

**REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
1998-99**

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 two votes are reviewed and voted upon a final time at the annual meeting of the ABRC.

1998 Evaluations.—Forty-four records from 16 observers were evaluated in 1998 (Table 1). Thirty-nine were accepted and five were not accepted.

TABLE 1. Evaluations by the 1998 Alabama Bird Records Committee of 44 records from 16 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision	AL Status*
98-1	Curlew Sandpiper	10/10/80	Mobile	NI ^b	---
98-2	Red-necked Grebe	12/30/97	Mobile	NI	--
98-3	Ross's Goose	1/12/98	Mobile	A ^c	18
98-4	Ross's Goose	1/23/98	Lauderdale	A	19
98-5	Ross's Goose	1/31/98	Montgomery	A	20
98-6	Lesser Black-backed Gull	12/14/96	Colbert	A	12
98-7	Lesser Black-backed Gull	2/13/98	Baldwin	A	13
98-8	Lesser Black-backed Gull	2/21/98	Baldwin	A	14
98-9	Ash-throated Flycatcher	2/25/98	Perry	A	19
98-10	Sage Thrasher	12/27/97	Baldwin	A	4
98-11	Red-necked Phalarope	11/15/97	Jefferson	A	11
98-12	Bridled Tern	9/20/97	pelagic ^d	A	17
98-13	Dusky Flycatcher	9/26/97	Baldwin	A	1
98-14	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	6/28/97	pelagic	A	16

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

TABLE 1. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision	AL Status
98-15	Leach's Storm-Petrel	6/28/97	pelagic	A	4
98-16	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	6/28/97	pelagic	A	3
98-17	Bridled Tern	6/28/97	pelagic	A	18
98-18	Red-necked Grebe	2/8/97	Marshall	A	12
98-19	Yellow Rail	4/1/97	Mobile	A	12
98-20	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	3/5/97	Mobile	NI	---
98-21	Black-ch. Hummingbird	4/25/85	Mobile	NI	---
98-22	Alder Flycatcher	5/17/97	Lauderdale	A	5
98-23	Harris's Sparrow	11/15/97	Perry	A	11
98-24	Cory's Shearwater	9/20/97	pelagic	A	4
98-25	Lesser Black-backed Gull	3/8/98	Marshall	A	15
98-26	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	5/23/98	pelagic	A	17
98-27	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	7/11/98	pelagic	A	18
98-28	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	5/23/98	pelagic	A	4
98-29	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	7/11/98	pelagic	A	5
98-30	Black-bellied W.-Duck	8/2/97	Perry	NO ^a	---
98-31	Ross's Goose	1/24/98	Barbour	A	20+
98-32	Hudsonian Godwit	5/10/98	Colbert	A	15
98-33	Ruff	5/17/98	Mobile	A	4
98-34	Red-necked Phalarope	5/22/98	Mobile	A	17
98-35	Red-necked Phalarope	5/23/98	pelagic	A	18
98-36	Pomarine Jaeger	3/28/98	pelagic	A	19
98-37	Pomarine Jaeger	5/23/98	pelagic	A	20
98-38	Lesser Black-backed Gull	3/25/98	Marshall	A	16
98-39	Bridled Tern	7/11/98	pelagic	A	19
98-40	Couch's/Tropical Kingbird	5/22/98	Mobile	A	---
98-41	Cave Swallow	4/11/98	Baldwin	A	11
98-42	Lark Bunting	7/18/98	Baldwin	A	6
98-43	Shiny Cowbird	4/27/98	Baldwin	A	16
98-44	Shiny Cowbird	4/28/98	Mobile	A	17

^a number of accepted records^b not accepted due to identification questions^c accepted^d Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile and/or Baldwin counties^e not accepted due to origin questions

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

1999 Evaluations.— In 1999, 33 records from 15 observers were reviewed (Table 2). Thirty-one were accepted, one was not accepted, and one remains pending.

TABLE 2. Evaluations by the 1999 Alabama Bird Records Committee of 33 records from 15 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision	AL Status ^a
99-1	Cory's Shearwater	10/4/98	pelagic ^b	A ^c	5
99-2	Sooty Shearwater	1/2/99	Baldwin	A	10
99-3	Roseate Spoonbill	9/16/98	Montgomery	A	13
99-4	Roseate Spoonbill	9/25/98	Mobile	A	14
99-5	Roseate Spoonbill	11/13/98	Mobile	A	15
99-6	Roseate Spoonbill	9/29/98	Baldwin	A	16
99-7	Roseate Spoonbill	10/4/98	Baldwin	A	17
99-8	Roseate Spoonbill	10/20/98	Mobile	A	18
99-9	Pomarine Jaeger	9/12/98	pelagic	A	21
99-10	White-faced Ibis	10/27/98	Mobile	A	10
99-11	Eurasian Wigeon	11/14/98	Morgan	A	7
99-12	Purple Sandpiper	1/2/99	Baldwin	A	1
99-13	California Gull	11/30/98	Marshall	A	3
99-14	Iceland Gull	4/16/99	Mobile	Pending ^d	---
99-15	Lesser Bl.-backed Gull	11/28/98	Lauderdale	A	17
99-16	Lesser Bl.-backed Gull	12/19/98	Colbert	A	20
99-17	Lesser Bl.-backed Gull	1/17/99	Colbert	A	18
99-18	Lesser Bl.-backed Gull	1/24/99	Marshall	A	19
99-19	record withdrawn				---
99-20	Black-legged Kittiwake	4/14/99	Baldwin	A	12
99-21	Bridled Tern	9/30/98	Henry	A	21
99-22	Bridled Tern	10/4/98	pelagic	A	20
99-23	Alder Flycatcher	9/22/98	Jefferson	A	6
99-24	Alder Flycatcher	9/23/98	Baldwin	A	7
99-25	Alder Flycatcher	4/22/99	Montgomery	NI	---
99-26	Willow Flycatcher	9/21/97	Jefferson	A	7
99-27	Willow Flycatcher	9/22/97	Jefferson	A	8
99-28	Willow Flycatcher	5/12/98	Jefferson	A	9
99-29	Willow Flycatcher	8/28/98	Baldwin	A	10
99-30	Willow Flycatcher	9/23/98	Baldwin	A	11
99-31	Bullock's Oriole	4/24/99	Jefferson	A	13
99-32	Willow Flycatcher	5/1/86	Baldwin	A	12

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

TABLE 2. Continued

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Decision	AL Status
99-33	Willow Flycatcher	5/13/93	Madison	A	14
99-34	Willow Flycatcher	5/6/95	Colbert	A	13

^anumber of accepted records

^bGulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile and/or Baldwin counties

^caccepted

^dunder review by committee

Alabama state list.— During the 1998-1999 evaluation period, two species were added to the Alabama state list: Purple Sandpiper and Dusky Flycatcher. Presently, the AOS state bird list has 417 species. Of these, three are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, and Bachman's Warbler) and two extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Common Raven). Also, 12 of these 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.

Steven W. McConnell, 137 Longleaf Lane, Trussville, AL 35173. E-mail: Swmavocet@aol.com.