

## 2004 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

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In 2004, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on 18 records. Of these, 12 were accepted, three were not accepted and three will be sent for outside review. Among the accepted records was one that changed category status on the state list of the reported species. A video of Arctic Tern promoted that species from the Provisional I category to the Definitive category of the state list. Committee action also promoted Mute Swan from Provisional II status to Definitive status. There were two additions to the state list this year, Cackling Goose and Black-billed Magpie. Cackling Goose was added to the Definitive category and Black-billed Magpie was added to the Hypothetical category.

Committee membership did not change in 2004.

The Records Committee held its annual meeting on 21 August 2004 in Columbia, South Carolina. Items on the agenda for this meeting included developing a protocol for handling a submitted record for a species not recognized as occurring in North America by the AOU and not listed by the ABA as distinguishable in the field from an allied species, reviewing the status of Mute Swan in SC, and voting on several video and photographic records submitted to the Committee. No clear-cut consensus was reached on the protocol for the handling of the cryptic species. As a result of evidence submitted for previous breeding of Mute Swans in SC, Mute Swan was promoted from Provisional II to the Definitive category of the state list. The results of the voting on the several video records are reported below.

In new business introduced at the meeting, Dr. Will Post, a Committee member and Curator of Ornithology at the Charleston Museum of Natural History, presented the Committee with evidence of one of two specimens of Cackling Goose archived in the Charleston Museum of Natural History. On the basis on these two specimens, Cackling Goose was added to the Definitive category of the state list. Dr. Post also presented for Committee consideration an older report of Black-billed Magpie in South Carolina published by H. R. Sass in 1934 (*Auk* 51: 524–525). The species was added to the state list in the Hypothetical category. Also in new business introduced at the meeting, both Razorbill and Ross's Goose were removed from "Full" review status. Razorbill was moved to "more than 30 miles inland" review status and Ross's Goose was moved to "*North American Birds*" report status. A more extensive consideration of the review status of species on the state list is set for the next annual meeting.

The current state list stands at 450 species, including 15 Provisional II species and 14 Hypothetical species. The most recent revision of the state list can be found online at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org> by following the links for the state records committees. The state list available online includes review categories in addition to list categories for each species.

Committee activity is detailed below.

### **Accepted Reports:**

**Eurasian Wigeon** (02-04-03)—A report of a bird of this species observed in February of 2004 at Bull Island in Cape Romain NWR was accepted. The report was prepared by Lee Wilson.

**Masked Booby** (07-02-05)—A bird found offshore from Winyah Bay in July of 2002 was documented by Clay Sutton and Dennis Allen. The report was accepted.

**Hudsonian Godwit** (05-03-07)—A bird observed at the Savannah Spoils Site in May of 2003 was written up by Paul Sykes. The report was accepted.

**Franklin's Gull** (01-04-02)—A single bird of this species was observed at the Jasper County Landfill in January 2004. Based on a report written by Pete Worthington, the record was accepted by the Committee.

**Arctic Tern** (05-04-05)—A video of this species offshore of Murrell's Inlet in May of 2004 was obtained by Jack Peachey. The record was accepted. This video promotes this species from the Provisional I category of the state list to the Definitive category.

**Razorbill** (02-04-06)—A digital photograph (a video still) of the bird that was seen by many at Huntington Beach State Park in February of 2004 was submitted to the Committee by Jack Peachey. The report was accepted.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** (02-03-01)—A male of this species with a small amount of gorget visible visited the feeder of Liz Smylie on Edisto Island in January–February of 2003. The bird was banded and documented by Gary Phillips. The report was accepted.

**Calliope Hummingbird** (01-03-05)—An individual of this species visited the feeder of Jerry Griggs in Irmo just long enough to be photographed. The report by Jerry Griggs with digital photographs and concise written documentation was accepted by the Committee.

**Say's Phoebe** (12-03-11)—A well-written report of a bird observed at Dobbin's Cattle Farm in Townville in December of 2003 was accepted. The bird was observed by James Edwards, who prepared the report.

**Cave Swallow** (01-03-09)—A concise report of a Cave Swallow observed at Huntington Beach State Park in January of 2003 and documented by Lex Glover was accepted by the Committee.

**Lazuli Bunting** (03-03-02)—An individual of this species visited the feeder of Mary Douglass in Walterboro in late March–early April of 2003 and was observed by many. A report consisting of excellent documentary photographs and written details prepared by Mary Douglass was accepted by the Committee.

**White-winged Crossbill** (06-02-04 and 06-02-04a)—An individual visiting the backyard feeder of Liz Ciardi was documented by photographs submitted by Liz Ciardi and written documentation submitted by John Buckman. The reports were bundled as one and the record was accepted by the Committee.

**Non-accepted Reports:**

**Swainson's Hawk** (04-04-04)—A lack of convincing detail in the report and an incomplete elimination of similar species occasioned a vote of non-acceptance by the Committee on this report.

**Alder Flycatcher** (09-03-10)—A video of an *Empidonax* caused a vote of non-acceptance by the Committee due to a lack of detail, principally diagnostic song or calls.

**Shiny Cowbird** (04-03-03)—A report of an individual of this species was not accepted due to incomplete details in the written description to definitively identify the species.

**Reports Sent for Outside Review:**

**Arctic Loon** (06-98-14b)—A video of a bird observed from Huntington Beach State Park in February 1998 was submitted to the Committee in 2004. The report occasioned a split vote from the Committee. The record will be sent for outside review and circulated to the Committee a second time with reviewer's comments.

**Fea's Petrel** (09-03-08)—A report of this species observed offshore from Charleston occasioned a variety of thought on the record and the placement or naming of the species on the state list from the Committee members. Divergent thoughts led to divergent voting. The record will be sent for outside review and circulated to the Committee a second time with reviewer's comments.

**California Gull** (01-04-01a, 01-04-01b, and 01-04-01c)—Written reports of a single first-year winter bird seen at the Jasper County Landfill in January of 2004 were bundled together as one record. Again, a diversity of thought among the Committee members translated into a diversity of voting. The record will be sent for outside review and circulated to the Committee a second time with reviewer's comments.