

REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 2002-2005

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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 less than three records during 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 meeting of the ABRC.

One hundred and seventy-three records from 69 observers were evaluated between 2002 and 2005 (Table 1). During this evaluation period, nine species and species pairs were added to the Alabama state list: Short-tailed Hawk, Flammulated Owl, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Eastern Yellow/Yellow Wagtail, Clark’s Nutcracker, MacGillivray’s Warbler, White-winged Crossbill, and Yellow-green Vireo. Three additional species, Garganey, Vaux’s Swift, and Spotted Towhee, were listed as hypothetical based on compelling visual reports made by less than three observers where no photo or other objective evidence was available.

As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 433 species. Of these, two are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet) and two extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Bachman’s Warbler). An accepted 2002 visual observation for Common Raven in Cherokee County (the first in 87 years!) moved this species from “extirpated” onto the regular list. Sixteen species are included in the hypothetical category.

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TABLE 1. Evaluations by the Alabama Bird Records Committee of 173 records from 69 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
02-1	Cory's Shearwater	6/30/01	Pelagic	V	A	14
02-2	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	19
02-3	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	6
02-4	Red-billed Tropicbird	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	2
02-5	White-faced Ibis	7/14/01	Mobile	V	A	11
02-6	White-faced Ibis	10/11/01	Mobile	V	A	12
02-7	Willow Flycatcher	9/7/01	Jefferson	V	A	16
02-8	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	9/15/01	Baldwin	B/P	A	3
02-9	Couch's/Tropical Kingbird	9/22/01	Mobile	V	A	---
02-10	Cave Swallow	4/22/01	Mobile	V	A	15
02-11	Sprague's Pipit	11/16/01	Baldwin	P	A	17
02-12	MacGillivray's Warbler	9/13/00	Baldwin	B/P	A	1
02-13	Spotted Towhee	4/18/01	Jefferson	V	A	1-H
02-14	Spotted Towhee	12/18/53	Wilcox	V	NI	---
02-15	Spotted Towhee	11/21/93	Limestone	V	NI	---
02-16	Chestnut-collared Longspur	11/16/01	Baldwin	P	A	1
02-17	Shiny Cowbird	4/22/01	Mobile	V	A	20
04-01	Alder Flycatcher	8/24/02	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-02	Alder Flycatcher	9/28/02	Mobile	V	A	10
04-03	Alder Flycatcher	10/5/02	Montgomery	V	NI	---
04-04	Allen's Hummingbird	1/3/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	16
04-05	Allen's Hummingbird	1/27/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	17
04-06	Broad-billed Hummingbird	1/1/03	Dale	B/P	A	1
04-07	Brown Booby	3/31/02	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-08	Bronzed Cowbird	9/14/02	Shelby	V	NI	---
04-09	Bronzed Cowbird	10/11/02	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-10	Brown Noddy	9/26/02	Baldwin	P	A	5
04-11	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	8/17/02	Pelagic	V	A	7
04-12	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	2/2/02	Baldwin	B/P	A	12
04-13	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	3/9/03	Baldwin	B/VT	A	13
04-14	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	11/6/02	Escambia	B/P	A	14
04-15	Calliope Hummingbird	1/19/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	13
04-16	Calliope Hummingbird	12/11/02	Baldwin	B/P	A	14
04-17	Calliope Hummingbird	12/11/02	Mobile	B/P	A	15
04-18	Cave Swallow	1/3/03	Baldwin	P	A	16
04-19	Cave Swallow	1/19/03	Baldwin	V	A	17
04-20	Cave Swallow	1/20/03	Mobile	V	A	18
04-21	Cave Swallow	4/8/03	Mobile	V	A	19
04-22	Cave Swallow	4/18/03	Mobile	V	A	20
04-23	Common Raven	5/26/02	Cherokee	V	A	10
04-24	Harris's Sparrow	2/8/03	Lauderdale	P	A	13
04-25	Little Gull	10/27/02	Baldwin	V	A	7
04-26	Shiny Cowbird	5/10/03	Baldwin	V	A	21
04-27	Sprague's Pipit	3/29/03	Baldwin	V	A	18
04-28	Thayer's Gull	1/4/03	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-29	Thayer's Gull	2/27/03	Lauderdale	V	NI	---
04-30	Vaux's Swift	1/18/03	Mobile	V	A	1-H

TABLE 1. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
04-31	White-faced Ibis	10/1/02	Jefferson	V	A	10+
04-32	Willow Flycatcher	4/28/02	Lauderdale	V	A	17
04-33	Willow Flycatcher	5/4/03	Lauderdale	V	A	18
04-34	Willow Flycatcher	5/19/02	Mobile	V	A	19
04-35	Willow Flycatcher	6/2/02	Cherokee	P/A	A	20
04-36	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	8/17/02	Pelagic	V	A	20
04-37	White-tailed Kite	10/21/89	Baldwin	V	A	11
04-38(01-23)	Burrowing Owl	8/5/00	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-39	Roseate Spoonbill	9/21/01	Mobile	V	A	21
04-40	Ruff	3/17/02	Lowndes	V	A	7
04-41	Western/Clark's Grebe	2/24/02	Marshall	V	A	---
04-42	White-faced Ibis	3/19/02	Barbour	P	NO	---
04-43	Limpkin	8/10/00	Lee	V	A	2
04-44	Cave Swallow	4/16/02	Baldwin	V	A	21
04-45	Clark's Nutcracker	4/19/02	Cleburne	P	A	1
04-46	Black-throated Gray Warbler	12/3/01	Baldwin	V	A	11
04-47	White-winged Crossbill	3/12/02	Jefferson	V	NI	---
04-48	White-winged Crossbill	4/26/02	Lauderdale	P	A	1
04-49	Common Redpoll	3/17/02	Tuscaloosa	V	NI	---
04-50	Broad-billed Hummingbird	1/7/02	Mobile	B/P	A	2
04-51	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1/5/02	Baldwin	B/P	A	6
04-52	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	11/24/01	Mobile	B/P	A	7
04-53	Calliope Hummingbird	1/23/02	Baldwin	B/P	A	16
04-54	Calliope Hummingbird	1/6/02	Baldwin	B/P	A	17
04-55	Alder Flycatcher	10/9/98	Mobile	V	A	11
04-56	Allen's Hummingbird	1/31/04	Mobile	B/P	A	18
04-57	Broad-billed Hummingbird	12/20/03	Monroe	B/P	A	3
04-58	Broad-billed Hummingbird	1/6/04	Mobile	B/P	A	4
04-59	Bronzed Cowbird	1/8/04	Baldwin	P	A	7
04-60	Bronzed Cowbird	1/10/04	Baldwin	P	A	8
04-61	Bronzed Cowbird	2/8/04	Baldwin	P	A	9
04-62	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	12/2/02	Jefferson	B/P	A	8
04-63	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	12/4/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	15
04-64	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	12/31/03	Escambia	B/P	A	16
04-65	California Gull	1/3/04	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-66	California Gull	1/12/04	Baldwin	V	A	4-H
04-67	California Gull	1/20/04	Marshall	V	NI	---
04-68	California Gull	10/8/03	Lauderdale	P	A	5-H
04-69	Calliope Hummingbird	11/27/02	Calhoun	B/P	A	18
04-70	Calliope Hummingbird	12/1/02	Cullman	B/P	A	19
04-71	Calliope Hummingbird	10/3/03	Jefferson	V	A	23
04-72	Calliope Hummingbird	12/11/03	Mobile	B/P	A	20
04-73	Calliope Hummingbird	12/17/03	Mobile	B/P	A	21
04-74	Calliope Hummingbird	1/6/04	Shelby	B/P	A	22
04-75	Eurasian Wigeon	11/13/03	Butler	V	A	9
04-76	Flammulated Owl	10/31/03	Mobile	P	A	1
04-77	Harlequin Duck	2/8/04	Mobile	P	A	5
04-78	Hudsonian Godwit	4/16/04	Mobile	P	A	16

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TABLE 1. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
04-79	Iceland Gull	1/25/04	Baldwin	V	A	3
04-80	Iceland Gull	12/16/02	Lauderdale	V	NI	---
04-81	Lesser Nighthawk	11/6/03	Mobile	V	A	5
04-82	Long-eared Owl	11/02	Montgomery	P	A	13
04-83	Little Gull	12/28/03	Lawrence	P	A	8
04-84	Mountain Plover	4/6/84	Mobile	V	NI	---
04-85	Neotropic Cormorant	1/3/04	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-86	Northern Goshawk	10/24/02	Cullman	S	A	4
04-87	Northern Saw-whet Owl	12/30/03	Dekalb	H	A	7
04-88	Prairie Falcon	2/19/04	Marshall	V	A	4
04-89	Red-necked Grebe	11/21/03	Marshall	V	A	13
04-90	Red-necked Grebe	12/30/03	Marshall	P	A	14
04-91	Ruff	10/25/03	Limestone	V	A	8
04-92	Short-tailed Hawk	10/15/03	Baldwin	P	A	1
04-93	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	10/10/03	Colbert	V	NI	---
04-94	Thayer's Gull	2/9/04	Lauderdale	V	NI	---
04-95	Virginia's Warbler	9/29/03	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-96	Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher	9/25/02	Mobile	P	A	2
04-97	Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher	9/27/02	Mobile	V	Withdrawn	---
04-98	White-faced Ibis	10/2/03	Baldwin	V	NI	---
04-100	Yellow Rail	4/23/04	Mobile	H	A	13
04-101	Eastern Yellow/Yellow Wagtail	9/29/03	Baldwin	V	A	1
04-102	Yellow-green Vireo	10/10/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	1
05-01	Alder Flycatcher	9/13/04	Shelby	V	A	12
05-02	Alder Flycatcher	9/19/04	Lee	V	A	13
05-03	Alder Flycatcher	10/12/04	Montgomery	V	A	14
05-04	Allen's Hummingbird	12/11/04	Cullman	B/P	A	18+
05-05	Anna's Hummingbird	12/20/04	Baldwin	B/P	A	3
05-06	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	8/89	Morgan	P	A	3
05-07	Black-legged Kittiwake	11/13/04	Lawrence	P	A	15
05-08	Black-legged Kittiwake	12/20/02	Mobile	V	A	16
05-09	Bronzed Cowbird	1/29/05	Mobile	V	A	10
05-10	Brown Noddy	9/16/04	Wilcox	V	A	6
05-11	Bar-tailed Godwit	10/18/04	Mobile	V	NI	---
05-12	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	12/21/04	Baldwin	B/P	A	9
05-13	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	12/27/04	Mobile	B/P	A	10
05-14	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	2/3/05	Mobile	B/P	A	17
05-15	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	2/3/05	Baldwin	B/P	A	18
05-16	Cackling Goose	1/5/51	Limestone	S	NI	---
05-17	Cackling Goose	1/7/05	Limestone	P	Pending	
05-18	Cackling Goose	1/9/59	Morgan	S	Pending	
05-19	Cackling Goose	1/12/70	Jackson	B/S	Pending	
05-20	Cackling Goose	1/15/05	Baldwin	V	Pending	
05-21	Cackling Goose	1/24/51	Limestone	S	NI	---
05-22	Cackling Goose	1/26/03	Baldwin	V	Pending	
05-23	Cackling Goose	3/18/78	Barbour	V	NI	---
05-24	Cackling Goose	10/22/66	Jefferson	V	NI	---

TABLE 1. Continued.

Record No.	Species	Date	--County	How Noted ^a	Decision ^b	AL Status ^c
05-25	Cackling Goose	12/2/74	Shelby	V	Pending	
05-26	Cackling Goose	3/4/89	Perry	V	Pending	
05-27	Deleted (duplicate)					
05-28	California Gull	2/20/05	Marshall	V	NI	---
05-29	Eurasian Wigeon	2/12/05	Barbour	V	A	10
05-30	Garganey	3/11/68	Baldwin	V	A	1-H
05-31	Green-tailed Towhee	10/12/04	Baldwin	B/P	A	3
05-32	Iceland Gull	1/15/05	Lawrence	P	A	4
05-33	Iceland Gull	2/15/05	Baldwin	P	A	5
05-34	Lesser Nighthawk	1/2/05	Baldwin	V	NI	---
05-35	Long-tailed Jaeger	10/28/04	Henry	P	A	3-H
05-36	Northern Goshawk	1/24/05	Jefferson	P	A	5
05-37	Red Phalarope	9/9/04	Shelby	V	NI	---
05-38	Red-necked Grebe	12/12/04	Marshall	V	Pending	
05-39	Red-necked Phalarope	9/8/04	Shelby	V	A	20+
05-40	Sage Thrasher	11/14/04	Baldwin	V	A	5
05-41	Sprague's Pipit	10/19/03	Baldwin	V	A	19
05-42	Sprague's Pipit	11/19/04	Baldwin	V	A	20
05-43	Deleted (duplicate)					
05-44	Thayer's Gull	1/3/05	Baldwin	P	A	3
05-45	Thayer's Gull	2/19/05	Elmore	P	A	4
05-46	Thayer's Gull	11/11/04	Marshall	V	NI	---
05-47	Thayer's Gull	11/12/04	Chambers	P	A	5
05-48	Thayer's/Iceland Gull	2/2/05	Marshall	P	A	---
05-49	Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher	10/13/03	Baldwin	B/P	A	1
05-50	Western Grebe	1/26/05	Lawrence	P	A	4
05-51	Willow Flycatcher	6/9/04	Limestone	P	A	21
05-52	Willow Flycatcher	8/25/04	Lee	V	A	22
05-53	Willow Flycatcher	9/13/04	Shelby	V	A	23
05-54	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	9/17/04	Barbour	P	A	21
05-55	Yellow-billed Loon	2/20/05	Marshall	V	NI	---
05-56	Red-necked Phalarope	9/17/04	Wilcox	V	A	19

^aV = visual, P = photograph, B = banded, VT = videotape, A = audio recording, S = specimen, H = heard

^bA = accepted; NI = not accepted due to identification questions; NO – not accepted due to origin questions; Pending = under review by committee

^cNumber of accepted Alabama records (H = hypothetical)

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

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