

## REPORT OF THE ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE 2006 - 2007

Steve W. McConnell

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, forty-four records from 33 observers were evaluated (Table 1) with three species being added to the Alabama state list: Cackling Goose, Costa’s Hummingbird, and Trumpeter Swan. In addition, Arctic Tern and Townsend’s Warbler were added to the hypothetical list based on compelling visual reports where no photos or other objective evidence was available.

In addition, White-tailed Tropicbird was removed from the state list following committee review of the two historical reports previously used to establish its occurrence. The unanimous committee opinion was that neither report established the species-level identity of the “tropicbird” observed.

As of this writing the AOS recognized state bird list stands at 437 species. Of these, three are considered extinct (Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, and Bachman’s Warbler) and one extirpated from Alabama (Ivory-billed Woodpecker). Eighteen species are included in the hypothetical category.

TABLE 1. Evaluations by the Alabama Bird Records Committee of 44 records from 33 observers.

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted <sup>a</sup>	Decision <sup>b</sup>	AL Status <sup>c</sup>
05-17	Cackling Goose	1/7/05	Limestone	P	A	1
05-18	Cackling Goose	1/9/59	Morgan	S	A	2
05-19	Cackling Goose	1/12/70	Jackson	B/S	NI	---
05-20	Cackling Goose	1/15/05	Baldwin	V	NI	---
05-22	Cackling Goose	1/26/03	Baldwin	V	NI	---
05-25	Cackling Goose	12/2/74	Shelby	V	A	3
05-26	Cackling Goose	3/4/89	Perry	V	A	4
05-38	Red-necked Grebe	12/12/04	Marshall	V	A	>10
06-01	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	8/30/05	Lauderdale	V	A	8
06-02	Bullock’s Oriole	4/15/05	Jefferson	P	A	>10

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE

Table 1. Continued

Record No.	Species	Date	County	How Noted <sup>a</sup>	Decision <sup>b</sup>	AL Status <sup>c</sup>
06-03	Cackling Goose	12/30/04	Baldwin	P	NI	---
06-04	Ferruginous Hawk	3/23/86	Perry	V	A	3-H
06-05	Long-tailed Jaeger	9/26/05	Lawrence	V	A	4-H
06-06	Northern Goshawk	1/3/82	Baldwin	V	NI	---
06-07	Prairie Falcon	4/24/05	Baldwin	V	A	5
06-08	Sabine's Gull	9/29/05	Morgan	S/P	A	5
06-10	Sooty Shearwater	4/1/05	Baldwin	V	A	>10
06-10	White-winged Crossbill	4/7/05	Lauderdale	P	A	2
06-11	Arctic Tern	7/5/06	Baldwin	V	A	1-H
06-12	Cinnamon Teal	1/20/97	Baldwin	S/P	A	5
06-13	Costa's Hummingbird	1/1/06	Montgomery	B/P	A	1
06-14	Harris's Hawk	1/8/06	Mobile	P	NO	---
06-15	Little Gull	12/16/05	Elmore	V	A	9
06-16	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sp.	12/30/05	Baldwin	P	NI	---
06-17	Thayer's Gull	1/06	Colbert	P	NI	---
06-18	Trumpeter Swan	2/17/06	Lee	P	A	1
06-19	Wattled Jacana	8/18/64	Montgomery	S/P	NO	---
06-20	Western Meadowlark	2/22/06	Mobile	P	A	>10
06-21	Yellow-billed Loon	1/19/06	Marshall	V	NI	---
07-1H	White-tailed Tropicbird	10/20/58	Mobile	V	Removed	---
07-1H	White-tailed Tropicbird	8/20/69	Mobile	V	Removed	---
07-01	Black-bellied Whist.-Duck	5/1/07	Mobile	P	A	4
07-02	Black-bellied Whist.-Duck	5/28/08	Etowah	P	A	5
07-03	Brown-crested Flycatcher	4/12/98	Baldwin	B/P	A	2
07-04	Black Swift	4/11/07	Baldwin	V	Pending	---
07-05	Brewer's Sparrow	11/3/06	Mobile	V	NI	---
07-06	Cackling Goose	12/16/06	Limestone	V	NI	---
07-07	Cackling Goose	12/23/06	Jefferson	V	NI	---
07-08	Iceland Gull	1/12/07	Baldwin	P	A	6
07-09	Iceland Gull	2/18/07	Morgan	P	A	7
07-10	Magnfcnt. Hummingbird	10/6/06	St. Clair	V	NI	---
07-11	Northern Wheatear	2/3/07	Baldwin	P/VD	A	4
07-12	Ruff	4/11/07	Colbert	V	A	7
07-13	Townsend's Warbler	4/8/06	Mobile	V	A	1-H
07-14	Western Grebe	12/6/06	Henry	P	A	5

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

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

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

Pelagic = Gulf of Mexico waters out to 200 nautical miles from Mobile or Baldwin County

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Special thanks to Damien Simbeck, Howard Horne, Bill Bremser, Larry Gardella, Ben Garmon, and Eric Soehren for their willingness to serve on the ARBC.

**Steven W. McConnell**, 29 Village Drive NE, Hartselle, AL 35640.