

**REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
1996-97**

Steve McConnell, Secretary 1999-2001

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 around 90 species, are voted on once by all committee members and then sometimes twice if the first vote is indecisive. 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 one or two votes are reviewed and voted upon a final time at the annual meeting of the ABRC.

Forty-nine records from 19 observers were evaluated in 1996 (Table 1). Forty-two were accepted and seven were not accepted. In 1997, 32 records from 15 observers were reviewed (Table 2). Twenty-three were accepted and nine were not accepted. During the 1996-1997 evaluation period, four species were added to the Alabama state list: Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, California Gull, Green Violet-ear, and Blue-throated Hummingbird.

Presently, the AOS state bird list has 415 species. 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). In addition, 12 species are listed in the hypothetical category due to the absence of a photograph or specimen, or written documentation of visual observations by at least three experienced observers.

TABLE 1. Evaluations by the 1996 Alabama Bird Records Committee of 52 records from 19 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision ^b	AL Status ^d
95-24	Allen's Hummingbird	1/31/95	Mobile	NI	—
95-40	Ruff	5/14/95	Baldwin	A	4
95-45	Blue-throated Hummingbird	7/21/95	Jefferson	A	1, H ^c
96-1	Red-necked Grebe	2/20/96	Marshall	A	8

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TABLE 1. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision ^b	AL Status ^d
96-2	Western Grebe	12/13/95	Marshall	A	2
96-3	White-faced Ibis	10/10/95	Mobile	A	9
96-4	duplicate record (deleted)		—		
96-5	Ross's Goose	11/12/95	Limestone	A	14
96-6	Ross's Goose	2/24/96	Colbert	A	15
96-7	Harlequin Duck	10/15/95	Mobile	NI	—
96-8	White-tailed Kite	10/22/95	Baldwin	A	9
96-9	Swainson's Hawk	10/13/95	Mobile	A	20+
96-10	Swainson's Hawk	10/21/95	Baldwin	A	20+
96-11	Swainson's Hawk	10/24/95	Baldwin	RC	—
96-12	Ferruginous Hawk	11/2/95	Mobile	NI	—
96-13	Hudsonian Godwit	11/8/95	Mobile	A	14
96-14	Red Phalarope	10/26/95	Marshall	A	17
96-15	duplicate record (deleted)				
96-16	Lesser Black-backed Gull	11/24/95	Marshall	A	8
96-17	Black-legged Kittiwake	12/1/95	Henry	A	10
96-18	Brown Noddy	9/10/95	pelagic ^a	A	4
96-19	Green Violet-ear	11/1/95	Mobile	A	1
96-20	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	11/14/95	Mobile	A	2
96-21	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	12/29/95	Baldwin	A	3
96-22	Anna's Hummingbird	11/10/95	Montgomery	A	2
96-23	Calliope Hummingbird	10/18/95	Baldwin	NI	—
96-24	Allen's Hummingbird	12/8/95	Shelby	A	5
96-25	Allen's Hummingbird	10/31/95	Montgomery	A	6
96-26	Allen's Hummingbird	12/29/95	Baldwin	A	7
96-27	Ash-throated Flycatcher	10/29/95	Baldwin	A	18
96-28	Bell's Vireo	9/10/95	Baldwin	A	18
96-29	Bell's Vireo	9/17/95	Baldwin	A	19
96-30	Bell's Vireo	9/25/95	Baldwin	A	20
96-31	Bell's Vireo	10/7/95	Baldwin	A	20+
96-32	Smith's Longspur	1/29/96	Limestone	NI	—
96-33	Red-necked Grebe	12/3/95	Marshall	A	9
96-34	Western Grebe	3/31/96	Marshall	A	3
96-35	Cory's Shearwater	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	3
96-36	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	15
96-37	Leach's Storm-Petrel	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	2

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96-38	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	1
96-39	Roseate Spoonbill	7/14/96	Colbert	A	12
96-40	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	5/12/96	Colbert	A	2
96-41	Pomarine Jaeger	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	16
96-42	California Gull	4/15/96	Baldwin	A	1, H ^c
96-43	Thayer's Gull	2/23/96	Marshall	A	2, H ^c
96-44	Lesser Black-backed Gull	4/20/96	Baldwin	A	9
96-45	Bridled Tern	6/15/96	pelagic ^a	A	14
96-46	Cave Swallow	4/5/96	Baldwin	A	10
96-47	Shiny Cowbird	5/8/96	Baldwin	A	14
96-48	Western Grebe	2/1/96	Baldwin	NI	—
96-49	Clark's Grebe	2/1/96	Baldwin	NI	—

^a Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile and/or Baldwin Counties

^b A = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions; RC = removed from circulation due to greater than 20 accepted records.

^c H = hypothetical

^d number of accepted records

TABLE 2. Evaluations by the 1997 Alabama Bird Records Committee of 32 records from 15 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision ^b	AL Status ^d
97-1	Greater Shearwater	9/14/96	Baldwin	A	19
97-2	Neotropic Cormorant	10/5/96	Baldwin	NI	—
97-3	Ross's Goose	11/14/96	Limestone	A	16
97-4	Brant	11/22/96	Lawrence	A	6
97-5	White-tailed Kite	9/22/96	Baldwin	A	10
97-6	Black-headed Gull	11/29/96	Lauderdale	NI	—
97-7	Lesser Black-backed Gull	10/26/96	Baldwin	A	10
97-8	Black-legged Kittiwake	11/28/96	Colbert	A	11
97-9	Willow Flycatcher	5/12/96	Morgan	A	9
97-10	Townsend's Solitaire	10/7/96	Baldwin	NI	—
97-11	American Tree Sparrow	1/8/96	Lauderdale	A	14
97-12	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	11/11/96	Mobile	NI	—
97-13	Red-necked Grebe	11/26/95	Colbert	A	10
97-14	Western Grebe	12/14/96	Marshall	A	4
97-15	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	5/24/97	pelagic ^a	A	15

TABLE 2. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision ^b	AL Status ^d
97-16	Leach's Storm-Petrel	5/24/97	pelagic ^a	A	3
97-17	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	5/24/97	pelagic ^a	A	2
97-18	Great Cormorant	4/2/97	Baldwin	A	13
97-19	Ross's Goose	1/4/97	Lauderdale	A	17
97-20	Eurasian Wigeon	12/8/97	Morgan	A	6
97-21	Northern Goshawk	3/2/87	Lauderdale	NI	—
97-22	Northern Goshawk	1/9/96	Lauderdale	NI	—
97-23	Prairie Falcon	12/28/96	Marshall	A	2
97-24	Ruff	8/15/94	Colbert	NI	—
97-25	Red-necked Phalarope	5/7/97	Shelby	A	16
97-26	Pomarine Jaeger	1/30/97	Marshall	A	17
97-27	Pomarine Jaeger	5/24/97	pelagic ^a	A	18
97-28	California Gull	2/17/96	Colbert	NI	—
97-29	California Gull	3/17/97	Mobile	A	2, H ^c
97-30	Lesser Black-backed Gull	12/5/96	Colbert	A	11
97-31	Arctic Tern	5/10/97	Baldwin	NI	—
97-32	Shiny Cowbird	4/15/97	Mobile	A	15

^a Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile and/or Baldwin Counties

^b A = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions

^c H = hypothetical

^d number of accepted records

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