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Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee 1993

This report enumerates the decisions of the Carolina Bird Club's North Carolina Bird Records Committee during 1993.

Accepted as Valid. The reported identification is judged to be accurate and the bird is judged to be of wild origin. Photographs for all accepted species have been deposited at the N. C. Museum of Natural Sciences.

Herald Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*). A light-phase individual was photographed by Brian Pattenon on 8 August 1992 off the Outer Banks. The species is already on the state's Official List; this appears to be the first photographic documentation for a light-phase bird in the state.

Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*). One was seen by Todd Hass on 1 July 1992 in the Gulf Stream off the Outer Banks. The record was considered Unresolved on a first ballot, because of two Inadequately Documented votes. However, after outside review was obtained, a second ballot yielded an Accepted Sighting verdict, with only one Inadequately Documented vote. This is the first accepted sighting for North Carolina, and the species is placed on the Provisional List.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*). An adult was observed by Norma and Bill Siebenheller at the Shining Rock Wilderness Area in Haywood County on 23 July 1993. This is the third accepted record of the species, known formerly as the Black-shouldered Kite (*E. caeruleus*), for the state; the two previously accepted records are from the extreme southeastern corner of the state. The kite is already on the Official List, based on a photograph of an individual from the Fort Fisher area.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*). A gray-phase individual, believed to have been a female, was seen in Pamlico County on 10 February 1992 by Wade Fuller and Robert Holmes. The Committee gave a unanimous vote to accept the sighting; there were also no Questionable Origin votes. This is the first accepted record of the Gyrfalcon in North Carolina, and the vote places the species on the Provisional List, as no photographs were taken.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). Steve Dinsmore observed up to two birds at Portsmouth Island from 24 April to 9 May 1993. The species is

already on the Official List; the 1993 report is the second accepted spring report for the state.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*). An adult was observed and photographed on 19 February 1993 at Cape Hatteras point by Steve Dinsmore, Jeremy Nance, and John Fussell. As this is the third accepted record of the species for the state, the Mew Gull is moved from the Provisional List to the Official List. The photographs taken by Dinsmore also add definitive documentation of the species in North Carolina.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). An adult was seen by John Fussell, Steve Dinsmore, and Jeremy Nance on 29 January 1993 at the Newport landfill in Carteret County. It was seen on the following day by three other observers. Dinsmore provided a written description and color photographs. This is the first accepted report of the species for North Carolina, and the photographs place the species on the Official List.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). A first-winter bird was observed by Ned Brinkley and Brian Patteson on 27 December 1991 at Cape Hatteras point. There are a handful of previous state records, and the Thayers Gull is already on the Official List. An adult was seen by many observers at Cape Hatteras point on 30 December 1992. The Committee accepted details written by John Wright.

Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*). An individual changing from winter plumage to breeding plumage was observed by numerous observers at the jetty at Wrightsville Beach in late April and early May 1993. Sam Cooper provided a written description; however, no recognizable photographs were obtained. This is the first sighting of Black Guillemot for North Carolina, and acceptance of the details places the species on the Provisional List.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*). Two birds were present at a feeder in Frisco, Dare County, during the latter half of November 1992. The doves were observed by several dozen birders. There are a handful of previous state records, and the species is already on the Official List.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). One was seen by John Fussell, Larry Crawford, and Bob Holmes at a quarry at New Bern on 17 December 1991, and it was seen again on 21 December by Eric Dean. This is perhaps the first winter record for the state.

Cave Swallow (*Hirundo fulva*). One was seen by John Fussell on 17 December 1987 near the Mill Creek community in Carteret County. This record was accepted on a second ballot, as the Committee had an "Unresolved" vote in 1992. This is the second accepted sight record for North Carolina; the species remains on the Provisional List.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*). An adult male was observed and photographed by Roger McNeill at Pea Island on 7 November 1992. The Committee accepted both the written description and the photograph of the bird, thus placing Townsend's Warbler on the Official List. This is the first accepted record with documentation for the state; a previous sight report from the mountains had been accepted by an earlier records committee but was not accepted by the present Committee.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*). A male was seen at a feeder at Cape Carteret in western Carteret County for several weeks in the fall of 1992. Dozens of people saw this bird, with the initial identification being made by

John Fussell. A second male was seen on a single day. The Committee voted on the written description of a male that was observed on 31 October by Harry LeGrand. The species is already on the Official List, and this becomes the fourth accepted record for North Carolina.

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

Arctic/Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica/pacifica*). A single observer reported an individual of this species complex from the southern coast in December 1992. The majority of the Committee voted that the record was inadequately documented, such that Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) and Red-throated Loon (*G. stellata*) were not completely eliminated.

Pacific Loon. One was reported from the southern coast in April 1993. The Committee reviewed scant details of this bird provided by one of the observers and considered the material to inadequately document the sighting. However, no correspondence has yet been received from the original observer, who made the initial identification. If such documentation is received from the original observer, the Committee will re-evaluate the report; however, at the present time, the report is considered to be an Unaccepted Sighting. There is only one accepted record of Pacific Loon for the state, but the species is on the Official List based on a published description and photograph of an individual at Cape Hatteras point in May 1987.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). An adult reported from the mountains in fall 1992 was not accepted. Several Committee members believed that the bird might have been a Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). The species remains on the Provisional List, with two accepted sight records.

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*). A "possible" Brown-crested Flycatcher was reported from the Sandhills region in January 1993. The vote was evenly split among accept and non-accept votes, giving an Unaccepted Sighting outcome. However, the Committee might re-evaluate this record, if additional material is received from the observer.

Unresolved. Further consideration by the Committee is needed.

Cape Verde Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*). One seen and photographed in May 1992 in the Gulf Stream off the Outer Banks by many observers received more than 50% Accepted Sighting votes but more than 25% Non-accepted votes. The Committee voted on the specific Cape Verde Petrel taxon, not on the "Soft-plumaged" Petrel complex, which is already on the Provisional List for North Carolina. Because a number of scientists consider the complex to consist of three species, the Committee's vote was strictly that for *P. feae*, which is the identification made by the persons making the report. As a result of the voting tally, the report will go to outside review for further consideration. Because of the presence of photographs, the Committee also will make a first vote on acceptance of the "Soft-plumaged" Petrel complex to the Official List, in addition to a second vote on acceptance of Cape Verde Petrel to the Official List.

Thayer's Gull. An immature reported from the coast in December 1992 received more than 50% Accepted Sighting votes but more than 25% Non-accepted votes.

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*). One was reported from the Outer Banks in late fall 1992. The species complex received more than 50% Accepted Sighting votes but more than 25% Non-accepted votes. There were no Accepted Sighting votes for either Tropical Kingbird or for Couch's Kingbird specifically. Thus, the vote for the species complex only is to go to outside review. The species complex is already on the Official List, based on a bird photographed near Fairfield in December 1985 and January 1986; the bird was identified as a Tropical Kingbird based on call notes heard, but a tape recording of the calls was not obtained for documentation to Tropical Kingbird.

Persons interested in obtaining a copy of the "Regulations Governing the Operation of Bird Records Committees" should write to Harry LeGrand, the North Carolina Committee Chairman, 331 Yadkin Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609.

Committee members: Harry E. LeGrand, Jr., Chairman
Derb S. Carter, Jr.
Samuel Cooper
Richard J. Davis
John O. Fussell III
Simon R. B. Thompson
Michael H. Tove

REPORT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 1993

During 1993 the South Carolina Birds Record Committee (SCBRC) continued to refine its procedures under the overall guidance of a draft of regulations to govern both Carolina record committees. This draft was reviewed and approved with changes at a meeting 31 July 1993, with a majority of the SCBRC present, and now awaits final CBC board approval. This approval was granted at the January '94 meeting at Litchfield, SC. By a separate vote, the changes incorporated by this draft regulation were immediately adopted by the SCBRC for all future actions; decisions rendered before 31 July will stand, since none would have been materially affected by the new regulations.

The adoption of these regulations resulted in a decrease in the number of accepted sight reports, without supporting specimen or photo, required to add a species to the SC Definitive List from 4 to 3, which brings SC into agreement with NC, and most other states. This change resulted in five (5) species being added to the Definitive List (Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Jaeger, Say's Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, and Pine Grosbeak).

During 1993 we accepted the resignations of Chris Marsh and William Post from the SCBRC, their work in our first year is greatly appreciated, and their thoughtful insight may be sought in the future in tough cases. This