

NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2011

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The nineteenth report of the Utah Bird Records Committee summarizes 24 records of 22 species submitted in 2010. The Committee accepted 20 records.

This report adds two species to the checklist of the birds of Utah. First state records for **Purple Sandpiper**, and **Pyrrhuloxia** were accepted by the Committee. This brings the total for the Utah bird list to 448 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, 52nd 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

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). 2010-46. (1/6) A female or juvenile bird was seen on the Virgin River, near La Verkin Creek (Washington County) by Maurice DeMille on 11/2/10. Although the description was somewhat weak, the photos clearly showed the correct identification. Accepted 9 Y – 0 N.

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*). 2010-26. (7/10) Bird was located on Strawberry Reservoir (Wasatch County) in June 2010 by Jean Myers. Record Committee agreed that the photos showed more characteristics of an immature Common Loon. 2nd: 0 Y – 8 N, not accepted.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*). 2010-38. (4/9) A juvenile bird was seen at Quail Creek State Park (Washington County) from 12/1/09 to 3/12/10 by Rick Fridell and

others. The large size, stout yellow bill and upward tilt of head and bill ruled out other loons. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*). 2010-47. (10/13) A possible immature was seen in October 2010 at Jordanelle Reservoir (Wasatch County) by Eric Huish and several others that day. Good photos and excellent description eliminated all other birds. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2010-27. (9/9) This juvenile bird was seen at the Kennecott Nature Center, along the Jordan River at 50th South (Salt Lake County) by Richard Young. Documentation and photos were excellent. This species is being seen more frequently in Utah in the last 3-5 years. Accepted 9 Y – 0 N.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2010-31. (10/10) Sighted by Kris Purdy and Jim Mountjoy at Bear River MBR (Box Elder County) on August 15, 2010. The written description and photo clearly ruled out a Double-crested Cormorant. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N.

PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Calidris maritima*). 2010-48. (1/1) This amazing sighting was reported by Rick Fridell on 11/28/10 from Sand Hollow State Park (Washington County). The initial impression was of a Purple Sandpiper but, being an east coast bird it was felt that it would be extremely unusual for it to occur so far west. The only other similar bird is the Rock Sandpiper of the Pacific coast, but a bird that never strays from the west coast, compared to the Purple Sandpiper that has been seen as far west as the Mississippi River valley. Photos were submitted to Frontiers of Identification and numerous experts there and elsewhere determined that it was a Purple Sandpiper. This is not only the first record for Utah, species #448, but is the first record anywhere west of the Midwest and Rocky Mountains. The bird was then seen by several dozen birders from northern Utah, as it stayed around for a couple of weeks. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). 2010-30. (5/5) This adult female bird was seen on the Antelope Island Causeway (Davis County) on August 1, 2010, by Joel and Kathy Beyer. She seemed quite wary of nearby Black-necked Stilts. This species is seen periodically in the Great Salt Lake environs during fall migration. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N.

WESTERN GULL (*Larus occidentalis*). 2010-40. (3/3) This adult gull was seen in Farmington Bay WMA (Davis County) on 2/25/09 by Rick Fridell, Steve and Cindy Sommerfeld, and several others. The large bill and other characteristics influenced the decision. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus (glaucoides) kumlienii*). 2010-42. (-) A first-cycle bird was seen on 2/25/09 at Farmington Bay WMA (Davis County) by Rick Fridell. Several other birders had seen an Iceland Gull, but it was not determined that this was the same gull. After some discussion it was not accepted 2nd: 1 N – 5 N.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2010-36. (-) This first-cycle (first-spring) gull was located at Sand Hollow State Park (Washington County) by Rick Fridell on 5/22/09. After much discussion and consulting some national experts, the sighting was not accepted, 3rd; 4 Y – 3 N; 1 abstention.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2010-41. (8/11) One adult bird was seen at Farmington Bay WMA (Davis County) by Rick Fridell on 2/25/09. Photo and description were enough to rule out other gulls. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

POMARINE JAEGER (*Stercorarius pomarinis*). 2010-44. (2/2) An obvious jaeger, heavy-bodied with strong flight was seen at Sand Hollow State Park (Washington County) during 4/25-29/10 by Rick Fridell. Photos and description accurately described the species. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Cyanthus latirostris*). 2010-35. (2/6) Observed on 10/1/10 at New Harmony, near Kanara Creek (Washington County) by Rick Fridell. Judy Jordan initially saw it at her home feeder on 9/27/10. The photos and description were very satisfactory in ruling out all other hummingbird species. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus rubber daggetti*). 2010-34. (4/8) This is an adult bird seen at Lytle Ranch, Beaver Dam Wash (Washington County) in September 2010 by Rick Fridell. Although there was consideration of a possible hybrid, the description and photos were shown to be a non-hybrid. Accepted, 2nd; 8 Y – 0 N, 1 abstention.

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*). 2010-45. (2/2) A single bird was seen in the Park Terrace area of Salt Lake City (Salt Lake County) by Jerry Liguori on 10/10/10. Photos by JL were enough to identify this unmistakable bird. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N.

McCOWN'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius mccownii*). 2010-37. (4/12) A pair (male and female) was seen in Blue Creek Valley, SW of Howell (Box Elder County) on 2/25/10 by Rick Fridell. Photos and description were enough to eliminate other longspurs and sparrows. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*). 2010-39. (7/8) An adult was seen at the St. George Red Hills Golf Course on 9/28/10 by Rick Fridell. Photo and description were enough to rule out the Blue-winged Warbler. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*). 2010-32. (5/12) Seen by Joel and Kathy Beyer and several others at Fielding Garr Ranch on Antelope Island (Davis County), 8/29/10. A photo and description were acceptable in eliminating other species. Accepted 9 Y – 0 N.

CANYON TOWHEE (*Pipilo fuscus*). 2010-25. (2/2) Adult bird seen in an un-named drainage near 50-mile Creek and Cave Point, Grand Staircase NM (Kane County) by Ryan O'Donnell in May 2008. Written report submitted by RO in June 2010. Despite the lack of a photograph, the record was accepted. The possibility of it being a California Towhee was deemed too unlikely. 2nd: 8 Y – 1 N.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*). 2010-43. (Out of range) A small, secretive, stocky sparrow was noticed at Lytle Ranch, Beaver Dam Wash (Washington County) on 10/9/09 by Rick Fridell. This is a mildly unusual sighting so far

south in the state, although undoubtedly in migration; but even then is a little late.
Accepted 7 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

HEPATIC TANAGER (*Piranga flava*). 2010-29. (-) An adult male seen in the orchard at Lytle Ranch (Washington County) eating a ripe peach in July 1910; seen by Richard Deen, Flora Duncan, and others. The sighting was not accepted, as the write-up and photo did not rule out the Summer Tanager, which is a fairly common resident at Lytle Ranch.
0 Y – 9 N.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). 2010-28. (1/2) An adult male seen in Ivins (Washington County) by Bill Bates and others in June 2010. Because of the possibility of its being an escaped cage bird, the Records Committee was torn in their deliberations. The fact that a Northern Cardinal was recently accepted by the Nevada BRC from a sighting near Las Vegas, which is less than 200 miles from SW Utah, it was felt that this bird could easily have been a wild specimen. Also noted in the photograph was that it was bright red in contrast to caged birds that are duller and more pinkish. 2nd:
6 Y – 2 N, accepted.

PYRRHULOXIA (*Cardinalis sinuatus*). 2010-33. (1/1) This exciting bird was found by Rick Fridell at Lytle Ranch, Beaver Dam Wash (Washington County) on 9/30/2010. It was subsequently seen by numerous birders from northern Utah. Photos were excellent and clearly eliminated a female Northern Cardinal. It was felt that there was essentially no way that it could have been an escaped cage bird. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N, 1 abstention. This is a first state record for this species, #447.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*). 2010-49. (4/8) An adult male was watched at Torrey (Wayne County) on December 14, 2010, by Terry Sadler. Similar blackbird species were ruled out by good description and photos. Accepted 9 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.