

Second Supplement to the 1978 Checklist of North Carolina Birds

In 1978 the North Carolina State Bird Records Committee issued a checklist of the state's birds (Parnell et al. 1978, CBC and N.C. State Museum). In 1980 I prepared a supplement to the list (Chat 60:59-61) addressing 66 changes in status, additions, and other supplemental information. Since that time, a considerable number of new records have appeared, and it seems advisable to update our list again. In so doing, we inadvertently encounter new interpretative problems for our criteria for admission to the list (see Chat 32:26, 38:70, and 41:93). These changes are also included. In that the Provisional II category was developed as a catch-all for problem species, we have segregated these birds into several groups to better illustrate reasons for inclusion. Additionally, recent name changes by the American Ornithologists' Union affected many North Carolina birds, and it now seems advisable to totally revise the 1978 list. Because preparation and publication of this list is sometime off, the committee hopes that this supplement, in the interim, will serve those who are concerned with these matters.

Presently 429 species of birds have been recognized as occurring in North Carolina and its adjacent offshore waters. Forty-six of these are considered as provisional and 70 are not documented by existing specimens or recognizable photographs. At least 193 species are now known to nest in the state, and about 75 additional ones are frequent winter visitors.

Catalogued photographic bird records, mostly in the form of 35 mm slides, are maintained at the North Carolina State Museum. These photographs are regarded as part of the scientific collection of the museum and are not available for general use. Persons wishing to contribute to this collection are encouraged to do so. We are interested in photographs not only of rare birds but also of ones encountered at unusual locations or seasons. Of equal importance is the photographic documentation of descriptive plumages—which will enable investigators to determine age, sex, or stage of molt—and of nesting by North Carolina's avifauna. Even for the most common species, often particularly for the most common species, we have little information on nest biology (place, egg dates, period of incubation, period of dependence, and appearance and development of young). All photographs should be accompanied by the following information: name of photographer and donor, date, and geographic location (county and distance from nearest place recognized on most maps). Other information on habitat, elevation, behavior, and so forth is encouraged but not mandatory. Birds should be recognizable, but otherwise the quality of the photograph is not of particular importance. Persons making donations will be acknowledged and informed of the permanent catalogue number of the photograph. If requested, copies will be made of 35 mm slides and originals returned to the donors. A list of contributors will appear periodically in *The Chat*.

Additions to the Official List (including species for which the status has been upgraded since 1980), which now represents 385 species:

Masked Booby [Amer. Birds 37:117-118, Chat 48:29-40, photograph, and specimen NCSM 9538]

Mute Swan [photograph NCSM]
Bar-tailed Godwit [Chat 47:71-72]
Black-tailed Godwit [Chat 45:13-14, photograph]
Wilson's Phalarope [specimen USNM 230821]
Baird's Sandpiper [specimen USNM 301948]
Lesser Black-backed Gull [specimen NCSM 8195]
Great Skua [specimen NCSM 8171]
Passenger Pigeon [specimen USNM 169185]
Willow Flycatcher [matching voice and skin specimens NCSM 9461]
Alder Flycatcher [voice specimen NCSM]
Northern Shrike [The specimen reported in *Birds of North Carolina* is located at the Field Museum (FM 162444).]
Common Redpoll [specimen NCSM 8190]
Lapland Longspur [specimen USNM 338117]
Smith's Longspur [Chat 45:46, specimen NCSM 9804]
Snow Bunting [specimens NCSM 7818 and 7844-47; USNM 417986 and 358527-9]

Additions to Provisional I list (original Provisional I list in Chat 44:59-61 not repeated):

Brown Booby [additional records in Chat 48:29-40]
Swainson's Hawk [one additional record in Chat 46:80-81]
Thayer's Gull [Chat 37:50, see below]
Mew Gull [Chat 45:75-76, see below]
Iceland Gull [Chat 46:57-71, see below]

Many of our gulls provide extremely difficult identification problems. Although Iceland Gulls are reasonably well documented with photographs and good detailed descriptions, we concluded that, for consistency and elimination of future interpretative problems, specimens are necessary to elevate these birds from Provisional status. Identification problems encountered by other states with these and similarly appearing gulls make this decision, although unpopular, seem advisable.

Band-tailed Pigeon [Chat 44:106]
Vermilion Flycatcher [Chat 45:45]
Kirtland's Warbler

Although this species was recognized in the *Birds of North Carolina* as occurring in the state, there are few supporting details, and all the observations were made by one person. Kirtland's Warbler was not placed in Provisional II status, however, because Brimley knew the observer personally and presumably had adequate unpublished evidence for including it on the state's list.

Northern Wheatear [Chat 46:82-83]

Provisional II, three subcategories as follows:

A. Problems are caused by records of occurrence resulting from possible escape of captive birds. In most cases documentation is well established through specimens, photograph records, or cumulative descriptive sight records.

American Flamingo [Birds of North Carolina, photograph]
Masked Duck [Chat 46:112-113, photograph]
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck [Chat 45:41-42, specimen]
Barnacle Goose [Birds of North Carolina]
Ruddy Shelduck [Birds of North Carolina]
Falcated Teal [Chat 42:58, specimen]
Baikal Teal [Chat 26:30]
Garganey Teal [Chat 21:68 and 80]
Mandarin Duck [Chat 38:70]
Barrow's Goldeneye [Chat 35:45-49]
Ringed Turtle Dove [specimen]
Monk Parakeet [specimen]
Nanday Conure [Chat 46:43-44]
Budgerigar [specimen]
Smooth-billed Ani [Birds of North Carolina]

B. Potential confusion results from problems of species complexes that are extremely difficult to identify in the field. In most cases authors recognized this problem and placed tentative statements in their published field descriptions.

Black-browed Albatross [Birding 4:6, Amer. Birds 27:739-740; see below]
Yellow-nosed Albatross [Chat 43:79, Amer. Birds 33:720]

We do not question that albatrosses occur off North Carolina; we are concerned only with criteria for specific identity. In fact, the genus *Diomedea* qualifies for Provisional I status.

Little Shearwater [Chat 43:79-80]

Difficulties in field identification of small "black-and-white" shearwaters and the fact that the published identification provided was only tentative warrant that this species remain in the Provisional II category until additional records become available.

Ivory Gull [Chat 44(4):105-106]

Known variation, and difficulties in field identification of gulls in general, and the tentative identification in the published account warrant that this bird remain on Provisional II status.

Rufous Hummingbird

Although the genus *Selasphorus* definitely occurs in the state and technically qualifies for Provisional I status, the specific identity of birds seen remains in question.

C. Problems are caused by lack of good documentation in appropriate literature.

Arctic Loon [Amer. Birds 28:626]

Common Shelduck [Amer. Birds 26:845]

White-faced Ibis [Amer. Birds 31:979]

Eskimo Curlew [Chat 39:35-36; North Carolina Historical Review LX(2), April

1984, 137-170.]

Spotted Redshank [A Gathering of Shorebirds, H. M. Hall, edited and with additions by R. C. Clement, Devin-Adair Co., New York, 1960, p. 231-232]

Black-throated Gray Warbler [Chat 30:18, 24]

Green-tailed Towhee [Amer. Birds 30:53-54]

White Wagtail [Chat 46(4):121]

Species for which specimens are not available are listed below. For some of these (marked "p") photographic records are available. All species on Provisional I and II list, except as noted for possible escapes, are by definition also in this category, but not relisted.

Western Grebe ¹	Ruff (p)
Great Cormorant (p)	Common Black-headed Gull (p)
Reddish Egret (p)	Little Gull
Roseate Spoonbill	Sabine's Gull (p)
Mute Swan (p)	Carolina Parakeet
Ross' Goose (p)	Ivory-billed Woodpecker
Cinnamon Teal	Gray Kingbird
Common Eider (p)	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Mississippi Kite	Sprague's Pipit
Northern Goshawk	Black-headed Grosbeak (p)
Rough-legged Hawk	Pine Gosbeak
Bar-tailed Godwit (p)	Lark Bunting (p)
Black-tailed Godwit (p)	Lark Sparrow (p)
Long-billed Curlew (p)	Harris' Sparrow

Record Committee Members are: Tom Howard, Wayne Irvin, Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Chris Marsh, Jim Parnell, and Eloise Potter. I thank Gil Grant and Peter Getman for assistance in locating specimens in other museums.

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¹The future splitting of Western Grebes into two distinct species is likely. Additional sight records with details are needed.