

2017 Annual Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

Susan M. Campbell¹, Chair, Keith E. Camburn, Samuel Cooper, W. Jefferson Lemons, Michael W. D. McCloy, Jeffrey S. Phippen, Simon R. B. Thompson, Joshua L. Southern, Robert W. Van Epps

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The make-up of the 2017 North Carolina Bird Records Committee included additions of Keith Camburn, Jeffrey Phippen, and Robert Van Epps as voting members; and the retention of Richard J. Davis and Harry E. LeGrand Jr. in advisory capacities. Taylor Piephoff, Steven Shultz, and Nathan Swick rotated off the Committee for at least a one-year hiatus.

Accepted Reports

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) (17-01). A written description and photos of an adult male banded in Buxton (Dare) on 22 January 2017 were submitted by Susan Campbell. The bird was first observed by Ann Maddock on 24 January 2017 and persisted through 15 March. Both the written material as well as the photos were accepted unanimously by the committee. This represents the fourth record for the state.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) (17-02). Two written descriptions (Simon Thompson and John Koon) as well as photos were submitted of a bird on the French Broad River (Buncombe) in mid-February 2017. The committee voted unanimously to accept all of the material. This record is the eighth for NC and the first for the mountains.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) (17-03). Written details and photos were submitted by Ed Corey for a bird present at Falls Lake (Wake) on 25-26 May 2017. The committee voted unanimously to accept the material. This record constitutes the third Piedmont record and the first from that region to be documented by photos.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (17-04). John Fussell submitted both a written report as well as a photo of a bird located at North River Farm (Carteret) on 3 June 2017. This record was approved (8-1). It represents a first for the summer season in North Carolina.

Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma monorhis*) (17-05). Brian Patteson located an individual 30 nm SE of Hatteras (Dare) on 9 June 2017.

Both written details and a photo were submitted. The committee voted unanimously to accept this report, the fourth state record.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) (17-06). Wayne Forsythe submitted a written report as well as photos for a bird found on 22 July 2017 at Hendersonville (Henderson). Though twice as many members accepted the photos as did not (6-3), such a voting verdict does not accept a record; there must be no more than one non-accept vote for approval. Fortunately, the written material was approved unanimously, thus providing the first mountain state record for the species.

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) (17-08). Simon Thompson located an individual at Hooper Lane (Henderson) on 13 September 2017. A written report and photos were submitted to the committee. The material was accepted unanimously. This record is the first for the mountain region of the state.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) (17-10). James Poling submitted both written details as well as photos for a bird at Warren Wilson College (Buncombe) from 14 November until at least 16 November 2017. The material was accepted by the committee (unanimously for the photos but 6-2 for the written report). This record represents the seventh for the state and the first for the NC mountains.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (17-11). Dwayne Martin submitted both a written report and photo for an individual found on Lake Hickory (Catawba) on 17 November 2017. The committee voted unanimously to accept the record. This record is the second for the species in the Piedmont region and is the third inland record in the state.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cyananthus latirostris*) (17-12). A written description and photos of an adult female banded in Southern Shores (Dare) on 19 November 2017 were submitted by Susan Campbell. The bird was first observed by Jeff Lewis on 30 October 2017 and was present until 1 January 2018, when it was found deceased under the feeder, apparently unable to survive the unusual cold spell that extended all the way to the coast that week. The committee voted unanimously to accept both the written report and the photos. This record is the fourth for the state and is the first female of the species documented here.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (17-13). A written report was received from Ricky Davis of a bird seen on 18 December 2016 at Fort Macon State Park (Carteret). The committee voted unanimously to accept the report. This represents the first winter record for NC (Southern 2017).

Non-Accepted Reports

American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) (17-09). A vote was taken on a written description of five individuals seen flying offshore from a cruise ship off Core Banks (Carteret) on 6 November 2017. Unfortunately no photos were obtained and the description was vague. The committee voted

6-1 not to accept the report, given the insufficient details, especially for what would have been a first record for North Carolina.

Unresolved

There are no unresolved reports as the result of voting during 2017. However, two reports - Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*) and Common Swift (*Apus apus*) - were received late in the year that are expected to be taken up by the committee in 2018; neither of these species is on the state list.

A list of all the species reviewed can be seen at:
<http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/brc/NC/reports.html>.

Summary

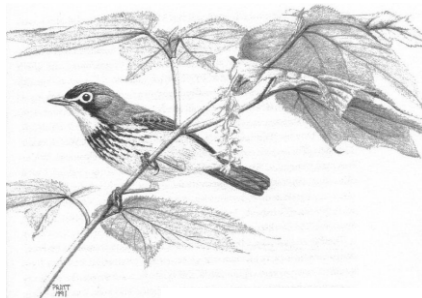
This year's voting resulted in a number of seasonal firsts, as well as four first records for the mountains of North Carolina. Even though no changes in status of Accepted species occurred as a result of committee activity, the list has been reduced by one. The decision by the American Ornithological Society to lump Thayer's Gull with Iceland Gull (Fifty-eighth supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds) now means there are no longer 482 but 481 species on the state list (466 Definitive, 13 Provisional, and two Not Established).

Literature Cited

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