

the North Carolina bird list. At the present time, there are no accepted records of this European species, recently split from the Herring Gull, for North Carolina.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*). Photos of a banded individual taken in early March near the coast were considered by the Committee to be clearly that of a Blue-winged Warbler, as reported by the photographers. However, two Committee members are concerned that the date may not have been recorded correctly, because the species is extraordinarily rare in the United States in early winter, and perhaps unprecedented in late winter. Because the report received between 25 and 50% of Non-accept votes, the report will go to outside review.

North Carolina Bird Records Committee members:

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

LITERATURE CITED

LeGrand, H.E., Jr., and N.W. Dias. 1995. Two records of Atlantic Puffin for North Carolina. *Chat* 59:93-94.

Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee 1995

The Records Committee completed action on 27 reports in 1995 and presently has an additional 7 under review, plus one being re-balloted after undergoing outside review. Of the 27, six were rejected, and 21 accepted. The accepted reports led to the addition to the SC state list of three new species, and one subspecies. The list now stands at 401 species + one genus, of which 17 species are on the provisional list. Of the species added, one (Marbled Murrelet) was added to the Definitive list, and two (Common Murre and Townsend's Solitaire) to the Provisional. The subspecies (Audubon's Warbler) is provisional.

At its annual meeting on February 10, 1996, the SCBRC voted to change the definition of species on the SC "Definitive" list to include only

those species (or genera, if applicable) for which there is a specimen, identifiable photograph (or video tape), or a vocalization recording, either in its archives, or in a permanent scientific collection. This action caused the transfer of eight species back to the Provisional List.

One of our members, Bill Hilton, has moved out of state. Steve Compton has resigned due to outside commitments, and one member has been inactive for some time. By decision of the Committee, the Committee was reconstituted as a seven-member committee (one to be selected) as allowed by the CBC by-laws.

A review of the 1995 activities follows:

Accepted sightings: 22 (some of these are multiples of the same bird).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). An adult in basic plumage was seen by Pete Worthington and Bob Maxwell at the Huntington Beach State Park (HBSP) jetties on January 29, 1995 for a second state record.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). One bird was observed in the ACE basin area from December 7, 1994 to January 1, 1995 by Sharon Brown and others. Unfortunately no photographs were obtained so this species remains on the Provisional List.

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*). Dennis Forsythe and others spied a basic-plumaged bird between the HBSP jetties on January 17, 1995, for a new state record. Added to the Provisional List.

Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). One bird was photographed on November 19, 1994, at the HBSP jetties by Faye Metzel and seen by others. The photos show the eye crescents of the Siberian subspecies (as have all other East Coast records that have reported on this feature). Added to the SC Definitive List.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). 1) An adult male was banded by Bill Hilton in York County on August 6, 1994, an extremely early date. 2) A subadult male was in Worthington's yard in Simpsonville on November 3 and 4, showing considerable rufous on the back. This same bird (or another) overwintered at another feeder less than two miles away, and was in full adult plumage by the time it left in March of 1995.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). An adult female and an immature (female?) were seen in the Townville area on October 6, 1995 by Bob Maxwell and Pete Worthington. The species is casual in the state, but two together is unprecedented.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). One was seen at the HBSP north parking lot on October 13, 1994 by Bob Maxwell.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). One was seen on May 15, 1994 in Spartanburg County by Betty Pope of Inman

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). A single bird at Marion Murph's feeder on June 3, 1994 at Whitestone, Spartanburg County, gave

South Carolina a rare summer record.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*). One was seen on May 15, 1995 by R. Carter and C. Eastman, and on June 22, 1995 by R. and B. Maxwell in a cutover off SC 11 in NE Greenville County. It was a singing male and gave the upstate an apparent first summer record since the 1970s. The bird was still in the area in July.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*). Kim Gundler saw this species on December 3, 1994 near the top of Table Rock Mountain in Pickens County. Added to the Provisional List.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). One bird seen on the Spartanburg Christmas Count was accepted although the report lacked some critical details. This is the second state report, having been placed on the Definitive List in 1993.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*). A singing male seen by C. Eastman and R. Carter off SC 11 in NE Greenville County on May 14, 1995 may be a first state record for a singing bird.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). A new late date for the species was seen at Landsfors Canal SP on May 29, 1995 by Carter and Eastman.

Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*). Eastman and Carter located one on December 31, 1994 in Clarendon County, in dingy winter plumage. This is believed to be the first documented record in SC for this subspecies.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). Tarse Alen of Moore, Spartanburg County, had a brilliant male at her feeder on May 13, 1994, for a rare Upper Piedmont record.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). A winter adult was first found by Carter and Eastman on January 5, 1995 at the N end of the old 301 bridge over Lake Marion, where it stayed for several weeks. The species has been on the SC list for a number of years, but only shows up once in several years.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*). One found on March 25, 1995 at Lone Star, Calhoun County by Carter and Eastman is the farthest inland report of the species.

Rejected Sightings: 6.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*). This bird, found and photographed on a fresh water impoundment in Georgetown County on December 1, 1994 was submitted for outside review to Dan Gibson and others in Alaska, after much discussion by the Committee. Their conclusion was that the bird was a first-year Common Loon, in transitional plumage. The outside review was accepted.

Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*). A bird seen December 3, 1994 500

m offshore from HBSP was quite possibly this species, but distance precluded clinching the identification and ruling out an immature Northern Gannet.

Ringed Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia "risoria"*). The bird seen in Spartanburg County in September 1994 was most likely an escaped cage bird of this uncertain lineage, no longer considered a true wild species by the AOU. The description was such that it would not allow evaluating the report versus the Eurasian Collared-dove, now established along the coast.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandrii*). The specimen was an immature bird, already in very poor condition when examined by an out-of-state bander, and then destroyed. While the dimensions obtained tend to indicate this species, they do not completely rule out Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The bird, one of two at a Mount Pleasant feeder in January 1994, was found dead after a cold night.

Gray-cheeked Thrush & Wood Thrush (*Catharus minimus & Hylocichla mustelina*). A pair of December 1994 reports from Cowpens National Battlefield are not detailed enough to rule out either Hermit or Swainson's Thrush.

We thank all the submitters for their time and effort in preparing the reports. We also wish to remind those who submitted particularly unusual records (first state, etc) that the actions of the SCBRC, and this report, do not meet the criteria of "publication", i.e. full documentation in a journal to establish a permanent record. To do this, the original submitter, or a collaborator, should submit a note for publication in The Chat through Dennis Forsythe, SC Field Notes Editor.

Respectfully submitted, Peter L. Worthington, Chairman

Robin Carter

John Cely

Dennis Forsythe

Sidney Gauthreaux

Lex Glover