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2006 Annual Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.¹, Chair, Keith E. Camburn, Samuel Cooper, Richard J. Davis, Eric V. Dean, Wayne K. Forsythe, Russell L. Tyndall

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This report enumerates the decisions of the Carolina Bird Club's North Carolina Bird Records Committee during 2006. There were no changes to the membership of the committee during the year. Committee voting information is referenced in parentheses (i.e., year report received, reference number).

Accepted as Valid

The reported identification is judged to be accurate, and the bird is judged to be of wild origin. Photographs and/or written descriptions of all accepted records have been deposited in the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) (06-11). A flock of 11 birds was seen in a field in Beaufort County for several days in mid-May 2006 by John Register, Curtis Dykstra, and Alan Meijer. The committee accepted photos provided by Dykstra, taken on 16 May. The committee unanimously accepted the record both to identification and to origin (as wild birds). This becomes the second record accepted as being of wild birds, but the first with photos. (A report with photos in 2004 was not accepted because of questions about the origin of the birds.) Thus, the species is elevated from the Provisional List to the Official List.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*) (06-06). A remarkable record was of one bird seen on the beach at Cape Hatteras point in Dare County on 11 April 2006. The committee accepted photos of the bird, both perched and in flight, taken by Joe Byrnes; he also provided thorough details. The bird was seen by several other birders that day (see Chat 70:94–95). Amazingly, a Yellow-nosed was seen flying over this cape exactly two years earlier, on 11 April 2004. This 2006 report is now the third accepted record for North Carolina, all documented by photographs.

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel (*Fregetta tropica*) (06-09). One was seen in the Gulf Stream on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, Dare County, on 16 July 2006. The committee accepted a photograph taken by Brian Patteson and a thorough description provided by Shawn Smolen-Morton. This is the second record for both North Carolina and United States waters; as the previous record, in 2004, also contained a photograph, the species is already on the Official List.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) (06-18). An immature bird, perhaps in its second year, was seen by many birders at Lake Twiddy in Union County throughout most of September 2006. The committee accepted photos of the bird taken by Hop Hopkins and a written description provided by John Buckman. The species is already on the Official List; the Avendex database lists 16 previous state reports. However, this is the first record away from the coast/tidewater regions.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) (06-07). One was found at Cape Hatteras point, Dare County, in late May 2006 and was seen by dozens of birders. The committee accepted photos taken by Sidney Mattock and Jeff Pippen; Harry LeGrand provided a written description. This is the second state record. Because of acceptance of photographs, the species is elevated from the Provisional List to the Official List; the other state record was a sighting only.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) (06-15). A remarkable flock of 11 birds was seen by a group of birders at Lake Julian in Buncombe County on 19 April 2006. The committee accepted photos taken by Wayne Forsythe. This is just the second mountain record, and it represents the first inland record for North Carolina during the spring season.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) (06-10). One in breeding plumage was found by John Lindfors along Hooper Lane in Henderson County on the unusual date of 26 June 2006. The committee accepted his written description and photos taken by Wayne Forsythe. The species is already on the Official List, as there are numerous state reports, though this is the first state record in the May–June period (*vide* Avendex database).

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) (06-14). Marilyn Westphal found one on 25 June 2006 in Henderson County. The committee accepted photos of the bird taken by Wayne Forsythe later that day. The species is already on the Official List, but this is apparently just the fourth report for the mountain region (*vide* Avendex database).

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (06-04). One was photographed by Mike Dunn at the Pungo unit of Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Washington County, on 28 January 2006. The committee accepted Dunn's photographs. The species is already on the Official List, and Avendex lists ten previous state reports.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (06-05). One was photographed at Cape Hatteras point, Dare County, on 27 December 2005, and was seen by at least five observers on the Christmas Bird Count that day. The committee accepted photos taken by James Reuter and a written description provided by Chris Eley, who initially discovered and identified the bird. The species is already on the Official List.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) (06-17). One was photographed by James Parnell at Carolina Beach State Park in New Hanover County on 21 September 2006. Its identity remained uncertain until photographs were circulated for public comment on the Frontiers of Bird Identification listserv. With the help of comments from persons familiar with this species,