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2012 NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

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ABSTRACT: This report covers the 99 records reviewed by the Nevada Bird Records Committee in 2012, of which 87 were endorsed. These 99 records cover sightings from 1 June 1954 through 27 August 2012. One species is added to the Nevada list (and to the committee's review list): the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). Two species are removed from the review list because of the high number of records or regularity of occurrence. The Nevada state list now stands at 489 species, of which 164 are currently on the review list.

In 2012, the Nevada Bird Records Committee (NBRC) added 108 reports to its database. The committee completed reviews of 99 records during the year. Since the founding of the NBRC in 1994, 888 records have been reviewed, of which 813 have been endorsed.

At its founding in 1994, the committee decided not to review any sightings prior to that year but reversed that decision several years later. Fortunately, founding secretary James Cressman and his wife Marian continued to accumulate documentation for "pre-committee" records. That accumulated documentation has been provided to the current committee, and one of our long-term goals is to organize and review as many of those records as possible. Of the 108 "new" reports received and added to the database in 2012, 13 precede the committee, dating as far back as 1 June 1954.

Of the 99 records reviewed by the committee in 2012, 37 were of birds found during 2012, 45 were of birds found in 2011, 12 preceded the committee's founding, and the remaining five were of birds found between 13 May 1995 and 22 December 2011. Reviewed records thus extended from 1 June 1954 to 27 August 2012. Of the 87 endorsed records, 71 were supported by photographs. Twelve records failed to gain endorsement. Of those 12, half were supported by photographs.

The NBRC has six voting members and a nonvoting secretary. In 2012, the committee welcomed new member Will Richardson, who joined continuing members John Klicka, Tim Lenz, Carl Lundblad, Dennis Serdehely, and Jeanne Tinsman. The position of secretary continues to be held by Martin

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Meyers. At the close of 2012, John Klicka and Tim Lenz rotated off the committee. They are replaced for 2013 by new member Aaron Ambos and returning member Greg Scyphers, who had rotated off the committee at the end of 2011. In addition, although Dennis Serdehely had reached the limit of his term at the end of 2012, the committee voted to reappoint him to a special two-year extension. This has the desired effect of balancing the terms so that in the future two members' three-year terms will expire each year.

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

REVISIONS TO THE NEVADA STATE LIST IN 2012

During the period covered by this report, one new species was added to the Nevada list, the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). This change brought the count of species recorded in Nevada to 489 at the end of 2012.

REVISIONS TO THE NEVADA REVIEW LIST IN 2012

The only species the NBRC added during 2012 to the list of species it reviews was the one new to Nevada, Red-bellied Woodpecker. During 2012, the NBRC removed the Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) and Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) from the review list on the basis of total number of endorsed records, regularity of sightings, status in adjoining states, and the judgment of the members. There are currently 164 species on the Nevada review list, of which seven are exempt from review in some limited geographic area. Six of those seven exemptions are for very localized breeding populations. The seventh, the Broad-winged Hawk, is exempt in the Goshute Mountains, where multiple birds are observed annually in fall migration from a hawkwatch (Smith et al. 2008).

In addition, two subspecies are currently on the review list, the Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*) and Mexican Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos diazi*). Although the committee has reviewed (and endorsed) four records of *A. c. crecca*, we have not, as yet, reviewed any of the accumulating records for *A. p. diazi* and have decided to wait until there is more clarity on its issues of taxonomy and identification.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

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

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

After the heading for the species comes each record of that species reviewed in 2012, in this format: NBRC record number, name of each submitter, date or range of documented dates, and location (county in parentheses). If the record involved multiple birds, the number follows the county designation. "(P)," "(V)," or "(A)" following a submitter's name indicates that he or she provided a photo, video, or audio recording, respectively. Discussion of a particular record follows that record's data. If there are multiple records of the species, the records are ordered by date of first sighting. Any discussion of the species in general, not specific to a record, concludes the account.

Certain records are noted as "establishing records," designating the first NBRC-endorsed record of a species. Early in its history, the NBRC adopted an existing checklist (Titus 1996) based on numerous sources that constituted the most reliable information available at the time. All but 28 of the species on the review list now have at least one endorsed record. The committee is pursuing documentation of these 28, and we have had some major success in this quest. However, it will probably be a few years before we conclude that we have exhausted all possibilities. At that time, we will reevaluate the status of those species still without an endorsed record.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (4, 1). 2012-042, Marian Cressman (P), James Cressman, 18–31 May 1993, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark). One of several examples in this year's report of our continuing effort to incorporate the wealth of "pre-committee" data into the NBRC's database.

BRANT *Branta bernicla* (4, 1). 2012-045, Bob Goodman (P), 18 May 1992, Anaho Island, Pyramid Lake (Washoe). While the very limited documentation on this bird was convincing as to species, the single distant photo did not permit determination of the subspecies. The Black Brant (*B. b. nigricans*) is the expected subspecies. The committee also has documentation of a sighting of Brant from Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) (7 April 1996) that has yet to be reviewed. For perspective, Arizona endorsed two records of the Brant between 2005 and 2009 (Rosenberg 2011), while the Utah Bird Records Committee (www.utahbirds.org/RecCom/RareBirdsIndex.html) lists a total of nine reports (1872 through 31 August 2008), of which it has endorsed three.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* (6**, 2). 2011-096, NOT ENDORSED. 10 November 2011, Walker Lake (Mineral). This relatively distant, brief sighting by a single observer failed to convince two members on the first and second rounds.

2012-062, Michael Todd (P), Randall Michal (P), 11–13 November 2011, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark).

2011-093, Edward Sivon (P), Deb Vogt, Randall Michal (P), 13–18 November 2011, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark). The committee reviewed records 2012-062 and 2011-093 as a single record but on careful study of photos and written descriptions unanimously decided that they represented two different birds. Two members commented that 2011-093 was an adult female, while one stated that 2012-062 appeared to be an immature female.

RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata* (5, 2). 2011-088, Randall Michal, Babette d'Amours (P), Aaron Ambos (P, Figure 1), 4–14 November 2011, Henderson Bird

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Figure 1. Juvenile Red-throated Loon in the Duck Creek area of the Clark County Wetlands Park, photographed 25 November 2011, one of three Red-throated Loons documented in Nevada in 2011.

Photo by Aaron Ambos

Viewing Preserve (Clark), juvenile. The bird was found dead on 14 November but collection was not possible.

2011-094, Debbie van Dooremolen (P), Aaron Ambos (P), 16–25 November 2011, Duck Creek section, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark), juvenile.

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii* (2, 1). 2012-060, Bryan Wuerker (P, Figure 2), 21 August 2012, Boulder Canyon (Virgin Basin), Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA) (Clark). This bird was well photographed as it swam up to the observer's boat but was never seen again. The only previous NBRC-endorsed record is of one on 27 August 1971, also at Lake Mead NRA (Meyers 2011).

BROWN PELICAN *Pelecanus occidentalis* (5, 1). 2011-040, NOT ENDORSED. 24 June 2011, Smith Creek Dry Lake (Lander). Although all members considered it very unlikely that the observer misidentified a Brown Pelican, two members considered the documentation insufficient on the record's first round, and the final vote was 2–4.

2011-075, Andrew Lee (P), Randall Michal (P), Dennis Serdehely, Dave DesMarais (P), 18 September–22 October, 2011, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark).

Las Vegas Bay at Lake Mead has been the location of three of Nevada's five endorsed records of the Brown Pelican. On 17 July 2004, there were 23 at that location (Meyers 2008). The committee also has on file unreviewed documentation of at least three other occurrences of the Brown Pelican at Lake Mead, in 1971, 1975, and 1992.

WHITE-TAILED KITE *Elanus leucurus* (12**, 2). 2012-005, Morgan Peters, 10 January 2012, Pahrump (Nye).

2012-057, Bill Henry (P), 27 August 2012, Stillwater NWR (Churchill).

With this species continuing to breed successfully in the Pahrnanagat Valley (where it is exempt from review), and reports from around the state coming in regularly, the committee is considering removing it from the review list.

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Figure 2. This cooperative Blue-footed Booby (2102-060) was in the Boulder Canyon section of Lake Mead on 21 August 2012. It represents only the second record of the Blue-footed Booby the NBRC has endorsed, following the first in 1971 (Lawson 1973).

Photo by Bryan Wuerker

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (7, 2). 2011-080, Rick Fridell (P), 21 May 2003, Corn Creek (Clark).

2012-013, Debbie van Dooremolen (P), 16 May 2012, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark).

Four of the seven endorsed records of this species are for May. There is one record each for June, July, and August.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* (7, 2). 2011-014, Brian Day (P), 27 March 2011, Dufurrena Ponds, Sheldon NWR (Humboldt). Although the identification was never in question, this record required two rounds to achieve endorsement, as two members questioned the bird's origin on the first round. Excellent photos showed a juvenile with no signs of jesses or bands and no obvious feather damage. However, the location is in the extreme northwest corner of Nevada, quite far north for this species. No California record is nearly as far north (Hamilton et. al. 2007). However, there are records from locations in the interior of the U.S. at a latitude similar to that of Sheldon NWR, e.g., Stateline Island, Nebraska (Sharpe et.al. 2001), even slightly farther north. Furthermore, Sheldon NWR is in an extremely remote, very sparsely populated area where an escaped falconer's bird should be less likely than a natural wanderer. On the second round, it received five votes for endorsement.

2011-105, Maureen J. Kammerer (P), Randall Michal, Babette d'Amours (P), Aaron Ambos (P), Donna Crail-Rugotzke (P), Randall Bruce (P, Figure 3), Rob Lowry (P), Martin Meyers (P), Christina Nycek, 14 December 2011–17 January 2013, Boulder City (Clark), four birds (photographed together on 14 January 2012), two adults and two juveniles. On 10 May 2012, Nycek observed nestlings in a nest she had been following, the first known successful nesting of Harris's Hawk in Nevada.

2011-106, NOT ENDORSED. 20 December 2011, Las Vegas Wash (Vegas Valley Dr. to E. Rochelle) (Clark). The NBRC considered the documentation of this sighting too brief, although most thought it likely represented one of the birds from Boulder City.

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BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus* (5**, 1). 2012-037, Greg Scyphers (P), 23 September 2011, Pahranaagat NWR (Lincoln).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* (3, 2). 2012-007, Greg Scyphers (P), 5 September 2011, Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area (WMA) (Lincoln).

2011-084, Ken Drozd (P), Martin Meyers, 8–9 October 2011, University Farms, Reno (Washoe).

The only American Golden-Plover endorsed by the committee before these two was found on 26 April 1997 (Baepler et.al. 1999). Three records for fall 2012 await review, as do some sightings antedating the committee's formation.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* (4, 1). 2012-066, Jack Walters (P), 13 May 1995, Carson Lake (Churchill), 11 birds.

STILT SANDPIPER *Calidris himantopus* (7**, 2). 2012-012, Andrew Lee (P), Greg Scyphers (P), 15–18 May 2012, Duck Creek area, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark).

2012-014, Andrew Lee (P), 19 May 2012, Overton WMA (Clark).

This species was previously exempt from review in southern Nevada, defined as Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye counties (Elphick 2001). In September 2009, the committee voted to remove the exemption because of a dearth of reports in the south. Since then, three records from southern Nevada have been endorsed, and three more are still pending review.

RED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* (9, 2). 2011-107, Greg Scyphers (P), 25 August 2011, private property at Silver Peak (Esmeralda).

2011-098, G. Scott Clemson, Paul Lehman, Rose Strickland, 25–26 November 2011, Pahranaagat NWR (Lincoln).

HEERMANN'S GULL *Larus heermanni* (10, 2). 2012-051, Hugh Judd (P, Figure 4), 19 May–8 June 1990, Lahontan Reservoir east (Churchill). Truly an amazing record! On 19 May 1990, the late Hugh Judd found an adult Heermann's Gull sitting on a nest with two eggs at Lahontan Reservoir. Returning on 26 May, he observed an adult California Gull (*L. californicus*) sitting on the nest, with the Heermann's nearby. On 3 June, Judd and Lynda Booth found both gulls attending one chick. The second egg was not present. On 8 June, the chick was not present, and no sign of it was ever seen after that. The only other known attempts of Heermann's Gull to nest north of Mexico, apparently unsuccessful, were at Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay 1979–1981 and at Shell Beach in San Luis Obispo County, California, in 1980 (Howell et. al. 1983). Hybridization of Heermann's Gull with any species is previously unreported, except for the mention of this observation by Chisholm and Neel (2002) and Howell and Dunn (2007).

2012-008, Fred Petersen (P, Figure 5), 19 April 2012, Virginia Lake, Reno (Washoe).

Six of Nevada's Heermann's Gull records are from spring, four from fall.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (12, 2). 2012-003, Andrew Lee (P), Aaron Ambos (P), 14–29 January 2012, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark).

2012-004, Andrew Lee (P), 27 January 2012, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark).

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* (8, 1). 2011-103, Randall Michal, James Hulsey (P), 5 December 2011, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark). Only the second southern Nevada record.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* (5, 2). 2012-033, Tracy Kipke (V), 18 April 2011, private property at Silver Peak (Esmeralda).

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2011-097, Greg Scyphers (P), Deb Vogt (P), 18–19 November 2011, Boulder Beach, Lake Mead NRA (Clark).

LEAST TERN *Sternula antillarum* (15, 3). 2012-021, Guadelupe Varela, Randall Michal (P), 26 May 2012, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark).

2012-023, Anne Pelligrini (P), 30 May 2012, Overton WMA (Clark).

2012-031, William Pratt (P), 8 July 2012, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark).

All Nevada records for this species fall between 29 April and 20 July.

POMARINE JAEGER *Stercorarius pomarinus* (2, 1). 2012-046, Bob Goodman (P), 26 June 1993, Lahontan Reservoir east (Churchill). The bird was initially thought to be a Parasitic Jaeger, but the photographs convincingly documented Nevada's second Pomarine Jaeger.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE *Columbina passerina* (4, 1). 2012-041, John Rogers (P), Sue Rogers, 27 July 2012, Caliente (Lincoln), 2 birds. This species was much more regular in southern Nevada through about the mid-1970s (Alcorn 1988). Multiple photos of 2012-041 permitted the committee to eliminate the similar Ruddy Ground-Dove (*C. talpacoti*) from consideration. While there are only two endorsed records of the Ruddy in Nevada, we have documentation of five additional older records still to review.

BLACK SWIFT *Cypseloides niger* (3, 1). 2012-038, Rick Fridell, 24 May 2012, Corn Creek (Clark). The three endorsed records of the Black Swift for Nevada extend from 27 April to 26 May.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes carolinus* (1, 1). 2012-030, Leslie Scopes Anderson (P), 12 June 2012, Ruby Lakes N.W.R. north (Elko). Surely the biggest surprise of the year! Burton and Anderson (2013) published a complete account of this first record for Nevada.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER *Sphyrapicus varius* (7, 1). 2011-090, Paul Lehman, 30 October 2011, Pahranaagat NWR (Lincoln).

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus* (1, 1). 2012-001, Bill Henry (P), Greg Scyphers (P, Figure 6), Meg Andrews, Rose Strickland, 13–16 January 2012, Stillwater NWR (Churchill). Although Titus (1996) listed the Gyrfalcon from Nevada on the basis of unpublished reports, this record is the first documented for the NBRC. Excellent photos and written reports from multiple observers made for a convincing establishing record.

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (1, 0). 2012-017, NOT ENDORSED. 20 May 2012, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark). All the committee members agreed that the multiple photos and written description failed to eliminate other more likely, similar species.

LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus* (6, 0). 2012-002, NOT ENDORSED. 22 June 2004, Cottonwood Ranch (Elko). In early 2012, the observer provided the NBRC a paper he had written at the time of the observation that includes (but does not concentrate on) the sighting of a Least Flycatcher. He wrote some additional documentation in 2012, eight years after the sighting, and submitted a video that had some very faint sounds that were, according to the observer, vocalizations of the flycatcher. Even with considerable amplification of the vocalizations, however, most members thought that the video was unsatisfactory as evidence, and four members did not find the written documentation sufficient to endorse the sighting. Two of Nevada's six endorsed records of the Least Flycatcher are for the breeding season (Santa Rosa Mountains, 13 July 2010, and Ruby Valley, 19 June 2011) and featured a video recording of a singing bird (Meyers 2011, 2012).

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (5, 1). 2012-020, Meg Andrews, Andrew



Figure 3. The first documentation of these Harris's Hawks was on 14 December 2011, although residents of the area in Boulder City related that at least two of the birds had been present well before that date. This photo was taken 14 January 2012. Christina Nycek monitored the birds throughout their stay and reported young in a nest on 10 May 2012, the first confirmed nesting of Harris's Hawk in Nevada.

Photo by Randall Bruce



Figure 4. (A) Adult Heermann's Gull that mated with a California Gull at Lahontan Reservoir, Churchill County. The pair laid two eggs, but only one hybrid chick (B) was seen. It disappeared within a few days. This is the first evidence of hybridization of Heermann's Gull with any other species, far from its normal breeding range in Baja California.

Photos by Hugh Judd



Figure 5. Heermann's Gull at Virginia Lake, Reno, 19 April 2012.

Photo by Fred Petersen

Howe, Andrew Lee (P), Rob Lowry (P), Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri (P), Randall Michal (P), 26–28 May 2012, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark). All five of Nevada's endorsed records of the White-eyed Vireo are from late May (18–28 May).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons* (5, 1). 2011-036, Martin Meyers (P), 12 June 2011, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda).

WINTER WREN *Troglodytes hiemalis* (2, 1). 2011-092, Rick Fridell (P,V), Greg Scyphers (P), Martin Meyers (P, Figure 7, V), Rose Strickland, Dennis Ghiglieri (P), Paul Lehman, 9–26 November 2011, Pahrnagat NWR (Lincoln). This very cooperative bird was near at least three Pacific Wrens (*T. pacificus*), providing excellent opportunities to compare plumage and vocalizations. Submitted documentation included video recordings along with 14 photos and four written descriptions. The bird was found 11 years, to the day, after Nevada's first endorsed record of the Winter Wren (Meyers 2012).

BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum* (12, 1). 2012-027, Fred Welden (P), Greg Scyphers (P), 15–18 June 2012, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda). This is the third endorsed record of the Brown Thrasher from Miller's Rest Stop, a well-known migrant trap, and another report from the same location is pending review. The most surprising of these records was from 4 July 2011, as this location rarely holds any

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birds beyond the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) during the heat of midsummer.

McCOWN'S LONGSPUR *Rhynchophanes mccownii* (4, 1). 2011-063, Greg Scyphers (P), 25 February 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (2, 1). 2011-099, Kerry Ross, 23 October 2011, Mt. Pisgah, Goshute Mts. (Elko). Excellent written description and field sketch resulted in a unanimous vote for endorsement of this bird, which flew past the Goshutes Hawk Watch with a small flock of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*).

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum* (12, 2). 2012-044, John Brack (P), Jane Thompson (P), 14–16 October 1993, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda). 2012-034, Greg Scyphers (P), 18 May 2012, Corn Creek (Clark).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (4, 1). 2012-053, found by Richard Yank (former *American Birds* regional editor for Quebec), reported by Michael Patten and Paul Lehman, 27–29 May 1990, Dyer (Esmeralda). For some years, Dyer and Lida (both in Esmeralda County) were on the route of many vagrant-seeking California birders visiting the Death Valley region over the Memorial Day weekend.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora cyanoptera* (5, 1). 2012-018, Andrew Lee (P), 24 May 2012, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark). Four of the five records for this species are from spring (17 May to 12 June); the lone fall record is dated 19 September.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Protonotaria citrea* (14**, 1). 2011-087, Rick Fridell (P), 16 September 2004, Lida (Esmeralda). This species was removed from the review list in September 2009, but the committee continues to review sightings preceding the removal date.

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Oreothlypis peregrina* (17**, 7). 2011-029, Andrew Lee (P), 23 May 2011, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (Clark).

2011-108, Greg Scyphers (P), 30 May 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda).

2011-109, Greg Scyphers (P), 8 September 2011, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark).

2011-113, Greg Scyphers, 11 September 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda).

2011-112, Greg Scyphers, 8 October 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda).

2012-039, Rick Fridell (P), 25 May 2012, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda).

2012-022, Andrew Lee (P), 30 May 2012, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark).

Species removed from review list, 7 December 2012.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (3, 1). 2011-068, Andrew Lee (P), Chris Ruiz-Gardner (V), Greg Scyphers (P, Figure 8), 3–4 September 2011, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark). While the identification was overwhelmingly supported by the written descriptions and excellent photos, the video of this chunky bird walking around on the ground snatching food from the leaf litter and low branches made the review process more enjoyable than usual.

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Setophaga tigrina* (4, 1). 2012-043, James Cressman, Marian Cressman (P), 3 October 1992, Corn Creek (Clark).

CERULEAN WARBLER *Setophaga cerulea* (1, 1). 2012-061, Mrs. E. Boyland (P), 1 June 1954, Boulder Beach, Lake Mead NRA (Clark). This is the establishing record of the Cerulean Warbler for Nevada, based on specimen 2427 at the Barrick Museum of Natural History (University of Nevada Las Vegas). The bird was found dead along the shore of Lake Mead, but the specimen is in reasonably good condition, apparently found fairly soon after its death (G. Scyphers pers. comm.)

2012-015, NOT ENDORSED. 19 May 2012, Corn Creek (Clark). Although the written description included some features that suggested the Cerulean Warbler, the details were insufficient to support the identification of this extreme, and declining, rarity.



Figure 6. Adult Gyrfalcon of the gray morph found by Bill Henry at Stillwater NWR, 15 January 2012.

Photo by Greg Scyphers



Figure 7. Nevada's second endorsed Winter Wren was extensively photographed and audio and video recorded during its stay in a heavily wooded area at the north end of Pahranaagat NWR (photo 11 November 2011). The overall paler color, especially of the throat and breast, helped to distinguish the bird from several Pacific Wrens present in the same area, but the opportunity to compare call notes provided the best identification criterion.

Photo by Martin Meyers



Figure 8. Nevada's third endorsed Connecticut Warbler at Floyd Lamb Park, Las Vegas, 3-4 September 2011, the first to be documented with video.

Photo by Greg Scyphers



Figure 9. Third Bronzed Cowbird documented for Nevada, near Beatty, Nye County, 19 May-21 June 2011. A male, it displayed repeatedly to the many female Brown-headed Cowbirds in the area.

Photo by Deb Vogt

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BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Setophaga fusca* (5, 1). 2011-102, Greg Scyphers (P), Martin Meyers (P), 23–25 September 2011, Pahranaagat NWR (Lincoln).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Setophaga pennsylvanica* (16**, 1). 2011-071, Diane Wong, 13 September 2011, Pahranaagat NWR (Lincoln). Species dropped from the review list 11 days after this sighting.

PALM WARBLER *Setophaga palmarum* (16**, 1). 2011-073, Fred Petersen (P), 16 September 2011, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda). Species removed from the review list eight days after this sighting.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Setophaga dominica* (5, 1). 2011-035, Martin Meyers (P), 11 June 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda). Of the five previously endorsed records, three are from spring (22 April 1977, 18 May 2003, and 11 June 2011), one is from fall (24 October 1979), and one is from midwinter (2–8 January 2011.)

PRAIRIE WARBLER *Setophaga discolor* (7, 2). 2012-050, John Brack, 16 May 1993, Lida (Esmeralda).

2011-072, Fred Petersen (P), 13 September 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda). Birders who frequent the California coast in fall, where this species occurs annually, might be surprised at its extreme scarcity in Nevada. However, the bird is also casual in the interior of California. "The great majority of California records involve fall vagrants along the coast" (Hamilton et al. 2007), and Utah has only three endorsed records (www.utahbirds.org/RecCom/RareBirdsIndex.html).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER *Setophaga virens* (3, 1). 2012-032, Greg Scyphers (P), 22 October 2011, Pahranaagat NWR (Lincoln). All three NBRC-endorsed records are from fall, between 30 September and 6 November.

CANADA WARBLER *Cardellina canadensis* (4, 1). 2012-047, John Brack, 8 September 1993, Dyer (Esmeralda). Three of the four NBRC-endorsed records are from September, the fourth being a spring record (30 May 2009). In California, roughly 90% of the 250+ records are from the fall, and of those, "coastal records strongly predominate" (Hamilton et al. 2007). Utah has only one endorsed record (www.utahbirds.org/RecCom/RareBirdsIndex.html).

PAINTED REDSTART *Myioborus pictus* (7, 2). 2011-025, Carolyn Titus, Dennis Ghiglieri (P), 7 May 2011, Corn Creek (Clark).

2012-028, John C. Ruckdeschel, 16 June 2012, Summerlin (Las Vegas) (Clark).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW *Spizella pallida* (11, 3). 2012-025, Deb Vogt (P), 27 April 2012, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark).

2012-011, Andrew Lee (P), 12 May 2012, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark).

2012-019, Andrew Lee (P), 24 May 2012, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark).

SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana* (14**, 2). 2012-010, Van Remsen, Jeanne Tinsman, Greg Scyphers, 19 February–19 March 2012, Duck Creek area, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark).

2012-035, Greg Scyphers (P), 20 May 2012, Corn Creek (Clark).

2012-055, NOT ENDORSED. 17 August 2012, Ruby Mountains (Elko).

Species removed from the review list, 7 December 2012.

HEPATIC TANAGER *Piranga flava* (1, 0). 2011-034, NOT ENDORSED. 7 June 2011, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark). Video of this bird was insufficiently clear to identify the Hepatic Tanager. Several members and some outside experts thought the voice recording in the video to match the Summer Tanager better than the Hepatic.

2012-024, NOT ENDORSED. 5 May 2012, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park (Clark), 2 birds. The documentation made a stronger case for the Summer Tanager (expected at that location) than for the Hepatic.

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2012-026, NOT ENDORSED. 5 May 2012, Corn Creek (Clark). Although the written documentation suggested the Hepatic Tanager, the accompanying photograph, taken in deep shade, did not provide enough additional support for the record to receive endorsement.

Nevada still has only one endorsed record of the Hepatic Tanager, one photographed at the famed migrant trap Miller's Rest Stop on 29 September 2002 (Cochran 2006). Though Austin and Bradley (1971) described the Hepatic Tanager as a "summer resident," and Alcorn (1988), on the basis of notes of C. S. Lawson, called it an "uncommon to rare breeding species," it went totally unrecorded during field work for the Nevada breeding bird atlas (Floyd et.al. 2007). The committee has documentation for four old records yet to be reviewed.

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (7, 2). 2011-086, Andrew Lee (P), 16 October 2011, Spring Mountain Ranch S. P. (Clark).

2011-095, Paul Lehman (P), 26 November 2011, Coyote Springs (Lincoln).

With the exception of one in May, all of Nevada's seven endorsed records of the Scarlet Tanager are for fall,

NORTHERN CARDINAL *Cardinalis cardinalis* (2, 0). 2011-089, NOT ENDORSED. 22 December 2010, Shantytown, Ruby Lake NWR (Elko). None of the committee members questioned the identification, as photographs clearly established the bird's identity as a male Northern Cardinal and ruled out the similar Pyrrhuloxia (*C. sinuatus*), for which there is one NBRC-endorsed record. Two committee members voted not to endorse this record because of concerns about the bird's possibly being an escapee. Although the location is remote and sparsely populated, it is far from any known wild population. If the documentation had been sufficient to identify the subspecies, that might have influenced some members. Five (of six) votes are needed for endorsement. A record receiving four votes for endorsement on the first round is circulated for a second round. If there is no change in the vote totals (or a change away from endorsement), the record is considered complete and not endorsed.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (8, 2). 2011-062, Greg Scyphers, 30 May 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda).

2011-110, Greg Scyphers (P), 11 September 2011, Dyer (Esmeralda). Endorsed records of this species are evenly divided between spring and fall.

DICKCISSEL *Spiza americana* (5, 2). 2011-023, Andrew Lee (P), 22 April 2011, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark).

2011-111, Greg Scyphers (P), 10 September 2011, Ash Meadows NWR (Nye).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (14, 3). 2012-049, Robert Rucker, 13 September 1992, Pahrangat NWR (Lincoln).

2012-048, John Brack, 15 May 1993, Warm Springs township (Nye).

2011-114, Rob Lowry (P), 29 December 2011, Riverview Park (Carson City).

BRONZED COWBIRD *Molothrus aeneus* (3, 1). 2012-016, Laura Cunningham (P), Darlene Feener (P), Rob Lowry (P), Deb Vogt (P; Figure 9), Dennis Serdehely, Martin Meyers (P), 19 May–21 June 2012, Parker Ranch (private) (Nye). This very cooperative male displayed to surrounding Brown-headed Cowbirds (*M. ater*) for over a month, providing opportunities for many Nevada birders to observe and photograph it. Thanks to Laura Cunningham for providing birders with access to the property while the bird was present.

ORCHARD ORIOLE *Icterus spurius* (8, 1). 2011-074, NOT ENDORSED. 17 September 2011, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark). This record was supported by five photographs and considerable written detail. However, two members thought that such critical identification features as bill length/shape and tail length were somewhat ambiguous, failing to eliminate a female or juvenile Hooded Oriole (*I. cucullatus*) completely. Juvenile Hooded Orioles are a source of confusion in late summer and early fall.

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2012-029, Randall Michal, 19 June 2012, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark). A written description of a male Orchard Oriole received unanimous support.

COMMON REDPOLL, *Acanthis flammea* (4, 2). 2011-104, Jesse Swift (P), 8 December 2011, Apex (Clark).

2012-006, Dennis Serdehely, Greg Scyphers (P), 10 January 2012, Fernley (Lyon).

These two records in winter 2011–2012 were the first of the Common Redpoll in Nevada since December 2003. They turned out to be a mere hint of things to come, as the winter of 2012–2013 brought eight submitted records documenting 35 individual birds (pending review). Similar invasions were noted in neighboring states as well.

CORRIGENDA

Corrections to 2011 Annual Report: Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*, 2011-007): date range should be 8–19 February 2011. Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*, 2010-084): date range should be 11–14 October 1990. Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*, 2010-064): date range should be 31 October–6 November 2010. Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*, 2011-077): date range should be 17–18 September 2011. Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*, 2010-048) date range should be 5–19 September 2010. The statement, "There are currently 167 species on the Nevada review list" should be "There are currently 165 full species on the Nevada review list, plus two subspecies."

ADDENDUM

To 2011 Annual Report: Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*, 2011-010): date range is expanded to 26 September–8 October 2010 because of the committee's decision to consider the sighting on 8 October (Rick Fridell, Pahranaagat NWR) to represent persistence of the individual initially reported 26 September.

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