

NOTES

CHARADRIIFORMES NEW TO NEVADA

The following records add further knowledge to the status of Charadriiformes in Nevada. Specimens and the original color transparencies of all photographs are deposited in the University of Nevada Museum of Biology (UNMB), University of Nevada, Reno. Species identification of all photographic records has been verified by Joseph R. Jehl Jr. and Guy McCaskie of the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM). Unless otherwise noted, all records are from Clark County, Nevada. Photographs were taken by the author.

RED PHALAROPE

On 26 July 1972 I collected a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) from a flock of about 250 phalaropes at the tailing ponds in Las Vegas Wash 10 miles southeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. The flock consisted of 4 or 5 Red Phalaropes in winter plumage, 225 Wilson's Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*), and 25 Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*). The specimen (UNMB 1748) was an adult male in breeding plumage (both testes 2.5 x 4.0 mm), moderately fat, with two feathers of the back in molt. The weight was not obtained.

This first specimen record for Nevada supports a sight and photographic record from the same location 5 June 1971 (Snider, Am. Birds; 25:781, 1971).

GLAUCOUS GULL

On 30 November 1972 Gertrude Lawson and I discovered a juvenal Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) resting ashore at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, Nevada. The bird was in view about 3 minutes. I took 4 photographs before the bird was flushed by an approaching car. The accompanying photograph (Figure 1) was taken at that time. The following description was obtained:

The bird was very large, very light grayish-white with some light brownish flecking on the body. The bill was very large, whitish with a black tip. The primaries were white. The tail was white with some light brownish flecking. The bird was last seen on 16 December. This is the first Nevada record.



Figure 1. Juvenal Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, Clark County, Nevada 30 November 1972.



Figure 2. Juvenal Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) at Lake Mead, Clark County, Nevada 30 October 1971. Note the small headed and small billed appearance and the checkered pattern of the back.



Figure 3. Juvenile Thayer's Gull. Note the white wing linings, pattern of the wing covers and the white tipped primaries.

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GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL

R. W. Campbell (pers. comm.) reports he banded a Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) as a local (band 967-19765) at a colony 8 miles northwest of Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia 11 July 1971. The disarticulated remains of this bird were found one mile from the east shore of Lake Tahoe near Glenbrook, Douglas County, Nevada in late July 1972 by Tom Gorman of San Mateo, California. The band was recovered but the skeletal remains were left at the discovery site.

The presence of this species in Nevada was first noted on 30 October 1971 when M. Vincent Mowbray, John Koch and Glade Koch discovered a juvenal at Las Vegas Wash Marina, Lake Mead. On 5 November 1971 Nora Poyser, Pauline Long and I observed a juvenal, presumably the same bird, at the same location. Efforts to secure photographs failed. The following description was obtained:

The bird was larger than a nearby Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) and similar in color but larger than a nearby Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). The bill was large and black. The eye was dark. The body, primaries, and tail were a uniform gray-brown with some slightly darker brownish streaking on the back. The legs were pinkish-brown.

Subsequently, from one to three individuals were observed until 27 February 1972. During November and December of 1972 another juvenal appeared at the same site. These are the first Nevada records.

THAYER'S GULL

On 11 February 1972 I collected a juvenal Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) at the Silver State Disposal Company garbage dump about 10 miles east of Las Vegas, Nevada. The bird (UNMB 1746, female, weight 737.1 g) was prepared as a study skin by Fred Ryser, UNMB.

The presence of this species in Nevada was first noted 30 October 1971 when I photographed a gull I could not identify at Las Vegas Wash Marina, Lake Mead. The accompanying photographs (Figures 2, 3, and 4) were taken on that date. Duplicate sets of the original color transparencies are on deposit at SDNHM and the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Quebec. During December 1972 another juvenal appeared at the same site. These are the first Nevada records.

MEW GULL

On 9 January 1972 M. Vincent Mowbray and I discovered an immature Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) resting on the beach at Las Vegas Wash Marina, Lake Mead, Nevada. The accompanying photograph (Figure 5) was taken at that time. The following description was obtained:

The bird was smaller than a nearby Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). The bird had a small black bill. The eye was dark. The head, neck, back, chest, sides and stomach were a uniform gray-brown. The tail was gray-brown with the terminal one-third banded by a dark gray-brown to black very narrowly tipped with buffy-white.

The Mew Gull in juvenal plumage most nearly appears like an immature Thayer's Gull, has a small, black bill and the tips of the rectrices are so narrowly tipped with buffy-white that these markings are easily missed.

The bird was last seen 27 February 1972. In November 1972 another juvenal of this species was sighted at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead by Mowbray. These are the first Nevada records.

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Figure 4. Juvenal Thayer's Gull, flight. Note the light primaries and the banded tail.



Figure 5. Juvenal Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) at Lake Mead, Clark County, Nevada 9 January 1972. Note the small black bill. Compare size to Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) on the left.

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COMMON TERN

On 15 August 1972 I collected an adult Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) at the tailing ponds in Las Vegas Wash about 10 miles southeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. The bird is now UNMB 1749 (female, weight not taken, heavily covered with unidentified ectoparasites, moderately fat). The tail was white with dark gray outer rectrices. The tarsi measured 20.5 mm. This is the first Nevada specimen.

Common Terns are probably overlooked among Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) by most observers in the state. In northern Nevada, McCaskie (pers. comm.) has observed the species in the Reno-Carson City-Lake Tahoe area. Ed Scovill of Boulder City, Nevada photographed the species in Iceberg Canyon of Lake Mead in May 1968 and at the 19-20 mile marker in Lake Mohave in May 1969. In southern Nevada, M. Vincent Mowbray and I have observed the species during spring and fall migrations for several years. In addition to the fall, 1971 and spring, 1972 observations at Lake Mead (Monson, *Am. Birds* 26:102, 793, 1972), I have observed Common Terns at the following Nevada locations: Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, Churchill Co.—one 18 May 1971; Las Vegas Wash—seven 3 May 1964, six 14 September 1965, two 16 May 1967, two 23 August 1968, thirteen 24 August 1972; Pahrangat Lake near Alamo, Lincoln Co.—one 6 September 1973; Walker Lake, Mineral Co.—one 22 May 1970; and Cave Rock, Lake Tahoe, Douglas Co.—nine 20 May 1964.

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