

**REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
2002-2004**

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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.

Seventeen records from nine observers were evaluated between 2002 and 2004 (Table 1). During this evaluation period, three species were added to the Alabama state list: MacGillivray’s Warbler, Spotted Towhee, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 425. Of these, two are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet) and three extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Common Raven and Bachman’s Warbler). Fourteen species are included 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 Alabama Bird Records Committee of 17 records from 9 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted <sup>a</sup>	Decision <sup>b</sup>	AL Status <sup>c</sup>
02-01	Cory's Shearwater	6/30/01	Pelagic <sup>d</sup>	V	A	14
02-02	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	22
02-03	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	6
02-04	Red-billed Tropicbird	8/18/01	Pelagic	V	A	2
02-05	White-faced Ibis	7/14/01	Mobile	V	A	12
02-06	White-faced Ibis	10/11/01	Mobile	V	A	13
02-07	Willow Flycatcher	9/7/01	Jefferson	V	A	16

Table 1. Continued

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted <sup>a</sup>	Decision <sup>b</sup>	AL Status <sup>c</sup>
02-08	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	9/15/01	Baldwin	B/P	A	3
02-09	Couch's/Tropical Kingbird	9/22/01	Mobile	V	A	4
02-10	Cave Swallow	4/22/01	Mobile	V	A	15
02-11	Sprague's Pipit	11/11/01	Baldwin	P	A	16
02-12	MacGillivray's Warbler	9/13/00	Baldwin	B/P	A	1
02-13	Spotted Towhee	4/18/01	Jefferson	V	A	1
02-14	Spotted Towhee	12/18/58	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

<sup>a</sup> V = visual, P = photograph, B = banded.

<sup>b</sup> A = accepted, NI = not accepted due to identification questions

<sup>c</sup> Number of accepted Alabama records

<sup>d</sup> Pelagic = Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Baldwin County.

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