PAINTED REDSTART *Myioborus pictus*, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, 2009-034, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/5/2009, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Painted Redstart: 4.

Three of the four accepted records are from 2009 and are in this report. (The other was from 2002.)

PAINTED REDSTART *Myioborus pictus*, Noah Strycker, Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Robert Gotschall, 2009-038, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/25/2009, Corn Creek (Clark)



2009-038 Painted Redstart
Chris Ruiz-Gardner

PAINTED REDSTART *Myioborus pictus*, David Houghton, Carl Lundblad, 2009-073, 6/0/0; 6/13/2009, Red Rock Canyon N.C.A. (Clark)

This record involved two birds. One was a recently fledged juvenile, being fed by the adult. This becomes the first confirmed record of breeding for this species in Nevada. The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada conjectured that the species might be found breeding in the state, although no evidence was uncovered during the research for the atlas.

LARK BUNTING *Calamospiza melanocorys*, Dennis Serdehely, 2008-041, 6/0/0; 4/21/2008, Searchlight (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Lark Bunting: 8.

The number of accepted records is somewhat misleading, as the species was not present on the Nevada Review List for most of the committee's sixteen years.

SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana*, Greg Scyphers, 2009-044, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/9/2009, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Swamp Sparrow: 6.

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius mccownii*, Jon Dunn, 2008-106, 6/0/0; 10/28/2007, Amargosa Valley (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for McCown's Longspur: 3.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR *Calcarius ornatus*, Jon Dunn, 2008-104, 6/0/0; 10/23/2002, Railroad Valley (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Chestnut-collared Longspur: 7.

Most of the accepted records involve multiple individuals. This record was for ten birds.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR *Calcarius ornatus*, Jon Dunn, 2008-105, 5/1/0; 10/28/2007, Amargosa Valley (Nye)

One bird documented.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR *Calcarius ornatus*, Martin Meyers, 2008-103, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/12/2008, Carson Lake (Churchill)

At least five birds present.

SUMMER TANAGER *Piranga rubra*, Carrie Dean, Chuck Schultz, 2009-040, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/29/2009, Elko (Elko)

Total NBRC accepted records for Summer Tanager: 1.

Summer Tanagers breed in southern Nevada and have been exempt from review there since the formation of the NBRC. However, they were reviewable in the northern regions, and this record from Elko is the only one to have been submitted. The committee removed the species from the review list in September, 2009.

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea*, Jon Dunn, 2008-099, 6/0/0; 10/11/2001, Crystal Springs (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for Scarlet Tanager: 4.

Jon Dunn's extensive and detailed notes from this 2001 sighting were enough to convince all the committee members.

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea*, Greg Scyphers, 2008-098, Ph, 6/0/0; 11/7/2008, Corn Creek (Clark)

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea*, Carl Lundblad, Martin Meyers, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, Greg Scyphers, 2009-050, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/22/2009, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

This adult (or near adult) male was spectacular even in the downpour (with hail) at Miller's Rest Stop when found by Lundblad and Sam Skalak on 5/22. The bird stayed around through at least 5/25/09, providing an opportunity for many Nevada birders to enjoy it.



2009-050 Scarlet Tanager

Photo: Greg Scyphers

PYRRHULOXIA *Cardinalis sinuatus*, Frank and Polly Long, 2009-018, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/15/1979, Henderson (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Pyrrhuloxia: 1.

The documentation for this pre-committee sighting included not just a diagnostic photo but also a newspaper article from the Las Vegas Review/Journal. The bird was found on the 1979 Christmas Bird Count.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, John Anderson, Gisela Anderson, 2008-046, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/5/2008, Mogul (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 8.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak has been exempt from review in the south. The species was removed from the review list in September, 2009.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Dennis Serdehely, 2009-049, 6/0/0; 5/22/2009, Fallon (Churchill)

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Kirk Hardie, 2009-060, 6/0/0; 5/25/2009, Unionville (Pershing)

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Linda Hiller, 2009-062, Ph, 6/0/0; 6/8/2009, Jacks Valley (Douglas)

INDIGO BUNTING *Passerina cyanea*, Mark E. Ports, Lois Ports, 2009-037, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/25/2009, Elko (Elko)

Total NBRC accepted records for Indigo Bunting: 1.

Removed from review list in September, 2009. The species had previously been reviewable only in northeast Nevada.

DICKCISSEL *Spiza americana*, Carl Lundblad, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2008-090, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/26/2008, Dyer (Esmeralda)

Total NBRC accepted records for Dickcissel: 2.

It had been ten years since the first (and only other) NBRC-accepted record was found by Jim Eidel. That one was also found in Esmeralda County.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus*, Carl Lundblad, Greg Scyphers, 2008-107, Ph, 6/0/0; 12/14/2008, Overton W.M.A. (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Rusty Blackbird: 3.

This species staged a surprisingly strong incursion into the west in the winter of 2008/2009. This taiga breeder's numbers have been in steep decline globally. In Nevada, there are about ten previous published reports (some involving multiple birds), but the December/2008 record is the first in almost two decades!



2008-107 Rusty Blackbirds

Photo: Greg Scyphers

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus*, Robin Wolcott, Martin Meyers, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, David W. Nelson, 2009-004, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/16/2009, Winnemucca (Humboldt)

Like several California records for this species, the bird was found in a less-than-scenic grocery store parking lot, associating with Brewer's Blackbirds and Great-tailed Grackles.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus*, Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Randall Michal, 2009-007, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/21/2009, Las Vegas - Sunset Park (Clark)

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Ghiglieri, 2009-003, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/10/2009, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Common Grackle: 9.

Two birds remained at Floyd Lamb through the winter.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*, Greg Scyphers, 2009-026, Ph, 6/0/0; 1/13/2009, Beatty (Nye)

BRONZED COWBIRD *Molothrus aeneus*, James F. Holmes, Cindy Chang, 2009-016, 6/0/0; 6/7/2004, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Bronzed Cowbird: 1.

This species was on the Nevada Checklist, but this is the first record to be reviewed by the NBRC. A careful written description was provided by Jim and Cindy.

ORCHARD ORIOLE *Icterus spurius*, Carol and Mike Amos, 2009-048, Ph, 5/1/0; 8/8/2002, Fallon (Churchill)

Total NBRC accepted records for Orchard Oriole: 7.

See notes under record 2009-046 below.

ORCHARD ORIOLE *Icterus spurius*, Carol and Mike Amos, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2009-046, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/20/2009, Fallon (Churchill)

When this adult male showed up at feeders at the Amos home, Carol posted the sighting to the Nevada birding listserv. The bird was present for at least three days, giving several Nevada birders the opportunity to enjoy it. At that time, Carol and Mike brought out photos of an adult Orchard that had visited their home in 2002. The photos, with the date re-confirmed from their own records, were provided to the committee, comprising record 2009-048 above.

ORCHARD ORIOLE *Icterus spurius*, Carl Lundblad, Martin Meyers, Greg Scyphers, 2009-051, Ph, 6/0/0; 5/22/2009, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda)

Lundblad and Sam Skalak found this bird at Miller's Rest Stop late in the day. Meyers arrived a short time later, having been en route from Fallon, where he had just observed record 2009-046 above. Considering the rarity of this species in Nevada, two in one day, separated by about 200 miles, was pretty astounding.

ORCHARD ORIOLE *Icterus spurius*, Greg Scyphers, Carl Lundblad, 2009-086, Ph, 6/0/0; 9/5/2009, Lida (Esmeralda)

ORCHARD ORIOLE *Icterus spurius*, Greg Scyphers, 2009-091, 6/0/0; 9/6/2009, Corn Creek (Clark)

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*, David Galat, 2009-013, Ph, 6/0/0; 10/31/1978, Pyramid Lake – Sutcliffe area (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Brambling: 1.

This is one of the most astounding records in the NBRC database! This old-world finch is seen in North America on occasion in the Aleutian Islands and some Bering Sea islands, but is extraordinarily rare elsewhere. When this bird was spotted at a trailer park in Sutcliffe, David Galat and Karen Hamilton-Galat understood the importance of the find and documented it with careful notes and photographs. This documentation reached the NBRC in the material provided to us by the Cressmans, and easily received the unanimous endorsement of the committee.



2009-013 Brambling
Photo: David Galat

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera*, Greg Scyphers, Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri, Mark E. Ports, Martin Meyers, David W. Nelson, 2009-020, Ph, 6/0/0; 2/21/2009, Elko (Elko)

Total NBRC accepted records for White-winged Crossbill: 1.

The winter of 2008/2009 saw a remarkable invasion of these northern finches throughout much of the “lower 48”. Reports from neighboring states sent some Nevada birders out looking for them, and Greg Scyphers found them. A group of four birds spent the winter in large ornamental spruces at the Elko cemetery, where they were seen and photographed by many Nevada birders and several California birders as well. There are only a couple of published previous sightings for the species in the state, the most recent being from 1984.



2009-020 White-winged Crossbill
Photo: David W. Nelson

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Jennifer Ballard, 2008-058, Ph, 6/0/0; 4/21/2008, Hiko Springs (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Lawrence's Goldfinch: 8.

Seven of the eight accepted records have occurred since 2006. In addition, there are three pending records from fall/2009 plus one more from fall/2007.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH *Spinus lawrencei*, Laura Cunningham, 2009-067, 6/0/0; 6/10/2009, Beatty (Nye)

RECORDS NOT ENDORSED BY THE NBRC, 2009

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus*, 2000-33, (3/3/0), 4/2/0; 7/16/00, Pahrangat N.W.R. (Lincoln)

Total NBRC accepted records for Common Black-Hawk: 4.

This record had been published (Great Basin Birds, Volume 5) as “Not accepted”, based on the 3-3 vote on its first circulation. However, the existing bylaws stated that a record receiving a vote of 3-3 or 4-2 must be circulated a second time. In 2009, we recirculated this record. While the vote did move toward acceptance (i.e., the first circulation had three votes to accept, three votes not to accept, the second circulation had four accept votes, two non-accept votes), the bylaws in effect at the time permitted only two circulations. If the vote on the second circulation did not result in a vote to accept (which would have required five “accept” votes), the record is considered non-accepted and complete.

While it will not apply retroactively to this record, it should be noted that the committee made a change to the bylaws at its September 2009 meeting regarding votes of this sort. In the future, if a record in its second circulation moves closer to acceptance, precisely the result in record 2000-33, a third and final circulation round will be conducted.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*, 2008-060, Ph., 0/6/0; 8/9/08, Big Springs Reservoir (Humboldt)

Total NBRC accepted records for Red-necked Stint: 1.

This sighting was very intriguing. Outside commentary was requested and received from many identification authorities. While the final vote on the record was decisive, it is not a fair representation of the committee’s opinion of the identification. There was nearly unanimous agreement that the bird, which was documented with a very careful description and multiple photos by a highly skilled observer, was very possibly a Red-necked Stint. However, there was, as the vote shows, unanimous agreement that the extreme rarity of the species, even more so for a juvenile, the size and lack of critical detail of the photos, the distance between the bird and the observer, and other similar concerns made it impossible to endorse the record. The only accepted record for Red-necked Stint in Nevada is discussed in the “Accepted records” section of this report.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER *Sphyrapicus varius*, 2008-002, 1/5/0; 9/8/95, Peavine Canyon (Nye)

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

Identification of Yellow-bellied vs Red-naped Sapsucker is often very difficult, and a written description without photos must include very precise details. The lack of some of those details in this record made it impossible for the committee to endorse the record.

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax*, 1996-17, (3/3/0), 0/6/0; 5/17/96, Tonopah - Highland Park (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Greater Pewee: 1.

As with the Common Black-hawk record above, this record had already been published (Great Basin Birds, Volume 1) as non-accepted, based on the 3-3 vote. And as with that record, the committee chose to recirculate this record to be in compliance with the bylaws.

EASTERN PHOEBE *Sayornis phoebe*, 2008-050, (4/2/0), 3/3/0; 6/28/08, Virginia City (Storey)

Total NBRC accepted records for Eastern Phoebe: 7.

This generated considerable discussion, as evidenced by the votes on the two circulations. The final decision came down to the usual issue in many records reviewed by the NBRC – the committee felt that the bird was probably identified correctly, but the documentation was not sufficient to gain endorsement.

Note: Eastern Phoebe, which had been exempt from NBRC review in southern Nevada until the 2009 NBRC meeting, has now been removed from the Review List.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus savanna*, 2008-049, Ph, 2/4/0; 5/25/08, Reno (Washoe)

Total NBRC accepted records for Fork-tailed Flycatcher: 0.

This bird, observed in a Reno backyard, was carefully documented in a written description accompanied by multiple photos. If accepted, it would have represented the first for Nevada and one of very few (perhaps as few as one) in the far western U.S. It is a “stop the presses” rarity anywhere in the United States or Canada. As such, the documentation requirements were especially stringent, and the majority of the committee felt that those requirements were not met with this record. The lighting conditions for the five minute observation and photos (after 7:00 p.m., overcast skies) resulted in enough doubt on the part of four committee members to prevent acceptance.

ROSE-THROATED BECARD *Pachyramphus aglaiae*, 2009-042, 0/6/0; 4/25/09, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Rose-throated Becard: 0.

The birder who reported this sighting was certainly surprised when a dark gray flycatcher high in the trees at Corn Creek turned around to show a “...pink throat, not extending to the belly”. Unfortunately, the entire duration of the sighting was a few seconds, with the front of the bird in view for only “...a second or two.” The observer reported this to the Nevada listserv, and the NBRC secretary contacted him and requested a submission. At the time, it was made clear by the secretary that such a brief sighting of a species never

before observed in Nevada, and not high on anyone's list as a likely visitor, would probably not receive committee endorsement. However, such records should nonetheless be submitted so that they are present in the official record, with documentation archived for future research. The observer was kind enough to send in the documentation.

PURPLE MARTIN *Progne subis*, 2009-036, 0/6/0; 8/20/08, Reese River Valley (Lander)

Total NBRC accepted records for Purple Martin: 3.

A report of two Purple Martins in the Reese River Valley (Lander) on 8/20/08 was not endorsed for the reasons discussed in other records in this report. It may well have been a correct identification, but the details provided were not sufficient to establish the identification to the satisfaction of the committee members.

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrine*, 2008-088, (3/3/0), 0/6/0; 9/17/09, Parker Ranch (Pr) (Nye)

Total NBRC accepted records for Tennessee Warbler: 9.

This species is one of those "eastern" warblers that show up with some regularity in the state, particularly in the desert migrant traps. So a report of one at a privately maintained Nature Conservancy property in the Beatty area was considered to have most likely been identified correctly. However, the documentation did not sufficiently rule out other very similar species, and the committee chose not to endorse the record on the second circulation round. Interestingly, one of the nine previously accepted records is from the same location as this record. One 2009 record has yet to be circulated.

PYRRHULOXIA *Cardinalis sinuatus*, 2009-009, 2/4/0; 1/4/09, Keyhole Canyon (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Pyrrhuloxia: 1.

The only accepted record for this species is discussed in the "Endorsed Records" section of this report. Record 2009-009 failed to gain endorsement even though most thought it was probably correctly identified. The documentation was deemed insufficient for such a rare occurrence.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*, 2007-099, (3/3/0), 2/4/0; 4/27/93, Corn Creek (Clark)

Total NBRC accepted records for Common Grackle: 9.

This sighting predates the formation of the NBRC by one year. At the time, the committee bylaws prohibited reviewing "pre-committee" records, but as shown in several records in this report, that rule has been amended and the committee welcomes such reports. As should be obvious from the votes in the two circulations of this record, the committee had very mixed feelings but in the end chose not to endorse the record, finding the documentation to be missing some critical components.

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:

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