

Seventeenth Report of the Utah Birds Records Committee - July, 2009

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The seventeenth report of the Utah Bird Records Committee summarizes 33 records of 24 species submitted in 2008 and 2009. The Committee accepted 29 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: Rick Fridell, Terry Sadler, Larry Tripp, David Wheeler, Kristin Purdy, Colby Neuman, Eric Huish, Ron Ryel, and Bob Bond.

This report adds one specie to the checklist of the birds of Utah. A first state record for **Whip-poor-will** was accepted by the Committee. This brings the total for the Utah bird list to 443 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. While the 50th supplement was recently published, it was not available at the time this report was written. 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 vote of the committee with the first number being the "accept" (yes) votes and the second number being the "not-accept" (no) votes. Votes decided in the second or third round, rather than the first round, are indicated as such.

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*). 2008-02 (-). An adult of unknown gender was reported March 8, 2008 south of 4600 North and east of Sam Fellow Road (Cache county) by Ryan O'Donnell. Written documentation and photographs were provided by RO. Although observer competence and experience with the species were more than adequate, the Committee did not feel the evidence was sufficient to preclude the possibility of this individual being another Canada goose sub-species. 2nd. 0 Y - 7 N

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2008-06 (3/3 since 2004). An individual of unknown age and gender was observed March 26, 2008 at Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area (Davis county) by David Jensen, Bob Huntington, and Deedee O'Brien. Written documentation was provided by DJ and a supporting photograph was supplied by DO. 7 Y - 0 N

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2008-35 (4/4 since 2004). An adult of unknown gender was seen December 6 and 7, 2008 at the Logan River Golf Course (Logan, Cache county) by Ryan O'Donnell, Stephanie Cobbold and Jason Piertzak. Written documentation and photographs were provided by RO. 7 Y - 0 N

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2009-02 (5/5 since 2004). An individual of unknown age and gender was reported February 1, 2009 at Sam Fellow Road and 4600 North in Cache county by Ryan O'Donnell. Written documentation and photographs were provided by RO. 7 Y - 0 N

MOUNTAIN QUAIL (*Oreortyx pictus*). 2008-10 (-). An adult male bird was spotted in late February or early March, 2008 in Paradise (Cache county) by Melissa Prosser. Written documentation was submitted by MP. The Committee did not feel adequate observation time and descriptive details were provided to separate this individual from other similar species. There were also questions as to whether this may have been a naturally occurring bird or an escapee from a game farm. As this is the first reported sighting of the species in Utah, it was felt that additional documentation would be necessary to accept this as a first state record. 1st. 0 Y - 7 N

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*). 2008-09 (7/9). An adult bird of unknown gender was photographed on May 18, 2008 at Jordanelle Reservoir (Wasatch county) by Marci Welch. The bird was also seen by Ryan O'Donnell, Kristin Purdy, Jack Rensel, John Bellmon, Keith Evans, Pat Jividen, Alton Thygerson, Dave Hanscom, Deb Thornton, Pomera Fronce, Larene Wyss, Beth Leite, Edson Leite, and others. Written documentation was provided by RO and supporting photographic documentation were offered by MW and RO. 7 Y - 0 N

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*). 2008-29 (8/11). A lone adult of indeterminate gender was observed April 21, 2008 at Little Dell Reservoir (Salt Lake county) by Jeff Bilsky. The bird was seen later that day by Colby Neuman, Carl Ingwell, Tim Avery, Cindy Sommerfeld, and Steve Sommerfeld, and on subsequent days by Kimberly Roush and other observers through May 5, 2008. Written and photographic documentation was provided by CN. 7 Y - 0 N

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*). 2009-12 (9/12). A single adult, gender unknown, was first seen on May 7, 2009 at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge (Box Elder county) by Bridget Olson, who provided written documentation and a sketch of the individual. The bird was photographed on May 12, 2009 by Betsy Beneke and John Cavitt. 7 Y - 0 N

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2008-07 (-). An adult bird of undetermined gender was noticed at Farmington Pond Park (Davis county) April 19, 2008 by Ronnie Schiller Johnson. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RSJ. The Committee was of the opinion that the evidence suggested the individual was probably a young double-crested cormorant. 1st. 0 Y - 7 N

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2008-16 (2/2). An adult, gender unknown, was discovered July 31, 2008 at Ivins Reservoir (Washington county) by Rick Fridell, who provided written and photographic documentation. The bird was also reported on August 1, 4, 5, 8, and 23 by Rick Fridell, Steve Hedges, Kevin Wheeler, and other observers. 7 Y - 0 N

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). 2009-09 (3/3). Two adults, gender unknown, were photographed April 24, 2009 on Forest Street, west of the Bear River National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center (Box Elder county), by Jack Binch. Written and photographic documentation was provided by JB. One or both birds were also observed on April 26 by Dave Hanscom, Bob Huntington, Bob McDougall, and also on April 27 by Paul Higgins who also supplied photographic documentation. 7 Y - 0 N

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*). 2008-19 (8/10). A lone adult female was observed along the Santa Clara River (Washington county) April 24, 2008 by Rick Fridell. Written and photographic documentation was supplied by RF. 7 Y - 0 N

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*). 2008-20 (9/11). An adult of unknown sex was noticed at Leeds Creek (Washington county) March 29, 2008 by Rick Fridell, who provided written and photographic documentation of the bird. 7 Y - 0 N

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis fulva*). 2008-22 (2/2). A single adult, probably a male in alternate plumage, was reported July 20, 2008 at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (Juab county) by Jack Skalicky and Carol Schneier. Written documentation was provided by JS and photographic documentation was provided by JS and CS. 7 Y - 0 N

WESTERN GULL (*Larus occidentalis*). 2008-21 (2/2). An individual in 4th year alternate plumage and of unknown gender was spotted at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge (Box Elder county) July 8, 2008 by Jim Pawlicki and Matt Alexander and again by JP on July 10. Written and photographic documentation were provided by JP. 7 Y - 0 N

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2008-32 (5/7). A third or fourth winter individual, sex unknown, was discovered November 5, 2008 in Logan (Cache county) by Ryan P. O'Donnell, Jason Pietrzak, and Anne Winters. Written documentation was provided by RO and photographic support was provided by RO and JP. 7 Y - 0 N

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2008-33 (6/8). A late second winter individual on undetermined gender was discovered April 17, 2008 at "Sue's Ponds" (near Logan, Cache county) by Ryan P. O'Donnell. Written and photographic documentation was provided by RO. 7 Y - 0 N

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2009-05 (7/9). A third cycle bird of undetermined sex was noticed January 3, 2009 in Sand Hollow State Park (Washington county) by Rick Fridell. Written and photographic documentation was provided by RF. 7 Y - 0 N

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*). 2008-03 (3/4). An adult bird of unknown gender was seen April 26, 2007 in Santa Clara (Washington county) by Laurie Rasmussen. The bird was seen on several subsequent dates through May 4, 2007 by LR who also photographed the bird. Written documentation was provided by LR through Rick Fridell; photographs taken by LR were also submitted as documentation. 2nd. 5 Y - 2 N

WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Caprimulgus vociferus*). 2008-12 (1/1). An adult male was reported in Green Canyon (near Logan, Cache county) June 19, 2008 by Ron Ryel. An audio recording was made of the bird as it called by RR. The bird was heard later that same evening by Ryan O'Donnell, Craig Fosdick, and Stephanie Cobbold. Supporting documentation, including a second audio recording, were filed by RO and CF. The bird was subsequently observed by numerous people through June 28, 2008. While there have been previous sightings of this species reported in Utah, this is the first accepted record. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*). 2008-23 (out of range). A single adult, sex unknown, was observed May 9, 2008 at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (Juab county) by Jack Skalicky and Jay Banta. The bird was seen on the morning of May 10 by Tom Neuman and Colby Neuman. Written and photographic documentation was provided by JS. While this bird is an uncommon permanent resident of Washington county, this is the first documented record of the species at Fish Springs NWR. 7 Y - 0 N

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*). 2008-15 (6/12). An adult bird of undetermined sex was seen March 31, 2008 at Lytle Ranch (Washington county) by Rick Fridell, who submitted written and photographic documentation. 7 Y - 0 N

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*). 2008-27 (1/4). An adult, gender uncertain, was discovered May 26, 2008 at Lucin (Box Elder county) by Colby Neuman and Jeff Bilsky. Written and photographic documentation were provided by CN. 7 Y - 0 N

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Dendroica magnolia*). 2008-25 (5/9). A first-fall bird, possibly female, was spotted September 12, 2008 at 8000 West 2200 South (Salt Lake county) by Tim Avery, who provided written and photographic documentation. 7 Y - 0 N

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Dendroica magnolia*). 2009-13 (6/10). An adult male was reported May 31, 2009 at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge (Juab county) by Colby Neuman and Tom Neuman. Written and photographic documentation were provided by CN. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Dendroica caerulescens*). 2008-11 (-). Two presumably adult birds, one male and one female, were discovered June 3, 2008 on the Timpanogos Trail (Utah county) by John Moran. Written documentation was provided by JM. The Committee were reluctant to accept the record without clearer descriptions and the consideration of other, more likely species to the area. 2nd. 0 Y - 7 N

PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*). 2008-28 (4/11). Two birds, one an adult male, were spotted April 24, 2008 on the road to Bear River National Wildlife Refuge (Box Elder county) by Betsy Beneke, Les Talbot, Louise Brown, and Steve Brown. One or both birds were seen on subsequent days by various observers and were photographed on April 26 by Colby Neuman, who also provided written documentation. 7 Y - 0 N

PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*). 2008-18 (7/11). An adult male bird was noticed May 3, 2008 in Johnson Canyon, Snow Canyon State Park (Washington county) by Alex Foster. The bird was viewed later that morning by Rick Fridell, who provided written and photographic documentation. 7 Y - 0 N

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius mccownii*). 2008-01 (2/10). Two adult males were observed February 2, 2008 near Tremonton (Box Elder county) by Craig Fosdick, who provided field notes and written documentation. Jack Binch provided photographic documentation. 7 Y - 0 N

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR (*Calcarius ornatus*). 2008-13 (1/4). A single bird, possibly adult and male, was reported December 21, 2007 along Glover Lane (Davis county) by Bryan Shirley. The bird was later seen by Larene Wyss, Steve Sommerfeld, Cindy Sommerfeld,, Paul Higgins, and others. Tim Avery provided written and photographic documentation of the bird. 7 Y - 0 N

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*). 2008-17 (2/2). An adult female, possibly a first year bird, was noticed May 21, 2008 in Washington Fields (Washington county) by Rick Fridell. Written documentation was provided by RF. 7 Y - 0 N

COMMON REDPOLL (*Carduelis flammea*). 2008-05 (4/12). An adult male was reported March 23, 2008 in Richmond (Cache county) by Ryan P. O'Donnell, Craig Fosdick, John Barnes, Keith Archibald, and Ron Ryel. The bird was also reported through March 26 by Alan Christiansen. Written and photographic documentation was provided by RO. 7 Y - 0 N

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis lawrencei*). 2008-04 (6/6). Two adult males were observed March 3, 2008 in Santa Clara (Washington county) at feeders at the home of R.J. and Karen Hughes. The birds continued on a daily basis through at least March 14 and were seen by many. Written and photographic documentation was provided by Rick Fridell. 7 Y - 0 N