

WESTERN BIRDS



Volume 56, Number 3, 2025

NEVADA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2021–2024

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ABSTRACT: From 2021 to 2024, the Nevada Bird Records Committee reviewed 99 reports of 57 species observed from September 2020 to June 2024, plus one earlier observation from September 1990. Of these 99, 82 were endorsed. These endorsements added five species to the Nevada state checklist: the Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*), Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tethys*), Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*), Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*), and Varied Bunting (*Passerina versicolor*). Also, the committee revised its review list, adding 31 further species to the set it considers. One species, the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), was removed.

Since the founding of the Nevada Bird Records Committee (NBRC) in 1994, the committee has reviewed 1638 reports, of which 1415 (86.3%) have been endorsed. During the period 2021–2024, the NBRC reviewed 99 records, endorsing 82 (82.8%) of those. Of the endorsed records, 74 were supported by photo, audio, and/or video documentation. Four of the 13 non-endorsed records included photo, audio, and/or video documentation. None of the reports reviewed during this time was based on museum specimens. Five species were added to the state checklist, 36 were added to the review list, and one species was removed from the review list. Here we summarize the NBRC's activities from 2021 to 2024 and detail the reports submitted to the NBRC during this period, comprising one observation on 28 September 1990 and 98 observations from 10 September 2020 to 22 June 2024.

The NBRC has six voting members, and one nonvoting secretary. There is currently no chairperson. In October of 2021, Martin Meyers retired after serving as secretary for over 20 years. He was replaced by Ned Bohman, the current secretary. The current voting members are Brendan Bucy, Kimber Godfrey, Paul Hurtado, Rob Lowry, John Mark Simmons, and Ben Sonnenberg. Previous members who voted on records contained in this report include Frank Fogarty (2021–2024), Alex Harper (2021–2023), Greg Scyphers (2021–2022), Justin Streit (2021–2023), Jeanne Tinsman (2021), and Ben Zyla (2021–2024).

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The NBRC's website at <http://gbbo.org/nbrc> contains a statement of purpose, answers to frequently asked questions, links to a submission form that can be downloaded or completed online, the Nevada checklist, the review list, a list of current and past NBRC members, and the committee's bylaws. There is a link to a summary list of all submissions to the NBRC, with the status of each with respect to endorsement and, if available, a photograph. All previous NBRC reports are available through the website. NBRC reports through 2007 (1994–1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2005, and 2007 (Cressman et al. 1998, Baepler et al. 1999, Eidel 2000, 2001, 2002, Cochran 2004, 2006, Meyers 2008) appeared in *Great Basin Birds*, published by the Great Basin Bird Observatory. Reports for 2008 through 2010 (Meyers 2010, 2011) are available only from the NBRC website. Beginning with the 2011 report, reports have appeared in *Western Birds* (Meyers 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, Tinsman and Meyers 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021). All previous reports are accessible via <https://www.gbbo.org/nbrc-annual-reports>, and all records the NBRC has considered are tabulated at <https://gbboinfo.org/nbrc/FullReportDescending.htm>.

REVISIONS TO THE NEVADA STATE CHECKLIST

From 2021 to 2024, the NBRC added five species and removed one species from the Nevada state checklist. In 2021, Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*) and Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) were added. In 2023, the Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) and Varied Bunting (*Passerina versicolor*) were added. In 2024, the Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel was added to the state checklist. One species was removed in 2023 when the Pacific-slope (*Empidonax difficilis*) and Cordilleran (*E. occidentalis*) Flycatcher were once again lumped as the Western Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*) (Chesser et al. 2023). At the end of 2024, the Nevada checklist stands at 495 species, plus one species pair, the Arctic Warbler/Kamchatcka Leaf-Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis/examinandus*).

REVISIONS TO THE NEVADA REVIEW LIST

From 2021 to 2024, the NBRC added 36 species to its review list and deleted one species, the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), on the basis of criteria outlined by Tinsman and Meyers (2020). In 2023 the committee amended these criteria so that once a species reaches the specified threshold for removal (5 endorsed records in a 10-year period), the committee votes on whether to delete the species from the review list, instead of its being deleted automatically. Many of the 36 species added to the review list had previously been removed automatically by these criteria. In 2023, the committee also amended its bylaws to include a process by which certain records with sufficient documentation may be expedited. In 2024, two subspecies were added to the review list: the Kumlien's Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides kumlieni*) and the nominate subspecies of Iceland Gull (*L. g. glaucoides*). In 2018, the NBRC removed regional review entirely from its bylaws (Tinsman and Meyers 2020). In 2024, it reinstated regional review for two species that are known in Nevada primarily from single locations: the Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) outside the Carson Valley, Douglas Co., and the Common

Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) outside of Meadow Valley Wash/Rainbow Canyon, Lincoln Co. At the end of 2024, the review list stands at 139 species (including the two with regional review) plus three subspecies: the two aforementioned Iceland Gulls and the Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*).

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Each species account below is introduced with a header in the following format: English name; scientific name; and, in parentheses, the total number of endorsed records of the species (including those endorsed in this report), followed by the number of records endorsed in this report.

After the heading for each species, each report of that species reviewed from 2021 to 2024 follows in this format: NBRC report number, location (county in parentheses), and date or range of dates of observations reported to the NBRC and <https://eBird.org>. If the report involved multiple birds, the number follows the date(s). Then, for endorsed records, the name of each submitter, followed by the notation “(P),” “(V),” and/or “(A)” if he or she provided a photo, video, and/or audio recording, respectively. If there is no such annotation, only written documentation was provided. If the finder(s) sent documentation to the NBRC, their names are listed first. An asterisk always precedes the finders’ names. Multiple observations of a species are ordered chronologically.

Endorsed Records

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (EURASIAN) *Anas crecca crecca* (5, 1). 2022-004, Lahontan Reservoir west (Churchill), 14 Feb 2022, *BG. Some authorities, including the International Ornithologists’ Union (Gill et al. 2024) treat this taxon, which breeds in western Alaska (Johnson et al. 2020), as a species separate from the American Green-winged Teal (*A. c. carolinensis*). It is one of three subspecies the NBRC reviews. Hybridization with the American Green-winged Teal was a question considered for the bird reported at Lahontan Reservoir. This male, found in a large group of American Green-winged Teal, represents Nevada’s 5th record of the Eurasian subspecies.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti* (10, 2). 2020-021, Las Vegas Wash, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA) (Clark), 13 Nov 2020, JA (P). 2022-024, Overton (Clark), 29 Oct 2022, *LS (P). All of Nevada’s Ruddy Ground-Doves have occurred in late fall or winter, from 25 Sep to 15 Jan. The species’ pattern of occurrence in Arizona (Corman and Wise-Gervais 2005, Rosenberg et al. 2007) and California (McCaskie 2003), where breeding has been confirmed, is similar. Breeding has not yet been observed in Nevada.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (6, 1). 2023-027, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark), 3–10 Nov 2023, MA, JMS (P). Many Nevada birders saw this individual over the course of a week, but some latecomers were disappointed to see its carcass lying on the ground beneath a blood-spattered Cooper’s Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) on 11 Nov (J. Tuvell pers. comm.). No attempts were made to salvage any part of the bird’s remains for preservation as a museum specimen.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cyananthus latirostris* (13, 4). 2023-024, Parker Ranch (private; Nye), 1 Oct 2023, *LC (P). 2023-030, Kyle Canyon (Clark), 10 Dec 2023, RL (P). 2024-003, Blue Diamond (Clark), 8 Oct 2023, JSt (P). 2024-004, Beatty (Nye), 26 Jan 2024, *NC. The Broad-billed Hummingbird is a fall and winter

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visitor to Nevada, with only two of the 13 endorsed sightings outside of the months from September through February. The four records in this report fit that pattern. All but one of these reports were supported by diagnostic photos.

PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyrio martinicus* (4, 1). 2021-012, East of Duck Creek Unit, Clark County Wetlands Park (Clark), 25 Aug 2021, *DZ (V). Nevada's fourth Purple Gallinule, and the first since 1995, was seen by only one observer on one day. All of Nevada's records are for the fall, and all but one are from Clark Co.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* (3, 1). 2021-010, Carson Lake (Churchill), 12–20 Jul 2021, JB (P; Figure 1), PL (P), DS. In the preceding and following months, multiple sightings in California (Benson et al. 2022, Terrill et al. 2024), near Burns, Oregon (<https://oregonbirding.org/oregon-bird-records-committee/>), in New Mexico (Williams and Baumann 2023), in Arizona (Rosenberg and Core 2024), and in Idaho (e.g., <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76384675>) raised the question whether some or all of these may be observations of the same bird. These speculations have gone unconfirmed. The Common Crane at Carson Lake stayed for just over a week; the next sighting of the species in the United States was 5 months later in California's Central Valley, south of Sacramento (Terrill et al. 2024).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (3, 2). 2023-013, Carson Lake (Churchill), 24 Aug 2023, three birds, *LK (P), RL (P), DS. The next day these had increased to five (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S148140924>), and two remained to 30 Aug (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S148580282>). 2023-020, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) (Churchill), 1 Sep 2023, three birds, *BF (P; Figure 2). These juveniles constitute Nevada's first records of the Hudsonian Godwit in over 40 years, and the first fall records. Photos were not sufficient to reveal whether these were the same individuals. The first NBRC-endorsed sighting was in May 1976 at the Henderson tailing ponds (Meyers 2015) and was of five individuals. There are 11 endorsed records for Arizona, of which three are in fall and two in 2023 are of multiple juveniles (Rosenberg and Core 2024).



FIGURE 1. This Common Crane, 2021-010, seen at Carson Lake from 12 to 20 Jul 2021, represents Nevada's third record of the species.

Photo by Jeff Bleam on 16 July 2021



FIGURE 2. These three juvenile Hudsonian Godwits, 2023-020, at Stillwater NWR, Churchill Co., on 1 Sep 2023, represent Nevada's third record of this species.

Photo by Bill Frey on 1 September 2023

BLACK TURNSTONE *Arenaria melanocephala* (3, 1). 2022-006, Swan Lake (Washoe), 23 Apr 2022, two birds, *CP (P; Figure 3), PL (P). The Black Turnstone is almost exclusively coastal, with few inland records. It is regular in very small numbers at the Salton Sea, California (Patten et al. 2003). There are three endorsed records for Arizona (Rosenberg and Core 2024) and one for New Mexico (Williams and Baumann 2023). Of the three endorsed sightings of the species in Nevada, two were in spring and one was in fall.



FIGURE 3. This Black Turnstone, 2022-006, was one of two individuals seen at Swan Lake, Washoe Co., and represents a third Nevada record.

Photo by Clayton Peoples on 23 April 2022

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RUFF *Calidris pugnax* (7, 1). 2021-014, south end of Pyramid Lake (Washoe), 11–12 Sep 2021, *JT_u (P), MA, DS. This constitutes a first record for Washoe Co., although five of Nevada’s seven endorsed sightings have been from the northern region of the state. Nevada’s records have been in April, September, and January.

POMARINE JAEGER *Stercorarius pomarinus* (3, 1). 2022-007, Sparks Marina (Washoe), 3–13 May 2022, *CP (P), MA (P), BB (P), MM (P; Figure 4). The Pomarine is by far the rarest of the jaeger species away from the coast. The NBRC has endorsed sightings from both the southern and northern parts of Nevada, in May, June, and November.

LAUGHING GULL *Leucophaeus atricilla* (5, 1). 2022-015, Sparks Marina (Washoe), 10–14 Sep 2022, KD (P), DS. This first-cycle Laughing Gull was originally found during the 46th annual Western Field Ornithologists conference in Reno by young conference-goers. This species has been seen in Nevada in spring, summer, and fall, with three of the five records coming from Clark Co.

WESTERN GULL *Larus occidentalis* (10, 2). 2023-006, Sparks Marina (Washoe), 9 Sep 2022– 2 Feb 2023, NB (P), CP (P). 2021-003, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 27 Apr 2021, *KB (P), TA (P). The Western Gull is primarily a winter visitor to Nevada, this April record being the latest yet in spring. Four of the ten endorsed records come from Lake Mead in Clark Co. Many inland Western Gulls show some evidence of hybridization with the Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. glaucescens*), as the bird at Sparks was initially thought to show, and are viewed with much scrutiny, as this bird was. It remained in the area for several months, however, allowing its features to be assessed as it progressed through its second prebasic molt. As the mantle color became more compelling for a pure Western Gull, the record was ultimately submitted to the NBRC for review. The black primaries and bill morphology supported the identification as well.

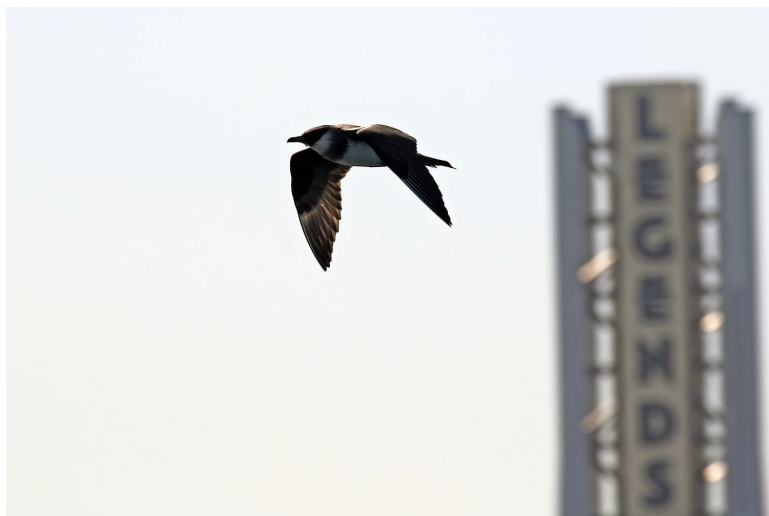


FIGURE 4. Nevada’s third Pomarine Jaeger, 2022-007, was at the Sparks Marina from 3 to 13 May 2022.

Photo by Martin Meyers on 4 May 2022

YELLOW-FOOTED GULL *Larus livens* (4, 3). 2022-005, Las Vegas Wash (Clark), 20 Mar–17 Apr 2022, *JK-R (P), TA (P), NB (P), CSt (P; Figure 5). 2024-002, Hemenway Harbor, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 22 Jul 2023, AP (P). 2024-017, Las Vegas Wash, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 20 Oct 2023, DM (P). While these records constitute the second, third, and fourth sightings of the Yellow-footed Gull in Nevada, they possibly all pertain to the same individual. Nevada's only previously endorsed Yellow-footed Gull behaved similarly, remaining in the state for 7 years. That individual, “Old one foot” as it was known, had a physical defect that confirmed its identity.

ROYAL TERN *Thalasseus maximus* (1, 1). 2023-025, Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (Lyon), 8–9 Oct 2023, *RL (P), MM (P; Figure 6), DS. The Royal Tern breeds in coastal southern California but is an uncommon visitor to the north coast of that state (Lehman 2024). It rarely disperses inland and is not known to be a long-distance migrant. It is abundant in the Gulf of California (Buckley et al. 2021).



FIGURE 5. (A) This Yellow-footed Gull, 2022-005, standing between two California Gulls (*L. californicus*), was first found at the Las Vegas Wash on 20 March 2022. It was seen through 17 April. (B) The next Nevada sighting of the Yellow-footed Gull was of this bird in its third plumage cycle, 2024-002, on 22 July 2023 at Hemenway Harbor. This is the plumage into which Yellow-footed Gull 2022-005 may be expected to have advanced by that date. (C) The next sighting was of 2024-017, on 20 October 2023, and the bird looks like how 2024-002 should be expected at that time. Nevertheless, the NBRC did not conclude it was a returning or continuing individual.

Photos by Charlie Stowers on 26 March 2022 (A), Angel Poe on 22 July 2023 (B), and Daniel Mitev on 20 October 2023 (C)



FIGURE 6. This Royal Tern, 2023-025, at Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area, Lyon Co., constitutes Nevada's first record.

Photo by Martin Meyers on 9 October 2023

Other inland records in the western United States are from Colorado in June and July (Faulkner 2013), New Mexico in May and October (Williams and Baumann 2023), and Arizona in July and August (Rosenberg et al. 2019).

WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma tethys* (1, 1). 2024-001, Roach Playa (Clark), 21 Aug 2023, *JSt (P; Figure 7). Moving north from the tropical Pacific Ocean off western Mexico, Hurricane Hilary made landfall in northwestern Baja California in August 2023. Shortly thereafter a large number of several species



FIGURE 7. This Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel, 2024-001, found at Roach Dry Lake, Clark Co., in the wake of Hurricane Hilary, represents the first record of the species in Nevada.

Photo by Justin Streit on 21 August 2023

of seabird were seen inland in California, Arizona, and Nevada. Especially notable among these “wrecked” birds was a high proportion of the Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel, which breeds on islands off South America and regularly migrates north to waters off Cabo San Lucas. It had not been recorded in Nevada previously, but two individuals were reported to the NBRC after Hilary. One record is pending recirculation.

LEAST STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma microsoma* (4, 2). 2023-014, Avi Resort area, Laughlin (Clark), 21 Aug 2023, *DM (P; Figure 8). 2023-019, Roach Playa (Clark), 21 Aug 2023, *JSt (P). The Least Storm-Petrel was the other species of seabird found inland in high numbers after Hurricane Hilary. At least 37 individuals were documented in Arizona after its passage (Rosenberg and Core 2024). Prior to this event, Nevada had two endorsed sightings of the Least Storm-Petrel, both on Lake Mojave after Hurricane Kathleen in 1976 (Meyers 2016).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata magnificens* (2, 1). 2021-013, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark), 2 Sep 2021, *CA (P). Nevada’s only previously photographed Magnificent Frigatebird was also in September in Clark Co., in 1976 (Lawson 1977, Meyers 2016), following earlier sight records near El Dorado Canyon below Boulder Dam on 2 Sep 1946 (Baldwin 1947) and at Davis Dam on 3 Sep 1971 (Lawson 1973).

LITTLE BLUE HERON *Egretta caerulea* (6, 1). 2021-002, Clark County Wetlands Park, east of Duck Creek Unit (Clark), 27–29 Apr 2021, *JTU (P). Previous records of the Little Blue Heron in Nevada come from Clark Co., in the spring, except for one August record from southern Lincoln Co. (Meyers 2016).

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (2, 1). 2022-013, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark), 26 Jul–21 Aug 2022, JA (P; Figure 9), DA (P), JMS (P), CST (P). The only other Nevada sighting the NBRC has endorsed was also in fall in the Mojave Desert ecoregion, at Pahrangat NWR, southern Lincoln Co., 12–13 Sep 1992 (Meyers 2013).

REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (6, 2). 2021-011, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 13 Aug 2021, *MB (P), DA (P), DM (P). 2022-012, Government Wash, Lake Mead (Clark), 6 Jul 2022, *DA (P), AP (P). Nevada’s fifth and sixth Reddish Egrets were seen approximately a year apart at nearly the same location. It is possible this represents a seasonal return or even a lingering individual. All other sightings have been in July and August at Lake Mead, except for one at Pahrangat NWR, southern Lincoln Co., in September 2004 (Meyers 2010).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (2, 1). 2021-009, Clark County Wetlands Park Nature Preserve (Clark), 26 Jun–2 Jul 2021, *AD and JD (P), KG, OV (P; Figure 10). Nevada’s only other record of this species was from Pahrangat NWR, southern Lincoln Co., in September 1992 (Meyers 2015).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (7, 2). 2021-005, Lemmon Valley (Washoe), 12 May 2021, *LK (P, V), BF (P), PH (P), MM. 2023-002, Clark County Wetlands Park Nature Preserve (Clark), 30 Apr 2023, *TA (P). The first represents the first record for northern Nevada and Washoe Co., the second follows the southerly distribution of previous records. Diagnostic photos of an individual in breeding plumage support the identification. All of Nevada’s records of the Glossy Ibis have been in spring, perhaps because of the difficulty of identification in fall. The species may be more common than our records suggest, as distinguishing it from the White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) in nonbreeding and immature plumage, and hybrids with that species, may be impossible under certain conditions.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (14, 2). 2021-007, Corn Creek, Desert NWR (Clark), 28 May 2021, *AHi (P), EI (P). 2021-017, Cornerstone Park (Clark),



FIGURE 8. This Least Storm-Petrel, 2023-014, represents Nevada's third record and was photographed in the wake of Hurricane Hilary at the Avi Resort and Casino at Laughlin on the Colorado River in Clark Co.

Photo by Daniel Mitev on 21 August 2023

10 Sep 2020, *CA (P). The Mississippi Kite is typically a spring visitor to Nevada. There are two records endorsed in fall and two in summer. With 14 total records, and nearly annual occurrence, the species met the criteria for removal from the review list (5 records within 10 years). All records the NBRC has endorsed are from the southern portion of the state, the northernmost at Tonopah. After the Mississippi Kite's removal from the review list, however, Esme Rosen photographed one at the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (Lyon Co.) on 3 June 2024 (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S179177962>).

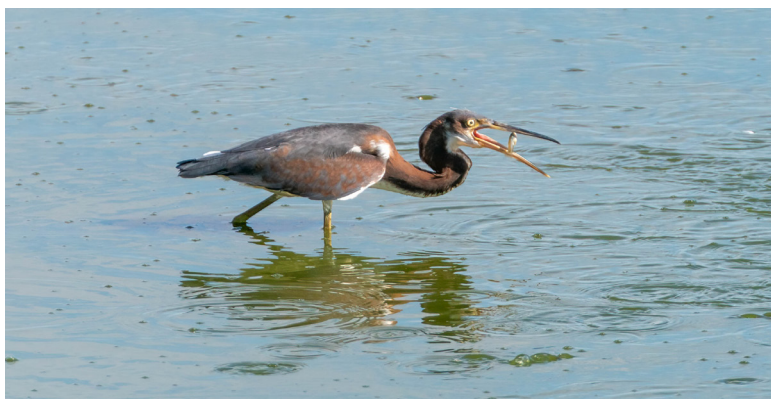


FIGURE 9. This Tricolored Heron, 2022-013, at the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark Co., from 26 July to 21 August 2022 was Nevada's second.

Photo by Jan Almond on 26 July 2022



FIGURE 10. This Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 2021-009, at the Clark County Wetlands Preserve from 26 June to 2 July 2021, was the second recorded in Nevada.

Photo by Oscar Vazquez on 2 July 2021

BARRED OWL *Strix varia* (3, 2). 2021-026, Fly Ranch (Washoe), 24 Nov 2021, *TT (P), NB (P), PH (P). 2022-001, New Washoe City (Washoe), 6 Jan 2022, *KN (P), JTu (P). The Barred Owl established itself as a breeder in the northern Sierra Nevada in the 1990s, presenting conservation concerns for the endangered subspecies of the Spotted Owl (*S. occidentalis occidentalis*) found in the region (Dark et al. 1998, Gutiérrez et al. 2007, Jennings et al. 2011; https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-08/final-barred-owl-management-strategy-2024_508.pdf). Despite this, the Barred Owl has been slow to disperse to the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, and no breeding has yet been documented in Nevada. Nevada's only previous record is from Spanish Springs, Washoe Co., in December of 2012 (Meyers 2015).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (2, 1). 2021-001, Six-mile Canyon east of Virginia City (Storey), 3 Apr–14 May 2021, *PL (P), NB (P), MM (P), CP (P; Figure 11), JTu (P). The Red-headed Woodpecker is an approximately annual visitor west of the Rocky Mountains. Nevada's one previously recorded example was seen on 4 Nov 1991 at Pahrnagat NWR, Lincoln Co. (Meyers 2010).

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus* (2, 1). 2022-003, Pyramid Lake (Washoe), 6 Jan–13 Feb 2022, BB (P), PH (P), DS (P), JTu (P; Figure 12). Nevada's only previously recorded Gyr Falcon wintered at Stillwater NWR, Churchill Co., in two successive years, 13–16 Jan 2012 and 5 Jan 2013 (Meyers 2015). Gyr Falcon occasionally winter in Oregon and Washington (Heisey et al. 2022), and there are 17 accepted records for California, the southernmost from Riverside Co. in 2012 (Pike et al. 2014). With reports of the Gyr Falcon, provenance is often a concern, as the species is popularly kept among falconers. This bird, of the gray morph, showed no signs of captivity.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD *Tyrannus melancholicus* (5, 2). 2021-020, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), 25 Sep 2021, *BZ (P). 2022-017, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), 2 Oct 2022, *BB (P). The Tropical Kingbird is a species that gives the NBRC much trouble. Vocalizations are the most reliable way to distinguish it from the very



FIGURE 11. This Red-headed Woodpecker, 2021-001, in Six Mile Canyon, Storey Co., from 3 April to 14 May 2021 represents Nevada's second record.

Photo by Clayton Peoples on 4 April 2021

similar Couch's Kingbird, of which there are now five accepted records for Arizona (Rosenberg and Core 2024). Transient birds are often silent, and obtaining photos of diagnostic field marks is difficult. Tropical Kingbirds are seen regularly along the coast of California during fall and winter, yet there are just five endorsed records for Nevada, in June, September, and October in Esmeralda and Clark counties. The

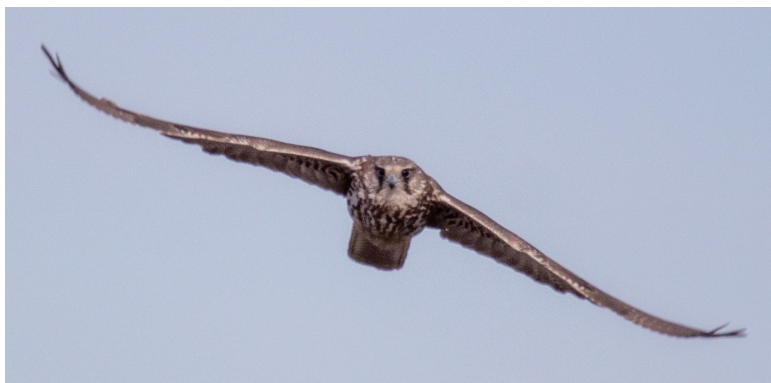


FIGURE 12. This Gyrfalcon, 2022-003, found on the Pyramid Lake Christmas Bird Count, Washoe Co., represents Nevada's second record. It was discovered on 6 Jan 2022 and was last seen on 13 Feb 2022.

Photo by Joe Tuvell on 17 January 2022

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NBRC has declined to endorse six other reports. Both individuals we report here called only briefly.

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (2, 1). 2023-029, Bunkerville (Clark), 29 Nov 2023–7 Jan 2024, *BZ (P), NB (P; Figure 13), RL (P), JTi (P). The Greater Pewee has been observed in Nevada only once before: a sight record from 15–16 May 1997 in Clark Co. (Baepfer et al. 1999),

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens* (3, 1). 2022-010, Pahranaagat NWR (Lincoln), 31 May 2022, *NB (P, A). All of Nevada's previous records of the Eastern Wood-Pewee were in spring and are supported by descriptions of vocalizations. The record endorsed in this report is the first supported by an audio recording.

LEAST FLYCATCHER* *Empidonax minimus* (13, 1). 2019-039, Dyer (Esmeralda), 28 Sep 1990, *PEL, representing the first report of the Least Flycatcher in Nevada. The species was automatically removed from the review list in 2018 on the basis of new criteria (Tinsman and Meyers 2020) but reinstated by unanimous vote in 2024. All Nevada records are of spring or fall migrants, except for one in mid-July in potential breeding habitat in the Santa Rosa Mountains of northern Humboldt Co.

HUTTON'S VIREO *Vireo huttoni* (1, 1). 2020-022, Virginia Lake, Reno (Washoe), 19–23 Dec 2020, *BS (P), NB (P), PH (P), MM (P; Figure 14), MA (P). Although this is the first Nevada record of Hutton's Vireo, the species' breeding distribution approaches within 70 km of Nevada from the west, the nearest site of occasional nonbreeding occurrence (Honey Lake) within 20 km (E. R. Pandolfino pers. comm.). The Hutton's Vireo at Virginia Lake was photographed on the Tahoe Meadows (Reno) Christmas Bird Count. The heavier bill, pale lores, and blue-gray legs distinguished it from a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Corthylio calendula*). The three reports the NBRC has declined to endorse, including the two listed below, lack supporting photos.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus* (6, 1). 2022-022, Alamo (Lincoln), 4 Oct 2022, *AHi (P). Of Nevada's now six records of the Philadelphia Vireo, four are for fall in southern Nevada. There is one spring record from Esmeralda Co. (Meyers 2016) and one September record from Elko Co. (Tinsman and Meyers 2019).

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (4, 1). 2023-012, Primm (Clark), 12 Jul 2023, *TA (P). Previously, Nevada had two September records from Clark Co., which align with the species' pattern of reaching California in fall (Hamilton et al. 2007). In Arizona, most records fall between June and September (Rosenberg and Core 2024). Previously, Nevada had a single late June record, for Tonopah, Nye Co. (Eidel 2000). The 2023 record adds a second conforming to the pattern observed in Arizona.

BLUE JAY *Cyanocitta cristata* (9, 3). 2020-018, Wells (Elko), 4 Nov 2020, *RB. 2020-020, Tuscarora (Elko), 11 Nov 2020, *ST. 2021-004, West Wendover (Elko), 13 Oct 2020, two birds, *ZY. The Blue Jay is an irregular winter visitor to Nevada, with endorsed sightings extending from October to February. The establishing record for the species was from Churchill Co., 1976, in the western part of the state (Tinsman and Meyers 2016). All reports since then have come from Elko and White Pine counties (Tinsman and Meyers 2021).

WINTER WREN *Troglodytes hiemalis* (11, 7). 2021-023, Clark County Wetlands Park Nature Preserve (Clark), 17 Nov 2021, two birds, *BZ (P, A), CA, CSA (P, A), JTu (P, A). 2022-020, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark), 4 Nov 2022, *DM (P, A). 2023-011, Las Vegas Wash (Clark), 8 Apr 2023, *AHa (P, A). 2024-008, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark), 14 Dec 2022, *CSA (A). 2024-009, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark), 31 Dec 2023, CSA (A). 2024-010, Clark County Wetlands Park Nature Preserve (Clark), 3 Dec 2023, *CSA (P, A). 2024-011, Floyd Lamb Park



FIGURE 13. This Greater Pewee, 2023-029, seen in Bunkerville, Clark Co., from 29 Nov 2023 to 7 Jan 2024, represents Nevada's second record, and the first in nearly 30 years.

Photo by Ned Bohman on 7 January 2024

(Clark), 28 Nov 2023, *CSA (P, A). The Winter Wren is typically a fall or winter visitor to southern Nevada; this April record is the only one outside that season. All Nevada's records come from Clark or southern Lincoln counties. The species is notoriously difficult to distinguish from the Pacific Wren; vocalizations are widely recognized as the most reliable distinction. Sightings of this species in Nevada



FIGURE 14. This Hutton's Vireo, 2020-022, found at Virginia Lake, Washoe Co., on the Tahoe Meadows (Reno) Christmas Bird Count constitutes a first record for Nevada.

Photo by Martin Meyers on 24 December 2020

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seem to be increasing, and our collective ability to identify it is also improving, per presentations by Ethan Monk and Martin Freeland at Western Field Ornithologists' annual conference, 2024. While the number of endorsed records makes the species eligible for removal from the review list, the NBRC has decided to retain the Winter Wren on the review list because of the identification difficulties.

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens* (4, 1). 2024-016, Cactus Springs (Clark), 29 May 2024. CR (P), DZ (P, V). The Veery is a rare visitor to Nevada during the spring and fall migration seasons. All endorsed sightings come from Clark and southern Lincoln counties in lowland riparian habitats commonly used by migratory species in the area.

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (9, 1). 2023-018, Indian Springs (Clark), 10 May 2023, *LK (P). The Wood Thrush is a spring and fall visitor to Nevada; all nine recorded individuals occurred in May, September, or October in Clark, Lincoln, or Nye counties. Only one of these records is north of Tonopah (Eidel 2000).

RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN *Turdus rufopalliatus* (5, 3). 2021-022, Corn Creek, Desert NWR (Clark), 20 Oct 2021–3 Apr 2022, *PG (P), DG (P), JTi (P), JTu (P). 2022-002, Torrance Ranch (Nye), 5–15 Jan 2022, *BB (P), DS. 2024-005, Corn Creek, Desert NWR (Clark), 8 Nov 2023–11 May 2024, RL (P), JTi (P). Previously, this species was known in Nevada from two occurrences in fall. The records we report here are the first of the species wintering in Nevada. As the Rufous-backed Robin has become one of the more regular Mexican visitors to Arizona, the Arizona Bird Committee stopped reviewing the species in 1999 (Rosenberg 2001). With 30 records through 2022 this species is still reviewed in California (Benson et al. 2025).

THICK-BILLED LONGSPUR *Rhynchophanes mccownii* (8, 3). 2021-016, Miller's Rest Stop (Esmeralda), 11 Sep 2021, *PL (P). 2021-027, Amargosa Valley (Nye), 17 Dec 2021, *DM (P). 2023-028, Pahrump (Nye), 27 Oct 2023, *JMS (P). The Thick-billed Longspur is a casual visitor to Nevada in the fall and winter months from October to February. Prior to Paul Linton's sighting at Miller's Rest Area, it had been seven years since the last NBRC-endorsed sighting. All of Nevada's records are from Clark Co. and the southern portions of Nye and Esmeralda counties. There are few records from California's desert region. Heindel and Heindel (2023) cited seven for Inyo County and Death Valley National Park.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (4, 1). 2020-019, Buffalo Hump Mine (Churchill), 5 Nov 2020, *GN (P), PN (P; Figure 15). The Snow Bunting winters abundantly just north of Nevada's northern border. Within Nevada it is best considered an occasional winter visitor, rarely detected because much of northern Nevada is difficult to access in the winter and does not see many birders. Nevada's endorsed records come from Churchill, Clark, and Elko counties; prior to this the most recent was in 2011 (Meyers 2014).

NELSON'S SPARROW *Ammospiza nelsoni* (2, 2). 2021-021, Lake Mead NRA (Clark), 5–6 Oct 2021, *EH (P), BM (P; see this issue's back cover). 2023-026, Primm (Clark), 2 Oct 2023. CP (P). These are the first records of Nelson's Sparrow in Nevada. Known as an uncommon fall and winter visitor to coastal California since 1891 (Ridgway 1891), the species is much rarer inland in the Southwest: there are only four records from Inyo Co. (Heindel and Heindel 2023) and one endorsed record for Arizona (Rosenberg et al. 2007).

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum* (15, 1). 2023-005, Torrance Ranch (Nye), 27 May 2023, *EI (P). The Worm-eating Warbler is a spring and fall visitor to Nevada, primarily to the southern part of the state. There is one July record (Meyers 2010), and the northernmost, for Ruby Lakes NWR, Elko Co., is in June (Eidel 2000).



FIGURE 15. This Snow Bunting, 2020-019, was seen near the Buffalo Hump Mine in the Desatoya Mountains, Churchill Co. Here, Pam Nelson has photographed Greg Nelson photographing this bird, Nevada's fourth recorded Snow Bunting.

Photo by Pam Nelson on 5 November 2020

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH *Parkesia motacilla* (7, 1). 2023-021, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark), 10 Sep 2023, BZ (P). The Louisiana Waterthrush is primarily a fall visitor to southern Nevada. Of the seven records, only two are for spring, and the northernmost is from Ruby Lakes NWR, Elko Co., in July (Baepler et al. 1999).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (8, 1). 2023-003, Corn Creek, Desert NWR (Clark), 12 May 2023, *SP (P), BD (P). Except for one in fall (Eidel 2000), all of Nevada's records of this species are for the spring migration season, in the southern region of the state. This individual was well photographed and showed no signs of hybridization.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora cyanoptera* (7, 1). 2023-007, Tonopah (Nye), 20 May 2023, *FF (P; Figure 16). The Blue-winged Warbler has been seen in northern Nevada more frequently than many of the eastern warbler species on the NBRC's review list. Two of the seven endorsed sightings come from counties north of Tonopah (Meyers 2010, Tinsman and Meyers 2021).

MOURNING WARBLER *Geothlypis philadelphia* (6, 1). 2024-018, Corn Creek, Desert NWR (Clark), 22 Jun 2024, *TA (A). All of Nevada's records of the Mourning Warbler come from the southern part of the state, and only one is outside the spring migration season. The individual at Corn Creek was singing persistently and was heard more than it was seen. It was photographed, though photos were not supplied to the NBRC. Nevertheless, an audio recording was diagnostic for the Mourning Warbler and ruled out the similar but more expected MacGillivray's Warbler (*G. tolmiei*).

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Setophaga tigrina* (10, 1). 2021-025, Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (Clark), 17 Nov 2021, *AHa (P), CSA (P). The Cape May Warbler tends to be a fall visitor to southern Nevada. Only two of the ten endorsed sightings have been outside of that season, and the northernmost comes from Tonopah.



FIGURE 16. This Blue-winged Warbler, 2023-007, found in a boulder field in Tonopah, Nye Co., represents Nevada's seventh record of the species.

Photo by Frank Fabbro on 20 May 2023

The Cape May Warbler's pattern of occurring predominantly in fall parallels that observed in Arizona (Rosenberg and Core 2024) and southern California (Heindel and Heindel 2023).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Setophaga castanea* (7, 3). 2022-019, Floyd Lamb Park (Clark), 4 Nov 2022, *DM. 2022-021, Alamo (Lincoln), 4 Oct 2022, *AHi. 2022-023, Primm (Clark), 2 Nov 2022, *BZ. The Bay-breasted Warbler is a casual spring and fall visitor to Nevada, primarily in the south. The most recent sighting prior to these was in 2017, at Walker Lake, Mineral Co. (Tinsman and Meyers 2019).

PINE WARBLER *Setophaga pinus* (2, 1). 2021-008, Primm (Clark), 2 Jun 2021, *BZ. Nevada's second recorded Pine Warbler was unusual for occurring in spring. Like Nevada's first (Tinsman and Meyers 2020), most western sightings of this species are in the fall or winter. The first record for Utah was just over the border in Washington Co. in Nov 2007 (Fridell et al. 2008). There are many records of wintering Pine Warblers from Arizona (Rosenberg and Core 2024) and California (Hamilton et al. 2007, Tietz and McCaskie 2025). However, there is a 31 May 1984 record from Furnace Creek, Inyo Co., California, of a singing male (Roberson 1986).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Setophaga dominica* (6, 1). 2023-022, Gerlach Springs (Washoe), 27 Sep 2023, *LK (P), PL. Found in a small riparian area outside the town of Gerlach, this is Nevada's first recorded Yellow-throated Warbler since 2011, when one was noted in January in Clark Co., another in June in Esmeralda Co. (Meyers 2013). It is also notable in being from northern Nevada. Most records of vagrant eastern warblers come from the southern part of the state, where there is more habitat and more observers.

CANADA WARBLER *Cardellina canadensis* (11, 2). 2021-019, Cactus Springs (Clark), 30 Sep 2021, *CG, PG. 2022-009, Beatty (Nye), 23 May 2022, *EI. Although from 2021 to 2024 the Canada Warbler met the threshold (5 reports within the preceding 10 years) for deletion from the review list, the NBRC decided to retain it. All 11 of Nevada's Canada Warblers have occurred at or south of the latitude of Tonopah (Tinsman and Meyers 2020).

HEPATIC TANAGER *Piranga flava* (6, 3). All three records are from Cabin Canyon in the Virgin Mountains (Clark), representing two birds, possibly the same individuals, a male and a female each year: 2022-008, 17 May–1 Jul 2022, *CL (P), JSt (P); 2023-004, 27 May–17 Jun 2023, BM (P); 2024-020, 4–26 May 2024, RL (P), JMS

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(P). The Hepatic Tanager breeds within 20–25 km of Nevada’s southwestern border on the Kingston, Clark, and New York mountains, California (Johnson and Garrett 1974, Cardiff and Remsen 1981, Johnson 1995), and within 40–45 km of Nevada’s southeastern border in Arizona (Corman and Wise-Gervais 2005). Yet there are very few endorsed sightings of the species within Nevada: in the Spring Mountains, where Austin and Bradley (1971) and Alcorn (1988) reported the Hepatic Tanager, only a single individual has been noted in over 30 years (Meyers 2016), in spite of the species’ history of range expansion.

VARIED BUNTING *Passerina versicolor* (1, 1). 2023-010, Overton (Clark), 4 Jul 2023, *KW (P; Figure 17). This sighting represents the first record of the Varied Bunting in Nevada. The species breeds in southern Arizona but is not found in the northern portion of that state (Corman and Wise-Gervais 2005). There are eight endorsed records for California, all from October to April (Benson et al. 2020), including a November 1977 record from Mesquite Springs, 13 km from the Nevada line in Death Valley, Inyo Co. (Luther et al. 1979). The Varied Bunting at Overton was found stunned after striking a window at a home. It recovered quickly and flew off.

Records Not Endorsed

CHIMNEY SWIFT *Chaetura pelagica*. 2022-018, Dyer (Esmeralda), 18 Sep 2022. This report would establish a new species for Nevada, but committee members struggled to assess important structural field marks in the photos obtained.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Calidris subruficollis*. 2023-008, Carson Lake (Churchill), 10 Feb 2023. The description accompanying this sight record was insufficient for endorsement.

NUTTALL’S WOODPECKER *Dryobates nuttallii*. 2021-006, Searchlight (Clark), 14 May 2021. Photos provided of an adult female showed a possible hybrid Nuttall’s × Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*D. scalaris*). Plumage details such as the face and back pattern were consistent with Nuttall’s, but the bill was much too long for that species and featured buffy basal tufts. These inconsistencies prevented this record from gaining endorsement. The NBRC has endorsed just three reports of Nuttall’s Woodpecker in Nevada (Meyers 2010).



FIGURE 17. Nevada’s first recorded Varied Bunting, 2023-010, hit a window in Overton, Clark Co., but flew off in good condition.

Photo by Kayla Wolfe on 4 July 2023

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EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens*. 2022-011, Corn Creek, Desert NWR, 22 May 2022. Photos provided of this silent bird were insufficient to rule out the more expected Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*).

HUTTON'S VIREO *Vireo huttoni*. 2022-016, Galena Creek Recreation Area (Washoe), 28 Sep 2022. 2024-006, Clark County Wetlands Park Nature Preserve (Clark), 10 Mar 2024. These sight records did not contain detail sufficient to rule out the more expected Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus*. 2021-018, Rancho San Rafael, Reno, 29 Sep 2021. This sight record did not contain detail sufficient to eliminate a bright Warbling Vireo.

YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIE *Pica nuttalli*. 2023-009, Oxbow Park, Reno (Washoe), 28 Jun 2023. Given that the Yellow-billed Magpie is unrecorded in Nevada, this sight record did not contain enough detail to rule out the more expected Black-billed Magpie, potentially carrying a food item.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. 2023-001, Battle Mountain (Lander), 2 Dec 2022. The report did not provide detail sufficient for the NBRC to endorse an identification made while the observer was driving, and committee members doubted whether the necessary field marks could be accurately assessed from a motor vehicle traveling at highway speed.

MOURNING WARBLER *Geothlypis philadelphia*. 2023-017, Primm (Clark), 1 Oct 2022. Photographs showed the bold broken eye ring and body profile expected of a MacGillivray's Warbler. The photos showed a pale yellow throat and the description mentioned a call note like that of a Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*). These conflicting details prevented this record from gaining endorsement.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora cyanoptera*. 2021-015, Fletcher Spring (Mineral), 11 Sep 2021. This sight record did not adequately establish the identification or discuss potential hybridization. Details provided were insufficient for endorsement.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Setophaga castanea*. 2023-023, Torrance Ranch (Nye), 24 Sep 2023. This sight record, which did not adequately eliminate similar species, was insufficient for endorsement.

HEPATIC TANAGER *Piranga flava*. 2021-024, Clark County Wetlands Park Nature Preserve (Clark), 18 Nov 2021. A written account described a female Hepatic Tanager, but the recording submitted was of a Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*). These conflicting details prevented this record from gaining endorsement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The NBRC thanks everyone who contributed to the accounts contained in this report. All submissions, photos, advice, comments, and opinions are greatly appreciated. We apologize to anyone who may have been overlooked. JA, Jan Almond; TA, Tim Almond; DA, David Anderson; MA, Meg Andrews; CA, Chris Aquila; MB, Mike Baker; JB, Jeff Bleam; NB, Ned Bohman; RB, Robin Boies; BB, Brendan Bucy; KB, Kyle Burt; NC, Nick Carle; LC, Laura Cunningham; AD, Alex Damiano; KDi, Kit Dieffenbach; JD, Jeremy Dominguez; KDr, Ken Drozd; BD, Brian Dunne; FF, Frank Fabbro; BF, Bill Frey; CG, Cynthia Gaffey; PG, Patrick Gaffey; DG, Daniel Galvez; KG, Kimber Godfrey; BG, Bill Grossi; AHa, Alexander Harper; EH, Eric Heisey; AHi, Adrian Hinkle; PH, Paul Hurtado; EI, Emmett Iverson; LK, Logan Kahle; JK-R, Jacob Koffler-Richards; CL, Corey Lange; PEL, Paul E. Lehman; AL, Alexander Linton; PL, Paul Linton; RL, Rob Lowry; JMS, John Mark Simmons; MM,

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Martin Meyers; BM, Brandon Miller; DM, Daniel Mitev; GN, Greg Nelson; PN, Pam Nelson; KN, Kristen Newman; SP, Scott Page, CP; Clayton Peoples; AP, Angel Poe; CR, Charles Ritter; CSa, Corey Sanders; SS, Susan Savage; JSc, Janine Schutt; DS, Dennis Serdehely; BS, Ben Sonnenberg; CS, Charles Stowers; ES, Emilie Strauss; LS, Lisa Streeter; JSt, Justin Streit; TT, Thomas Takano; ST, Sidne Teske; JTi, Jeanne Tinsman; JTu, Joseph Tuvell; OV, Oscar Vazquez; KW, Kayla Wolfe; ZY, Zachary Yoshioka; DZ, David Zechman; BZ, Ben Zyla.

Peer review was provided by Kenneth P. Able and Gary Rosenberg. Special thanks to Western Field Ornithologists and Great Basin Bird Observatory for their continued support and encouragement. Funding for this publication was generously provided by the Great Basin Bird Observatory.

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Accepted 20 March 2025
Associate editor: Kenneth P. Able