

## EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE – DECEMBER 2010

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The eighteenth report of the Utah Bird Records Committee summarizes 57 records of 32 species submitted in 2008, 2009, and 2010. The Committee accepted 50 records. Those records not accepted were due primarily to insufficient descriptive details that failed to eliminate similar or hybrid 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: Larry Tripp, David Wheeler, Kristin Purdy, Colby Neuman, Eric Huish, Ron Ryel, Bob Bond, Merrill Webb, Terry Sadler, and Rick Fridell.

This report adds three species to the checklist of the birds of Utah. First state records for **Iceland Gull**, **Thick-billed Kingbird**, and **Brown-capped Rosy-Finch** were accepted by the Committee. This brings the total for the Utah bird list to 446 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, 51<sup>st</sup> 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 parentheses), 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:**

CAKCLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2009-03 (6/6 since 2004). An adult was found on March 21, 2009, on Sam Fellows Road (Cache County) by Ryan O'Donnell, Steve Carr, and Craig Fosdick. A written report and photographs were submitted by RO. 7 Y - 0 N

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2009-31 (-). Four geese of undetermined age and gender were seen on December 19, 2009, at Logan River Golf Course in Logan (Cache County) by Ryan O'Donnell, Ron Ryel, and a third observer. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RO. Concerns about the possibilities of hybridization or other small geese species were stated. Although a simple majority of the Committee voted to accept the record, it did not receive the required number of Yes votes (5 or more) required by the By-laws for it to be accepted. 3<sup>rd</sup>. 4 Y - 3 N

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2010-09 (7/7 since 2004). An individual was reported on March 6, 2010, along the Skipper Bay Trail at Utah Lake (Utah County) by Carl Ingwell, Jeff Bilsky, Steve Sommerfeld, and Cindy Sommerfeld. The bird was seen again on March 8 by Eric Huish and Ned Bixler and on March 9 by KC Childs. Written and photographic documentation were provided by EH. 7 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2010-10 (8/8 since 2004). A single bird was observed on March 7, 2010, in Warren (Weber County) by Kristin Purdy, who submitted written and photographic documentation. 8 Y - 0 N

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2010-12 (9/9 since 2004). A group of sixteen individuals from two of the four Cackling Goose subspecies were photographed while feeding with larger Canada geese on March 6, 2010, near Warren (Weber County) by David Wheeler. DW provided written documentation and accompanying photographs. 7 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*). 2008-34 (7/12). An adult female was seen swimming on November 16, 2008, in the waters along Lincoln Beach (Utah County) at various times by Dave Hanscom, Lu Giddings, Erich Huish, Ned Bixler, Cheryl Peterson, Dennis Shirley, and Bryan Shirley. The bird was seen again in the same location by various observers on November 18 and 19. Written and photographic documentation were provided by Milton Moody, who observed the bird on November 19. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*). 2009-24 (8/13). An individual thought to be a first winter female was noted on November 13, 2009, at Otter Creek State Park (Piute County) by Rick Fridell. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. 8 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*). 2009-08 (7/9). A juvenile was reported on November 11, 2008, at Quail Creek State Park (Washington County) by Rick Fridell. The bird was again observed in the same location on November 12, 13, and 15 by RF who submitted written and photographic documentation of his observations. 7 Y - 0 N

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*). 2009-23 (8/10). An immature bird was discovered on November 25, 2008, at Quail Creek State Park (Washington County) by Rick Fridell. It was at first thought that the bird was the individual reported earlier and documented in the month by RF (Record 2009-08), but after further observation it was determined that this was a different bird. The bird was subsequently observed on November 27 and 29 and also on December 1 and 4. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. 8 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*). 2009-11 (3/8). An adult was observed on May 17, 2009, at Rockport Reservoir (Summit County) by Tim Avery and others. The bird was relocated on May 18 by Milton Moody and numerous others. MM provided written and photographic documentation of the bird. 7 Y - 0 N

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2009-15 (3/3). An adult was reported on August 23, 2009, at Fishing Pond, northwest of the intersection of 5400 South and 1070 West in Murray (Salt Lake County), by Kristin Purdy and Pomera Fronce. KP provided written documentation of the bird and photographs were provided by PF. 8 Y - 0 N

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2009-28 (4/4). Two immature birds were photographed on May 29, 2009, at Ivins Reservoir (Washington County) by Rick Fridell. The birds were subsequently seen on numerous occasions together through September 7, with a single bird remaining in the area until October 9. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. 7 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2010-15 (5/5). Four birds were spotted on April 22, 2010, by Robert Williams. The birds were again seen on April 23, 24, and 25 by various observers. Written documentation and photographs were submitted by RW. Additional written documentation was added to the record by Milton Moody. 9 Y - 0 N

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2010-16 (6/6). Two individuals were seen on April 18, 2010, at Sandy Fishing Pond (Salt Lake County) by Richard Young, Cory Stokes, and Jessica Stokes. The birds were subsequently observed on April 22-25 by various observers. Written and photographic documentation were provided by Ryan O'Donnell.  
9 Y - 0 N

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2010-20 (7/7). One apparent adult and six apparent juveniles were reported on May 2, 2010, at Millrace Pond (Salt Lake County) by Terry Sadler, Richard Young, and Tim Avery. The birds were again seen on May 4 by Carol Gwynn and Deedee O'Brien. Written documentation was submitted by TS and photographs were supplied by TS and RY. 8 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2010-21 (8/8). Four first year birds were found on April 29, 2010, at Winchester Park (Salt Lake County) by Richard Young, who provided written and photographic documentation. 9 Y - 0 N

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2010-23 (9/9). Two first year birds were discovered on April 18, 2010, at Sandy Pond (Salt Lake County) by Richard Young. Written and photographic documentation were submitted by RY. 9 Y - 0 N

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). 2008-14 (4/4). An adult was photographed July 3, 2008, at the Logan City Polishing Ponds (Benson, Cache County) by Ryan O'Donnell. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RO. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7 Y - 0 N

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). 2008-26 (5/5). An adult bird of unknown gender was photographed on August 14, 2008, at Kennecott Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve (Salt Lake County) by Tim Avery, who provided written and photographic documentation. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7 Y - 0 N

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). 2009-26 (6/6). An adult was seen on April 20, 2009, in Washington Fields (Washington, County) by Rick Fridell. RF submitted written and photographic evidence of the bird. 8 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). 2010-17 (7/7). An adult was found on April 24, 2010, at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge by Jack Binch. The bird was soon thereafter observed by Kristin Purdy, Betsy Beneke, Cindy Sommerfeld, Steve Sommerfeld, Bob Huntington, Geoff Hardies and Bob MacDougall. Written documentation was prepared by JB and KP and photographs were provided by JB. 8 Y - 0 N

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). 2008-08 (-). An adult was seen May 5, 2008, on two occasions at the Logan River Golf Course (Logan, Cache County) by Ryan O'Donnell and Craig Fosdick. Written documentation was provided by RO and also by CF, with additional material provided by RO. Although observer competence and experience were more than adequate, the Committee was concerned with the lighting under which the observation was made and the brief period for which it was observed (roughly one minute). As this would have been a first state record for the species, it was felt that a higher degree of certainty was needed to accept this record. 3<sup>rd</sup>. 3 Y - 4 N

UPLAND SANDPIPER (*Bartramia longicauda*). 2009-16 (2/6). An individual of indeterminate age and gender was observed by Keith Evans, Steve Sommerfeld, John Bellmon, and Jack Rensel. The bird was later seen by other observers. Written and photographic documentation were submitted by KE, with additional photographs supplied by Paul Higgins. 7 Y - 0 N

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). 2008-37 (4/4). An adult female was seen on December 27, 2008, along the Antelope Island Causeway by Jack Binch. The bird was seen on again on a daily basis from December 28 through January 1, 2009, by numerous observers. JB supplied written and photographic documentation. Additional photographs were provided by Paul Higgins and Tim Avery. 7 Y - 0 N

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). 2009-21 (2/3). An adult was discovered on November 7, 2009, along the Antelope Island Causeway near the marina bridge (Davis County) by Jack Binch. The bird was seen by numerous observers on November 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13. Written documentation was provided by JB and also by Ryan O'Donnell. Photographic evidence was provided by JB, RO, and Rick Fridell. This is a first Utah record. 9 Y - 0 N

WESTERN GULL (*Larus occidentalis*). 2010-04 (3/3). A first winter bird was reported on December 27, 2009, at Lee Kay Ponds (Salt Lake County) by Cliff Weisse and Lisa Weisse. The bird was also seen on January 5, 2010 at Decker Lake (Salt Lake County) by CW. Written and photographic documentation were provided by CW. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 6 Y - 1 N

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*). 2008-31 (1/1). A bird, probably first winter, was spotted on November 4, 2008, at Logan River Wetlands and Shorebird Playa (Cache County) by Jason Pietrzak. The bird was seen again on November 5 by JP, Ryan O'Donnell, and Craig Fosdick, and again on November 7 by Bob Atwood. Written documentation was provided by RO and photographic evidence was provided by RO and JP. A second sight record was also provided by RO. This is a first Utah record. 7 Y - 0 N

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2009-14 (8/10). An adult bird was noticed on February 25, 2009, on River Lane (Utah County) by Eric Huish and Matt Mills, who were later joined by Bryan Shirley in their observations. The bird was also reported the next day by Pat Jividen. Written and photographic documentation were provided by EH. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7 Y - 0 N

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2009-19 (9/11). An adult was reported on October 24, 2009, along the Antelope Island Causeway by Jack Binch, who submitted written and photographic documentation. 8 Y - 0 N

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2009-22 (10/12). A third-winter bird of undetermined gender was observed on November 8, 2009, at Mile 1.1 of the Antelope Island Causeway (Davis County) by Kristin Purdy, Keith Evans, Jack Rensel, and John Bellmon. A written report was provided by KP along with photographs from JR and KE. 9 Y - 0 N

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2010-05 (11/13). Four individuals, three adults and a juvenile bird, were seen on January 5, 2010, at Decker Lake (Salt Lake County) by Cliff Weisse. The birds were also observed on January 9 by Tim Avery. Written and photographic documentation were provided by CW. 7 Y - 0 N

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2010-06 (12/14). A juvenile bird thought to be first winter was noted on December 27, 2009, at Lake Park (Salt Lake County) by Cliff Weisse. The bird was also seen on December 28 and again on January 5, 2010. Written and photographic documentation were provided by CW, who clearly differentiated between the bird in this record and the juvenile bird documented in a previous record (2010-05). 7 Y - 0 N

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2010-07 (13/15). An adult was seen on January 5, 2010, at Fishing Pond in Lake Park (Salt Lake County) by Cliff Weisse. Written and photographic documentation were provided by CW. It was reasonably certain that this adult was not one of the three adult birds documented in a previous record (2010-05). 7 Y - 0 N

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*). 2009-20 (2/4). An adult was discovered on November 6, 2009, along the Antelope Island Causeway (Davis County) by Jack Binch. The bird was thereafter seen on a daily basis from November 7-13, with the exception of November 12. A written report was submitted by JB and photographic evidence was provided by JB, Rick Fridell, and Paul Higgins. 9 Y - 0 N

GILDED FLICKER (*Colaptes chrysoides*). 2010-02 (-). A bird was seen on January 14, 2010, at Mathis Park (Washington County) by Nathan Fisher. Written documentation was submitted by NF. The Committee acknowledged that this might be a gilded flicker but did not feel the descriptive details provided were sufficient to eliminate the possibility that this was a hybrid bird. 0 Y - 7 N

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*). 2008-24 (-). A bird of uncertain age was observed on August 31, 2008, at the Salt Lake International Center (Salt Lake County) by Tim Avery and two other unnamed observers. Written and photographic documentation were provided by TA. The Committee acknowledged the quality of the

written description and the observer's experience but did not feel the evidence could conclusively preclude the possibility of other Empids, which can be notoriously difficult to identify under the best of circumstances.

2<sup>nd</sup>. 0 Y - 7 N

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*). 2009-07 (3/5). A immature bird was noted on October 17, 2007, at Red Hills Golf Course in St. George (Washington County) by Rick Fridell and Steve Summers. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF.

2<sup>nd</sup>. 7 Y - 1 N

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*). 2010-01 (-). A bird was reported on November 18, 2009, at Quail Creek Reservoir by Nathan Fisher, who provided written documentation of his sighting. The Committee did not feel the descriptive details provided were sufficient to separate this individual from other similar species. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1 Y - 7 N

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*). 2010-13 (7/13). An adult was found on April 19, 2010, in North Logan (Cache County) by Ron Ryel who submitted written documentation. 7 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*). 2010-19 (8/14). An adult was observed on April 4, 2010, at Antelope Island State Park (Davis County) by Joel Beyer and Kathy Beyer. The bird was seen later that day by Cindy Sommerfeld, Steve Sommerfeld, Paul Higgins, and Jeff Bilsky. It was also reported on April 6 and 7 by different observers. Written and photographic documentation were submitted by J&KB. 8 Y - 0 N

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus crassirostris*). 2009-29 (1/1). A juvenile was discovered on October 20, 2009, in Upper Calf Canyon (Emery County) by Claus Engelhardt and Connie Engelhardt. Written documentation was obtained by Rick Fridell through cooperation with the observers. Photographs were provided by CoE. This is a first Utah record. 8 Y - 0 N

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*). 2009-04 (1/1 since 2004; this species was returned to the Review List in February 2007). An adult was found on October 1, 2004, at Twin Springs, Bishop Springs Marsh, Snake Valley (Millard County) by Rick Fridell, Larry Tripp, and Lu Giddings. Written documentation and photographs were provided by RF. 7 Y - 0 N

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius mccownii*). 2010-03 (3/11). A male was spotted on January 17, 2010, at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge by Jack Binch. The bird was subsequently seen on January 20, 23, and 24 by several other observers. Written and photographic documentation were provided by JB. 7 Y - 0 N

NORTHERN PARULA (*Parula americana*). 2008-30 (-). A female was observed during the afternoon of May 24, 1987, along the Rainbow Bridge Trail at Nasja Creek (San Juan County) by Chuck LaRue. Written documentation was provided by CL. The Committee did not feel the evidence was sufficient to preclude the possibility of other similar species. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1 Y - 8 N

NORTHERN PARULA (*Parula americana*). 2009-25 (8/12). An individual thought to be either a female or a first winter male was reported on September 23, 2008, at Red Hills Golf Course in St. George (Washington County) by Rick Fridell. The bird was seen again the following day. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. 8 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

NORTHERN PARULA (*Parula americana*). 2010-11 (9/13). An adult male was found on May 27, 2008, at Lucin (Box Elder County) by David Wheeler and Larene Wysse. Written documentation was submitted by DW. 7 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). 2009-10 (8/13). An adult male in non-breeding plumage was found on May 22, 2009, at Calf Creek Recreation Area (Garfield County) by Milton Moody, Minna Larkin, and Jon Larkin. A written report of the observation was submitted by MM. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Dendroica caerulescens*). 2009-06 (7/16). A female, probably first Fall, was noted on October 12, 2008, at Red Hills Golf Course in St. George (Washington County) by Rick Fridell, who subsequently observed the bird on October 13, 15, 17, and 20. RF submitted a written report and photographs to support his observations. 7 Y - 0 N

PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*). 2009-18 (5/12). An adult was discovered on October 11, 2009, at Spanish Bottom, just below the confluence of Colorado and Green rivers in Canyonlands National Park (Wayne County) by Kay Wilson and James Wilson who provided written and photographic documentation. 7 Y - 0 N

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*). 2009-30 (4/11). A male of indeterminate age was reported on October 1, 2009, along the Virgin River below Washington Bridge (Washington County) by Rick Fridell and another observer. Written and photographic documentation were provided by RF. 7 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*). 2010-18 (2/5). An adult male was observed on May 8, 2010, at Lytle Ranch in Beaver Dam Wash (Washington County) by Joel Beyer and Kathy Beyer. The bird was also seen by Cindy and Steve Sommerfeld that same day. Written and photographic documentation were submitted by J&KB. 9 Y - 0 N

PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*). 2010-24 (8/12). An adult was found on May 31, 2010, at the confluence of East Fork Virgin River and Mineral Canyon (Kane County) by Carl Lundblad, who provided written and photographic documentation. 9 Y - 0 N

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*). 2009-27 (3/3). A bird thought to be a first Fall female was seen on September 1, 2009, at Lytle Ranch in Beaver Dam Wash (Washington County) by Rick Fridell, who also observed the bird on September 6 and 7. RF provided written and photographic documentation. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7 Y - 0 N, with 1 abstention

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*). 2009-01 (2/6). An adult male was reported on January 4, 2009, at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge by Terry Sadler and Pam Sadler who provided a written report and photographic documentation of their observation. The bird was found a second time on January 9 by Jay Banta, who submitted written and photographic evidence of this sighting. On January 12 the bird was again identified by JB, Angie Branch, Jan Browning, and Pat Jividen. A third written report and additional

photographs were supplied by PJ. The bird was subsequently identified on January 13, 14, 15, and 17 by various observers.

7 Y - 0 N

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*). 2010-08 (3/7). An adult male was reported on January 23, 2010, in the Pariette Wetlands, an outlet stream from Redhead Pond, by Brian Maxfield. Written documentation was provided by BM. 7 Y - 0 N

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*). 2009-17 (-). A bird thought to be a first year male was noticed on September 18, 2009, at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge by Carl Ingwell, Colby Neuman, and Jeff Bilsky. A written report was submitted by CN, who also provided photographs along with JB. The Committee did not accept the record as the possibility of the bird being an oriole hybrid could not be discounted. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1 Y - 9 N

BROWN-CAPPED ROSY-FINCH (*Leucosticte australis*). 2008-36 (1/1). A individual was spotted in the company of a flock of black rosy-finches and other small birds on December 6, 2008, and again on December 13 in the foothills of the La Sal Mountains south of Moab (San Juan County) by Chris Goetze, Barb Smith, Chris Florian, Marian Eason, Nick Eason, and Bud Turner. Written documentation was supplied by CG, while photographs of the bird were provided by BT and NE. This is a first Utah record. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 9 Y - 0 N