

2002 Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

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In 2002, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on 7 records. Of these, 3 were accepted and 4 were not accepted. One of the accepted records added a new species to the State List in the Provisional I category. A detailed report of a Red-necked Stint accompanied by sketches added this species to the State List.

In August 2002 (Chat 66:119–124), the committee published a revised State List of species documented in South Carolina. The current State List stands at 447 species, including 16 Provisional II species and 13 Hypothetical species. The most recent revision of the list follows this annual report.

The annual meeting required by the by-laws of Carolina Bird Club, of which the Bird Records Committee is a standing committee, was held on 29 September 2002 at Litchfield Beach, SC. The two items on the agenda were the definitions for two categories of the State List. The definitions for inclusion on the “Definitive List” and for inclusion on the “Hypothetical List” were discussed and voted on. By a unanimous vote, the committee voted to retain the definition of “definitive” as “species documented in the state by 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. By a majority vote, the definition of “hypothetical” is “species which are undocumented to the committee but reported in *North American Birds* or *The Chat*.” These definitions become the criteria by which species will be added to the State List in the future.

Committee membership did not change in 2002.

Committee activity is reviewed below.

Accepted reports:

Brant (12-99-17) – A concise but thorough report by Charles Flint of a Brant present at Lake Keowee in late December of 1999 was accepted by the committee.

Red-necked Stint (08-00-12) – A bird present in August of 2000 at the Savannah Spoils Site was observed by Steve Calver who documented it in a write-up accompanied by sketches. The report was accepted by the committee. This is a first state record for the species and it places the species on the State List in the Provisional I category, a category for species judged to be of entirely wild origin for which there are accepted reports but no specimens, photographs, or recordings have been archived by the committee.

Dickcissel (12-99-13) – An immature bird of this species was present at a feeder in the yard of Phil and Sharon Turner in December of 1999. The committee accepted a report accompanied by sketches of this bird from Sharon Turner.

Non-accepted reports:

Long-tailed Jaeger (06-00-03) – A report of a very brief observation of a pair of birds seen offshore from Murrell's Inlet was not accepted by the committee. The brevity of the observation left the report lacking in diagnostic details including any assessment of plumage or color phase.

Philadelphia Vireo (01-00-01) – A report of a bird seen near the Wildlife Drive in the Cuddo Unit of Santee NWR in early January of 2000 was not accepted due to a divergence in the submitted description from standard descriptions of the species and a lack of precedent for winter records of the species in North America.

Reports sent for outside review:

Ruff (04-00-02) – A lack of convincing detail in the written description and in the elimination of similar species in this report of a bird seen in April of 2000 at Santee Coastal Reserve led to an indecisive vote from the committee, and the report will be sent to outside review. It will then be resubmitted to the committee for reconsideration.

Pomarine Jaeger (11-99-16) – Because the report did not rule out a similar species convincingly, this otherwise concise and clear report occasioned a split decision from the committee. The report will be sent for outside review and then resubmitted to the committee for reconsideration.