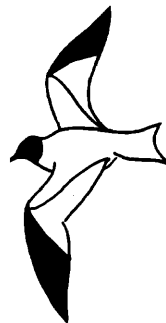


WESTERN BIRDS



Volume 8, Number 3, 1977

NONPASSERINE SPECIES NEW OR UNUSUAL TO NEVADA

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During the past several years observers in Nevada have discovered many nonpasserine species not previously known to occur in the state. Many species unusual to Nevada have also been reported. A few records have been reported in ornithological journals. Most, however, have been reported as sightings in *Audubon Field Notes/American Birds* with the comment "details to be published elsewhere." This note presents the details and any documentation obtained for those sightings.

Unless otherwise indicated, all records are from Clark County, Nevada. All photographs were taken by the author unless otherwise credited. Species identification of all photographic records has been verified by Joseph Jehl, Jr. and/or Guy McCaskie of the San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, California. Unless otherwise stated, specimens, original color transparencies and/or black and white negatives and prints of all photographic records are deposited in the University Museum of Biology (UNMB), University of Nevada, Reno, in Reno, Nevada. Reference will also be made to specimens housed in the Nevada State Museum (NSM), Carson City, Nevada, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ), University of California, Berkeley and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV-B). Personal observations are indicated by initials CSL.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

ARCTIC LOON, *Gavia arctica*. I photographed one 19 October 1976 at Tule Springs Park 23 km northwest of Las Vegas (Figure 1). Though the species has occurred in small numbers at Lakes Mead and Mohave almost annually since 1971, documentation has not been obtained. These lakes, which annually attract large numbers of water associated birds, are totally within the boundaries of the Lake Mead National Recreational Area and collecting is forbidden. Approaching this species (and most others) by boat, close enough for adequate photography, is difficult.

This photographic record is the first documented record for Clark County and appears to be the fourth Nevada record.

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Figure 1. Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*), Tule Springs Park, Las Vegas, Clark Co., Nevada, 19 October 1976.



Figure 2. Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) and Eared Grebe (*P. nigricollis*), Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, Clark Co., Nevada, 12 December 1974.

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Individual dead birds have been found at two Nevada locations. Baine Cater found a freshly killed bird at Ruby Lakes, Elko County, 21 October 1950 (Wilson and Norr 1951). It is not known if the remains were salvaged as a specimen. The remains of an immature were found at Soda Lake, Churchill County, 9 April 1950 (Marshall 1951) and were retained in Marshall's personal collection.

The report (Deming 1963) of a specimen taken in Nye County by Thomas Imhof 26 October 1951 is in error. Imhof (pers. comm.) states he picked up a live bird from Yucca Lake at the Nevada Test Site. The lake bed, normally dry, was covered with about 3 cm of water. The bird was briefly examined and then released in an area of the lake containing deeper water.

RED-THROATED LOON, *G. stellata*. While conducting a Christmas Bird Census 21 December 1969 Ken King and I discovered two in Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead. One was studied by 15x60 telescope from a distance of about 50 m. The other was observed from a boat at a distance of 15-18 m. The water was flat calm, the sky was clear and the sun was behind us. The following description, applicable to both birds, was obtained:

About twice the size of nearby Eared Grebes (*Podiceps nigricollis*). Bills thin and grayish, with the lower mandible slightly upturned near the tip. Nostrils barely discernible, apparently covered with skin. Forehead, crown and hindneck bluish-gray with some light whitish edgings. Chin, cheeks, and underneck grayish-white to the waterline. Eye dark brown and positioned almost entirely within the whitish portion of the face. Back, scapulars and wing coverts brownish-gray, thickly covered with small whitish spots, heaviest on the scapulars and wing coverts.

One of the two birds was apparently a juvenile. This bird was as described above except there were brownish streaks on the side of the neck and the spotting on the back, scapulars and wing coverts were grayish, narrow and appeared to form small V's.

Subsequently, I observed an individual at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, 1 October 1971. Bill Fiero and I observed four individuals 18 December 1971 in Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead. George Austin and Scott Miller observed an individual in Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, 24 November 1975. Only one of these individuals was observed to take flight from the water. On 18 December 1971 Bill Fiero and I observed an individual rise almost vertically from the water rather than running along the surface before taking flight. Flight was low, direct and swift.

The most useful field marks were the small size, light coloration, extensive spotting on the back, scapulars, wing coverts and the location of the eye in the whitish portion of the face. Bill shape is a relatively poor field mark. These are the first Nevada records.

HORNED GREBE, *Podiceps auritus*. Sightings of this species have been recorded in Nevada since the late 1860s (Ridgway 1877; Linsdale 1936, 1951). The species appears on the hypothetical list of Austin and Bradley (1971) for Clark County. There is a specimen in the Lake Mead National Recreational Area collection, but there are no data on the tag.

I have recorded this species in southern Nevada in small numbers every year since 1967. On 10 May 1969 in Las Vegas Wash Vince Mowbray and I observed one which was almost totally in breeding plumage. On 16 December 1972 I photographed one among a small group of Eared Grebes in Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead. Two were photographed at the same site 12 December 1974 (Figure 2).

In northern Nevada, one was found dead 22 January 1961 at Pyramid Lake, Washoe County, by V. K. Johnson (MVZ 142630, female, ova minute, very thin, weight 213.8 g).

These are the first documented Nevada records.

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The Horned Grebe in winter plumage appears much like a small, chunky Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). The bill of the Horned Grebe is straighter and much heavier than that of the Eared Grebe. The chin, throat, side of face below the eye, side of upper neck and upper chest are all a clean white. These areas are largely a grayish-brown on the Eared Grebe. Behaviorally, the Horned Grebe does not form large rafts of birds as does the Eared Grebe. It is usually found singly or in pairs away from large groups of other grebes.

LEAST STORM-PETREL, *Halocystena microsoma*. On 12 September 1976 Bill Prange discovered two at the south end of Cottonwood Basin, Lake Mohave. He followed one of the birds by boat for some distance, securing a detailed description.

Larry Johnson found 50-70 individuals resting on the water 14 September about 400 m offshore from Saddle Island in Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead and put them to flight by directing his boat through the flock. Johnson also secured a written description.

On 17 September I found an individual on Lake Mohave above Davis Dam, and perhaps the same bird 40 minutes later in the turbine discharge basin below the dam. The bird made several circuits of the discharge basin, was seen in both Nevada and in Mohave County, Arizona, and then flew down the river. I also obtained a written description.

In our descriptions all observers agree on the following points: The birds were small, about the size of a swallow but with longer wings, and brownish-black to blackish with no light colored rump patches. They appeared to have no tail; what tail there was appeared rounded, not forked. Flight was very close to the water.

Prange and Johnson described the flight as slow, occasionally bat or moth like. I felt the flight was similar to that of a Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*). Prange and I both noted the buffy-rusty greater wing coverts. Only Prange was able to get close enough to see the black feet. I noted the bill and eye were dark brown or blackish.

These are the first Nevada records. They, and several other tropical or pelagic species, were blown inland by hurricane Kathleen which moved northeast from the Pacific Ocean, across Baja California and up the Colorado River valley 10 September 1976. McCaskie (pers. comm.) states 225 Least Storm-Petrels and one dark rumped form of Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) were found at Salton Sea, Imperial County, California 13 September.

Significantly, a large storm-petrel with a dark rump and a forked tail was seen at Las Vegas Stadium 11 September during a football game. Though the bird appears on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas game films, the segment is too brief for positive species identification. Observers identified the bird as a Black Storm-Petrel (*O. melania*), but none of them was aware there is a dark rumped form of Leach's Storm-Petrel.

BROWN PELICAN, *Pelecanus occidentalis*. Terry Peters discovered an immature on 31 August 1975 in Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead. I photographed presumably the same bird while on a field trip to this locality with Peters and Vince Mowbray on 13 September. There have been more than 20 sightings involving more than 40 individuals in Nevada. In addition to the previous sightings (Lawson 1973a) there were two sightings and one specimen, all of immature birds, in 1976. One was found dead in Las Vegas Wash by George Austin 7 June (UNLV-B 1166, immature, male, no fat, no molt). One landed in a condominium complex in Las Vegas 15 July. This bird was transported to Sea World in San Diego, California. I found one at Ft. Mohave 23 July.

These are the third and fourth documented Nevada records and the first Nevada specimen.

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MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD, *Fregata magnificens*. On 17 September 1976 I photographed an immature soaring above Davis Dam on the Colorado River (Figure 3). This bird was seen both in Nevada and in Mohave County, Arizona. It was in view for about two minutes and then soared off down the river. This is the first documented Nevada record. Previous sightings were reviewed by Lawson (1973a).

CATTLE EGRET, *Bubulcus ibis*. While on a field trip with Vince Mowbray 3 October 1975 I photographed an immature in an alfalfa field near Logandale. Mowbray had discovered the bird the previous day. This small heron-like bird was about 50 cm tall, all white, with a stubby, thick yellow bill and black legs. The feet were not seen.

An immature was found at Mercury Sewage Ponds, Nye County, 10-19 August 1977 and was photographed on 10 August by Richard Castetter (Figure 4).

On 20 November 1977 one landed in the yard of a residence near Blue Diamond Road south of Las Vegas and was killed by a cat. The remains were recovered by W. C. Murdock who gave them to me. It is now C. S. Lawson 71 (adult male, left testis 9x5 mm, no subcutaneous or visceral fat, weight 234.3 g, no molt). The bird was in poor condition, the stomach containing 5 or 6 unidentified *Coleoptera*. The specimens will be deposited at UNMB.

The presence of this species was first discovered by Leon Hill at the Pahrana-gat National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County, in December 1969. He has seen them there almost every winter since that time. Other records are: one adult 7 May 1973, 7-H ranch in Ruby Valley, Elko County, W. H. Mullins; two 9 November 1974, Logandale, Vince Mowbray and John O'Connell; four 4 June 1975, Pahrana-gat Valley, Lincoln County, CSL; one 19 August 1975, Diamond Valley, Eureka County, J. and E. Eyre; and one 12 May 1976, Overton, Roy Horsley. These are the first Nevada records.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE, *Bucephala islandica*. While with John O'Connell 5 December 1974 at Davis Dam on the Colorado River, I photographed a flock of 17, of which 10 are shown in Figure 5. Eight were males and all were observed resting, preening and diving in the turbine discharge area below the dam during the hour we were there. The birds, which had been discovered by O'Connell 30 November, were seen both in Nevada and in Mohave County, Arizona.



Figure 3. Immature Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), Davis Dam, Clark Co., Nevada, and Mohave Co., Arizona, 17 September 1976.

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Figure 4. Immature Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Mercury Sewage Ponds, Nye Co., Nevada, 10 August 1977.

Photo by Richard Castetter

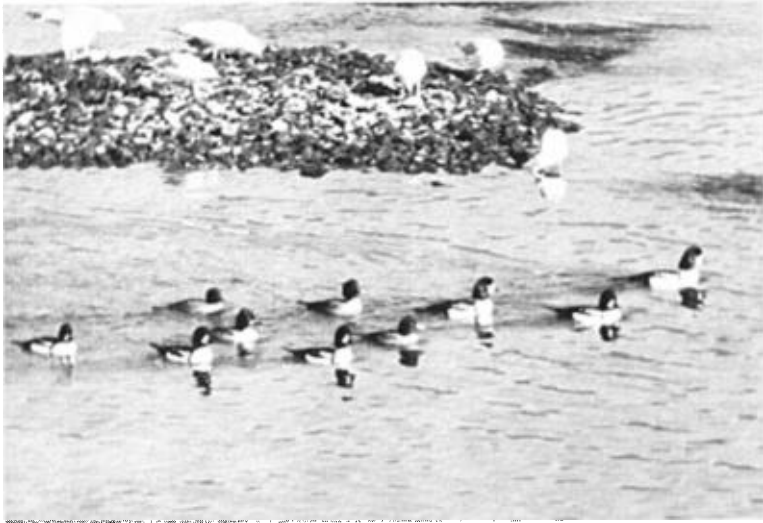


Figure 5. Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), below Davis Dam, Clark Co., Nevada and Mohave Co., Arizona, 5 December 1974.

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The population continued to increase during December. On 12 December 36 were present including 14 males. Gale Monson and I found 57 including 12 males 17 December. This flock remained at the site during the remainder of the winter, decreasing in number during February 1975. Four were present 20 February 1975, the last date seen.

During the almost three months this flock was present the birds did not join an enormous flock of almost 1100 Common Goldeneye (*B. clangula*) also present in the same general area. The Barrow's Goldeneye remained exclusively in an area below the dam extending from the dam down river about 1.6 km. When approached by fishermen in boats the Barrow's Goldeneye would swim rapidly away to a safe distance, whereas the Common Goldeneye always flew away from boats and could be put to flight by merely opening a car door on the river bank.

I took additional photographs at the same site beginning 28 November 1975 when 14 were present. Again the flock continued to increase in number during December and early January 1976. A peak population of 43 was reached 9 January 1976. Two were present 27 February 1976, the last date seen.

The species appeared at the same site during November 1976. Scott Burge found 5 below the dam 14 November 1976. I photographed 6 including 4 males 24 November. Vince Mowbray found 29 including 10 males 4 January 1977.

Although there have been a few unsubstantiated sightings of individuals or small numbers reported in previous years, these large flocks constitute the first documented Nevada records. During 1974 and 1975 the species was also photographed from the Mohave County, Arizona, side of the river. The species is listed as hypothetical in Arizona (Phillips et al. 1964).

OLDSQUAW, *Clangula hyemalis*. John O'Connell and I discovered a male 23 January 1975 in a lagoon on the Colorado River 10 km below Davis Dam. I photographed the bird on 5 March. This bird remained in that same general area, in winter plumage, for the rest of the year. During the period November 1975-January 1976 it was joined by two other males and two females. All five were present at Davis Dam from 9 January to 25 February. Additional photographs were taken 9 January. One additional individual was found at Laughlin 3 February by Van Remsen.

On 20 November 1975 Tom Harper gave a female Oldsquaw to me. The bird had been killed by a hunter in Las Vegas Wash and was one of two birds present. The bird is now UNLV-B 1157 (ovary nongranular, 7x10 mm, no molt, moderate fat, weight 580.2 g).

I photographed a male and a female at Davis Dam 24 November 1976. There were eight in southern Nevada 4 January 1977. Bill Prange (pers. comm.) stated there were five in Cottonwood Basin, Lake Mohave, and Vince Mowbray reported the three at Davis Dam were still present. These are the first Clark County records.

HARLEQUIN DUCK, *Histrionicus histrionicus*. Hanford (1903) reported "A male was taken at Frankstown near the lake and identified by Mr. Steinmetz." This was the basis for inclusion of this species in *The Birds of Nevada* (Linsdale 1936).

On 24 June 1977 Dave and Karen Galat discovered a male just beginning eclipse in The Needles area at the north end of Pyramid Lake, Washoe County. The bird was resting on shore and was easily approached. Several photographs were taken and Figure 6 was taken on that date. This appears to be the second Nevada record.

SURF SCOTER, *Melanitta perspicillata*. I photographed an immature 5 December 1974 on the Colorado River about 450 m below Davis Dam. The bird was with a flock of 17 Barrow's Goldeneye for the hour John O'Connell and I were there. The bird was discovered by O'Connell 30 November.

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Four individuals were observed by George Austin and Scott Miller 24 November 1975 in Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead. Karl Lawson and I observed three immatures below Davis Dam 28 November 1975. There is only one previous record for Clark County (Austin and Bradley 1971).

BLACK SCOTER, *M. nigra*. San Stiver discovered a male and two females 21 October 1976 at Comins Lake 16 km south of Ely, White Pine County.

On 11 November 1976 Mike Wickersham collected an individual at the Kirch Wildlife Management Area near Sunnyside, Nye County (UNMB 1814, immature female, skull fully ossified, no subcutaneous or visceral fat, weight 631 g). The bird was in extremely poor condition. There was nothing in the stomach. The gizzard contained one snail shell, some sand and a large number of tapeworms. The snail shell and tapeworms were saved for further examination and identification. Very nearly the entire depth of the keel of the sternum protruded above the surface of the pectoral muscle mass. The reproductive tract was completely decomposed. The salt glands were large; right gland was 2.9 cm long and 0.55 cm wide in the anterior one-third with the remainder of the gland being 0.70 cm wide. The specimen was compared with material at MVZ by Ned Johnson and determined to be *M. n. americana*.

There is only one previous sighting of this species in Nevada (Scott 1968). This is the first Nevada specimen.



Figure 6. Male Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*), The Needles area, Pyramid Lake, Washoe Co., Nevada, 24 June 1977.

Photo by Karen Hamilton-Galat

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ZONE-TAILED HAWK, *B. albonotatus*. On 19 April 1975 John and Kay O'Connell discovered an adult soaring above Mormon Farm 13 km southeast of Las Vegas. They observed the bird for about 30 minutes, taking detailed notes. Subsequently, the bird was seen by Vince Mowbray. I located the bird between Las Vegas Wash and Mormon Farm 21 April and obtained the following description:

About the size of a nearby Swainson's Hawk (*B. swainsoni*). Top of head gray. Face, back, upper wings, wing linings, chin, throat, stomach, sides, flanks and feathers of tibia slate gray, at times appearing tinted with brown. Underside of primaries and secondaries gray. Wings appeared slim; primaries dark tipped. Tail compressed most of the time; white bands of tail difficult to see at times. Three black bands on tail. Beginning at rump, each succeeding band larger than previous band. Black band near tip of tail wider than the other two combined. Spaces between bands were whitish. Tip of tail a narrow whitish band. Tarsi, feet and bill light gray or yellowish-gray.

When first seen by the O'Connells, the bird was mistaken for a Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) until it flew overhead. Behaviorally, it was very similar to a Turkey Vulture. However, all observers noticed the bird would occasionally fold the wings partially, forming a triangle and dive-glide toward the ground. This was the only difference noted in the behavior of the two species. The tail of the Zone-tailed Hawk appeared to be more square than that of the Turkey Vulture. This is the first Nevada record.

HARRIS' HAWK, *Parabuteo unicinctus*. I discovered an adult 18 April 1975 soaring over Mormon Farm 13 km southeast of Las Vegas. I observed the bird for about 30 minutes in good light. The following description was obtained:

Approximately the same size as nearby Swainson's Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*). Entire head, back, primaries and secondaries dark blackish-brown. Chin, throat, chest, stomach, sides, and flanks dark brown. Wing coverts, wing linings and feathers on the tibia uniform rust. Upper tail coverts, under tail coverts, base and tip of tail white. Sub-terminal band on tail broad and black. Tarsi and feet yellowish.

There were six Swainson's Hawks also soaring over the farm. The Harris' and Swainson's hawks soared in a loose flock from the southern end of the farm area to the northern end, over the Winterwood Golf Course and passed from view still heading north. This is the third Nevada record.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, *Pluvialis dominica*. I collected an immature male 3 October 1973 in the lower tailing ponds in Las Vegas Wash about 16 km southeast of Las Vegas. One of two birds present, the specimen is UNMB 1763 (skull not fully ossified, gonads minute, no molt, moderate fat, weight 148.7 g). These birds were discovered 30 September by Vince Mowbray. This is the fourth Nevada specimen.

There are two spring records. On 16 May 1970 John and Glade Koch found one at Mormon Farm, 13 km southeast of Las Vegas. John and Kay O'Connell discovered another 13 April 1975 at the Overton Wildlife Management Area. I have one other fall record 7 October 1976 from Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County.

WHIMBREL, *Numenius phaeopus*. Ed Scovill (pers. comm.) photographed one at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, in August 1968 (date unknown). The original color slide is deposited at UNMB. On 17 April 1975 I photographed an individual (Figure 7) in Logandale in a flooded field where John O'Connell found one 13 April. These are the first documented Nevada records.

Gullion (1952) reported seeing one near Cactus Springs 31 July 1951. There have been eight additional sight records, involving a total of eleven individuals,

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since 1970: three 19 April 1970 and one 16 April 1972, Las Vegas Wash, CSL; one 1 May 1973, Fernley, Lyon County, Bob and Jessie Alves; one 28 July 1973, Mormon Farm, Vince Mowbray; two 15 May 1975, Mormon Farm, CSL and John O'Connell; one 26 April 1976, Overton Wildlife Management Area, CSL and Roy Horsley; one 19 August 1976, Lake Mead, Vince Mowbray; and one 7 September 1976, Las Vegas Wash, CSL and Karl Lawson.

UPLAND SANDPIPER, *Bartramia americana*. On 19 April 1970 I discovered an adult in the lower tailing ponds in Las Vegas Wash 16 km southeast of Las Vegas. I observed the bird for about 15 minutes and obtained the following description:

Slightly smaller than a nearby Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*), the bird appeared to have a small head, short bill, and thin neck and stood very erect. Neck, back, wing coverts, secondaries, chest, sides and flanks uniformly streaked and light brown. Abdomen and undertail coverts white. Head dark brown with a narrow buffy median line and a white spot at the base of the bill. Eye seemingly large, and brown with a white eye-ring and a high, white post ocular spot. Primaries dark brown with buffy mottling on the outer primary. In flight the rump appeared dark brown. Tail white, barred with dark brown and with a dark central stripe. Tail appeared quite long. Underwing white mottled with brown. Flight stiff and wings held erect on landing. The bird uttered a whistling note twice.

This is the first Nevada record. The species appears on the hypothetical list of Linsdale (1936) on the basis of a set of eggs from Soda Lake, Churchill County, in the Salvin Godman collection of the British Museum. Linsdale (1936) believed this to be a misidentification. An inquiry to the British Museum revealed the eggs are those of an American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*).



Figure 7. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), Logandale, Clark Co., Nevada, 17 April 1975.

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PARASITIC JAEGER, *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Vince Mowbray, Terry Peters and I discovered an immature chasing Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) in Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, 13 September 1975. Pursuing the bird by boat I was able to take a series of photographs of the bird as it harrassed the gulls. One fuzzy photograph was obtained of the two species in the same picture. The jaeger appeared to be the same size as the gull.

I found another immature at Davis Dam 17 September 1976. This bird was seen both in Nevada and in Mohave County, Arizona. Vince Mowbray found another immature at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, 14 November.

While with Mowbray 24 November I obtained an extensive series of photographs, both color and black and white, of an immature as it harrassed a mixed flock of Ring-billed and California (*L. californicus*) gulls (Figure 8). This individual and the one seen on 17 September both were observed at such close range that the spiky appearance of the rectrices and the outer three primaries could be clearly seen. These feathers appear rounded in the Long-tailed Jaeger (*S. longicaudus*). In northern Nevada, Dave Galat found an immature at Pyramid Lake, Washoe County 6 September 1976. These are the first Nevada records.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL, *L. glaucescens*. Vince Mowbray and I found a typically plumaged second year Glaucous-winged Gull in the turbine discharge

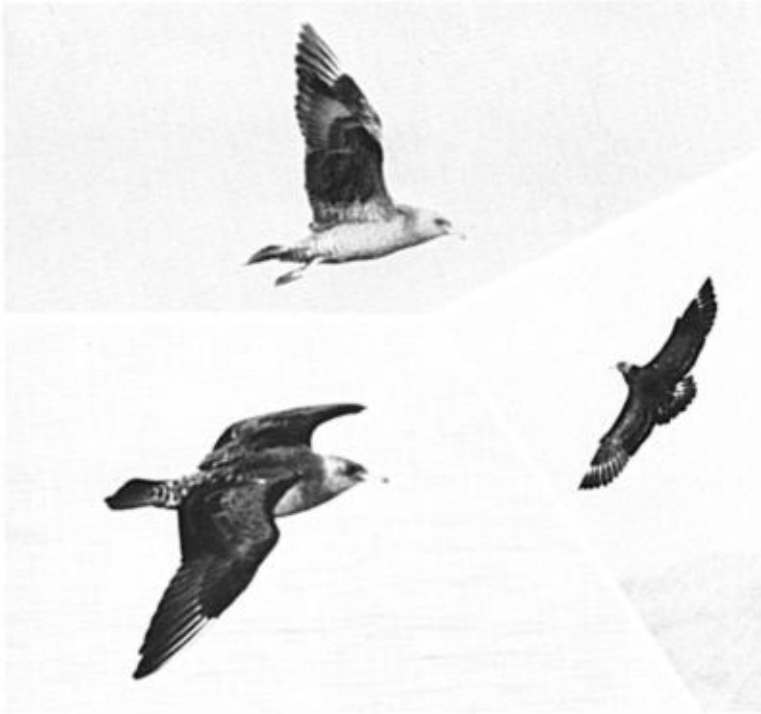


Figure 8. Immature Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, Clark Co., Nevada, 24 November 1976.

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area below Davis Dam on the Colorado River 9 January 1976. The bird was feeding with a small flock of California and Ring-billed gulls and was seen in Nevada and in Mohave County, Arizona. A series of photographs was taken (Figure 9). This is the second documented Nevada record.

Previous Nevada records are discussed by Lawson (1973b). I have three other records involving four individuals: two 30 November 1974, Boulder Beach, Lake Mead; one 18 February 1975, Davis Dam; and one 4 December 1975, Cottonwood Basin, Lake Mohave, seen with Bill Prange. Vince Mowbray has a record of an immature 14 November 1976 at Lake Mead.

THAYER'S GULL, *L. thayeri*. Bill Prange and I discovered an immature near Nine Mile Cove, Lake Mohave, 4 December 1975. I took several photographs of the bird. Two immatures wintered at Lake Mead 30 November 1974-18 February 1975. During this same period two other immatures wintered at Davis Dam 98 km south of Lake Mead.

Adult birds have been observed in Nevada on three occasions: Sally Lawson and I observed one near Mormon Farm 20 April 1975; I found another at Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead 10 March 1975; and Roy Horsley and I observed two 26 April 1976 at the Overton Wildlife Management Area. In addition, one immature was observed 26 April at Overton. This bird was very pale and washed out due to bleaching and/or feather wear but the checkered appearance and terminal band on the tail were still evident.

Fall 1976 records, all of immatures, are: one 10 November, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, Vince Mowbray; one 14 November, Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, Vince Mowbray; two 14 November, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, Vince Mowbray; two 22 November, Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, Vince Mowbray; one 24 November,



Figure 9. Second year Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*), Davis Dam, Clark Co., Nevada, and Mohave Co., Arizona, 9 January 1976.

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Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, CSL and Vince Mowbray. The bird seen on 24 November was photographed. These records supplement previous records by Lawson (1973b).

FRANKLIN'S GULL, *L. pipixcan*. In June 1975 I discovered, in the NSM collection, specimens of two adults which were labeled Bonaparte's Gulls. Both specimens were collected at Carson Lake Marsh, Churchill County 4 June 1969 by Fred Funk. NSM 157 was a male, weight 261.45 g. NMS 158 was a female, weight 253.35 g.

Linsdale (1951) lists a prehistoric record from Lovelock Cave, Pershing County. I photographed an adult at Mormon Farm 13 km southeast of Las Vegas 13 July 1970, several of 13 adults present at Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead 8 April 1972, and two of three adults present at Logandale 17 April 1975. In addition to these Clark County records, I photographed an adult at Comins Lake 16 km south of Ely, White Pine County, 4 June 1970.

There are also four fall records, all of immature birds. In 1973 I found one 23 September, Tule Springs Park, Las Vegas and one 8 October, Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County. John O'Connell found one at Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, 15 November 1974. Two were found by J. V. Remsen, Jr. 6 October 1976 at Bowman Reservoir in Logandale.

These are the first Nevada records.

BONAPARTE'S GULL, *L. philadelphia*. Austin and Bradley (1971) report only one fall and one winter record of Bonaparte's Gull for Clark County. I have knowledge of 15 fall records of 52 individuals, all in October and November. There are five additional winter records, four for the month of December and one for the month of January. There is also one fall record of two individuals 30 October 1975 from Washoe Valley, Washoe County, and Thomas Imhof (pers. comm.) reports one fall record from Yucca Lake, Nye County, Nevada Test Site 26 October 1951. This number of records indicates the species is uncommon but regular during fall migration and is occasionally present during winter.

While working with the NSM bird study skin collection in June 1975, I discovered a Bonaparte's Gull specimen which was simply labeled "Tern." The bird, NSM 552, is in first nuptial plumage. The specimen was collected by Peter Herlan in Pahrangat Valley, Lincoln County, 8 May 1964. There are no other data on the tag.

This supplements records of specimens listed by Alcorn (1946) and Hayward et al. (1963).

HEERMANN'S GULL, *L. beermanni*. Wotton and Marshall (1965) reported this species at Pyramid Lake, Washoe County. On 12 October 1975 Bill Prange observed an immature at Cottonwood Cove, Lake Mohave, and on 17 September 1976 I discovered an immature at Davis Dam on the Colorado River. Detailed descriptions of both birds agree on the following points:

Size of a Ring-billed Gull. Uniform blackish-brown with some grayish edging on the back and wing coverts. Chin and throat grayish-brown. Bill brownish, tipped with grayish-white. Legs and feet black. Eye dark brown.

These are the second and third Nevada records, and the first for Clark County.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, *Rissa tridactyla*. John and Kay O'Connell discovered a sub-adult immediately below Davis Dam on the Colorado River 17 February 1975. It was studied at length and a very detailed description was taken. On 18 February I obtained an extensive series of photographs (Figure 10). The bi-colored bill, straw colored basally with a black tip, is characteristic of birds molting into first nuptial plumage.

On 4 December 1975 Bill Prange and I found another immature about 8 km north of Cottonwood Cove, Lake Mohave, on the Arizona side of the lake. The

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bird was observed flying to the Nevada side of Lake Mohave. Two more immatures were found at Davis Dam 10 December, CSL; presumably the same two were observed the following day by Gale Monson, Rich Gliński and me.

Bob Barnhurst and I observed an adult and an immature at Davis Dam on 25 February 1976. Several photographs were taken of the adult. Vince Mowbray found an adult 10 November 1976 at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead.

These are the first Nevada records.

SABINE'S GULL, *Xema sabini*. There is only one published record of Sabine's Gull for Nevada (Clark et al. 1974). Terry Peters, Vince Mowbray and I found an immature in Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, 13 September 1975. Efforts to photograph the bird were unsuccessful.

While with Bill Prange 15 September 1976, I photographed an immature in Cottonwood Basin, Lake Mohave. I found another immature at Davis Dam 17 September. J. V. Remsen, Jr. photographed an immature 6 October at Bowman Reservoir, Logandale (Figure 11).



Figure 10. Sub-adult Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), Davis Dam, Clark Co., Nevada, 18 February 1975.



Figure 11. Immature Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), Logandale, Clark Co., Nevada, 6 October 1976.

Photo by J. V. Remsen, Jr.

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While examining material in the UNMB collection, I discovered a gull specimen labeled *L. philadelphia*. The gull, which appeared to be misidentified, was taken by Tom Trelease at Soda Lake, Churchill County 26 September 1940. The specimen (UNMB 15, immature female, weight 117 g) was subsequently examined and compared with material at MVZ by Ned Johnson and determined to be a Sabine's Gull.

All Nevada records of this species have been in the four week period between the first week of September and the first week of October. These are the first records for Clark County and the first Nevada specimen.

COMMON TERN, *Sterna birundo*. Though there have been numerous sightings of this tern in Nevada, there has been only one documented record (Lawson 1973b). I photographed six at Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, 13 September 1975.

This species was particularly abundant during the fall migration in 1976. I photographed 9 individuals at Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, 17 September. Four of these are shown in Figure 12. Other 1976 records are: two 7 August and five 7 September, Las Vegas Wash, Vince Mowbray; two 15 September, Lake Mohave, CSL and Prange; two 3 October, Lake Mead, CSL and Baepler. Prange had the following records at Lake Mohave: eight 18 September, fourteen 26 September and three 10 October. On 15 September, David Winkler found one at Washoe Lake, Washoe County and one at Lahontan Lake, Churchill County.

ANCIENT MURRELET, *Synthliboramphus antiquus*. One was photographed at Las Vegas Bay Marina, Lake Mead, 24 March 1974 by Frank Long of Boulder City. The bird was present until 26 March and was studied by most southern Nevada birders. One was collected at Pyramid Lake, Washoe County 4 March 1961 by V. K. Johnson (MVZ 142632, male, testis 7x1.5 mm, weight 140 g).

There are only two previous Nevada records. Both are specimen records (Gullion 1956, Smith 1966). These are the third and fourth Nevada records and the first for Clark County.

GROUND DOVE, *Columbina passerina*. On 25 February 1972 I collected one of three present at Mormon Farm southeast of Las Vegas (UNMB 1769, female, weight 34 g). While working in the NSM collection, I discovered a specimen of Ground Dove from Carson City, Ormsby County (now Independent City, Carson City). The bird (NSM 177, female) was collected by Bruce Arkell. No other data were on the tag. These are the fourth and fifth specimen records for Nevada. The Carson City record is the northernmost for the state.



Figure 12. Four of nine Common Terns (*Sterna birundo*) present at Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead, Clark Co., Nevada, 17 September 1976.

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One individual was present 18 February-5 March 1973 at Tule Springs Park near Las Vegas. There are several 1976 records: two at Pahrnat National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County, 4 August, Richard Voss; one 26 September, two 3 October and one 10 October at Cottonwood Cove, Lake Mohave, all by Bill Prange.

INCA DOVE, *Scardafella inca*. I photographed one 31 October 1971 at Boulder City (Figure 13). Pauline Long and I discovered the bird 23 October. This is the first documented Nevada record.

Two or three individuals were present in Boulder City 17 December 1972-31 March 1973 (Pauline Long pers. comm.). Vince Mowbray and I observed one intermittently from 18 February to 5 March 1973 at Tule Springs Park near Las Vegas and on 15 May 1975 I photographed another individual at this location. One was observed by Bill Prange at Cottonwood Cove, Lake Mohave, 10-17 October 1976.

SNOWY OWL, *Nyctea scandiaca*. One almost flew into the windshield of my car 27 January 1972 as I was driving during a snowstorm in the Mira Loma area 16 km south of Reno, Washoe County. The bird landed on a fence post in a nearby field. Very heavy spotting indicated an immature bird. Two weeks later McCaskie (pers. comm.) found feathers of a Snowy Owl on a fence post in the same area. The only Nevada specimen is from Indian Springs in southern Nevada (Linsdale 1936).

ELF OWL, *Micrathene whitneyi*. Sally Lawson, Helen Lawson and I found three 5 June 1975 in the Ft. Mohave area at the southern tip of Nevada. Sally Lawson and I returned 12 June and collected one of five or six birds present that night (UNMB 1792, adult male, skull fully ossified, left testes 9x6 mm, moderate fat, no molt, weight 53.15 g). The stomach contained 12 caterpillars and one arachnid, all unidentified.



Figure 13. Inca Dove (*Scardafella inca*), Boulder City, Clark Co., Nevada, 31 October 1971.

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Van Remsen (pers. comm.) found one pair at the same site 21 April 1976. These are the first Nevada records. The type specimen for this species was taken just across the Colorado River in Ft. Mohave, Mohave County, Arizona in 1861. On the basis of this record the species appeared on the hypothetical list of Nevada birds (Linsdale 1936).

ACORN WOODPECKER, *Melanerpes formicivorus*. I photographed one 31 October 1971 in Boulder City. Pauline Long discovered the bird 23 October.

On 27 October 1972 I photographed and collected an individual at a residence at the base of Sunrise Mountain just east of Las Vegas (UNMB 1750, adult female, no fat, weight not taken). The bird was in fresh fall plumage except that the fifth secondary of the left wing was an old feather. The specimen was compared with material at MVZ by Ned Johnson and determined to be *M. f. formicivorus*. The 1930 specimen from Hidden Forest in the Sheep Range was *M. f. bairdi* (Van Rossem 1936).

These are the third and fourth Nevada records. All records have occurred between mid-September and the end of October. The headless specimen listed by Phillips et al. (1964) as being in the Lake Mead National Recreational Area collection can no longer be found.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A note of this length reflects the efforts of many people. I would like to thank the following for their various contributions: George Austin, Rick Castetter, Dave and Karen Galat, Tom Harper, Thomas Imhof, Larry Johnson, Ned Johnson, John and Glade Koch, Frank and Pauline Long, Guy McCaskie, Vince Mowbray, John O'Connell, Bill Prange, Van Remsen, Ed Scovill, San Stiver, Mike Wickersham and David Winkler for use of their previously unpublished records; Douglas Evans, Dave Huntzinger and Norm Riegle of the National Park Service for use of material in their care; Donald Baepler and Fred Ryser for specimen preparation; Joseph Jehl and Peter Herlan for use of specimens in their care; and C. J. O. Harrison of the British Museum for identifying the clutch of eggs.

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Accepted 22 October 1977