

Preliminary draft list of the birds of Colusa County -- and a request for help

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Colusa County is one of at least three Sacramento Valley counties that do not have a well-documented, well-researched, and up-to-date bird list (the others include Glenn and Yuba counties; I am also working on those). In anticipation of making Colusa County my permanent home, I have been researching all information on the county's birds (and other aspects of its natural history). I have so far collected much of the literature, but the unpublished observations of individual birders and ornithologists undoubtedly form the largest untapped source of bird records for the county. Consequently, I am requesting information concerning any birds found in Colusa County. Records of rare birds like Hooded Warblers are inherently valuable to a checklist project and will undoubtedly be of interest to most members, but all records -- especially breeding records -- are useful in developing a distributional checklist, and I would appreciate field notes from even dull birding days.

The most immediate use of this data will be to develop a complete and official Colusa County checklist which will be published in both paper and electronic formats. All information collected during this project will be filed and serve as a clearinghouse for both bird records and an ornithological history of Colusa County. This information will be used to develop the distributional checklist, revise existing range maps (some are very poor for the region), document distributional changes, or for future studies such as a potential breeding bird atlas. It also may be used for future conservation and planning purposes, as have the data I collected for the Placer (1996) and Nevada (1997) county checklists (both checklists are available from me at the address listed below, and an updated Placer County list is available at Bruce Webb's web site: <http://www.ns.net/~BruWebb/PlacerCountyBirds.htm>).

A preliminary list of all bird species that have definitely been recorded from Colusa County (confirmed by a specimen or accepted sight record from a specific time and place) follows. This list draws from my personal observations in addition to records taken from many published and unpublished sources. Included at the end of the list are species which have been reported from Colusa, but whose records are considered probable/hypothetical because: 1) they refer to species that are difficult to identify and need documentation; 2) the location and/or date leaves some doubt as to correct identification; or 3) the location leaves some doubt as to the specific occurrence in Colusa County rather than an adjoining county.

To submit notes or for other inquiries, please contact me at your convenience at: Brian Williams, 204 Teton Place, Woodland, CA; 95695-5829; phone: (530) 666-4050; e-mail: bwilliams@garciaandassociates.com.

Colusa County Birds

Preliminary draft list compiled by Brian Williams

Common Loon	Bald Eagle	Red-necked Phalarope
Pied-billed Grebe	Northern Harrier	Red Phalarope
Horned Grebe	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Bonaparte's Gull
Eared Grebe	Cooper's Hawk	Mew Gull
Western Grebe	Northern Goshawk	Ring-billed Gull
Clark's Grebe	Red-shouldered Hawk	California Gull
American White Pelican	Swainson's Hawk	Herring Gull
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-tailed Hawk	Caspian Tern
American Bittern	Ferruginous Hawk	Forster's Tern
Least Bittern	Rough-legged Hawk	Black Tern
Great Blue Heron	Golden Eagle	Rock Dove
Great Egret	American Kestrel	Band-tailed Pigeon
Snowy Egret	Mertlin	Mourning Dove
Little Blue Heron	Prairie Falcon	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Cattle Egret	Peregrine Falcon	Greater Roadrunner
Green Heron	Ring-necked Pheasant	Barn Owl
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Blue Grouse	Western Screech-Owl
White-faced Ibis	Wild Turkey	Great Horned Owl
Turkey Vulture	California Quail	Northern Pygmy-Owl
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Mountain Quail	Burrowing Owl
Tundra Swan	Virginia Rail	Spotted Owl
Whooper Swan	Sora	Long-eared Owl
Trumpeter Swan	Common Moorhen	Short-eared Owl
Greater White-fronted Goose	American Coot	Lesser Nighthawk
Snow Goose	Sandhill Crane	Common Poorwill
Ross' Goose	Black-bellied Plover	Black Swift
Brant	Snowy Plover	Vaux's Swift
Canada Goose	Semipalmated Plover	White-throated Swift
Wood Duck	Killdeer	Black-chinned Hummingbird
Green-winged Teal	Mountain Plover	Anna's Hummingbird
Mallard	Black-necked Stilt	Calliope Hummingbird
Northern Pintail	American Avocet	Rufous Hummingbird
Blue-winged Teal	Greater Yellowlegs	Belted Kingfisher
Cinnamon Teal	Lesser Yellowlegs	Lewis' Woodpecker
Northern Shoveler	Solitary Sandpiper	Acorn Woodpecker
Gadwall	Willet	Red-breasted Sapsucker
Eurasian Wigeon	Spotted Sandpiper	Nuttall's Woodpecker
American Wigeon	Whimbrel	Downy Woodpecker
Canvasback	Long-billed Curlew	Hairy Woodpecker
Redhead	Marbled Godwit	White-headed Woodpecker
Ring-necked Duck	Ruddy Turnstone	Northern Flicker
Greater Scaup	Sanderling	Pileated Woodpecker
Lesser Scaup	Western Sandpiper	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Oldsquaw	Least Sandpiper	Western Wood-Pewee
Common Goldeneye	Baird's Sandpiper	Willow Flycatcher
Bufflehead	Dunlin	Hammond's Flycatcher
Hooded Merganser	Short-billed Dowitcher	Dusky Flycatcher
Common Merganser	Long-billed Dowitcher	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Ruddy Duck	Jack Snipe	Black Phoebe
Osprey	Common Snipe	Say's Phoebe
White-tailed Kite	Wilson's Phalarope	Ash-throated Flycatcher

Western Kingbird
 Eastern Kingbird
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
 Northern Shrike
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Cassin's Vireo
 Hutton's Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Steller's Jay
 Western Scrub-Jay
 Clark's Nutcracker
 Yellow-billed Magpie
 American Crow
 Common Raven
 Horned Lark
 Purple Martin
 Tree Swallow
 Violet-green Swallow
 N. Rough-winged Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Mountain Chickadee
 Oak Titmouse
 Bushtit
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Rock Wren
 Canyon Wren
 Bewick's Wren
 House Wren
 Winter Wren
 Marsh Wren
 American Dipper
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Western Bluebird
 Mountain Bluebird
 Townsend's Solitaire
 Swainson's Thrush
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin
 Varied Thrush
 Wrentit
 Northern Mockingbird
 California Thrasher
 European Starling
 American Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 Phainopepla
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Black-throated Gray Warbler
 Townsend's Warbler
 Hermit Warbler
 Northern Waterthrush
 MacGillivray's Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Hooded Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Western Tanager
 Spotted Towhee
 California Towhee
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Brewer's Sparrow
 Black-chinned Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow

Sage Sparrow (Bell's)
 Lark Bunting
 Savannah Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Golden-crowned Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Chestnut-collared Longspur
 Black-headed Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Lazuli Bunting
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Tricolored Blackbird
 Western Meadowlark
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Brewer's Blackbird
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Hooded Oriole
 Bullock's Oriole
 Purple Finch
 Cassin's Finch
 House Finch
 Pine Siskin
 Lesser Goldfinch
 Lawrence's Goldfinch
 American Goldfinch
 Evening Grosbeak
 House Sparrow

Records needing documentation

(ID or date/location):

Red-throated Loon (1977)
 Wood Stork (1990, 1999)
 Emperor Goose
 Barnacle Goose
 Common Nighthawk (1976)
 Allen's Hummingbird (1950s)
 Gray Flycatcher (1999)
 Eastern Phoebe (1997)
 Chestnut-backed Chickadee (1986)
 Sage Thrasher (1976)
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 (Princeton 1975 - Colusa or San Mateo Co?)
 Green-tailed Towhee (1952, 1998)
 Summer Tanager (1981)
 Red Crossbill (1950)

Selected species

conspicuously lacking (so far):

Barrow's Goldeneye
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Flammulated Owl
 Northern Saw-whet Owl
 Pygmy Nuthatch
 Grasshopper Sparrow