

## 2005-2006 Report of the Tennessee Bird Records Committee

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The Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC) is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the Official Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee and insuring that sightings of rare species are accurately and adequately documented for posterity. Bird sighting reports submitted to the TBRC are reviewed by the six voting members unless the report under review was submitted by one of the voting members, in which case the alternate stands-in for that member during the review process. After reviewing the report, the Committee members vote on whether or not the report sufficiently and accurately documents the observed species and thus constitutes an official record of occurrence for that species within the state. At least five members of the TBRC must vote to accept a report as valid before it is considered an accepted record. Species are placed on the Official Checklist when there is an accepted record of the species that includes an extant, verifiable specimen, photograph, or voice recording along with the written documentation or there are three accepted, independent sight records (written documentation only). Species with only one or two accepted sight records are placed on the Official Checklist with the designation of Provisional status.

This report summarizes the actions taken by the TBRC on sighting reports reviewed during 2005 and 2006. During that period, 15 reports were reviewed by the TBRC, all of which were accepted as official records. As a result, six species are added to the Official Checklist: Mottled Duck, Thayer's Gull, White-winged Dove, Inca Dove, Townsend's Solitaire, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Additionally, the status of California Gull on the Official Checklist is changed from Provisional to Accidental.

Committee members that voted on the reports reviewed during this period include Dean Edwards (Secretary, 2006), John Henderson, Don Miller, Rob Peebles, Dick Preston, Chris Sloan, and Michael Todd (Secretary, 2005). Kevin Calhoon and Nell Moore served on the TBRC as alternates during this period but did not vote on any reports.

The Committee wishes to thank all of those that submitted reports and to encourage everyone to document their bird sightings and submit reports of new and rare species to the Committee.

### **Accepted records**

#### **Mottled Duck** (*Anas fulvigula*)

Photographs and written documentation of a pair of birds at Eagle Creek in Henry County from 24-30 September 2005 were submitted by Michael Todd [Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2006a (includes photo)]. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. This is the first accepted record of Mottled Duck in Tennessee and the species is added to the Official Checklist with the status of Casual. There are three previous

reports of Mottled Duck at the EARTH Complex in Shelby County, TN, which have been published but not submitted to the TBRC: a single bird 4-7 October 2003 by Jeff Wilson [Peeples, 2004a; Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2004a (includes photo)], a single bird 28 August through 15 October 2004 by Jeff Wilson and Michael Todd [Peeples, 2005a; Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2005a (includes photo)], and a pair on 27 April 2005 by Jeff Wilson [Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2005c].

**Pacific Loon** (*Gavia pacifica*)

Written documentation of a single bird on Center Hill Lake in DeKalb County on 9 March 2005 was submitted by Stephen Steadman [Casteel, 2005c; Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2005c]. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. Pacific Loon is already on the Official Checklist with a status of Casual.

**White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*)

Photographs and written documentation of a single bird at Fort Campbell in Montgomery County from 7-11 April 2003 were submitted by Daniel Moss [Casteel, 2003c; Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2003c]. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. White-tailed Kite is already on the Official Checklist with a status of Accidental.

**Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

Photographs and written documentation of two birds at Rankin WMA in Cocke County on 7 May 2004 were submitted by Charlie Muise [Knight, 2004c; Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2004c]. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. Black-necked Stilt is already on the Official Checklist with a status of Regular Breeder along the Mississippi River; however, this is only the second record of the species from East Tennessee.

**California Gull** (*Larus californicus*)

Photographs and written documentation of a single, adult bird at Pace Point in the Big Sandy Unit of the Tennessee NWR in Henry County from 25 February to 9 March 2004 were submitted by Michael Todd [Peeples, 2004b & 2004c; Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2004b (includes photo) & 2004c]. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. With this accepted photographic record, the status of California Gull on the Official Checklist is changed from Provisional to Accidental. This is also the first record of an adult-plumaged California Gull in Tennessee.

**Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*)

Photographs and written documentation of one of several immature birds in Lake County from 13 February through 7 March 2005 were submitted by Michael Todd [Peeples, 2005b & 2005c; Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2005b (includes photo) & 2005c]. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. This is the first accepted record for Thayer's Gull in Tennessee and the species is added to the Official Checklist with a status of Casual. There are several previous reports of Thayer's Gull which have not been submitted to the Committee.

**Gull-billed Tern** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Written documentation of a single bird at Kingston Steam Plant in Roane County from 26-27 May 2006 was submitted by Terry Witt [Witt, TBD]. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. This is the second accepted sight record of Gull-billed Tern in Tennessee and the species retains Provisional status on the Official Checklist.

**White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*)

Photographs and written documentation of a single bird in Tipton County on 9 July 2005 were submitted by David Brown [Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2005d]. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. This is the first accepted record of White-winged Dove in Tennessee and the species is added to the Official Checklist with a status of Accidental. There are two previous reports of White-winged Dove in Tennessee which have been published but not submitted to the TBRC: a single bird 25-27 June 2000 at the Ducks Unlimited Headquarters in Shelby County by Jim Fulghum and Keith McKnight which was photographed by Jeff Wilson [Purrington, 2000d] and a single bird on 25 May 2001 in Clarksville, Montgomery County by Mike O'Malley [Casteel, 2001c; Myers, Wallace 2001c]. A photograph of the Montgomery County bird was submitted to the TBRC photo website but without the written documentation needed for Committee action.

**Inca Dove** (*Columbina inca*)

Photographs and written documentation of a single bird visiting the feeders of Danny and Theresa Graham in Fayette County from 24 November through 7 December 2005 were submitted by Theresa Graham [Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2006b]. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. This is the first accepted record of Inca Dove in Tennessee and the species is added to the Official Checklist with a status of Accidental. There are two previous reports of Inca Dove in Tennessee which have been published but not submitted to the TBRC: a single bird on 21-22 May 2005 at The EARTH Complex in Shelby County by Jeff Wilson [Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2005c (includes photo)] and a single bird on 28 August 2005 near Chickamauga Dam in Hamilton County by Don Manning [Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2006a].

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

Photographs and written documentation of breeding evidence in Maury County on 29 June 2004 were submitted by Tommy Edwards [Casteel, 2004d; Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2004d]. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is already on the Official Checklist.

**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*)

Photographs and written documentation of a single bird at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in Knox County on 20 November 2005 were submitted by Dan Mooney [Sloan, Palmer-Ball, 2006a]. The record is accepted with a vote of 5-1. The dissenting voter was concerned by the apparent short tail length shown in the backlit photographs and the lack of discussion of tail length in the written

documentation. Other voters attributed the apparent short tail length in the photos to the angle of the bird. This is the first accepted record of Townsend's Solitaire in Tennessee and the species is added to the Official Checklist with a status of Accidental.

**Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*)

Written documentation of a single bird in Weakley County on 2 April 2006 was submitted by Dr. David Pitts. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. This is the fourth report of Varied Thrush in Tennessee which is already on the Official Checklist with a status of Accidental.

**Henslow's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus henslowii*)

Written documentation of breeding evidence in Maury County on 3 June 2006 was submitted by Tommy Edwards. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. Henslow's Sparrow is already on the Official Checklist with a status of Regular Breeder.

**Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*)

Photographs and written documentation of a single bird visiting the feeders of John and Sharon Walko in Shelby County from 8 January through 26 February 2006 were submitted by John Walko. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. Harris's Sparrow is already on the Official Checklist with a status of Casual.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

Photographs (by Keith Kunkel and Michael Todd) and written documentation (by Keith and Peggy Kunkel) were submitted for a single adult bird visiting the Kunkel's feeders in Tipton County from 4 December 2005 through 17 January 2006. The record is accepted with a vote of 6-0. This is the first accepted record of Golden-crowned Sparrow in Tennessee and the species is added to the Official Checklist with a status of Accidental.

### **Rejected Reports**

None.

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