

Sixteenth Report of the Utah Birds Records Committee – DECEMBER, 2008

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The sixteenth report of the Utah Bird Records Committee summarizes 47 records of 41 species submitted in 2006 and 2007. The Committee accepted 39 records. Those records not accepted were due primarily to insufficient descriptive details that failed to eliminate similar species. Additionally, in some cases, lack of supporting physical evidence [photographs, taped song recordings, multiple observers], or the possibility of the bird being an escaped tame or caged bird, detracted from the validity of a record.

The following committee members participated in the review of the records included in this report: Ron Ryel, Mark Stackhouse, Merrill Webb, Rick Fridell, Terry Sadler, Larry Tripp, Kristin Purdy, David Wheeler, Colby Neuman, and Eric Huish.

This report adds seven species to the checklist of the birds of Utah. First state records for **scaled quail, neotropic cormorant, sharp-tailed sandpiper, Cape May warbler, pine warbler, Baird's sparrow, painted bunting, and purple finch** were accepted by the Committee, bringing the total for the Utah bird list to 442 species.

All records evaluated by the Committee are listed by common and scientific name using the nomenclature and taxonomic order of the 7th American Ornithologist's Union Check-list of North American Birds, 49th supplement. The following information is included with each record: common name, scientific name, record number, the number of records accepted for this species in the last ten years followed by the total number of official sightings for Utah (in parenthesis), the number of birds observed along with age and sex if known, sighting location, occurrence date, observers with the initial finder listed first, observer(s) who submitted written documentation of the record, observer(s) who submitted photographs or videos, and the final-round vote of the committee (in parenthesis) with the first number being the "accept" votes and the second number being the "not-accept" votes.

The Utah Bird Records Committee would like to thank those individuals who submitted documentation of their sightings. The Committee encourages all observers to document and submit a report of unusual sightings. Multiple documentation of sightings is more valuable than a single report, since one observer may notice key field marks not reported by other observers; those field marks may contribute significantly to the value of the record. The submission of photographs and recordings of songs or calls, along with the written documentation is strongly encouraged by the Committee.

Records reviewed by the UBRC:

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2007-23 (2/2 since 2004). One adult was seen on June 3, 2007 and again on July 19, 2007 in the Pintail Unit and Ibis Unit at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (Juab county) by Jack Skalicky. Written documentation was provided by JS. 2nd. 6 Y - 1 N

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*). 2007-19 (4/9). A first winter male and female were first seen on February 24, 2007 at Sand Hollow State Park (Washington county) by Rick Fridell and later observed on the same day by Kevin Wheeler, Jon Wagner, Casey Smith, and Josh Krietzer. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*). 2007-40 (5/10). An adult male and two adult females were seen on November 6, 2007 and also on November 7, 2007 at Panguitch Lake (Garfield county) by Rick Fridell. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*). 2007-42 (6/11). An adult female and a juvenile bird were seen on November 7, 2007 at Otter Creek State Park (Piute county) by Rick Fridell. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. 7 Y - 0 N

SCALED QUAIL (*Callipepla squamata*). 2007-01 (2/2). Three adults were seen in an unnamed side canyon to Montezuma Canyon, about 14 miles SE of Blanding (San Juan county), on January 6, 2007 by Justin Shirley. The birds were seen again on numerous occasions through April 15, 2007 by various observers. Written and photographic documentation were provided by David Wheeler. While there have been previous sightings in Utah, this is the first sighting of the species with sufficient documentation to make it possible to accept this as a first state record. 7 Y - 0 N

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*). 2007-41 (6/8). A juvenile bird was seen on November 7, 2007 at Otter Creek State Park (Piute county) by Rick Fridell. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. 7 Y - 0 N

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*). 2007-30 (7/10). An adult bird was seen on October 11, 2007 at Sleepy Ridge Golf Course in Orem (Utah county) by Merrill Webb. The birds were seen again on numerous occasions through October 26, 2007 by various observers. Written documentation was provided by MW and photographic documentation was provided by Milton Moody. 7 Y - 0 N

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2007-26 (1/1). A juvenile bird was seen on August 31, 2007 at Quichapa Lake (Iron county) by Rick Fridell. The bird was seen again on numerous occasions through October 19, 2007 by various observers. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. This is a first Utah record. 7 Y - 0 N

REDDISH EGRET (*Egretta rufescens*). 2007-24 (3/3). One individual was seen on August 2, 2007 in the Shoveller Unit at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (Juab county) by Pat Jividen, Angie Branch, Deloy Pack, and Robert Sims. The bird was seen again on several occasions through August 8, 2007 by various observers. Written documentation was provided by PJ and photographic documentation was provided by RS, Jack Binch, and Milton Moody. 7 Y - 0 N

CALIFORNIA CONDOR (*Gymnogyps californianus*). 2007-05 (-). At least six adults were seen on October 21, 2006 near Lava Point in Zion's National Park (Washington county) by Jeff Langford and Shelly Spencer. Written documentation was provided by JL and photographs were provided by SS. The birds were unquestionably California condors, but the presence of identification tags on each bird indicate that these were members of the Vermillion Cliffs population and as such, not part of a naturally occurring and/or sustainable community of the species. 2nd. 0 Y - 7 N

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*). 2007-16 (6/8). Two adults period were seen multiple times over a two hour period on June 25, 2007 and again for much of June 26, 2007 at Kolob Terrace (Washington county) by Tim Avery. Written and photographic documentation were provided by TA. 7 Y - 0 N

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*). 2007-29 (7/9). One individual was seen at Devil's Canyon on September 4, 2007 in the Manti-LaSal National Forest area south of Monticello (San Juan county) by Ron Lambeth. Written documentation was provided by RL. This is the first documented sighting of the species in San Juan county and only the fourth Utah observation of the species made outside of Washington county. 2nd. 7 Y - 0 N

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*). 2007-08 (6/13). An adult male was seen on April 22, 2007 at Farmington Bay Wildlife Management Area (Davis county) by Joel Beyer, Kathy Beyer, and Tim Avery. Written and photographic documentation were provided by TA. 7 Y - 0 N

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*). 2006-34 (5/6). A juvenile bird was seen on August 23, 2006 at Decker Lake (Salt Lake county) by Steve Sommerfeld, Cindy Sommerfeld, Pomera Fronce, and Anne Halley. Written documentation was provided by SS and CS. 2nd. 5 Y - 2 N

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*). 2007-13 (6/7). Three adult birds were seen on June 3, 2007 at Blue Grass Pond on Deseret Ranch (Rich county) by Mark Stackhouse and David Wheeler. Written documentation was provided by MS and photographic documentation was provided by DW. 7 Y - 0 N

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). 2007-31 (1/1). A juvenile bird was seen on October 13, 2007 on the Antelope Island Causeway (Davis county) by Tim Avery. The bird was later seen on October 14th by Mark Stackhouse, David Wheeler, Joel Beyer, Kathy Beyer, Steve Sommerfeld, and Cindy Sommerfeld. Written and photographic documentation were provided by TA. This is a first Utah record. 7 Y - 0 N

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). 2007-35 (3/3). A juvenile bird was seen on October 21, 2007 on the Antelope Island Causeway (Davis county) by Kathy Beyer and Joel Beyer. Written documentation was provided by KB and JB. 7 Y - 0 N

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2007-02 (4/6). An adult was seen on January 6, 2007 at Lee Kay Ponds (Salt Lake county) by Steve Sommerfeld, Cindy Sommerfeld, Joel Beyer, and Kathy Beyer. Written documentation was provided by KB. 7 Y - 0 N

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). 2007-34 (1/9). A juvenile was seen on October 18, 2007 at Quail Creek State Park (Washington county) by Rick Fridell. The bird was subsequently observed on October 19, 21, and 26 by Tim Avery, Cindy Sommerfeld, Steve Sommerfeld, Kathy Beyer, Joel Beyer, and Rick Fridell. Written documentation was provided by RF and photographic documentation was provided by RF and TA. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). 2007-11 (-). An adult was seen on May 25, 2007 in Capitol Reef National Park (Wayne county) along the Fremont River Trail by Tim Avery. Written documentation was provided by TA. Although observer competence and experience with the species were more than adequate, the Committee did not feel adequate observation time and descriptive details were provided to separate this from other similar species. 0 Y - 7 N

VAUX'S SWIFT (*Chaetura vauxi*). 2007-06 (4/13). Two adults were seen on May 4, 2007 north of Willard Bay State Park (Box Elder county) by Kristin Purdy, Glenn Barlow, Tim Avery, Cindy Sommerfeld, and Steve Sommerfeld. Written documentation was provided by KP and photographic documentation was provided by TA. 7 Y - 0 N

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*). 2007-04 (3/3). An adult female was seen on April 15, 2007 at the junction of the Salt Creek Canyon trail and Angel Arch trail in Canyonlands National Park (San Juan county) by Brian Gatlin. Written documentation was provided by BG. 2nd. 7 Y - 0 N

RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus ruber*). 2007-39 (3/7). A first year bird was seen on September 27, 2007 in the orchard at Lytle Ranch (Washington county) by Rick Fridell. The bird was seen again on September 30, 2007. Both sightings were on Western Field Ornithologist field trips and participants who viewed the bird included Jon Dunn, David Quadry, Lena Hayashi, Lucy Lee, Diane Wong, Pam Nickels, and others. Written documentation was provided by RF and photographic documentation was provided by RF and LL. 7 Y - 0 N

GILDED FLICKER (*Colaptes chrysoides*). 2007-21 (-). An adult female was observed on February 19, 2007 on the Beaver Dam Slope (Washington county) by Rick Fridell and Kevin Wheeler. Written documentation was provided by RF. The Committee did not feel that the documentation was sufficient to make it possible to accept this as a first state record. 3rd. 2 Y - 5 N

PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax difficilis*). 2007-20 (-). An adult was seen on January 16, 2007 in the Washington Fields area (Washington county) by Rick Fridell and

Kristen Comella. The bird was also observed on January 17, 19, and 23. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. Given the difficulty in distinguishing this species from other Empidonax flycatchers, the Committee did not feel that the documentation was sufficient to make it possible to accept this as a first state record. 2nd. 2 Y - 5 N

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*). 2007-25 (3/3). An adult was seen on August 18, 2007 at Garr Ranch (Davis county) by Merrill Webb. The bird was also seen on August 20, 25, and 29 by various observers and on September 3, 2007 by Joel Beyer and Kathy Beyer who submitted a second record for the bird. Written documentation was provided by MW, JB, and KB and photographic documentation was submitted by Tim Avery. 7 Y - 0 N

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*). 2007-09 (2/2). An adult male was seen on May 24, 2007 in Capitol Reef National Park (Wayne county) by Tim Avery. Written and photographic documentation were provided by TA. 7 Y - 0 N

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Vermivora peregrina*). 2007-27 (-). An individual in fall plumage was seen on August 13, 2007 at Garr Ranch (Davis county) by Joel Beyer and Kathy Beyer. Written documentation was provided by JB and KB. The committee felt that the documentation provided was not sufficient to rule out the possibility of other species. 3rd. 4 Y - 3 N

NORTHERN PARULA (*Parula americana*). 2007-12 (8/10). An adult male was seen on May 22, 2007 near the Red Hills Golf Course in St. George (Washington county) by Tim Avery. The bird had been seen in the same area on the previous day by Rick Fridell. Written and photographic documentation were provided by TA. 7 Y - 0 N

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). 2007-15 (7/12). An adult male was seen on June 8, 2007 at Lucin (Box Elder county) by Keith Evans and Jack Rensel. Written documentation was provided by KE and photographic documentation was provided by JR. 7 Y - 0 N

CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*). 2007-36 (1/1). A hatching year female was seen on September 16, 2007 at Red Hills Golf Course in St. George (Washington county) by Larry Tripp and Peyton Cook. The bird was seen later that day by Rick Fridell. Written documentation was provided by LT and photographic documentation was provided by PC and RF. This is a first Utah record. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*). 2007-32 (-). An immature female was seen on October 17, 2007 in Salt Lake City (Salt Lake county) by Mark Stackhouse. The bird was seen in the same place on October 18, 2007 by Pat Jividen, who submitted a second record for the bird, and by Bob Huntington and Jack Binch on October 19, 2007. Written documentation was provided by MS and PJ. The committee felt that the documentation provided was not sufficient to rule out the possibility of other species. 2nd. 1 Y - 6 N

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*). 2007-46 (1/1). An individual was seen on November 26, 2007 at Lytle Ranch (Washington county) by Tim Avery and Rick Fridell. Records for this bird,

including written and photographic documentation, were provided by TA and RF. This is a first Utah record. 7 Y - 0 N

PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*). 2007-37 (2/9). An individual was seen on October 13, 2007 in Robber's Roost Canyon (Wayne county) by Carelton DeTar. Written documentation was provided by CD. 7 Y - 0 N

PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*). 2007-45 (3/10). An adult bird was seen on November 25, 2007 at Lytle Ranch (Washington county) by Tim Avery. The bird was seen again on November 26, 2007 in the same place. Other observers include Steve Sommerfeld, Cindy Sommerfeld, Larry Tripp, and Rick Fridell. Written and photographic documentation were provided by TA. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*). 2007-43 (2/9). An adult male was seen on May 26, 2007 along the Santa Clara river above Gunlock Reservoir (Washington county) by Larry Tripp. Written documentation was provided by LT. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*). 2007-33 (3/10). A female bird was seen on September 10, 2007 at the Red Hills Golf Course in St. George (Washington county) by Rick Fridell. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. 7 Y - 0 N

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*). 2007-22 (6/7). A male was seen on October 31, 2007 in Morgan (Morgan county) by Arnold Smith. The bird was subsequently seen by various observers on a daily basis through November 6, 2007. Written documentation was provided by Kristin Purdy and photographic documentation by Paul Higgins. 7 Y - 0 N

PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*). 2007-07 (6/10). An adult male and female were seen on April 4, 2007 in Zion National Park (Washington county) by Pete Rowland. The birds were subsequently observed on April 6, 7, and 28 and on June 9 by various observers. Written documentation was provided by Tim Avery and Steve Gordon and photographic documentation was provided by TA. 7 Y - 0 N

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*). 2007-18 (-). An adult female was seen on July 24, 2007 at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (Juab county) by Matt Mills, Randy Larsen, and Aaron Robinson. The bird was seen again on July 25, 2007 by the same trio of observers and also by Colby Neuman. Written documentation was provided by MM and CN and photographic documentation was provided by CN. The committee felt that the documentation provided was not sufficient to rule out the possibility of other species. 3rd. 4 Y - 3 N

BAIRD'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus bairdii*). 2007-44 (1/1). An individual was seen on October 5, 2007 at Lytle Ranch (Washington county) by Larry Tripp. Written documentation was provided by LT. This is a first Utah record. 7 Y - 0 N

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*). 2007-17 (1/1). An adult male was seen on July 24, 2007 at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (Juab county) by Matt Mills, Randy Larsen, and Aaron Robinson. The bird was seen again on July 25, 2007 and thereafter on a nearly daily basis

through August 8, 2007 by numerous observers. Written documentation was provided by MM and Colby Neuman and photographic documentation was provided by RL, CN, and others. This is a first Utah record. 2nd. 7 Y - 0 N

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*). 2007-10 (2/2). An adult female was seen on May 20, 2007 at Lytle Ranch (Washington county) by Tim Avery. Written and photographic documentation were provided by TA. 7 Y - 0 N

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*). 2007-14 (-). An adult was seen on June 7, 2007 southeast of Blanding (San Juan county) by Tim Avery. Written and photographic documentation were provided by TA. The committee felt that the documentation provided was not sufficient to rule out the possibility of other species. 2nd. 0 Y - 7 N

BRONZED COWBIRD (*Molothrus aeneus*). 2007-28 (3/5). An adult female was seen on July 2, 2007 in Central (Washington county) by Larry Tripp. The bird was also seen on July 3. Written and photographic documentation were provided by LT. 7 Y - 0 N

PURPLE FINCH (*Carpodacus purpureus*). 2007-38 (1/1). An individual was seen on September 7, 2007 at Lytle Ranch (Washington county) by Rick Fridell and Larry Tripp. Written documentation was provided by RF. This is a first Utah record. 2nd. 6 Y - 1 N

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis lawrencei*). 2007-03 (5/5). An individual was seen on March 20, 2007 in Dammeron Valley (Washington county) by Bob Lawson. The bird was subsequently observed on March 30 by Tim Avery and on March 31 by Larry Tripp and Jack Binch. Written documentation was provided by BL and TA and photographic documentation was provided by BL, TA, and JB. 7 Y - 0 N