

REPORT OF
THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

KEVIN CALHOON
1185 Mountain Creek Rd. Apt. 715
Chattanooga, TN 37405

This report describes the actions taken by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee of the Tennessee Ornithological Society from the fall of 1997 to the fall of 1998. Committee members and alternates who served during this period were Kevin Calhoon, Paul Hertzell, Dollyann Myers, Linda Northrop, Dick Preston and Chris Sloan. All of the voting was done through the mail.

Acceptance criteria remained the same through the year. 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, or satisfactory written documentation of three independent observers of the same bird. Without these levels of documentation, a species is placed on the Provisional List based on one or two sight records with satisfactory written documentation. Acceptance to either list required a unanimous vote of the committee.

A change of the committee to six regular members and one alternate, and allowing the acceptance of a record either by unanimous or one dissenting vote, came about from the passage of another amended resolution at the 1998 TOS spring meeting. All of the records acted upon in 1998 were with five regular members. The sixth was not chosen until 1999, so only unanimous votes allowed acceptance.

ACCEPTANCE RECORDS

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*): Photographs and excellent written documentation of a bird banded at the residence of Ed and Evelyn Wright in Nashville, Davidson County, on 2 December 1997 (*Field Notes* 52:210, 1998) was accepted. This becomes the first record for the state, and the photographs place the species on the Confirmed List.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*): Photographs and written documentation for a single bird banded at the Fraley residence in Franklin, Williamson County, on 14 December 1997 (*Field Notes* 52:210, 1998) was accepted. This becomes the second state record, with the species already on the Confirmed list.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*): Written documentation of a single bird banded at the Tellico Village community, Monroe County, on 17 January 1997 (*Field Notes* 52:196, 1998) was accepted. This becomes the second state record, with the species already on the Confirmed List.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*): Photographs and written documentation of a single bird banded at the residence of Bennette Rowan in Johnson City, Washington County, on 2 December 1997 (*Field Notes* 52:196,1998) was accepted. This becomes the third state record, with the species already on the Confirmed List.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*) This was a resubmission of written documentation of a single bird seen at Douglas Lake, Jefferson County on 8 September 1990. The record was not accepted (2-3 vote) due to the lack of a weather system which could explain such an unlikely occurrence as well as insufficient details on the identification of the bird.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) Written documentation of a single bird seen in Nashville, Davidson County on 20 June 1998 was not accepted (1-4 vote) because of insufficient details to determine specific species.

LITERATURE CITED

- HALL G.A. 1998. Changing Seasons: Appalachian Region. *Field Notes* 52 (2):196.
STEDMAN S.J. 1998. Changing Seasons: Central South Region. *Field Notes* 52 (2):210.

OBSERVATIONS OF A COMMON RAVEN NEST AT DEVIL'S LOOKING GLASS, UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE

ALLAN J. TRENTLY
East Tennessee State University
Box 19353
Johnson City, TN

A Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) nest was discovered on Devil's Looking Glass on 11 April 1996 by Richard L. Knight. Devil's Looking Glass is a 510-m (1700-ft.) elevation bluff adjacent to the Nolichucky River near Erwin, Unicoi County, Tennessee. The nest site, sheltered by overhanging rock, was on a ledge about 100 m above the river and 50 m below the top of the bluff. Ravens also nested at this site in 1997 and 1998. I do not know if the breeding adults present each year were the same birds. Because ravens tend to nest in the same location year after year (Ratcliffe 1997), it is possible they were the same birds.