

2005 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

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In 2005 the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on 18 records. Of these, 11 were accepted, 4 were not accepted and 2 will be sent for outside review. One was withdrawn from consideration after circulation began. Among the few changes to the state list this year is a change in the review status of Cinnamon Teal and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. Both species were removed from Full review and placed in the Inland Only review category. Cinnamon Teal has established enough of a pattern of vagrancy along the immediate coast that sightings of the species there no longer need to be documented. Observations of Cinnamon Teal more than 30 miles inland should be reported to the Committee. Based on a published report of breeding activity of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck as well as several anecdotal reports of breeding by the species along the immediate coast, sightings of the species along the immediate coast no longer need to be reported. Sightings of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck more than 30 miles inland, however, should continue to be reported to the Committee.

Committee membership increased in 2005. Following guidelines established by the by-laws of the Committee and the precedent of protocols used the last time the South Carolina Bird Records Committee changed its number, the number of the Committee was increased from seven members to nine members. In addition to the seven members of the Committee from 2004 – Giff Beaton, Jr., Lex Glover, Tim Kalbach, Taylor Piephoff, Dr. Will Post, Donna Slyce, and Dr. Steve Wagner – the two new members are Nathan Dias from Charleston and Dr. Chris Hill from Conway. I would like to reiterate my thanks to the other members of the Committee for their input and guidance on this and to the Board of the Carolina Bird Club for their time and consideration on this issue.

In 2005, the Records Committee held its annual meeting on 2 October in Charleston, South Carolina. Items on the agenda for this meeting included a review of the review categories of several species, a consideration of the question of having both Skua sp. and South Polar Skua on the state list, and a discussion of the discrepancies between birds reported for *North American Birds* and bird records submitted to the Committee or written up in “General Field Notes” in *The Chat*. All but two of the species were left in their current review categories. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Cinnamon Teal were both changed from Full to Inland Only review status as described above. On the question of the Skua sp./South Polar Skua on the state list, the Committee agreed to review older (previously unreviewed by the

Committee) documentation of the report that placed South Polar Skua in the Hypothetical category on Post and Gauthreaux's 1989 state list, the state list that was grandfathered in when the Records Committee was formed in 1991. The discussion of the discrepancies between records submitted to the Records Committee and what is reported to *North American Birds* culminated in a decision to have the chair work with the Regional Editor of *North American Birds* in order perhaps to secure necessary write-ups for the Records Committee or write-ups for *General Field Notes*.

The current state list stands at 449 species, with 15 Provisional II species and 14 Hypothetical species. The most recent revision of the state list can be found online at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/brc>. The state list available online includes review categories in addition to list categories for each species.

Committee decisions on individual reports are summarized below.

Accepted reports

King Eider (02-05-05) – Several good digital photographs of an immature male of this species were submitted to the Committee by Dwayne Martin. This bird was observed by many at Folly Beach in late January–early February of 2005. The report was accepted.

Masked Booby (09-04-09) – Jack Peachey reported a bird of this species observed offshore from Murrell's Inlet in September 2004. The report was accepted.

Limpkin (08-05-14) – An excellent video of the bird present along Cane Creek in Lancaster County from early August through late August 2005 was submitted by Bill Stokes. The report was accepted. This is the first documented occurrence of Limpkin in the Piedmont area of the state.

Dovekie (02-05-07) – Also part of the alcid invasion that took place at Huntington Beach State Park in early 2005, this species was not seen by nearly as many observers as several other species in the invasion. Nonetheless, the bird was present long enough to be documented with a written report and a digital photograph by Kent Fiala. The report was accepted by the Committee.

Common Murre (01-05-02) – A bird observed from shore at Garden City in January 2005 was written up by Jack Peachey. The report was accepted.

Thick-billed Murre (02-05-06) – An individual of this species was observed by many from late January through February at Huntington Beach State Park. Steven Tracey submitted several good digital photographs of the bird. The report was accepted.

Vermilion Flycatcher (05-04-07) - A report of a bird of this species observed in late May 2004 just outside the town of Lexington in Lexington County was accepted. The report was prepared by Donna Slyce and Lloyd Sharpe.

Blue-winged Warbler (07-05-13) – A written report of a Blue-winged Warbler observed on 28 July 2005 in a backyard in Conway was circulated

to the Committee due to the date, which was nearly two weeks prior to previous records of the species in the state. The report was accepted.

Yellow Warbler (01-05-03) – Molly Bonnell observed and documented a bird of this species present at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge in mid-January 2005. Based on the written report, the record was accepted by the Committee.

Harris's Sparrow (03-05-09) – A written report of a bird observed at a feeder in the community of Piedmont, South Carolina, in Greenville County was accompanied by digital photographs. The report written by Pete Worthington and accompanied by digital photographs from Jeff Catlin was accepted.

Bullock's Oriole (12-04-10) – An excellent photograph of this species was submitted to the Committee by Dan Fleming. The bird was photographed visiting a backyard feeder in late December 2004 in central Anderson County. The record was accepted.

Non-accepted reports

Yellow-billed Loon (01-05-01) – A lack of diagnostic detail in this written report occasioned a vote of non-acceptance by the Committee.

Sabine's Gull (03-05-10) – Somewhat contradictory details in the description of this individual caused a vote of non-acceptance by the Committee.

Black-billed Magpie (05-05-11) – A sketchy report of an individual of this species was not accepted due to incomplete details in the written description to definitively identify the species.

White Wagtail (02-05-08) – A report of an individual of this species was not accepted due to incomplete details in the written description to definitively identify the species.

Reports sent for outside review

White-faced Ibis (01-03-12a and 01-03-12b) – The only reports to come in on the White-faced Ibis reported by many from Savannah National Wildlife Refuge in January of 2003 were too brief for several on the Committee and caused a split vote on these reports. The reports will be sent for outside review and circulated to the Committee a second time with reviewers' comments.

Varied Thrush (01-05-04) – The brevity of the description in this written report occasioned enough uncertainty to cause a split vote on this report. The record will be sent for outside review and circulated to the Committee a second time with reviewer's comments.