

2000 - 2001 Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

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In 2000 and 2001, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on 27 records. Of these, 18 were accepted and 9 were not accepted. Among the accepted reports were two records that added new species to the Definitive State List. A report of a Spotted Towhee specimen archived at the Charleston Museum of Natural History, a report of a White-winged Tern accompanied by photographs, and a report of a Calliope Hummingbird accompanied by photos as well as a banding report added these three species to the Definitive State List. A report of a Trumpeter Swan was accepted with questionable origin by the Committee, placing this species on the Provisional II list. Inclusion on the Definitive State List requires a properly vouchered specimen, unretouched recognizable photographs or video, or a recognizable sound recording of a species, as set forth by the Committee in 1996.

Committee membership did not change in 2001, but after the Committee completed its work for 2001, Donna Slyuce Bailey replaced Lex Glover as Chair, and Glover remained on the Committee as a member.

Committee activity is reviewed below.

ACCEPTED AS VALID

Western Grebe (08-99-08 & 08-99-08A). A cooperative bird of this species was observed by many at Lake Paul Wallace in Bennettsville from late August through late October of 1999. The Committee reviewed and accepted two reports on this bird, one from Barbara Gearhart and a second from Susan Campbell.

Trumpeter Swan (12-98-25). The second report of a Trumpeter Swan from South Carolina, seen in Charleston Harbor and reported by John Cottingham, was accepted with questionable origin by the Committee. This was the first report of a Trumpeter Swan to be accepted by the Committee, placing the species on the state's Provisional II List. The widespread re-introduction of this majestic bird in the mid-West and the continued presence of the species in waterfowl collections in the state prompted the Committee to vote for the possibility of a human-assisted origin for this bird.

White-tailed Kite (04-99-14). An adult of this species was observed at length and photographed by Charles Flint at the Starkey Swine Center at Clemson University in April 1999. The report was accepted by the Committee.

Limpkin (03-01-02). A bird appearing at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge in early March of 2001 and lingering into early May was documented with photographs by Giff Beaton and Tom Egan and was observed by many. The report was accepted.

Limpkin (05-01-03). Two birds, found along the Little Pee Dee River and photographed by Andy Day in late May of 2001, were reported. The report was accepted.

Parasitic Jaeger (09-00-08). A report on a specimen archived at the Charleston Museum of Natural History was accepted by the Committee.

Franklin's Gull (11-98-21). A group of ten birds of this species was observed at Lake Robinson in Darlington County in November of 1999. A detailed report written by Lex Glover and accompanied by sketches was accepted by the Committee.

Iceland Gull (02-00-03). A single adult individual in ragged condition, conspicuous as it stood among a large group of first winter Herring Gulls, was photographed and reported by Bruce Hallett from Myrtle Beach in late February of 2000. The report was accepted.

Black-legged Kittiwake (02-98-23). A single adult bird, seen from Huntington Beach State Park jetties by Andreas Kristensen, Jack Peachey and Phil Turner in early February of 1998, was reported by Andreas Kristensen. The detailed report was accepted by the Committee.

Bridled Tern (01-99-18). A report, including photographs, of a freshly dead individual found at Pawley's Island in Georgetown County by Lex Glover and Chris Newkirk in January of 1999 was accepted. The specimen was collected and archived at the Charleston Museum of Natural History.

White-winged Tern (11-00-13). Photographs and a report from Steve Calver of a bird that was observed at the Savannah Spoils Site in Jasper County in mid-November of 2000 was accepted. This places the species on the state's Definitive List.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (01-99-02). A female adult bird, using a feeder in the yard of Grippon Boags at James Island in Charleston from late January through early February of 1999, was reported by Bob Sargent. The report was accepted.

Calliope Hummingbird (12-99-10). A subadult male coming to a feeder at the home of Dr. Charles and Judy Webb in Greer was banded, photographed and reported by Bob Sargent in early December of 1999. The bird was subsequently observed by many as it lingered at the well-maintained feeder into March. This became the first accepted report of this species in the state, placing the species on the Definitive List.

Yellow-rumped Warbler, Audubon's subspecies (01-99-01). A single individual of this subspecies was observed by Jack Peachey and Gary Phillips at Waites Island in Horry County in January 1999. The bird was noted among a large flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers comprised otherwise of the typical eastern subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler, the Myrtle subspecies.

Spotted Towhee (02-67-01). A report on a specimen archived at the Charleston Museum of Natural History was accepted by the Committee.

Smith's Longspur (01-99-11). An individual of this species, found by Tim Kalbach, was seen by several observers and reported by Tim Kalbach from the base of the Huntington Beach State Park jetties in January 1999. The report, accompanied by photographs from Lex Glover, was accepted.

Common Redpoll (02-00-10). A video of a bird that briefly visited a feeder in Irmo, reported to the Committee by Jerry Griggs, the homeowner and the videographer, was accepted by the Committee.

UNACCEPTED

Arctic Loon (01-99-09). A report of a bird seen from the jetties at Huntington Beach State Park was not accepted due to lack of diagnostic field marks visible in the photographs.

Gull-billed Tern (02-99-03). A report of a very brief observation of an out-of-season (February) bird at Huntington Beach State Park was not accepted by the Committee. The brevity of the observation left the report lacking in details.

Roseate Tern (05-98-17 & 05-98-17A). Two reports of a bird seen at Kiawah Island were not accepted due to insufficient details to identify the reported bird positively to species.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (10-00-14). A bird captured on video feeding on planted flowers in Lexington County in mid-October 2000 was not accepted due to insufficient details to distinguish it from a look-alike species, Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

UNRESOLVED

Masked Booby (11-98-20). A report of a bird observed well offshore at Litchfield Beach in November of 1998 lacked documenting details and will be sent for outside review. The report will then be re-submitted to the Committee for consideration.

Iceland Gull (05-98-22). A lack of convincing detail in this report of a bird seen in May of 1998 led to an indecisive vote from the Committee and will be sent to outside review. The report will then be re-submitted to the Committee for consideration.

Nashville Warbler (03-99-05). A lack of fine detail and a less than rigorous elimination of similar species occasioned enough non-accept votes to send this otherwise well-written report of an out-of-season (March) bird to outside review. The report will be re-submitted to the Committee for consideration.

Blackpoll Warbler (12-98-24). A well-written, detailed report of a bird in breeding plumage found in December of 1998 in the Upstate caused some discussion among Committee members and occasioned an indecisive vote. The report will be sent for outside review and re-submitted to the Committee.

**Birds of the Carolinas
Student Research Grants Program**

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