

# 2001 Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

---

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.,  
Chairman  
Susan Campbell  
Samuel Cooper

Richard J. Davis  
Eric V. Dean  
Roger D. McNeill  
Simon R. B. Thompson

This report enumerates the decisions of the Carolina Bird Club's North Carolina Bird Records Committee during 2001. Committee voting information is referenced in parentheses (*i.e.*, year report received, reference number).

## ACCEPTED AS VALID

The reported identification is judged to be accurate, and the bird is judged to be of wild origin. Photographs and/or written descriptions of all accepted records have been deposited in the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences.

**Yellow-nosed Albatross** (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*) (01-17). One was seen by several dozen birders on a pelagic trip a few miles off Salvo, Dare County, on 5 February 2000. The Committee accepted a description provided by Michael Tove (Chat, in press) and photos provided by Brian Patteson. This is the first accepted record for the state, and acceptance of the photos places the species directly onto the Official List. There are other reports that have not been accepted by the Committee.

**Bermuda Petrel** (*Pterodroma cahow*) (01-12). One was seen in the Gulf Stream out of Oregon Inlet on 27 May 2001. The Committee accepted details provided by George Armistead. The species is already on the Official List. This is the fourth accepted record, and other reports are available to the Committee for a vote.

**White-winged Scoter** (*Melanitta fusca*) (01-02). One was seen by Wayne Forsythe in Buncombe County in March 2001. The species is already on the Official List, but the species is very rare away from the coast. This is the first record reviewed and accepted by the Committee for the mountain region.

**White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*) (01-10). One bird was observed by Skip and Linda Morgan near Coinjock on mainland Currituck County on 16 May 2001. The Committee accepted a description provided by Skip Morgan. The species is already on the Official List. This is the fourth accepted record for the state. Several additional reports have not been accepted.

**Rough-legged Hawk** (*Buteo lagopus*) (01-03). One was seen and photographed in Henderson County in March 2001 by Wayne Forsythe. The species is already on the Official List, but there are very few records from the mountains. This is the first such report from that region reviewed and accepted by the Committee.

**Wilson's Phalarope** (*Phalaropus tricolor*) (01-16). One was videotaped in Henderson County on 14 May 2001 by Wayne Forsythe. The species is on the Official List, with many records. However, this is the first record voted on and accepted for the mountain region, where few if any records exist.

**Common Murre** (*Uria aalge*) (01-01). One was seen in the surf at Cape Hatteras Point, Dare County, on 3-4 February 2001 by John Dole and other birders. The Committee accepted a description provided by Dole and a photograph taken by Patricia Tyndall. This is the first record for the state, and acceptance of the written material and the photograph places the species directly onto the Official List.

**Lesser Nighthawk** (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) (01-05). A dead individual was found in Carteret County in December 1998 by John Fussell (Lee *et al.* 2001). The Committee accepted a photo of the specimen taken by Will Cook plus supporting information (but not a written description) from the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences. This is the first state record, and the presence of a specimen and recognizable photos places the species directly onto the Official List.

**Chuck-will's-widow** (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) (01-07). A torpid individual was captured, photographed, and released at Buxton in Dare County on 27 December 2000. The Committee accepted photos taken by Audrey Whitlock and Diane Hardy and a description provided by Paul Sykes. There have been several previous winter season reports from the coastal region, but this is the first winter report to be voted on and accepted by the Committee. The species is already on the Official List.

**Green-breasted Mango** (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) (01-26). An immature was present at a feeder in rural Cabarrus County in November 2000. The bird was banded by Susan Campbell. The Committee accepted written details from Harry LeGrand and photos from Phil Kelly. This is the first state record, and acceptance of the photos places the species directly onto the Official List.

**Broad-billed Hummingbird** (*Cyananthus latirostris*) (01-18). An immature male was present at a feeder at the home of Inga Parker in eastern Craven County for about a week in October 2001. The Committee accepted photos taken by Steve Shultz and Wayne Irvin and a description provided by Harry

LeGrand. This is the first state record, and acceptance of the photos places the species directly onto the Official List.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** (*Archilochus alexandri*) (01-21). An immature male was present at a feeder in Sunset Beach in Brunswick County over the winter of 2000-2001. The Committee accepted photos taken by Randy Emmitt and a description provided by Mary McDavid. This is the second accepted record for the state. As the first was a sight record, acceptance of the photos for Record 01-21 elevates the species from the Provisional List to the Official List.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** (01-22). A female (presumably) was observed at a feeder in Raleigh in February 1997 by Susan Campbell and others. The Committee accepted details provided by Campbell and by John Gerwin. However, the Committee felt that photos of the bird in flight and at the feeder were not conclusive, as the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*A. colubris*) is extremely similar in female plumage. Thus, the Committee did not accept the photographic documentation. Nonetheless, this becomes the third accepted record of the species for the state, the others being at coastal sites.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** (01-23). A female was banded and photographed in the hand by Susan Campbell at the feeders of Paulette Biles near Hampstead in Pender County during the winter of 1999-2000. The Committee accepted details submitted by Campbell and photos taken by Biles. This is the fourth accepted record of the species for the state.

**Calliope Hummingbird** (*Stellula calliope*) (01-19). An immature male was present at a feeder in Brevard from late October to mid-November 2000. The Committee accepted a written description and photos provided by Bill Lovejoy. The species is already on the Official List, with the two previous records being of an immature male and a female photographed at feeders near the coast.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus platycercus*) (01-20). An immature male visited the feeder of Monte Tickle near Gibsonville in Guilford County from November 2001 into early 2002. It was seen by a large number of birders and was banded and photographed by Susan Campbell. The Committee accepted the description and photos provided by Campbell and another photo provided by Wayne Irvin. This is a first state record, and acceptance of the photos places the species directly onto the Official List.

**Vermilion Flycatcher** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) (01-04). One was found by Mark Simpson and Sam Moore and later seen by many other birders near Goldsboro in November and December 2000. The Committee accepted the description by Jeff Pippen and photos submitted by Eric Dean. This is the third accepted record for the state, with the others being from the Outer Banks. As

one of the two previous birds was photographed, the species is already on the Official List. This is the first inland record.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus savana*) (01-24). One was seen by Les Todd, John Wright, and others at Pea Island on 4 November 2001. The Committee accepted photos taken by Eric Dean at neighboring Bodie Island. The species is already on the Official List, based on a previous photograph. This is the second state record. Both are coastal records, but this is the first for the fall season.

**Warbling Vireo** (*Vireo gilvus*) (01-06) One was observed from December 2000 to January 2001 at Roanoke Island by Jeff Lewis and others. The Committee accepted a description provided by Lewis. The species is already on the Official List, with numerous records, but this is the first record for the winter season.

**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (01-14). Lee *et al.* (2001) detail the presence of the first state specimen, an adult male received by the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences from the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter on 2 December 1999. The bird had been found earlier at Fort Macon State Park and turned in to the wildlife shelter. The Committee accepted photos of the specimen taken by Will Cook. The species is already on the Official List, and this is the sixth accepted record.

**Sprague's Pipit** (*Anthus spragueii*) (01-25). One found by John Wright at Cape Hatteras Point on 28 October 2001 was seen by a large number of birders in early November. The Committee accepted details provided by Wright and photos taken by Brian Patteson. This is the second accepted record, and acceptance of the photos elevates the species from the Provisional List to the Official List. The Committee has not accepted several other reports, and one other report is under review.

**Townsend's Warbler** (*Dendroica townsendi*) (01-15). Chad Leedy salvaged a specimen from a boat off the coast on 20 September 1999 (Lee *et al.* 2001). The Committee accepted photos by Will Cook of the specimen, which now resides at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences. The species is already on the Official List, documented by a photo, and this 1999 record is the first specimen and second accepted record for the state.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** (*Calcarius ornatus*) (01-11). One female, or male still in basic plumage, was seen and heard calling at the southeastern corner of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Haywood County, in mid-May 2001. The Committee accepted the description provided by Chuck Hunter. The species is already on the Official List, with photos accepted. This becomes the second state record and the first from the mountain region.

### UNACCEPTED SIGHTING

The bird is judged to be a species other than that reported, or the bird is insufficiently documented to identification of the species reported.

**Spotted Redshank** (*Tringa erythropus*) (01-09). One was reported from Pea Island in August 2000. The single observer described several field marks suggestive of this species, but other key marks, such as the color of the back/rump and the color of the bill, were not seen or described. Thus, the Committee could not be convinced that a Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleuca*) or a Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*) was not seen instead. The species is already on the Official List, with one accepted record that was accompanied by photographs.

**Acadian Flycatcher** (*Empidonax vireescens*) (01-09). One was reported on the Outer Banks in December 2000. The written report was quite detailed, but the single observer heard no call notes. Though the details are suggestive of Acadian, there was concern by the Committee that a silent *Empidonax* flycatcher, or at least a silent Acadian, cannot be conclusively identified. As no *Empidonax* species normally winters in the eastern United States, the identifications, especially of silent birds, must be treated with great caution. The species is on the Official List, as it is a common breeding bird in the state, but no winter reports for the state have been accepted.

### UNACCEPTED ORIGIN

The reported identification is judged to be accurate, but the origin of the bird is uncertain (and thus might not be of natural origin).

**Ringed Turtle-Dove** (*Streptopelia risoria*) (01-13). A specimen from Manteo in May 1999 is now in the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences. Lee *et al.* (2001) detail the record and other reports of this species from North Carolina. The Committee judges the species to be correctly identified but does not consider the above record to be of natural origin. This species is not on the state's Official or Provisional lists, as there are no long-established breeding populations anywhere near North Carolina.

### Discussion

The review of reports by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee for 2001 resulted in adding eight species to the North Carolina Official List. Black-chinned Hummingbird and Sprague's Pipit have been elevated from the Provisional List; and Yellow-nosed Albatross, Common Murre, Lesser Nighthawk, Green-breasted Mango, Broad-billed Hummingbird, and Broad-tailed Hummingbird have been directly added to the Official List. The Provisional List has lost the first two species mentioned above. The current

Official List is 435 species, and the Provisional List is now 12 species, for a total of 447 species on the state's Accepted List.

Potential new-to-the-list species that the Committee expects to review in 2002 are Black-tailed Gull and Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and the Committee also hopes to resolve the status of Bicknell's Thrush in the upcoming year.

### **Acknowledgments**

In addition to the many people named above who provided written material and photographs for the Committee to review, we thank Russ Tyndall for placing a number of the photographs on the Carolina Bird Club's website for Committee review.

### **Literature Cited**

- Lee, D S, J A Gerwin, and R B Browning. 2001. Specimen documentation of unusual, and previously unrecorded birds from North Carolina. *J. Elisha Mitchell Sci. Soc.* 117 (2):123-127.
- Tove, M H, and J B Patteson. First record of Yellow-nosed Albatross from North Carolina. *Chat*, in press.

---

---

## **CAROLINABIRDS**

Carolinabirds is an Internet e-mail discussion group about birds and birding in the Carolinas. Subscribers frequently post sightings to it similar to those found in Briefs for the Files, but unusual behavior receives more attention. Subscriptions are free. To subscribe, address an e-mail message to <majordomo@duke.edu>. Don't fill in the subject line. As your message, simply put, "subscribe carolinabirds" (without the quotes). You will receive a confirmation and more information shortly. Submissions for Briefs for the Files should be sent directly to Ricky Davis.

---

---