

2009 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

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In 2009, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on nine reports. Of these, seven were accepted and two were not accepted. Among the accepted reports were two that promoted a species from the Provisional I category to the Definitive category, and one that is a second record of a species in the state. A report of a Pacific Loon observed on Lake Russell in late April 2009 and photographed by Jeff Catlin, and a detailed report of a Long-tailed Jaeger found on Lake Hartwell in September 2005 and photographed extensively by Chuck Cape, moved these two species from the Provisional I category to the Definitive category of the state list. A report of a Broad-billed Hummingbird by Bill Hilton, documented by his usual excellent photographs and thorough write-up, is only a second record of the species in South Carolina.

Committee membership changed in 2009. Due to the possible conflict of interests in sitting on the South Carolina Bird Records Committee, which is a standing committee of the Carolina Bird Club, and his duties as the current President of the Carolina Bird Club, Taylor Piephoff stepped off the committee. He was replaced by J. B. Hines III of Chesnee. The number of the committee remains at seven.

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

Committee activity is reviewed below.

Reports Accepted:

Broad-billed Hummingbird (01-08-01): A bird captured and banded in the community of Rockville on Wadmalaw Island in early January 2008 was extensively documented and photographed by Bill Hilton. His excellent report was accepted unanimously by the committee. This is only the second record of the species in the state.

Long-tailed Jaeger (09-05-16): A bird of this species was reported from Lake Hartwell on 4 September 2005 and observed by multiple observers at the time. The report included numerous excellent photographs of the bird taken by Chuck Cape as well as a detailed description of the bird by Earl W. Horn and, since the bird's location on Lake Hartwell meant he crossed the

state line between South Carolina and Georgia several times, a detailed map of the bird's location during the time of the reporters' observations compiled by Ken Blankenship. The report was accepted unanimously. Due to the inclusion of photographs, this record promotes the species to the Definitive category of the state list.

Long-tailed Jaeger (08-08-07): A specimen of this species was salvaged, photographed, and reported to the committee by Dr. Will Post in August 2008. The report was accepted by the committee. The specimen was prepared and is now archived in the Charleston Museum of Natural History.

Black Guillemot (01-08-04): A bird observed at Huntington Beach State Park in January 2008 by Jack Peachey was written up for the committee. The report was accepted.

Ruff (04-08-05): Gretchen Nareff submitted two photographs and a written report of a bird found on a private plantation in Beaufort County in April 2005. The report was accepted unanimously. This represents only the second April record of the species in South Carolina.

White-winged Dove (12-08-06): A report of a bird photographed at a feeder in December 2008 in the community of Okatie in Jasper County by Diane Rand was submitted to the committee. The report was accepted unanimously by the committee.

Pacific Loon (04-09-03): A digital photograph by Jeff Catlin of a bird observed at Lake Russell in April 2009 was submitted to the committee. The report was accepted unanimously by the committee. Due to the inclusion of the photograph, this record moves the species from the Provisional I category to the Definitive category of the state list.

Reports Sent For Outside Review:

Pacific Loon (03-09-01): A well-written report of a bird observed at Pawleys Island in early March 2009 occasioned a split vote from the committee. The report will be sent for outside review.

Reports Not Accepted:

White-tailed Kite (04-09-02): The committee received a written report of an individual of this species in early April 2009 in the community of Mayo in Spartanburg County. The report was not accepted by the committee due to a lack of convincing detail in the written description.