

## 2003 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

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In 2003, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on 15 records. Of these, seven were accepted and six were not accepted. Two reports were withdrawn from consideration at the requests of the reporters after circulation to and voting by the committee. Among the accepted reports was one record that added a new species to the State List in the Definitive category. A well-written report of a Buff-bellied Hummingbird accompanied by photographs added this species to the State List.

The current State List stands at 448 species, including 16 Provisional II species and 13 Hypothetical species. The most recent revision of the State List follows this article and can also be found online at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org> by following the links for the state records committee. The state list available online includes review categories in addition to list categories for each species.

Committee membership did not change in 2003.

Also notable at the end of 2003 is that the South Carolina Bird Records Committee is at last reviewing records in the year in which they are submitted. The last packet of records sent out in 2003 and still under consideration by the committee at this writing contained records submitted in 2003.

Committee activity is reviewed below.

### Accepted Reports

**Snow Goose** (*Chen caerulescens*) (05-02-03)—Three individuals of this species were documented by Steve Wagner, county coordinator for Oconee County, while conducting the Oconee County North American Migration Count on 11 May 2002. Due to the out-of-season date of the occurrence of the bird, the record was circulated to the committee. The report was accepted.

**Solitary Sandpiper** (*Tringa solitaria*) (12-00-16)—A single bird found on the Long Cane Christmas Bird Count held on 23 December 2000 was documented in a written report by Steve Wagner. Due to the out-of-season date of the occurrence of the bird, the record was circulated to the committee. The report was accepted.

**Solitary Sandpiper** (12-01-11)—Another single bird of this species found on the Long Cane Christmas Bird Count held on 22 December 2001 was written up by the compiler of the count, Steve Wagner. Again, due to the

out-of-season date of the occurrence of the bird, the record was circulated to the committee. The report was accepted.

**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*) (12-00-15)—A report of a bird observed at Kiawah Island on 31 December 2000 was written by Roger Taylor of Ontario, Canada. The concise report detailed several diagnostic field marks and was accepted by the committee.

**Buff-bellied Hummingbird** (*Amazilia yucatanensis*) (12-01-09)—A bird that appeared for a few days at the feeder of Cathleen Lee in the Lake Murray area of Lexington County was banded and written up by Bill Hilton, Jr. The bird was well documented with excellent photographs and a concise listing of diagnostic field marks in the write-up. The report was accepted by the committee. This is a first state record for the species and places the species on the State List in the Definitive category because of the accompanying photographs.

**Calliope Hummingbird** (*Stellula calliope*) (12-01-10) – An over-wintering individual of this species was banded and documented by Bill Hilton, Jr., again with excellent photographs and a concise write-up. The bird was visiting a feeder maintained by Baine Carruthers in Bethany, a town north of York and close to the North Carolina state line. The report was accepted by the committee.

**Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*) (04-00-11)—A thorough report of a Bell's Vireo seen in April of 2000 at Caw Caw Interpretive Center in Charleston County and written up by Sharon Brown and Donna Slyce was accepted.

### **Non-accepted Reports**

**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*) (05-01-06)—A sketchy report of two individuals of this species was not accepted by the committee due to insufficient details in the written description to distinguish the reported species from closely allied and similar species.

**Shiny Cowbird** (*Molothrus bonariensis*) (10-01-07)—A report of a bird seen and documented as this species was not accepted due to a divergence in the submitted description from standard descriptions of the species and the late date of occurrence for the reported species.

### **Reports Sent For Outside Review**

**Northern Goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*) (01-01-01)—Because the report did not rule out a similar species convincingly and there was a divergence in the written description from standard descriptions of the species, this report occasioned a split decision from the committee. The report will be sent for outside review and then resubmitted to the Committee for reconsideration.

**Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*) (10-00-06)—A lack of convincing detail in the written description in this report led to a split vote from the committee and will be sent to outside review. The report will then be resubmitted to the Committee for reconsideration.

**Green-tailed Towhee** (*Pipilo chlorurus*) (11-01-08)—A sketchy report of an individual of this species occasioned a split vote from the Committee. The report will be sent for outside review and then resubmitted to the Committee for reconsideration.

**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) (09-01-05)—Imprecise details in the description of the plumage of this bird led the committee to split the votes on this report. The report will be sent for outside review and then re-submitted to the Committee for reconsideration.

### **Withdrawn Reports**

Two reports were withdrawn by the submitters after consideration by the committee.