

REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 2001

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The Alabama Bird Records Committee (ABRC) was created to validate documentation of unusual birds in Alabama using a method that allows the records to be more universally accepted and scientifically valuable. A committee of seven experienced Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) members reviews reports of species that generally have fewer than 20 accepted records for the state. Records for species on the ABRC review list, which currently includes approximately 90 species, are voted on by all committee members. If the first vote is indecisive, the committee members vote a second time. Vote totals with no more than one "not accepted" vote result in the record being accepted. Totals with four or more "not accepted" votes result in the record not being accepted. Records without decisions following two votes are reviewed and voted upon a final time at the annual meeting of the ABRC.

Fifty records from 25 observers were evaluated between 2001 and 2004 (Table 1). During this evaluation period, three species were added to the Alabama state list: Limpkin, Crested Caracara, and Brown-crested Flycatcher. An additional species, Great-tailed Grackle, was listed as hypothetical since the submitted photograph was not diagnostic. As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 422. Of these, three are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and Carolina Parakeet) and two extirpated from Alabama (Common Raven and Bachman's Warbler). Fourteen additional species are included in the hypothetical category due to the absence of a conclusive photograph or specimen or written documentation of visual observations by at least three experienced observers.

TABLE 1. Evaluations by the Alabama Bird Records Committee of 50 records from 25 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
01-1	Sooty Shearwater	3/9/00	Baldwin	V	A	11
01-2	Sooty Shearwater	4/24/00	Baldwin	V	A	12
01-3	Red Phalarope	11/21/91	Limestone	V	A	13
01-4	Red Phalarope	12/18/99	Lauderdale	P	A	18
01-5	Red Phalarope	3/17/00	Shelby	P	A	19
01-6	Vaux's Swift	4/22/00	Mobile	V	NI	—
01-7	Willow Flycatcher	3/9/00	St. Clair	V	NI	—
01-8	Cave Swallow	4/4/00	Baldwin	V	A	6
01-9	Cave Swallow	4/4/00	Mobile	V	A	7
01-10	Cave Swallow	4/16/00	Mobile	V	A	8

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TABLE I. Continued

Record		Date	County	How		AL Status ^c
No.	Species			Noted ^a	Decision ^b	
01-11	Kirtland's Warbler	5/13/00	Montgomery	V	NI	—
01-12	Shiny Cowbird	4/21/00	Mobile	P	A	19
01-13	Ash-throated Flycatcher	10/20/00	Baldwin	P	A	24
01-14	Brown Booby	1/2/99	Baldwin	V	NI	—
01-15	Brown Booby	12/30/00	Baldwin	V	NI	—
01-16	Great Cormorant	4/22/00	Mobile	V	NI	—
01-17	Roseate Spoonbill	10/26/00	Mobile	V	A	18
01-18	Roseate Spoonbill	8/9/00	Montgomery	P	A	17
01-19	Say's Phoebe	10/15/00	Baldwin	V	A	3
01-20	Willow Flycatcher	9/12/00	Montgomery	V	A	13
01-21	Alder Flycatcher	9/24/00	Mobile	V	A	10
01-22	Alder Flycatcher	8/24/00	Shelby	V	A	9
01-23	Burrowing Owl	8/5/00	Baldwin	V	P	—
01-24	Black-legged Kittiwake	2/17/01	Baldwin	V	A	15
01-25	Sabine's Gull	10/28/00	Mobile	V	NI	—
01-26	Red Phalarope	10/29/00	Marshall	V	A	20
01-27	Ruff	8/6/00	Lowndes	V	A	4
01-28	Limpkin	9/30/00	Cullman	P	A	1
01-29	Prairie Falcon	1/6/01	Marshall	V	A	3
01-30	Crested Caracara	2/19/01	Baldwin	VT	A	1
01-31	Short-tailed Hawk	2/4/01	Elmore	V	NI	—
01-32	Great-tailed Grackle	9/24/00	Pelagic ^d	P	A	1H
01-33	American Tree Sparrow	12/25/00	Lauderdale	P	A	16
01-34	Harris's Sparrow	11/26/00	Lauderdale	P	A	12
01-35	Audubon's Shearwater	9/14/00	Pelagic	V	A	8
01-36	Audubon's Shearwater	10/16/00	Pelagic	V	A	9
01-37	Calliope Hummingbird	11/21/00	Montgomery	B/P	A	10
01-38	Calliope Hummingbird	12/27/00	Mobile	B/P	A	11
01-39	Calliope Hummingbird	1/12/01	Baldwin	B/P	A	12
01-40	Calliope Hummingbird	11/19/00	Jefferson	B/P	A	9
01-41	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	12/27/00	Mobile	B/P	A	11
01-42	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	11/29/00	Mobile	B/P	A	5
01-43	Allen's Hummingbird	11/16/00	Dale	B/P	A	15
01-44	Cory's Shearwater	9/13/00	Pelagic	V	A	11
01-45	Cory's Shearwater	10/14/00	Pelagic	V	A	12
01-46	Cory's Shearwater	10/16/00	Pelagic	V	A	13
01-47	Cory's Shearwater	10/20/00	Pelagic	P	A	14
01-48	Cory's Shearwater	10/24/00	Pelagic	V	A	15
01-49	Brown-crested Flycatcher	10/13/00	Mobile	P	A	1
01-50	Shiny Cowbird	6/15/01	Mobile	V	A	21

^a V = visual, P = photograph, B = banded, VT = videotape

^b A = accepted, NI = not accepted due to identification questions, P = pending and under review

^c = Number of accepted Alabama records, H = hypothetical

^d = Pelagic = Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile and/or Baldwin counties

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