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## REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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This report describes actions taken by the Bird Records Committee (formerly Certification Committee) of the Tennessee Ornithological Society from 1987 into 1993. Committee members and alternates who served during this period were Dianne P. Bean, Don L. Davidson, Robert P. Ford, R. John Henderson, Richard L. Knight, George R. Payne, Jr., Stephen J. Stedman, James T. Tanner, David F. Vogt, and Martha G. Waldron. Most voting was conducted through the mail. Previous publications of the committee are the official state list (Nicholson 1983) and an addendum (Nicholson and Stedman 1988). Future reports of the committee should appear on an annual basis.

Acceptance criteria have remained the same. A species is placed on the confirmed list based upon either (a) extant, verified specimen, photograph, or sound recording, each accompanied by written details, or (b) satisfactory written documentation of three independent sight records. Lacking these levels of documentation, a species is placed on the provisional list based upon one or two sight records with satisfactory written documentation. Acceptance to either list requires a unanimous decision by the committee.

In this account, the committee reports 29 accepted records of 22 species (plus one subspecies) and seven records of five species that were not accepted. A couple of records from this coverage period are still pending. Full written accounts of over half of these records have not yet been published, as is the case for many other previous records. The committee encourages birders to write and publish accounts of their observations, as these will become significant historic notes.

As a result of committee action taken up to this point, the official Tennessee bird list consists of 355 confirmed species and 19 provisional species for a total of 374 species.

Observers who submitted documentation to the committee are Benton Basham, Donald W. Blunk, James Brooks, Carolyn H. Bullock, C. Kinian Cosner, Jr., William G. Criswell, Brian Cross, Jack Dodd, C. Gerald Drewry, Jr., Darryl Edmisson, Maurice E. Edwards, Victor Fazio, Kay Flowers, Joyce Haigh, Ellen Hammond, John Henderson, Michael Hughes, William N. Jernigan, Richard L. Knight, J. Anthony Koella, Howard P. Langridge, Madge Lawrence, Larry Masters, Virginia B. Reynolds, John C. Robinson, Damien J. Simbeck, Bobby Snow, Stephen J. Stedman, Martha

Waldron, and Terry Witt. The committee thanks these people for their cooperation.

Records mentioned only in seasonal summaries in *The Migrant* or *American Birds* (now *Audubon Field Notes*) are cited in the text.

#### ACCEPTED RECORDS

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Percy Priest Lake, Davidson County, from 6-20 March 1988 (*Am. Birds* 42:445, 1988) was accepted on second reading. This becomes the first record for the state and the species is placed on the provisional list.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*): Photographs and written documentation of a single bird seen soaring over Cherokee Lake, Jefferson County portion, on 24 September 1988 (*Migrant* 60:31, 1989) clearly indicate this species. Written documentation of a single bird seen flying over Columbia, Maury County, on 27 September 1988 (*Migrant* 60:28, 1989) was also accepted. These represent the first and second records for the state and the photographs place the species on the confirmed list.

Great White Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*): Written documentation and marginal photographs of a single bird seen at South Holston Lake, Sullivan County (and across the border in Virginia), on 15-16 October 1990 (Knight *et al.* 1992) were accepted on second reading. This record was also accepted by the Virginia Records Committee (T. Kain, *pers. comm.*). This becomes the first state record of what is currently regarded as a race of the Great Blue Heron (*A. herodias*).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at the Barkley Waterfowl Management Area, Stewart County, on 10-11 May 1988 (*Migrant* 59:96, 1988) was accepted. This becomes the third accepted record (lacking photographs) in the state; thus, the species is moved up from the provisional list to the confirmed list.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*): Photographs and written documentation of a flock of 19+ birds seen at the T.E. Maxson Sewage Treatment Plant (a.k.a. Ensley Bottoms, now called The EARTH Complex), Shelby County, on 19 April 1990 (Waldron 1990) clearly indicate this species. This becomes the first unequivocal record for the state (see Robinson 1990). The photographs allow the species to be placed on the confirmed list.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Cross Creeks NWR, Stewart County, on 23 July 1989 (*Migrant* 60:105, 1989) was accepted. This becomes the second state record and the species remains on the provisional list.

Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*): Written documentation of three birds seen at Britton Ford, part of the Big Sandy Unit of the Tennessee NWR, Henry County, on 25 February 1988 (*Migrant* 59:64, 1988) was accepted. This becomes the third state record, moving the species from the provisional list up to the confirmed list.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen near Dyersburg, Dyer County, on 20 May 1991 (Criswell 1991b) was accepted. Photographs and written documentation of a single bird seen at Little Turkey Creek, Humphrey's County, on 22 June 1991 (*Am. Birds* 45:1125, 1991) clearly indicate this species. These become the first and second state records, with the photographs allowing placement of the species on the confirmed list. This species was formerly known as Black-shouldered Kite (*E. caeruleus*).

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Island 13, Lake County, on 9-18 September 1985 (*Migrant* 57:22, 1986) was accepted. Written documentation of a single bird seen near Lenox, Dyer County, on 27 March 1992 (*Migrant* 63:72, 1992) was accepted. These become the second and third records for the state, with the species already on the confirmed list.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at the T.E. Maxson Sewage Lagoons (a.k.a. Ensley Bottoms, now called The EARTH Complex), Shelby County, on 17 April 1988 (Waldron 1989b) was accepted. This becomes the first accepted record in the state and the species is placed on the provisional list. Two older reports (West 1957, *Migrant* 32:44, 1961) lacked details and were deemed unacceptable by the committee prior to publishing the official list in 1983.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen near Tiptonville, Lake County, on 11 September 1991 was accepted. This becomes the second record for the state and the species remains on the provisional list.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*): A published photograph (*Am. Birds* 47:106, 1993) and written documentation of a single bird seen at The EARTH Complex, Shelby County, on 12-19 September 1992 were accepted. This becomes the first state record and the species is placed on the confirmed list.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at the T.E. Maxson Sewage Lagoons (a.k.a. Ensley Bottoms, now called The EARTH Complex), Shelby County, on 21 August 1988 (Waldron 1989a) was accepted. Written documentation of a single bird seen at Austin Springs, Washington County, on 10-13 May 1989 (Knight 1990) was also accepted. These become the second and third state records and the species is moved up from the provisional list to the confirmed list.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*): Written documentation of two birds seen at Watauga Lake, Carter and Johnson counties, on 22-23 September 1989 (Langridge and Cross 1991) was accepted. This becomes the second state record, with the species already on the confirmed list.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Watauga Lake, Johnson County portion, on 22-23 September 1989 (Langridge and Cross 1991) was accepted. This becomes the third record in the state, with the species already on the confirmed list.

Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Kingston Steam Plant, Roane County, on 1 May 1988 (*Migrant* 59:101, 1988) was accepted. This becomes the second state record, with the species already on the confirmed list.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): Written documentation of two immature birds seen at Pickwick Dam, Hardin County, on 28-29 December 1990 (*Migrant* 62:31, 1991) was accepted. Written documentation and a marginal photograph of an adult gull seen at Chickamauga Lake, Hamilton County, on 13 February 1991 (Witt 1992) were accepted. These become the first and second accepted state records and the species is placed on the confirmed list.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at *Chickamauga Lake, Hamilton County, on 20 September 1988 was accepted. This* becomes the first state record and the species is placed on the provisional list.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*): Written documentation of two birds seen at Watauga Lake, Johnson County portion, on 22 September 1989 (Langridge and Cross 1991) was accepted. This becomes the first state record and the species is placed on the provisional list.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Island 13, Lake County, on 6 July 1990 (Criswell 1991a, Cardiff and Dittmann 1991) was accepted. This becomes the first state record and the species is placed on the provisional list.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*): Photographs and written documentation of a single bird measured and banded at Chattanooga, Hamilton County, on 6 November 1990 (Sargent 1993) were accepted. This becomes the first state record and the species is placed on the confirmed list.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*): Photographs and written documentation of a single bird seen at Signal Mountain, Hamilton County, from 13 December 1990 to 12 March 1991 (Edwards 1991, *Am. Birds* 45:340 [photograph], 1991) clearly indicate this species. Written documentation of a single bird seen near Soddy, Hamilton County, on 11-12 February 1991 (*Migrant* 63:62, 1992) was accepted. These become the first and second state records and the species is placed on the confirmed list.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*): Written documentation of four birds seen at Eagle Creek, Tennessee NWR, Benton County, on 28 March 1992 (*Migrant* 63:73, 1992) was accepted. This becomes the first state record (not counting fossil evidence, see Parmalee and Klippel 1982) and the species is placed on the provisional list.

#### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Storm-petrel sp.: Written documentation of a single bird seen at Watauga Lake, Carter County portion, on 22 September 1989 (Langridge and Cross 1991) was not accepted (1-2 vote) due to the extreme distance and poor weather conditions.

White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen flying over Douglas Lake, Jefferson County, on 8 September 1990 was not accepted (1-2 vote) due to the brevity and great distance involved, as well as a lack of weather patterns sufficient to drive such a highly pelagic species so far inland.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Written documentation of an adult gull seen at Watauga Lake, Johnson County portion, on 22 September 1989 (Langridge and Cross 1991) was not accepted (1-2 vote) due to the lack of size comparison and leg color determination, plus the distance involved. Written documentation of an immature gull seen at Pickwick Dam, Hardin County, on three dates from 10 February to 11 April 1990 (*Am. Birds* 44:441, 1990) was not accepted (2-1 vote) due to insufficient detail to eliminate all other possibilities.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Nashville, Davidson County, on 4 October 1987 was not accepted (2-1 vote) due to an incomplete description.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Jonesborough, Washington County, on 1 October 1989 (*Am. Birds* 44:91, 1990) was not accepted (1-2 vote). Written documentation of a single bird seen at Chattanooga, Hamilton County, on 8 October 1989 was not accepted (1-2 vote). Committee members felt that each record lacked enough detail to eliminate all other possibilities.

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