

**REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
2008 - 2009**

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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 ten accepted records or fewer than two accepted records during the previous ten years. Records for species on the ABRC review list, which currently includes approximately 80 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 after two votes are reviewed and voted upon a final time at the annual ABRC meeting.

During this period, 38 records from 24 observers were evaluated (Table 1) with two species being added to the Alabama state list: Black Swift and Inca Dove. As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 439 species. Of these, three are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, and Bachman’s Warbler) and one extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker). Sixteen species are classified as “hypothetical” where objective evidence such as a photo or specimen and multiple observer testimonies are lacking.

Table 1. Evaluations by the Alabama Bird Records Committee of 38 records from 24 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted <sup>a</sup>	Decision <sup>b</sup>	AL Status <sup>c</sup>
05-23R	Cackling Goose	3/18/78	Barbour	P	A	8
07-04	Black Swift	4/11/07	Baldwin	V	A	1
08-01	Black-bellied Whist.-Duck	6/1/08	Mobile	P	A	6
08-02	Cackling Goose	1/8/08	Limestone	V	A	5
08-03	Cackling Goose	1/22/08	Morgan	P	A	6
08-04	Cackling Goose	11/20/04	Limestone	P	A	7
08-05	California Gull	10/27/07	Marshall	P	A	6
08-06	Iceland Gull	1/25/08	Baldwin	P	A	8
08-07	Inca Dove	4/19/08	Baldwin	P/A	A	1
08-08	Northern Saw-whet Owl	11/21/07	Jackson	P/B	A	8

Table 1. cont.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted <sup>a</sup>	Decision <sup>b</sup>	AL Status <sup>c</sup>
08-09	Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/8/07	Jefferson	P/B	A	9
08-10	Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/9/07	Jefferson	P/B	A	10
08-11	Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/27/07	Jefferson	P/B	A	11
08-12	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1/7/08	Jefferson	P/B	A	12
08-13	Northern Saw-whet Owl	2/11/08	Jefferson	P/B	A	13
08-14	Northern Saw-whet Owl	2/16/08	Jefferson	P/B	A	14
08-15	Northern Saw-whet Owl	2/25/08	Jefferson	P/B	A	15
08-16	Northern Saw-whet Owl	3/12/08	Jefferson	P/B	A	16
08-17	Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/29/07	Jackson	A	A	17
08-18	Thayer's Gull	1/3/08	Marshall	P	A	6
08-19	Western Grebe	12/8/07	Marshall	P	A	6
08-20	Western Meadowlark	11/17/07	Baldwin	V	A	10+
08-21	White-winged Crossbill	1/3/05	Madison	VD	A	3
08-22	Anna's Hummingbird	1/18/08	Baldwin	P/B	A	4
09-01	Black-bellied Whist.-Duck	9/26/08	Mobile	P	A	7
09-02	Cackling Goose	2/4/06	Lauderdale	V	A	9
09-03	California Gull	10/25/08	Marshall	P	A	7
09-04	California Gull	1/18/05	Colbert	V	NI	---
09-05	Dusky Flycatcher	10/14/08	Baldwin	P/B	A	2
09-06	Glaucous-winged Gull	1/4/08	Baldwin	P	Pending	---
09-07	Iceland Gull	11/22/08	Marshall	P	A	9
09-08	Lesser Goldfinch	9/22/08	Madison	V	NI	---
09-09	Limpkin	9/3/07	Covington	P	A	3
09-10	Plumbeous Vireo	10/26/08	Baldwin	V	Pending	---
09-11	Sabine's Gull	9/18/08	Colbert/Lauderdale	P	A	6
09-12	Thayer's Gull	1/16/05	Colbert/Lawrence	V	Pending	---
09-13	Varied Thrush	11/16/08	Mobile	P	A	2
09-14	"Western" Flycatcher	10/13/05	Baldwin	P/B	Pending	---

<sup>a</sup>V = visual, P = photograph, B = banded, VD = video, A = audio recording

<sup>b</sup>A = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions; NO = not accepted due to origin questions; Pending = review incomplete

<sup>c</sup>Number of accepted Alabama records (H = hypothetical)

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