

REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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This report describes actions taken by the Bird Records Committee of the Tennessee Ornithological Society from Fall 1995 through the Fall 1997. Committee members and alternates who served during this period were Kevin Calhoun, Don Davidson, Gilbert Foster, Mark Greene, Paul Hertzell, Linda Northrop, Chris Sloan, and Terry Witt.

The criteria for acceptance has remained the same. A species is placed on the Confirmed List based on (a) extant, verified specimen, photograph, or sound recording, each accompanied by written details, or (b) satisfactory written documentation of three independent observations of a species, or (3) satisfactory written documentation from three independent observers of the same bird. In the absence of evidence fitting one of those categories, a species is placed on the Provisional List based on one or two sight records with satisfactory written documentation. Acceptance to either list requires a unanimous vote of the committee. In this account, the committee reports 15 records of 12 species that were accepted and two records of two species that were not accepted. Only published records mentioned in seasonal summaries or articles of *The Migrant*, *American Birds*, or *Field Notes* (formerly, *Audubon Field Notes*) are cited in the text.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*): Written documentation and photographs of a single bird seen at Mud Lake, Lake County, on 19-20 June 1993 (*American Birds* 47:115/117, 1993) were accepted. Written documentation of a single bird seen at Mud Lake, Lake County on 30 June 1996 (*Field Notes* 51:68, 1997) was accepted. Written documentation of a single bird seen at TVA Lake at The EARTH Complex, Shelby County, on 11 August 1996 (*Field Notes* 51:68, 1997) was accepted. These become the first, second, and third state records, and the species has been placed on the Confirmed List.

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*): Photographs and written documentation of a single bird seen at Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner County, on 23 August-6 September 1997 (*Migrant* 68:40-41, 1997) were accepted. This becomes the first state record and the species is placed on the Confirmed List.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*): Written documentation and sketches of a single bird seen at The EARTH Complex, Shelby County, on 3 September 1994 (*Field Notes* 49:57, 1995) were accepted on second reading. This becomes the second record for the state, with the species previously on the Confirmed List.

Rufous-necked Stilt (*Calidris ruficollis*): Written documentation and drawings of a single bird seen at The EARTH Complex, Shelby County, on 7 August 1993 (*American Birds* 48:118, 1994) were accepted. Written documentation and sketches by multiple observers of a single bird seen at The EARTH Complex, Shelby County, on 8-21 October 1994 (*Field Notes* 49:58, 1995) were accepted. These become the first and second state records. Written documentation from more than three independent observers of the 1994 bird allow the species to be placed on the Confirmed List.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*): Photographs and written documentation of a single bird seen at Highway 79W, Lake County, on 3-4 June 1996 (*Field Notes* 50:960, 1996; *Migrant* 68:46, 1997) clearly indicate this species. This becomes the first record for

the state and the photographs place the species on the Confirmed List.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Nickajack Lake, Marion County, on 6 October 1995 (*Field Notes* 50:53, 1996) was accepted. This becomes the third state record, with the species already on the Confirmed List.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*): Written documentation of one to two birds seen at Pickwick Dam, Hardin County on 13 January-24 February 1996 (*Field Notes* 50:180, 1996) was accepted. This becomes the first record for the state and the species is placed on the Provisional List.

Sabine's Gull (*Xerna sabini*): Written documentation of a flock of eight birds seen at Island 13, Lake County on 18 September 1995 (*Field Notes* 50:68, 1996; *Migrant* 68:50, 1997) was accepted. This becomes the second record for the state and the species remains on the Provisional List.

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*): Photographs and written documentation of a single bird seen at Pickwick Dam, Hardin County, from 10-21 February 1996 (*Field Notes* 50:180, 1996) clearly indicate this species. This becomes the first record for the state, and the photographs place the species on the Confirmed List.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*): Photographs and written documentation of a single bird seen on the Tennessee River in Marion County, on 5 October 1995 (*Field Notes* 50:53, 1996) clearly indicate this species. This becomes the second record for the state with the species already on the Confirmed List.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Eastern State Wildlife Management Area, Knox County, on 13 May 1997 (*Migrant* 68:42-43, 1997) was accepted. This becomes the second record for the state and the species remains on the Provisional List.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*): Photographs and written documentation of a single bird seen at President's Island, Shelby County, on 6-10 July 1995 (*Field Notes* 49:939, 1995; *Migrant* 68:47, 1997) were accepted. This becomes the first record for the state, and the photographs place the species on the Confirmed List.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*): Written documentation of a single bird seen at Shelby Farms, Shelby County, on 23 April 1995 was not accepted (0-5 vote) due to insufficient details to separate from Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*).

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*): Written documentation and details of a single bird seen at Shelby Farms, Shelby County, on 16 June-4 July 1995 (*Field Notes* 49:940, 1995) was not accepted (1-4 vote). Committee members felt that since there were no other North American records for this species, and since this species is not known to be a long distance vagrant, the bird in question was almost certainly a domestic escapee.

OBSERVERS

Observers who submitted documentation and/or photographs to the committee were Clyde D. Blum, Carolyn H. Bullock, Kevin A. Calhoon, William G. Criswell, Francis C. Fekel, Joe Francis, Murray L. Gardler, Mark A. Greene, Roland W. Kays, Gene C. Knight, Shannon Knight, J. Anthony Koella, Steve W. McConnell, Robert W. Peeples, Ernest J. Restivo, Tommie L. Rogers, Terrence Schiefer, Christopher E. Skelton, Christopher A. Sloan, Martha G. Waldron, Jeff R. Wilson, and Elizabeth A. Wolfe. The committee wishes to thank these people for their contributions and cooperation.