

TWENTIETH REPORT OF THE UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE – ENDING DECEMBER 2011

Bob Bond, Rick Fridell; Steve Hedges, Ryan O'Donnell, Ron Ryel, Terry Sadler, Mark Stackhouse, Jack Skalicky, Merrill Webb; Steve Carr – Secretary; Milton Moody – Webmaster; Eric Huish - Archivist

The twentieth report of the Utah Bird Records Committee summarizes 73 records of 40 species submitted in 2011. The Committee accepted 64 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.

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 submitted in 2011 reviewed by the UBRC:

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2011-05. (9/9) Ryan O'Donnell found a small Canada-type goose on the Logan River Golf Course (Cache County) on 12 Dec 2010. Body size was distinctly smaller than the nearby Canada geese. Photos by RO. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2011-12. (10/10) A mallard-sized, white-cheeked goose was noted by Kris Purdy at Salt Creek WMA (Box Elder County) in late February 2011. Since being split from Canada Goose, this species has been seen with regularity by Utah birders, particularly in northern Utah. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

CAACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2011-67. (11/11). Five individuals, considerably smaller than Canada Geese, were observed by Ryan O'Donnell and Guillaume Peron on the Logan River Golf Course, Logan (Cache County) on 17 Dec 2011. Several photos by RO. Identification was made with the size difference with the 300+ Canada Geese nearby and the stubby bill. Four of them were probably *B. h. hutchinsii*, the other appeared to be *B. h. taverneri*. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, with one abstention.

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*). 2011-10. (-) This obviously large Black Swan was seen at Utah Lake State Park (Utah County) in 10 Feb 2011 by Jordan Englund, Suzanne Dunken, and Whitney Bush. Photos by JE. The bird had a band around its right leg. The possibility of its being a wild bird is remote. It is undoubtedly an escaped cage or propagation or introduced bird from somewhere else. The sighting was not accepted as a naturally-occurring wild bird. 0 Y – 6 N.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). 2011-44. (3/13) Paul Higgins, Robert Mortensen, and Edson Leite discovered an immature bird off the Antelope Island Causeway (Davis County) on 28 Sep 2011. The bird was reported on the Utah Bird Hotline and was subsequently seen by several dozen Utah and Idaho birders. The bird stayed in basically the same place, usually just north of the causeway at the easternmost bridge. On 11 Oct 2011 a second Harlequin Duck was reported and photographed by Paul Higgins. Subsequently, by 10 Nov 2011 a third Harlequin Duck (2011-44b) flew in and was reported by Maryella Cundick and Brian Ferguson. One of the ducks began to molt into an adult male bird. Photos of all three ducks were often shown on the Bird Hotline, so that all observers could see the molting process of the male. The other two birds appear to be female. Richard Young also observed and photographed the birds. The last sighting of the three sea ducks appears to have been about 25 Nov 2011 when they were reported on eBird by Craig Fosdick and Edward Raynor.. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N.

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta americana*). 2011-64. (24/35) A female or immature was seen on the Antelope Island Causeway (Davis County) on 19 Nov 2011 by Ryan O'Donnell and others. RO took photos. Other scoters were eliminated by the lack of distinct white patches on the face and the distinctiveness of the bill. It was larger than Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck. There are also no records for the recently-split Common Scoter in North America. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*). 2011-71. (10/15) A juvenile bird was watched for an hour at Quail Creek State Park from 12-19 Nov 2011 by Rick Fridell and several others. Photos by RF. It was a pale loon with a sharp, thin bill, and held tilted slightly upward. Distinguished from larger loons by the pale coloration and lack of neck bulge at the waterline. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*) 2011-29. (11/14) Seen at Hyrum Dam (Cache County) by Bob Atwood and Ryan O'Donnell on 18-19 Jun 2011. Description and photos by RO were excellent for identification. Photos by RO. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2011-26. (11/11) A single bird was seen by Richard Young at Mill Race Pond (Salt Lake County) on 13 May 2011. This species is being seen with some regularity in Salt Lake and Davis counties now, especially by Rich Young. Photos by RY. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2011-25. (12/12) One bird was seen by Kris Purdy on 15 May 2011 at Buffalo Ranches Pond, Farmington (Davis County). Description was good for NECO. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). 2011-30. (13/13) Three individuals were seen at 4924 S. Murray Blvd, Murray (Salt Lake County) in June 2011 by Steve and Cindy Sommerfeld and Rich Young. Photo by RY. Accepted 9 Y – 0 N.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*). 2011-36. (1/6) A single bird was seen within sight of the Ranger Station at Ouray NWR (Uintah County) on 29 Jul 2011 by Christopher Eliot. Photos by CE and description were enough to disqualify any other species. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). 2011-18. (8/8) This bird was seen on the Provo River Parkway (Utah County) on 21 Apr 2011, by Eric Huish. It had a dark eye and thin, blue facial skin that were easy to distinguish from the numerous nearby White-faced Ibises. The sighting was accepted on second round: 6 Y – 1 N. The one non-acceptance vote considered the possibility of a hybrid ibis. Drawing by EH.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). 2011-17. (9/9) An apparent Glossy Ibis was seen by Norm Jenson on 24 Apr 2011 on the road to the Bear River MBR (Box Elder County). Photos by NJ and description were enough to fix the identification. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*). 2011-73. (4/13) A single immature individual was discovered by Rick Fridell in Washington Fields near St. George (Washington County) on 12 Dec 2011. The bird was subsequently observed by dozens of birders from Utah and elsewhere up till at least 31 Dec 2011. (Although this report is for 2011 sightings, this rare bird continued to be seen as late as 14 Mar 2012 by Ryan O'Donnell and Craig Fosdick, and on 15 Mar 2011 by Merrill Webb.) Photos by RF. The distinctive field marks and photos were quite sufficient for a positive identification. The bird remained in the general vicinity for that entire length of time. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*). 2011-53. (8/21) A single individual was observed for up to 1-1/2 hour on 6 Nov 2011 by Joel and Kathy Beyer, later by Steve and Cindy Sommerfeld and a few others. A photo that was submitted after the sighting was submitted was determined to be that of a Marbled Godwit, which obfuscated matters somewhat. Only when the photo was withdrawn could the identification be made. The bird was identified as a godwit by the bill shape and it was a Hudsonian based on the bird's color and its size compared with nearby avocets. Description and write-up were excellent in describing the bird. Accepted on 2nd round 9 Y – 0 N.

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). 2011-42. (5/13) For a week around 24-30 Nov 2010, a single bird was seen at Sand Hollow State Park (Washington County) by John and Rick Fridell. The bird was seen swimming as well as flying with a prominent white wing-stripe visible. Photos by RF. Red-necked Phalarope was eliminated by bill length and back coloration. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). 2011-65. (6/14) A winter-plumaged bird was watched for 10 minutes by Ryan O'Donnell, Craig Fosdick, Andrew Durso, Allen Stoke, and others on 19 Nov 2011 on the Antelope Island Causeway (Davis County). Photos by RO. The bird was pale gray phalarope in shape and behavior with a moderately thick bill with a blunt tip, unlike the other phalaropes. It was picking at objects on the lake surface and periodically spinning around, typical of phalarope activity. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

WESTERN GULL (*Larus occidentalis*). 2011-08. (5/5) This sighting was by Cliff Weisse at the Bountiful Landfill (Davis County) on 11 Jan 2011. Photos by Norm Jenson, Cameron Cox, Steven Mlodinow, and video by CW. Although the record number is registered as before 2011-15, the report was not generated until after. The bird appeared to be the same limping gull that was reported as 2011-15. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

WESTERN GULL (*Larus occidentalis*). 2011-14. (5/5) This bird is the same one as 2011-08, also reported by Steve Mlodinow and is reported as that bird. Accepted – 2nd: 6 Y – 1 N.

WESTERN GULL (*Larus occidentalis*). 2011-15. (5/5) A large, white-headed gull with a stout bill was observed by Steven G. Mlodinow at Farmington Bay WMA (Davis County) on 18 Feb 2011. Description was enough to rule out other similar gulls. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

WESTERN GULL (*Larus occidentalis*). 2011-43. (6/6) This large-billed white-headed gull was seen at Sand Hollow State Park (Washington County) from 31 May – 3 Jun 2011 by Rick Fridell. It was distinguished from other dark-backed gulls by the large bill and pink legs. Complete documentation and description plus photos by RF. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

WESTERN GULL (*Larus occidentalis*). 2011-69. (7/7) Seen on 28 Dec 2011 by Bryant Olsen and many others at Farmington Bay WMA (Davis County) was an apparent third-winter gull. Photos by BO. The bird was feeding on dead fish on an ice bank. This bird stood out among the pale-backed Herring, California, Ring-billed, and Thayer's gulls with its large size, dark mantle, and huge bill. The only other dark-mantled gull likely in Utah is a Lesser Black-backed Gull, which was also present, giving direct comparisons. There was a concern of possible hybridization but after evaluating the photos and description, the sighting was accepted on 2nd round, 9 Y – 0 N.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*). 2011-01. (-) This bird was seen at the Great Salt Lake South Shore Marina (Salt Lake County) on 8 Jan 2011 by Carl Ingwell. The description was not enough to rule out similar gulls, such as Thayer's. Not accepted – 2nd: 2 Y – 5 N.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*). 2011-06. (2/2) A single individual was seen at the Lee Kay Ponds (Salt Lake County) on 2 Jan 2011 by Cliff and Lisa Weisse. An extensive description caused the committee to fully evaluate this record. Photos by Cameron Cox and Tim Avery. Accepted 2nd: 5 Y – 2 N.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*). 2011-07. (-) A bird, thought to be a first winter was seen by Norm Jenson at Farmington Bay WMA (Davis County) on 22 Jan 2011. The description was not detailed enough, along with a photo, to clearly eliminate Thayer's Gull. Not accepted- 2nd: 2 Y – 5 N.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides kumlieni*). 2011-45. (3/3) This record is from 2010-42, which was originally submitted by Rick Fridell of two individuals seen at Farmington Bay WMA (Davis County) on 22 Feb 2009 and 25 Feb 2009. Because the birds were not identical, that record was split into 2011-45 (this bird, with a bi-colored bill) and 2010-46 (a bird with a dark bill). The gulls were also seen by Paul Higgins, and Cindy and Steve Sommerfeld. Photos by RF. The gull was relatively smaller and more delicate than nearby Herring, Western, Glaucous, and Glaucous-winged gulls. Wingtips were pale and long, projecting well past the tail. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*). 2011-46. (4/4) This subsequent record from 2010-42, a second bird submitted by Rick Fridell, seen at Farmington Bay WMA (Davis County) 22 Feb 2009 and 25 Feb 2009, was re-submitted to the UBRC for consideration. This bird was considered as a first-cycle Kumlien's Gull, with a small, rounded head and short bill and black eye. The fine, light-creamy brownish speckling/barring on the back, coverts, wings, and uppertail coverts were quite suggestive. After much deliberation on a 3rd round evaluation, as to whether the individual might have been a Thayer's Gull or hybrid, the sighting was accepted 6 Y – 2 N, one abstention.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2011-13a and b. (17/17) Steven Mlodinow saw and photographed four individuals at Farmington Bay WMA, Unit 1 (Davis County) on 18 Feb 2011. Nearby California Gulls were easily distinguished by plumage. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2011-70. (18/18). A very dark-mantled gull stood out among nearby Herring, Thayer's, Ring-billed, and California gulls. Observed by Bryant Olsen on 28 Dec 2011 at Farmington Bay WMA (Davis County). The bird was subsequently seen by many birders from northern Utah. Photos by BO. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*). 2011-72. (19/19) An adult gull was seen at Quail Creek State Park (Washington County) on 9-10 Dec 2011, by Rick Fridell, who also took photos. It was observed for close to an hour total swimming and remaining apart from several thousand Ring-billed Gulls, and a nearby Thayer's and Herring Gulls. This bird had a pale eye, smudgy brown on the face and a very prominent dark back. After some discussion, the sighting was accepted on 2nd round 8 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*). 2011-52. (4/4) A dead specimen was found by Joe Pachak in Bluff (San Juan County) on 5 Nov 2011. The bird had flown into a window at his home; and was later taken to Jim Hook, Recapture Lodge, in San Juan County, for identification. The back, breast, and head were noted to be finely scaly, with rufous coloration on primary feathers. Inca Dove and Ruddy Ground-Dove were eliminated by size, length of tail, color, and other characteristics. Photos also defined the identification. Accepted 9 Y – 0 N.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*). 2011-04. (1/3) Jack Skalicky found a dead cuckoo at Fish Springs NWR (Juab County) on 13 Jul 2010. Terry Sadler photographed the carcass. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*). 2011-35. (2/4) A single bird flew into a window in Sandy (Salt Lake County) on 29 Jun 2011 and became dazed. It was taken by Jill Van Milligen to the Salt Lake City Zoo where it was observed until it recovered. It was then taken back to Sandy and released. Photos by JVM. Report submitted by JVM. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N.

WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Caprimulgus vociferous*). 2011-68. (-) On 1 Oct 2011, a single bird was heard calling in Trin-Alcove Canyon near milepost 90 on the Green River (Grand County) about 15 miles south of the town of Green River. The call sounded like the bird's name "whip-poor-will" with the last notes faster in succession than the first. The observer, Brian Healy, played the Eastern Whip-poor-will's call on his iphone, as well as the Common Poorwill's call, and determined that it was the Eastern's call that he had heard. The committee felt that, although Brian had familiarity with the Eastern Whip-poor-will's call, he apparently was not familiar with the recently-split Mexican species. With subsequent follow-ups with Brian, and providing him with access to the Mexican's calls, he determined that what he had heard was the Eastern species. There was much discussion among the committee members as to what was heard, considering the lateness in the season for a nightjar to be calling and the possibility that the distinction between Eastern and Mexican species may have been blurred. Also, if the bird were the Eastern species, it would be the first confirmed record for the state. It was felt that the observation was too uncertain to be accepted as a first state record. (The first sighting of a Mexican Whip-poor-will, three years earlier, was even farther north than this sighting, so distance-wise the Mexican species could still be considered possible.) Several members thought that the bird was a whip-poor-will but which species was undetermined. The

sighting was not accepted on 2nd round voting – 2 Y – 7 N. The sighting is placed in the “Special Sightings” category in the Utah Rare Bird Sightings of UtahBirds.org.

VAUX’S SWIFT (*Chaetura vauxi*). 2011-19. (5/14) The bird was seen flying over the Kaysville Ponds (Davis County) on 9 May 2011 by Kris Purdy. It was in the neighborhood of numerous swallows but did not associate with them. Description was good so as to eliminate swallows and Chimney Swift. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

VAUX’S SWIFT (*Chaetura vauxi*). 2011-21. (6/15) A flock of 12 individuals was seen at the Little Bear River bridge on Mendon Road (Cache County) on 9 May 2011 by Kurt and David Kotter. Photos by KK and descriptions of the flight pattern were able to identify the swifts as opposed to other swifts or swallows. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

VAUX’S SWIFT (*Chaetura vauxi*). 2011-24. (7/16) A single bird was seen flying over the American Fork Boat Harbor (Utah County) by Eric Huish, Eric Peterson, and K C Childs on 11 May 2011. Photos by EP. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

VAUX’S SWIFT (*Chaetura vauxi*). 2011-50. (8/17) Eric Huish, Keeli Marvel, Lyle Bingham, and Milton Moody observed a single swift flying above the Provo Airport Dike on 9 Oct 2011. No photos were taken due to the nature of the flight. It was noted to be short-tailed and smaller than nearby Barn Swallows. Swallows were eliminated by shape, wingbeat, color, and size. Black Swift and White-throated Swift were eliminated by color, size, and short, unnotched tail. Chimney Swift was eliminated by size and throat color. Accepted on 2nd Round – 7 Y – 1 N.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*). 2011-03. (-) Two birds were seen above Oakley just below the Smith and Morehouse Reservoir (Summit County) in August 2009 by Lisa Lea. Photos, as well as the description, did not rule out Red-naped Sapsucker. Not accepted – 2nd: 0 Y – 7 N.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*). 2011-09. (4/4) A sighting of a single bird on 13 Feb 2011 at Cox Park (Washington County) by Norm Jenson. The written description was somewhat dubious but the photos by NJ showed enough features to rule out a Red-naped Sapsucker or a hybrid. Accepted 2nd: 7 Y – 0 N.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*). 2011-51. (5/5) Kenneth Burton observed a female sapsucker on 22 Oct 2011 at the Rio Mesa Center (Grand County). The bird was in hand subsequent to mist-netting and banding. Photos by. Accepted on 2nd round – 9 Y – 0 N.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*). 2011-62. (6/6) Rick Fridell found a single adult female in Beaver Dam Wash, upstream from Lytle Ranch (Washington County) on 21 Oct 2011. The bird was on obvious woodpecker actively foraging and moving about in cottonwood and ash trees in riparian habitat. It was distinguished from Red-naped Sapsucker by the black and white head pattern, white throat, and white speckling diffused across the back. Photo by RF. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus ruber*). 2011-02. (-) A male individual was seen in the Olympus Cove (Salt Lake County) on 31 Dec 2010 by Mike Davies probing in pine trees in his yard. Harper Randall also saw the bird. The committee felt a hybrid Red-naped/Red-breasted was not eliminated. Not accepted – 2nd: 2 Y – 5 N.

RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus ruber*). 2011-41. (5/9) Rick Fridell discovered a single adult feeding in sap wells on various trees at the parking lot island of Zion Canyon NP Visitor Center from 12 Dec 2010 to 5 Jan 2011. The head and upper breast had a deeper uniform rosy red than is typical of *ruber*. Photos by RF. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*). 2011-27. (3/6) This bird was seen on the Provo Airport Dike (Utah County) on 25 May 2011 by Terry Sadler. Other *Empidonax sp.* were eliminated by bill size and large head appearance and wing tip projection. Photos by TS. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*). 2011-31. (-) A single individual was seen for 3-5 minutes in Rock Canyon above Provo (Utah County) on 22 Jun 2011 by Justin Linge. Despite the similarity in appearance of several *Empidonax* flycatchers, the bird's call description of ascending and descending notes was considered to be unlike the usual flat and monotone "che-bek" notes of typical Least Flycatchers. The sighting was not accepted 0 Y – 7 N on 2nd Round voting.

PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax difficilis*). 2011-47. (-) Two hatch-year birds were captured along the Dolores River, Rio Mesa Field Station (Grand County), by Ken Burton on 16 Sep 2011. Photos and sighting submitted by KB. Extensive measurements were done using the Pyle formula, which were strongly suggestive of this species in contrast with all other *Empidonax* flycatchers. The bird was then released. This report engendered much discussion among the members of the committee. One member considered that this species is probably fairly common in southwestern Utah during fall migration but, because it is not vocal then, is always passed over as being a Cordilleran. Other members have noted the extensive area of overlap of breeding territories of Pacific-slope and Cordilleran in southern British Columbia and resultant confusion of vocalizations. Some members also have been concerned over the split from 'Western' Flycatcher in the first place, in 1989. Two committee members indicated issues with the definition of this species, but that is not what we were charged to vote on. Discussion here, if any, should focus on whether this record meets the criteria for acceptance. At least 5 members felt it did not. Not accepted on 2nd Round voting, 1 Y – 6 N.

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*). 2011-16. (10/16) This flycatcher was seen at the northwest corner of the Provo Airport Dike (Utah County) by Eric Huish, and afterwards by numerous other observers on 18 Oct 2010. Other similar fairly large flycatchers were eliminated by description and photo by Robert Williams. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*). 2011-28. (3/9) A rare sighting for this species on 6 Jun 2011, initially by Eric Huish on the west side of the Provo Airport Dike (Utah County). Subsequently, at least two dozen Utah birders were able to see this bird flying or perched generally in the same location as when discovered. Photos by Bryant Olsen and Kendall Brown. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*). 2011-38. (11/15) A drab bird, either first year or adult was seen at the International Center, Salt Lake City (Salt Lake County) on 17 Sep 2011 by Jeff Cooper. Photos by JC. Eric Huish was also present and observed the bird. Warbling Vireo was eliminated by crown and lack of white eyebrow. Red-eyed Vireo was eliminated by the dark eye and short bill. One expert to whom the sighting was sent thought that the most likely identification was Yellow-green Vireo. The one objector didn't think it was a pure Philadelphia Vireo, possibly a hybrid, but didn't really know what it was. Sighting was accepted on 2nd round 6 Y – 1 N.

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*). 2011-55. (4/19) Rick Fridell observed one bird at Lytle Ranch, Beaver Dam Wash (Washington County) on 30 Sep 2011 in the thick underbrush. He was able to watch it for 15 minutes and took photos. Steve and Cindy Sommerfeld also were nearby and saw it. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER (*Toxostoma curvirostre*). 2011-11. (2/2) A single bird visited the bird feeders of Jeff Foott, who reported this sighting and took photos, in Castle Valley (Grand County) in middle February 2011. The written description was useful but the photos clearly identified the bird. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*). 2011-61. (8/14) A first-fall male was observed between 5-7 Oct 2011 in Tonaquint Park, St. George (Washington County) by Dan Trujillo, and subsequently by Rick Fridell who submitted the record and took photos. The bright yellow head and large eye, with bluish-gray wings and darker mantle were distinctive. The bird foraged low around the edge of the pond. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Vermivora peregrina*) [*Oreothlypis peregrina*]. 2011-57. (12/24). Rick Fridell observed a single individual on 30 Sep 2011 in St. George (Washington County). It was gleaning in cottonwood and tamarisk trees. Distinguished from Orange-crowned Warbler by brighter olive-yellow back and white undertail coverts. Photos by RF. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

NORTHERN PARULA (*Dendroica americana*) [*Setophaga americana*]. 2011-23. (9/13) KC Childs and Eric Huish spotted this bird on the Provo Airport Dike (Utah County) on 14 May 2011. Photos by EH and description were enough to separate it from similar species. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

NORTHERN PARULA (*Dendroica americana*) [*Setophaga americana*]. 2011-40. (10/14) A first-winter female was first heard chirping in a manner unlike the usual birds by Rick Fridell on 24 Dec 2010 at Tonaquint Nature Park (Washington County). It was finally seen and photographed by RF. Photo plus the description ruled out the much more rare Tropical Parula. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

NORTHERN PARULA (*Dendroica americana*) [*Setophaga americana*]. 2011-48. (11/15) Bryant Olsen discovered a singing male on 618 Jun 2011 in City Creek Canyon (Salt Lake County). After realizing that the song was unusual for the area, he tracked down the songster and identified it by the light blue head, yellow throat, partial eye ring, and white wing bars. Photo and audio recording by BO. Tropical Parula was ruled out by the song and extreme unlikelihood of our latitude. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N.

NORTHERN PARULA (*Dendroica americana*) [*Setophaga americana*]. 2011-58. (12/16) Rick Fridell saw and photographed a hatch-year bird in St. George (Washington County) on 2 Oct 2011. The bird was relatively small with a short tail. Head and face were bluish-gray with distinct white eye-arcs. It was associating with several warblers of other species. This bird was also seen by Rob Dobbs, Meribeth Huizinga, and Steve and Cindy Sommerfeld. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) [*Setophaga pensylvanica*]. 2011-54. (8/14) A hatch-year female was observed for 15 minutes in St. George (Washington County) on 16 Sep 2011 by Rick Fridell, Kevin Wheeler, Dan Trujillo, and Rob Dobbs. Photo by RF. It was described as a small warbler with grayish-white undersides, bright yellow-green crown and bold eye-ring. The photo was an important guide to the identification. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) [*Setophaga pensylvanica*]. 2011-59. (9/15) A first-fall female was watched for up to 20 minutes during 5-7 Oct 2011 by Rick Fridell at Tonaquint Park, St. George (Washington County). Photo by RF. This bird was seen while Rick was observing and making notes of the Prothonotary Warbler reviewed here. The upper sides were bright lime green in color, with dark olive-gray wings and prominent yellowish-white wing bars. The bird was gleaning and hover-gleaning. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) [*Setophaga pensylvanica*]. 2011-60. (10/16) Rick Fridell observed a second warbler at Tonaquint Park, St. George (Washington County), on 5-7 Oct 2011, while watching a Prothonotary Warbler and another Chestnut-sided Warbler. This second individual had faint chestnut streaking on the flanks. Photo by RF. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*) [*Setophaga striata*]. 2011-49. (11/25) A single individual was observed along the Provo Airport Dike on 11 Oct 2012 by Eric Huish, and later by Bryan Shirley. Other confusing fall warblers, such as, Bay-breasted, Pine, Yellow-rumped, Hermit, Townsend's, and Black-throated Green warblers were eliminated due to plumage coloration, especially on face and flanks. The face was similar to an Orange-crowned Warbler and had 2 white wingbars. The sighting was accepted on 2nd Round – 5 Y – 2 N.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Dendroica caerulescens*) [*Setophaga caerulescens*]. 2011-39. (7/17) A single male was found by Rick Fridell at Lytle Ranch, Beaver Dam Wash (Washington County) on 12 Oct 2010. The bird was observed for 5 minutes foraging low shrubs and chasing moths on the ground. Although the photo by RF showed only the back part of the bird, distinguishing characteristics and good write-up were sufficient to document the species. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*) [*Setophaga palmarum*]. 2011-20. (6/13) David Wheeler first noticed this bird skulking in the bushes alongside a canal along I-215 at 195 North, Salt Lake City (Salt Lake County) on 9 May 2011. It was later seen by a wide variety of birders and others. Photos by Norm Jenson and Robert Mortensen. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N.

PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*) [*Setophaga palmarum*]. 2011-22. (7/14) An adult, probably male discovered at Fish Springs NWR (Juab County) on 10 May 2011 by Jack Skalicky. Other warblers were ruled out with good description. Accepted Y 7 – 0 N.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Dendroica discolor*) [*Seophaga discolor*]. 2011-56. (5/6) A first-fall male was observed by Rick Fridell and Rob Dobbs during 23-25 Sept 2011 in St. George (Washington County). Photo by RD. It was small, moving rapidly about and pumping the tail. Underparts were bright yellow with streaking along the flanks. Wide white arcs around the dark black eye. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*). 2011-37. (3/5) A male, possibly first year, bird was seen on the Provo Airport Dike (Utah County) on 30 May 2011 on by Eric Huish and K C Childs. Photo by EH. The bird stood out among the tan and gray reeds and cattails in the canal by the dike. All similar birds, such as other tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeak, orioles, Northern Cardinal, Pine Grosbeak, crossbills, even Orange Bishop were eliminated by distinctive field marks. Photos of the bird were also conclusive. Accepted Y 7 – 0 N.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*). 2011-63. (4/6) On 14 Oct 2011, an adult female was noted with a female Western Tanager, offering good identification of differences. Location – Beck Spring, Snake Valley (Millard County), seen and reported by Rick Fridell with photos. The bird was slightly smaller than the Western and was without wingbars. Accepted 7 Y – 0 N, one abstention.

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*). 2011-33. (3/4) A first-year male was heard singing, then identified by sight and photos by Tony Jones behind his home in Farmington (Davis County) on 26 Jun 2011. Western Meadowlark was eliminated by good description and photos. The bird was subsequently seen by several dozen Utah birders. Photos also by Robert Mortensen. Accepted 8 Y – 0 N; 1 abstention.

PURPLE FINCH (*Carpodacus purpureus*). 2011-32. (-) This sighting was near the Blacksmith Fork River in Nibley (Cache County), on 9 Jun 2010 by Ron and Parker Hellstern. The bird was in a small flock of House and Cassin's Finches at a feeder. Committee members felt that without details, such as bill shape, flight call, flank pattern, undertail coverts, etc., that such a rare species as this could not be definitely determined, compared to the much more common Cassin's Finch. The sighting was not accepted. 2nd: 0 Y – 7 N.

PURPLE FINCH (*Carpodacus purpureus*). 2011-34. (-) This bird was seen in a backyard feeder in Logan (Cache County) on 30 May 2011 by Val Grant. The Committee felt that without definitive photos and more complete description that Cassin's Finch could not be ruled out. The sighting was not accepted. 2nd: 0 Y – 7 N.

COMMON REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*). 2011-66. (16/36) An adult bird was sighted at Garr Ranch, Antelope Island (Davis County) by Craig Fosdick and EJ Raynor on 25 Nov 2011. Photo by EJR. It was identified as a small, goldfinch-sized finch with small beak, prominent red forehead and streaky brown flanks. It was associating with numerous American Goldfinches in shrubs and trees at the ranch. Goldfinches were eliminated by the red forehead patch. Hoary Redpoll was considered but it has a frostier appearance overall and a shorter beak. Accepted 9 Y – 0 N.

Addendum: In 2010, the 52nd supplement to the AOU nomenclature classification changed the genus names of several genera of warblers. Those warblers affected in the 2011 sightings submitted to the Utah Bird Records Committee are listed in this report with the original names in parentheses followed by the new names in brackets. Beginning with the 2012 sightings, the original names will be dropped and the newer names will be in parentheses.