

## 2006 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

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In 2006, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee was relatively quiet. With no reports in backlog and no active reports in the files until September, no records were circulated. Several reports received after September were circulated early in 2007 and will be included in the 2007 annual report. The chair sent out several records for outside review. So far, comments have been received from only one outside reviewer.

Committee membership did not change in 2006.

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.

### Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—June 1957

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In Volume 21, Number 2 of *The Chat*, the lead article *Early Notes on Carolina Birds* by W. L. McAtee summarized observations published by various authors in the years 1783 through 1862. It appears that visitors had a special fascination with the amount of offal in the streets and the abundance of vultures, which were reported to be protected by law.

In General Field Notes, J. B. Shuler, Jr. reported a European Wigeon at Greenville, SC on 23 March 1957, thought to be the first record for the interior of the state. E. B. Chamberlain reported on two Golden Eagles killed in SC and one in NC during the past winter. Two other immature Golden Eagles were observed at Bear Island during December and January. A. M. Wilcox reported that an adult Great Black-backed Gull spent several days in Charleston Harbor in March. This was regarded as a rare sighting. The first known record in Charleston Harbor was in December 1955. Eugene P. Odum and Robert A. Norris reported a Gray Kingbird on 19 November 1956 in the Savannah River Plant area of Aiken County, SC. J. W. E. Joyner reported observation of a Western Tanager at Lake Mattamuskeet on 13–14 February 1957. It was present as late as 8 March. There was only one previous record for the state at the time. Doris C. Hauser reported collecting a male Spotted Towhee on 14 February 1957 in Fayetteville, NC. This was the first state record; however at the time the species had recently been lumped with Rufous-sided Towhee. E. B. Chamberlain reported the collection of a Lark Sparrow for the first time in SC, on 7 September 1956 at Edisto Beach. There were six previous records for the state, but it had remained on the hypothetical list for lack of a specimen.