

2008 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

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In 2008, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on 10 records. Of these, eight were accepted and two were not accepted. Among the accepted reports were two records that added a new species to the state list in the Definitive category and one report that added a new species to the state list in the Provisional II category. A report of a Snail Kite found in the community of Rimini in Clarendon County in mid-May of 2007 accompanied by numerous photographs and a detailed report of a Mountain Plover accompanied by photographs added these two species to the state list. A report of a European Goldfinch found in Charleston County accompanied by excellent photographs added this species to the state list in the Provisional II category, as most members believed the bird to be a foreign introduction.

Committee membership changed in 2008. Nathan Dias and Tim Kalbach rotated off the committee. The number of committee members was allowed to fall back to seven, as it had been for many years, at the request of the chair.

The current state list stands at 454 species, with 16 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 online list includes review categories in addition to list categories for each species.

Committee activity is reviewed below.

Reports Accepted

Greater Shearwater (07-07-08) – An injured bird found in Lancaster County was taken into rehabilitation by Jennifer Gordon who submitted a written report accompanied by photos. The record was accepted.

Snail Kite (05-07-04) – This bird was first observed by Lloyd Moon, who reported the bird, and was later enjoyed by many observers. The bird was found on 14 May 2007 at Elliot's Crawfish Farm in the community of Rimini in Clarendon County and was present through mid-June, having been much photographed during his stay. The report was accepted unanimously by the committee. This accepted report adds the species to the state list in the Definitive category and represents a first North American record north of the small range in the state of Florida for this sedentary species.

Mountain Plover (10-07-06) - A bird observed and photographed well at Huntington Beach State Park in October of 2007 by Jerry Kerschner was

reported. The report was accepted unanimously. This accepted report adds the species to the state list in the Definitive category.

Black Guillemot (01-08-02) – A bird found at Huntington Beach State Park in January of 2008 by Dr. Gary Graves was written up for the committee and documented in a Field Note published in *The Chat* (Graves 2008a). The documentation was accompanied by photographs. The report was accepted.

Cave Swallow (01-08-03) – A report of a bird found roosting in a picnic shelter at Huntington Beach State Park by Dr. Gary Graves was written up for the committee and documented in a Field Note published in *The Chat* (Graves 2008b). The documentation included good photographs. The record was accepted.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (01-07-02) – A written report of a bird observed at Santee National Wildlife Refuge in January of 2007 was circulated due to the late date of the observation. The species has been noted in the state in winter previously. The report was accepted by the committee.

Western Tanager (05-07-09) – A report of a bird present at a feeder in Conway for most of the winter in 2007 was submitted by Gary Phillips. The well-written report was accepted by the committee.

European Goldfinch (09-07-07) – An individual of this species was observed in mid-September at a feeder on Wadmalaw Island in Charleston County by Dr. Murry Thompson and documented for the committee with a written report and excellent photographs. The report was accepted by the committee as a “human-assisted” arrival because the species is often kept as a caged bird due to their striking plumage and pleasant song. This report adds the species to the state list in the Provisional II category.

Reports Not Accepted

Whooping Crane (02-07-03) – A report of this species from the immediate coast in February 2007 was not accepted by the committee due to a lack of convincing detail in the written description.

Pyrrhuloxia (05-07-05) – An individual of this species was reported from a suburban back yard in the upper coastal plain in May of 2007. The written report was not detailed enough to rule out near look-alike common species and the report was not accepted by the committee.

Literature Cited

- Graves, G. R. 2008a. Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*) at Murrells Inlet: Third documented record for South Carolina. *Chat* 72:46–48
- Graves, G. R. 2008b. Possible case of weather-mediated mortality of Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva pallida*) wintering in South Carolina. *Chat* 72:95–98