

Thirteenth Report

OF THE ALBERTA BIRD RECORD COMMITTEE

APRIL 2021

By Jocelyn Hudon, Richard Klauke, M. Ross Lein, John Riddell, Brian Ritchie, Gerald Romanchuk and Ray Wershler

Since publication of its Twelfth Report (Hudon et al. 2017), the Alberta Bird Record Committee, hereafter the Committee, considered 89 records of rare birds in the province spanning about 6 years of bird observations. With this review, the Official List of the Birds of Alberta grows by 8 species: Tundra Bean-Goose, Vaux's Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Western Gull, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Sagebrush Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak. Finally, we add Vaux's Swift to the List based on two sets of good photographs. That this is the *Chaetura* swift that occurs in Alberta has never really been in doubt, because the species breeds in British Columbia and south of the Canadian border in Montana, but we required undisputed physical evidence. We still hope for a recording of the birds' vocalizations to turn up. The provincial list now stands at 433 species, with the loss of one species (Thayer's Gull) to the Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) resulting from lumping of the two forms (see the complete list at <https://royalalbertamuseum.ca/collections/life-sciences/ornithology/birds-list/taxonomy>). The Committee now drops Anna's Hummingbird, Iceland Gull, Lewis's Woodpecker

and Red-headed Woodpecker from its review list.

Sadly, over the period of this report we lost our esteemed colleague and friend Brian Ritchie to a heart attack. Over his 20 years on the Committee, Brian always approached his work seriously and scientifically. He was meticulous in his adjudications, thoroughly researching each and every record sent his way, including considering vagrancy in adjacent jurisdictions. Richard Klauke has left the Committee, and we thank him for his many (over 20) years of service to the Committee. Caroline Lambert and David Scott have agreed to join the Committee.

The provincial list is also amended to bring it in line with the 58th, 59th, 60th and 61st supplements to the AOS's "Check-list of North American Birds" (Chesser et al. 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020) which have appeared since publication of our Twelfth Report. These supplements included changes to the linear sequence of families in the

nine-primaried oscines, the genera in Rallidae, Accipitridae, Tyrannidae, Fringillidae and Icteridae, and the species in Phasianidae, Scolopacidae, Hirundinidae, Passerellidae, *Anser*, *Anas*, *Charadrius*, and *Selasphorus* resulting from new phylogenetic data. New information also resulted in the creation of two new families (Passerellidae, Icteriidae), the introduction of additional genera (*Spatula*, *Mareca*, *Leiothlypis*, *Ammospiza*, *Centronyx*, and *Dryobates*) from splits of existing genera, the lumping of *Chen* with *Anser*, changes in scientific names as a result of splits (*Circus hudsonius*, *Lanius borealis*, and *Melanitta deglandi*), and a change in the English name from Gray Jay to Canada Jay.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, CANMORE
CAROLINE LAMBERT



RECORDS ACCEPTED

Tundra Bean-Goose (*Anser serrirostris*): Peenaquim Park, Lethbridge, with Canada Geese; 9–10 January 2019; written report with 3 images (David Scott). **CODE 1 RECORD. First documented occurrence in the province.**

Brant (*Branta bernicla*): family group of 4, Pale-bellied, along Hwy 23 NE of Frank Lake; 1–9 November 2016. Then 2 adults at Frank Lake; 9–19 November 2016; brief description on eBird (Bruce Anderson and Sheila Clark) and 1 image (Greg Wagner). **CODE 1 RECORD.** 2, Pale-bellied, Seebe near the Dam (E of Exshaw); 20 November 2016; brief description (Malcolm and Joan McDonald) and images posted on eBird (checklist [S32637991](#) Michael Sveen). **CODE 1 RECORD.** 1, Black. W of Byemoor (E of Big Valley); 9 April 2017; 3 images, also posted on Albertabird (Aidan and Allison Vidal). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Near Tofield; 3 September 2017; image (Ted McKen). **CODE 1 RECORD.**



TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE, LETHBRIDGE
DAVID SCOTT

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*): Horseshoe Bay, Cold Lake; 23 November–3 December 2017; images (Richard Klauke [1]; Gerald Romanchuk [3], including video at <https://vimeo.com/244761711>). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*): Astotin Lake, Elk Island NP; 12 October 2014; image on pBase (Gerald Romanchuk). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Lower Kananaskis Lake (Peter Loughheed Provincial Park); 13–14 October 2014; 1 image (Rob Worona). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*): Cardston; from 15 May 2016 for a few days; written report with 1 image (more images available on Flickr; Bob and Emilie Pruner). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Fort McMurray; 2 December 2016; written report with 1 image (more taken; Christine Godwin, Ken Foster and Christine Sparling). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Canyon Meadows, SW Calgary; 10 May 2017; written report (John Shelford). **CODE 3 RECORD.**

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*): Suncor's Fort Hill's facility (N of Fort McKay); found dead on 4 October 2017; picture taken of dead bird (Christine Gardham Dennis); museum specimen (PMA Z21.1.2). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*): Gap Lake, W of Exshaw; 16 May 2019; written report and 9 images (Caroline Lambert). **CODE 1**

RECORD. First accepted occurrence in the province. Three at Exshaw Sewage Ponds, Exshaw; 21 May 2020; written report with several (4) images, also report on eBird ([S69432798](#) Ethan and Neil Denton). **CODE 1 RECORD.**



VAUX'S SWIFT, EXSHAW
ETHAN DENTON

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*): feeder in Beaver Mines; 2 September 2013; image (Malcolm McDonald). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Mountain View; 21 May 2015; brief description of behaviour and 2 images (Nancy West). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Hillcrest Mines; 30 July 2016; written report with 2 images (Pat and Jim Lucas). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Hillcrest Mines; 8 August 2018; 1 image (Gerry Fox) and correspondence with Sheri Williamson (James Fox); image posted on eBird ([S47785876](#) & [S47739287](#)). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Willow Creek; 30 May 2019; 1 image (Jeanne Burnham). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Hillcrest Mines; June 2019, apparently there for several weeks; 1 image (Pat



LITTLE BLUE HERON, CLEARWATER COUNTY
DON AUTEN

Lucas); several other images on eBird. **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*): subadult male at feeder in Beaver Mines; 18–24 July 2014; brief description and 2 images (Peter Sherrington). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Subadult male at an acreage outside Sherwood Park; 16–21 November 2015; written report and 4 images (Vincent Cottrell); 5 images posted on Albertabird (Steve Knight). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*): female at bird feeder in Beaver Mines, 21 July 2015; 2 images (Cornell Van Ryk). **CODE 1 RECORD. First documented occurrence in the province.** Male at feeder in

Beaver Mines; 26 May 2016; 3 images (Gord Petersen). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Common Crane (*Grus grus*): W of Veteran; 11 April 2017; written report and 1 image (Azusa, Hana, Mena and Tiger Watson). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*): Chip Lake; 30 May 2015; image posted on ABA Rare Bird Alert Facebook (Alex Woods). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Two near Chauvin; 27 May 2019; written report and 3 images (David Duncan). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*): at Irricana slough, E of Keoma; 10 August 2017; written report and 4 images (Caroline Lambert). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Keho Lake, Lethbridge; 19 October 2017; written report and 1 image (Ken Orich). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*): Keho Lake, Lethbridge; 18–19 October 2017; written report and 7 images, also posted on eBird ([S40014852](#) Ken Orich); 1 image (Michael Sveen). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*): juvenile at Langdon (Dalemead) Reservoir; 24 September 2013; written report and 2 images; images also posted on eBird ([S48599937](#) Ray Wershler). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Chestermere Lake; 18–20 October 2014; brief description (Mark Conboy), 2 images, also posted on eBird ([S20276793](#) Ken Burton). Brief description on eBird ([S20292666](#) Terry Poulton).

CODE 1 RECORD. Juvenile at Chestermere Lake, E of Calgary; 26 September 2016; 3 images on eBird ([S31777309](#) Terry Korolyk). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*): Bear Lake, near Grande Prairie; 5 May 2020; 6 images (Sylvain Bourdages and Joan Kerr), also posted on personal Facebook and recorded on eBird ([S68474538](#)). **CODE 1 RECORD. First documented occurrence in the province.**

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*): Glenmore Reservoir, Calgary; 7, 12 to 14 May 2014; brief description (Greg Wagner), 21 images, including on Flickr (Daniel Arndt). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Ryley landfill near Tofield; 29 April 2018; brief description and 2 images (Gerald Romanchuk). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*): Medicine Lake, N of Rocky Mountain House; 2 Oct 2015; several images on Albertabird and a video (Don Auten). **CODE 1 RECORD.**



WESTERN GULL, COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE
SYLVAIN BOURDAGES

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): at a farm near Cardston (between Kimball and del Bonita); from early September, found dead on 11 December 2013; written report with 4 images (Bob Pruner); museum specimen (PMA Z18.1.9). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Caught on barbwire fence near Edberg, subsequently perished; 8 October 2013; museum specimen (PMA Z17.1.7). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Found dead at 30-50110 Rge Rd 231, Leduc County; 9 November 2016; museum specimen (PMA Z18.1.2). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*): Lethbridge; 23 May 2019; audio recording (David Scott). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*): SE of Bragg Creek from late July to mid-September 2015; written report with 2 images (James and Gerry Fox); 2 images (Ray Wershler). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Near Priddis from mid-October 2015 to



ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, ST. ALBERT
LUDO BOGAERT

at least late February 2016, possibly the same bird as previous. Images on eBird ([S27167198](#) Anne Belton; [S27028022](#) & [S27028672](#) Lorrie Anderson), along with various reports. **CODE 1 RECORD.** At a feeder in Ardrossan east of Sherwood Park; from mid-October 2017 to at least early April 2018; images on Flickr (Don Delaney, Ludo Bogaert, Keith Huang), also images on eBird ([S44230907](#) Edward McKen; [S43699603](#) Chris Rees). **CODE 1 RECORD.** At a feeder in Magrath from about 23 February 2019 to 27 April 2019; 1 image posted on Albertabird (Gavin McKinnon). Also images posted on eBird ([S53052445](#) Mira Vanhala; [S53204795](#) Teresa Dolman; [S53191997](#) Ken Orich; [S53304554](#) Asher Warkentin; [S53223453](#) Gavin McKinnon). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*): near Fort McMurray; 29 July 2017; 3 images on eBird ([S38460357](#) Gigi Soucy). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*): Big Lake, St. Albert; from 9 October 2019 for at least a week; may have been present as early as 13 September 2019; 3 images (Rose McAllister), several images posted on eBird, also reported in St. Albert Gazette at



BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD, BEAVER MINES
GORDON PETERSEN

<https://www.stalberttoday.ca/local-news/big-lake-birders-atwitter-about-flycatcher-1753295>. **CODE 1 RECORD.** *First documented occurrence in the province.*

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliptila caerulea*): Cooking Lake, SE of Edmonton; 5 October 2018; written report (Vincent Cottrell). **CODE 3 RECORD.**

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*): banded at Beaverhill Bird Observatory; 4 June 2015; written report and image (Jonathan DeMoor), also posted on eBird ([S25674686](#)). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*): Castle Provincial Recreation Area near Pincher Creek; 2 September 2018; 4 images (Peter Sherrington). **CODE 1 RECORD.** *First documented occurrence in the province.*

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*):

Beaver Mines; 4–9 April 2013; written report and 4 images (Cornell Van Ryk). **CODE 1 RECORD.** At a feeder in Medicine Hat; 13 December 2018; 2 images (Robert Wapple). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*):

Castor; 15 August 2015; written report with 3 images (Grant Sikstrom); the pattern of yellow on the face of this individual and the wing pattern are odd, but may not be outside the range for this species especially in the case of immature males. **CODE 1 RECORD.** Mountain View; 14 May 2018; 1 image posted on Albertabird (Nancy West). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Black-throated Sparrow

(*Amphispiza bilineata*): Beaver Mines; mid-August 2018; 1 image (Peter Sherrington). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Sagebrush Sparrow (*Artemisiospiza nevadensis*):

Suffield National Wildlife Area, N of Medicine Hat; 27 May 2017; written report and 2 images (Connor Charchuk). **CODE 1 RECORD. First documented occurrence in the province.**

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*):

Elkwater Lake in Cypress Hills; 9 September 2015; written report with distant images (Dan and Mary Stoker). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*):

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary; 6–7 September 2016; written report (John Riddell) and 1 image (Peter Kufeldt). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Prothonotary Warbler

(*Protonotaria citrea*): Canmore; 15–19 September 2018; written report with 2 images, also 1 image on Albertabird (Neil Denton). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*):

Lafarge Meadows, Calgary; 4, 10, 11, 14, 18 and 26 October 2015; written reports (George Best, Bob Lefebvre), several images (Daniel Arndt [3+], George Best [3], Shirley Otway [2], Ursula Krol [3], several posted on Albertabird). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*):

Sylvan Lake; 3, 6 November 2015; written report and 5 images (Myrna Pearman). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*):

E of Drumheller; 21–22 May 2018; written report with 5 images (Richard and Carrie Mashon), also images on eBird ([S45946950](#) Michael Sveen; [S46012276](#) Michael Harrison; [S46165488](#) & [S45940991](#) Gerry and James Fox), **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*):

Edmonton; 21 May 2014; 2 distant images (Alison Gilchrist). **CODE 1 RECORD.** At Cemetery in Red Deer; 9 June 2014; written report and 2 distant images (Ken Gade), reported on eBird ([S18743339](#)). **CODE 1 RECORD.** South Glenmore, Calgary; 31 May 2016; written report (Ray Wershler), reported on eBird ([S48766329](#)). **CODE 3 RECORD.** Near Rolling Hills (142037 Twp Rd 144), outside of Brooks; 19 May 2018; written report (Vincent Cottrell, Ben Velner, Wesley Grout) and 2 images (Vincent

Cottrell), reported on eBird ([S54011892](#)). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Trochu; 15 June 2019; 2 images (Michelle Houston). **CODE 1 RECORD.**



SAGEBRUSH SPARROW, CYPRESS COUNTY
CONNOR CHARCHUK

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*):

at feeder in Beaver Mines; 12 May 2016; copy of field notes and 1 image (Peter Sherrington). **CODE 1 RECORD. First documented occurrence in the province.** Peter Loughheed Provincial Park (Kananaskis Country); 7 October 2018; written report with one image, including enlargement (Rob Worona and Melinda Bell). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*):

Bruderheim; 13 June 2017; 2 images (Amy Schramm). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED

Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*): Eagle Lake; 3 October 2013; written report (Daniel Arndt).

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*): Mountain View; 3 June 2013; written report with 3 images (Nancy West). Mountain View; 28 May 2014; written report (Nancy West).

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cyanthus latirostris*): Canmore; 3 September 2013; brief description (Rosemary Power) *vide* Jason Rogers.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): Irricana sloughs; 19 July 2020; written report (Richard Clarke).

Surfbird (*Calidris virgata*): Carburn Park, Calgary; 22 November 2017; written report with drawing (Judy Swan and Joan Falcione), also posted on eBird ([S40674121](#)).

Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*): 2 juveniles near Cowley; 6 August 2014; written report with 3 images (Peter Sherrington). We considered the opinion of two outside experts (Julian Hough, Joseph Morlan).

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*): Lower Kananaskis Lake, Peter Lougheed Park; 11 October 2014; 3 images

(Malcolm and Joan McDonald). Brazeau Reservoir; 15 October 2017; brief description and several images (Sean Evans [4], Ann Carter [4]). Also posted in eBird ([S39951225](#) Gerald Romanchuk).

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*): Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park; 14 May 2014; image on eBird ([S18464959](#) Brett Fried)

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): Pakowki Lake; 28 May 2017; written report, 2 images (Ken Orich). Near Frank Lake; 13 May 2018; written report and 4 images, two close-ups (Vincent Cottrell). Both birds probably hybrids with White-faced Ibis.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*): Medicine Hat; 29 April 2019; written report (Connor Charchuk).

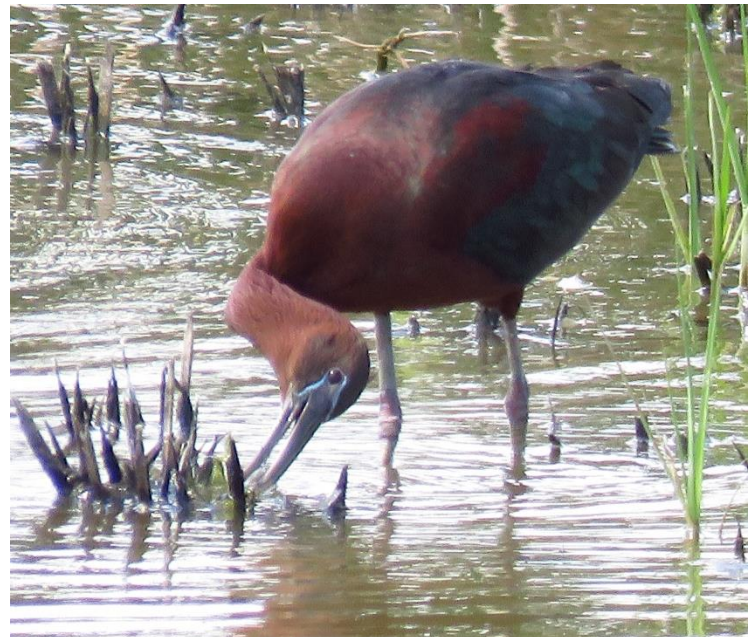
Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*): Johnston Canyon, Banff NP; 21 August 2019; brief description on eBird ([S59177569](#) Christine Robson).

Oriental Greenfinch (*Chloris sinica*): at a feeder in Coaldale; 30 December 1990; written report with 1 image (including enlargement) from scanned slide (Teresa Dolman).

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*): wetland about 6.5 km east of Dunmore; 27 May 2017; written report (Connor Charchuk).

Lucy's Warbler (*Leiothlypis luciae*): Calgary; April/May 2014; brief description *vide* Terry Korolyk posted on Albertabird.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*): Jasper NP; end of March or April 1982 or 1983; recollections *vide* Jason Rogers (Chel MacDonald).



PROBABLE HYBRID IBIS, COUNTY OF FORTY MILE
KEN ORICH

CORRIGENDUM

The text for the Eastern Meadowlark under “Identification Not Established” in the Twelfth Report (Hudon et al 2017) was jumbled. It should have read: **Eastern Meadowlark** (*Sturnella magna*): acreage about 10 km W of Medicine Hat; 29 May–1 June 2015; written report (Dan Schiebelbein, Ben Velner, Milton Spitzer, Robert Frew and Phil Horch) and 2 images posted online [at <http://danschiebelbeinnaturephotography.zenfolio.com/p307993556>] (Dan Schiebelbein).

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CODE DEFINITIONS

ACCEPTED, CODE 1. Records supported by material evidence, i.e. specimens, identifiable body parts, identifiable photographs or sound recordings, whose origin from within the borders of Alberta is in no doubt, that are accompanied by written reports of the circumstances of the observation.

ACCEPTED, CODE 2. Sight records (without supporting material evidence) by multiple observers that are supported by independent written descriptions that leave no doubt as to the species identity. A Code 1 or 2 sighting must receive four favourable votes and no more than one dissenting vote to be accepted.

ACCEPTED, CODE 3. Sight records by one or more observers that are supported by a single written description that leaves no doubt as to species identity, and which receive five favourable votes and no dissenting vote. A Code 3 is the minimum for inclusion in the official provincial list.

ACCEPTED, CODE 4. Sight records by single observers that receive four favourable votes and no more than one dissenting vote. For record adjudication purposes, such a record is acceptable, but does not pass the more stringent requirements for inclusion on the official provincial list. A list of species that have no higher than a Code 4 record may be published as an appendix to the official list.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED. Records supported by material evidence or written descriptions that are not detailed enough to eliminate all other possibilities, or to support conclusively the identification of the species as presented. Placement in this category should in no way be interpreted as a reflection on the veracity of the observation, but should be looked upon as an encouragement to substantiate occurrence of the species in the province more fully.

ERROR IN IDENTIFICATION. Records where the documentation available to the committee runs counter to the stated identification, whether it identifies another species or not.

QUESTIONABLE ORIGIN. Records that concern species that are of questionable origin, possibly escapees, and whose wild status cannot be determined accurately.