

# 2019 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Record Committee

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In 2019, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee acted on 34 new reports, of which 27 were accepted, three were not accepted, and four will be re-reviewed.

The accepted records detailed below add one species to South Carolina's Main List: Trumpeter Swan. The Main List now includes 440 species. Rough-legged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, and Roseate Tern have been elevated from the Provisional I List to the Definitive List based on photographic evidence. Trumpeter Swan will be removed from the Provisional II List.

The East Coast from Florida to Maine experienced an "invasion" of Ash-throated Flycatchers during the fall and winter of 2019. Ash-throated Flycatcher was only added to the South Carolina's Main List in 2011 with a bird photographed in Beaufort County. Up until this report, only six records of Ash-throated Flycatcher have been accepted by the Committee. This year the Committee received and accepted six separate reports. Two additional reports were received by the Committee in early 2020.

The annual meeting of the SCBRC was held on 14 December 2019 at the Charleston County Parks Headquarters in Charleston. The meeting was attended in person by Jeff Click, Aaron Given, Keith McCullough, and Chris Hill. Lex Glover, Simon Harvey, and Steve Wagner joined by telephone conference. Aaron Given was re-elected as Chair. Lex Glover agreed to another term as Secretary. Jeff Click and Chris Hill were re-elected to the Nomination Committee. The Committee decided to not add or remove any species from the Review List. Much of the discussion during the meeting focused on revising the Committee's bylaws, for which a first draft was produced earlier in the year.

There were no changes to the membership in 2019.

## ACCEPTED REPORTS

**Brant** (*Branta bernicla*). 2019-012. Accept (9-0). The Committee voted on an eBird report from Julian Donahue, who photographed a Brant in North Santee Bay (Georgetown Co.) on 25 October 2019. This is the state's fourth record.

**Brant** (*Branta bernicla*). 2019-033. Accept (9-0). Chris Hill submitted a written report along with two photos of a Brant that had been seen at the Tom Yawkey Center (Georgetown Co.) on 18 December 2019.

**Cackling Goose** (*Branta hutchinsii*). 2019-032. Accept (9-0). Gary Harbour and Michael Robertson submitted separate reports of four Cackling Geese seen at Lake Robinson (Greenville Co.) on 19 December 2019. Several distant but diagnostic photos

were included with the report. The photos showed the Cackling Geese adjacent to Canada Geese, which allowed the Committee to make a judgement on their size.



*Cackling Geese (with Canada Geese),  
19 Dec 19, Greenville Co, SC.*

*Photo by Gary Harbour and Michael  
Robertson.*

**Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*). 2019-006. Accept (9-0). Irvin Pitts submitted a written report along with six photographs of an immature Trumpeter Swan seen at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area (Colleton Co.) on 8 March 2019. The bird was relocated on 11 March 2019 by other birders. This report represents the first record of Trumpeter Swan in South Carolina, which will move from the Provisional II list to the Definitive List.

**Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*). 2019-001. Accept (9-0). David McLean submitted a

written report along with three photos of a Tufted Duck at Bulls Island (Charleston Co.) on 8 February 2019. This is the second record for South Carolina, with the first occurring last winter, also at Bulls Island.

**Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). 2019-019. Accept (9-0). Shawn Smolen-Morton submitted a written report along with one photo of a Harlequin Duck at Huntington Beach State Park (Georgetown Co.) on 5 December 2019. This bird was originally reported on 4 December 2019 with the last eBird report on 18 December 2019.

**Red-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps grisegena*). 2019-005. Accept (8-1). Robert Taylor submitted a written report of a Red-necked Grebe at Huntington Beach State Park (Georgetown Co.) on 28 January 2019. This is only the fourth record for the state.

**Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). 2019-002. Accept (9-0). David McLean submitted a written report along with four photographs of a Western Grebe seen at Bulls Island (Charleston Co.) on 7 February 2019.

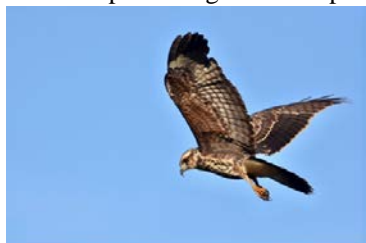
**Iceland Gull** (*Larus glaucooides*). 2019-020. Accept (9-0). Chris Hill submitted a written report along with two photographs of an Iceland Gull at the Horry County Landfill (Horry Co.) on 17 January 2019.

**Roseate Tern** (*Sterna dougallii*). 2019-007. Accept (9-0). The Committee received three separate written reports from Paul Laurent, Ritch Lilly, and Shawn Smolen-Morton of up to three individual Roseate Terns at Huntington Beach State Park (Georgetown Co.) from 30 June – 5 July 2019. Several photographs and one video were submitted. This is the state's second record.

**Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*). 2019-016. Accept (9-0). Keith McCullough submitted a detailed written report of a Brown Booby at Folly Beach (Charleston Co.) on 8 November 2019.

**Great Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). 2019-017. Accept (9-0). Lois Stacey submitted a written report of an inland Great Cormorant from Clark's Hill Dam on Strom Thurmond Lake (McCormick Co.) on 17 November 2019. The bird was seen and photographed by many birders into the winter.

**Snail Kite** (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*). 2019-014. Accept (9-0). Brad Sale submitted a written report along with five photos of a Snail Kite at Lake Marion (Clarendon Co.) that was seen from 31 October – 3 November 2019. This is South Carolina's fourth record of Snail Kite.



*Snail Kite, 31 Oct 19,  
Clarendon Co, SC.  
Photo by Brad Sale.*

**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*). 2019-015. Accept (9-0). The Committee voted on an eBird report from Tim Baerwald who photographed a Swainson's Hawk at the Avian Conservation Center (Charleston Co.) on 7 November 2019. This is the state's second record.

**Rough-legged Hawk** (*Buteo lagopus*). 2019-003. Accept (8-1). The Committee voted on an eBird report with from John Cox and Nathan Dias of a Rough-legged Hawk that was photographed at Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge (Charleston Co.) on 17 December 2011. This is the state's second record.

**Snowy Owl** (*Bubo scandiacus*). 2019-022. Accept (9-0). Chris Hill submitted a written report along with one photograph on behalf of an anonymous reporter of a Snowy Owl at Myrtle Beach State Park (Horry Co.) on 7 December 2019.

**Long-eared Owl** (*Asio otus*). 2019-023. Accept (9-0). The Committee voted on an eBird report from Mike Walker of a Long-eared Owl that was photographed at Huntington Beach State Park (Georgetown Co.) on 3 December 2019. This represents a third record for South Carolina.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). 2019-025. Accept (9-0). The Committee voted on an eBird report with three photos from Steven Guy of an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Port Royal Boardwalk (Beaufort Co.) on 22 October 2019.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). 2019-026. Accept (9-0). Aaron Given submitted a written report along with two photos of an Ash-throated Flycatcher that was captured and banded at Kiawah Island (Charleston Co.) on 13-14 November 2019.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). 2019-027. Accept (9-0). The Committee voted on an eBird report with four photos from Ritch Lilly of an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Huntington Beach State Park (Georgetown Co.) on 17 November 2019.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). 2019-028. Accept (9-0). The Committee voted on an eBird report from Matt Johnson, Cathy Miller, and Carl Miller with three photos of an Ash-throated Flycatcher on private property in Calhoun Co. on 15 December 2019.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). 2019-029. Accept (9-0). John Hutchens submitted a written report along with five photos of an Ash-throated Flycatcher that was seen during the Winyah Bay Christmas Bird Count at the Yawkey Wildlife Center (Georgetown Co.) on 19 December 2019.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). 2019-030. Accept (9-0). The Committee voted on an eBird report with four photos from William Wise at Hilton Head (Beaufort Co.) on 23 December 2019.

**Tropical Kingbird** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*). 2019-004. Accept (9-0). Craig Watson submitted a very detailed report along with eight photos of a Tropical Kingbird at Ft. Moultrie National Monument (Charleston Co.) on 16 June 2019. This is the second record of Tropical Kingbird for South Carolina, with the first being seen in 2018.



*Tropical Kingbird, 16 Jun 19,  
Charleston Co, SC.  
Photo by Craig Watson.*

**Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii*). 2019-011. Accept (9-0). Michael Adams submitted a written report along with five photos of a Bell's Vireo at Ft. Moultrie National Monument (Charleston Co.) on 23-24 October 2019.

**Kirtland's Warbler** (*Setophaga kirtlandii*). 2019-010. Accept (8-1). Kevin Kubach submitted a written report of a Kirtland's Warbler at Fants Grove Wildlife Management Area (Charleston Co.) on 7 October 2019. This is South Carolina's third record.

**Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*). 2019-031. Accept (9-0). The Committee voted on an eBird report with four photos from Kevin Brady of a male Bullock's Oriole at Rose Hill Plantation (Beaufort Co.) on 20 December 2019.

## NON-ACCEPTED REPORTS

**Cassin's Kingbird** (*Tyrannus vociferans*). 2019-013. Non-accept (1-8). The Committee considered an eBird report of a Cassin's Kingbird from Colleton County in

October 2019. Based on the photograph from the eBird report, the Committee felt that there was not enough evidence to positively identify this bird.

**Tricolored Munia** (*Lonchura malacca*). 2019-008. Non-accept (2-7). The Committee considered a written report along with several photos of a Tricolored Munia in Colleton County in July 2019. Although the identification was correct, the origin of this bird was in question. Tricolored Munias are popular in the pet trade, and the Committee felt that an escapee was just as likely as a vagrant from a self-sustaining population.

**Tricolored Munia** (*Lonchura malacca*). 2019-034. Non-accept (2-7). The Committee considered an eBird report with photos of four individuals from Georgetown County in August 2019. Although the identification was correct, the origin of this bird was in question. Tricolored Munias are popular in the pet trade, and the Committee felt that an escapee was just as likely as a vagrant from a self-sustaining population.

## UNRESOLVED REPORTS

The following reports received a majority of votes to accept but more than one vote to not accept. These reports will need to be reevaluated by the Committee.

**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*). 2019-009. Re-review (7-2). The Committee reviewed a written report with a distant photo of a Say's Phoebe from Charleston County in September 2019.

**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*). 2019-018. Re-review (6-3). The Committee reviewed an eBird report of a Cave Swallow photographed in Horry County in November of 2019. Some Committee Members felt that the photos were not conclusive enough to identify the bird as a Cave Swallow.

**Monk Parakeet** (*Myiopsitta monachus*). 2019-021. Re-review (5-4). The Committee reviewed a written report of a Monk Parakeet from Horry County in September of 2019. Based on the photos submitted, the identification was correct but the Committee disagreed with the stated origin of this bird.

**Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*). 2019-024. Re-review (5-4). The Committee reviewed a written report of a Bullock's Oriole from Beaufort County in October of 2016. The description provided left some Committee Members wanting additional documentation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee thanks all the observers who submitted reports and those who encouraged others to submit reports. Your actions increase our understanding of bird occurrence in South Carolina.