

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

First Annual Report

Despite somewhat difficult beginnings, the Louisiana Bird Records Committee has at last taken some official actions, and in so doing has inaugurated a new era of field ornithology in the state. The first of these actions (excluding the drafting of the Bylaws) was the compilation of the Review List, a list of those Louisiana birds any report of which the Committee seeks to review. For further information of the Review List see the article thereon in LOS News No. 97. The next action was the actual review of records.

The Committee currently consists of Dr. Harland D. Guillory, Horace H. Jeter (Chairman), Buford M. Myers III, Dr. Robert D. Purrington, Dr. James V. Remsen Jr., James R. Stewart, and David B. Crider (Secretary).

This report contains the decisions of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee agreed upon in 1980-1981. The Committee has ruled on several dozen records and several dozen more are currently under consideration. Records reviewed thus far are outlined below. The file number assigned to each record as it is received by the Secretary is given in parentheses following the species name. A key to observers' initials follows the list.

I. SPECIES NEVER BEFORE REPORTED IN LOUISIANA

A. SPECIES ACCEPTED TO THE OFFICIAL STATE LIST

- 1) Mongolian Plover (Charadrius mongolus) (81-18). Color photographs taken on 22 April 1975 by J. Chester Littlefield at Grand Isle are irrefutable and document the first North American record outside Alaska. Mr. Littlefield, David N. and Ellen L. Doubleday were members of a field trip to Grand Isle while attending the National Audubon Society Convention in New Orleans.
- 2) Ruff (Philomachus pugnax) (80-2). One probable female in breeding plumage seen 12, 13 August 1978 by many observers (including JR, MLB, RDP, BMM, RJN, DBC, JRS, HHJ, others) on the campus of the University of New Orleans in New Orleans. Photographed by Fred Barry (see American Birds 32(6): 1173). Several subsequent occurrences (see section II.A of this report as well as next report).
- 3) Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna) (80-1). Specimen (LSUMZ 91285), that of an immature female (?) taken on 10 November 1979 by SWC at Hackberry Ridge, Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish provides first record for state. There are additional specimen and sight records for the same period (see section II.A of this report).
- 4) Allen's Hummingbird (Selasphorus sasin) (81-5). Present at the feeding station of Ronald J. Stein in Reserve from November 1975 through 6 March 1976. Specimen (LSUMZ 81486) collected 6 March 1976 is that of an immature male identified by GHJ and subsequently assigned by ARP to the race S. s. sedentarius. (Additional record see II.A of this report.)
- 5) Blue Bunting (Cyanocompsa parellina) (81-14). Specimen (LSUMZ 94288) collected 20 December 1979 by SWC (with JVR, LH, and DH) on Hackberry Ridge, Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish is the first record for the United States. Reasons for believing that this is a wild bird and not an escapee are presented in an article by Cardiff and Remsen (Auk 98(3): 621-622). Richard A. Ryan, an expert on cage birds, subsequently examined the specimen, that

of an immature female in fresh first-year plumage, and found that it lacked any trace of the minute feather damage that occurs in all cage birds; thus, if the bird were an escapee, it would have had to escape while still in juvenal plumage, a virtual impossibility. The specimen was assigned to C. p. beneplacita by ARP.

- 6) McCown's Longspur (Calcarius mccownii) (81-10). Specimen, that of an immature female in winter (first basic) plumage, collected 1 December 1979 by MJB; first noted 30 November by JR.

B. TAXONOMIC CHANGES

- 1) Couch's Kingbird (Tyrannus couchii) (81-6). A recent taxonomic revision (Traylor, 1979, Auk 96: 221-223) of the Tropical Kingbird species complex has elevated the race T. melancholicus couchii to full species status; the AOU Checklist Committee has accepted Traylor's revision. The only specimen of Tropical Kingbird from Louisiana (LSUMZ 48676), that of an adult male taken 9 October 1965 near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish by L. C. Binford, was identified by Drs. M. A. Traylor and W. E. Lanyon as couchii. As such, the official State List is amended to replace Tropical Kingbird with Couch's Kingbird.

C. UNACCEPTED, IDENTIFICATION UNCERTAIN

- 1) Wood Sandpiper (Tringa glareola) (81-19). Sight record 22 September 1976 near Fourchon, Lafourche Parish, but this alone insufficient for full admission to the official state list. Arguments for the validity of the record, however, are given in an article by Kennedy (American Birds 32(2): 139).
- 2) Scrub Jay (Aphelocoma caerulescens) (81-20). Sight record 24 October 1972 at Fort Polk, Vernon Parish by single observer insufficient.

D. UNACCEPTED, ORIGIN UNCERTAIN

- 1) Baikal Teal (Anas formosa) (81-1). One adult male taken in season on 7 November 1974 by hunter James Lee and prepared by GHL (LSUMZ 80123). It is uncertain whether or not this was a wild bird. Further information, however, may bring about recirculation of this record.

II. REVIEW LIST SPECIES. Birds previously recorded in Louisiana, but which are of rare occurrence or whose identification is difficult.

A. ACCEPTED RECORDS

- 1) Ruff (Philomachus pugnax) (80-2). One adult(?) male in changing plumage seen 12 August 1978 (NN, BMM, DM, others) on the campus of the University of New Orleans, New Orleans.
- 2) Pomarine Jaeger (Stercorarius pomarinus) (80-3). One dark-phased sub-adult observed 20 April 1980 (SWC, JVR) over Peveto Beach, Cameron Parish.
- 3) Inca Dove (Scardafella inca) (81-15). One adult female collected 11 October 1980 (SWC, JVR) in Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Parish furnishes first complete Louisiana specimen (the only previous specimen was that of a dismembered wing from Caddo Parish).
- 4) Lesser Nighthawk (Chordeiles acutipennis) (81-2). One adult female collected 20 April 1980 (SWC) at Hackberry Ridge near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish. Specimen (LSUMZ 94463) is eighth for Louisiana.

- 5) Amazilia sp. (77-1). Probably Buff-bellied; seen 8 January 1977 by NLN at her residence in Metairie, Jefferson Parish.
 - 6) Buff-bellied Hummingbird (Amazilia yucatanensis) (81-11). One adult female found dead 24 October 1980 by NLN at Metairie, Jefferson Parish. Specimen (LSUMZ 97437) is second of two for Louisiana.
 - 7) Buff-bellied Hummingbird (Amazilia yucatanensis) (81-2). One adult collected 28 March 1974 by MBE and GL at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George DeSoto in Franklin, St. Mary Parish. Specimen (LSUMZ 95264) is first for Louisiana (see GHL 1974, La. Birds, p. 405).
 - 8) Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna) (80-1). One immature male seen 11 November 1979 (JVR) and 18, 19 November (DBC, EOH, SAH, NLN, PCN, RJN) at Hackberry Ridge, near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish is second Louisiana record.
 - 9) Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna) (81-4). One female-plumaged bird collected 16 December 1979 by SWC (with JVR, LH, DH) at same locality as above. Specimen (LSUMZ 91438) is second for Louisiana and represents third record.
 - 10) Allen's Hummingbird (Selasphorus sasin) (81-13). One adult female present throughout March 1978 and found dying 22 March (TSS, DBC, GLG, BMM, RJN, RDP) at the residence of K. McGee in New Orleans. Specimen (LSUMZ 86998) was examined by JVR and ARP. Eleven reddish-orange gorget feathers are present.
 - 11) Western Wood Pewee (Contopus richardsonii) (81-7). One unsexable individual collected 6 October 1979 (DBC, JRS, SAH) at Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Parish. Specimen (LSUMZ 94336) is second for Louisiana. Identification fide JVR and ARP.
 - 12) Western Wood Pewee (Contopus richardsonii) (81-8). One unsexable individual collected 20 October 1979 (SWC, JVR) at Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Parish. Specimen (LSUMZ 94258) is third for Louisiana and was assigned by ARP to C. r. saturatus, a race occurring from SE Alaska to NE California.
 - 13) Western Wood Pewee (Contopus richardsonii) (81-9). One unsexable individual collected 21 October 1979 by DBC (with EOH, SAH, NLN, PCN) at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish. Specimen (LSUMZ 94337) is fourth for Louisiana, the last three of which were collected in October 1979.
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- 15) Green-tailed Towhee (Pipilo chlorura) (81-24). One adult seen 14 October 1979 by DBC and SAH at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish. Fifth Louisiana record.
 - 16) Green-tailed Towhee (Pipilo chlorura) (81-25). One adult seen 16 December 1979 by DBC at Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Parish. Sixth Louisiana record.

B. UNACCEPTED, IDENTIFICATION QUESTIONABLE

- 1) White-tailed Tropicbird (Phaethon lepturus) (81-21). Three birds reported in October 1975 two days prior to a hurricane in the Gulf Outlet, Mississippi River, St. Bernard Parish. Description by single observer insufficient to eliminate any of several terns.

III. PENDING RECORDS: Decisions not yet reached.

- A. Records whose disposition proved difficult and which must be recirculated through Committee; these will be published in a later report.
- B. Records for which insufficient material or no reports at all have been received by the secretary at this writing. Many valuable records may go unaccepted and unpublished should no reports be received within a reasonable length of time.

C. Records currently under consideration by the committee

Any pending record will be published in the next Annual Report following its dispensation.

KEY TO INITIALS

MJB	Mike Braun	DH	David Hunter	TJP	Ted Parker
SWC	Steve Cardiff	HHJ	Horace Jeter	RJN	Bob Newman
DBC	Bruce Crider	GL	Garrie Landry	ARP	Allan R. Phillips
JWE	Bill Eley	GHL	George Lowery	HDP	Doug Pratt
MBE	Marshall Eyster	DM	David Muth	RDP	Dan Purrington
GLG	Gary Graham	BMM	Mac Myers	JR	Jack Reinoehl
LH	Linda Hale	NN	Norton Nelkin	JVR	Van Remsen
EOH	Eleanor Heath	NLN	Nancy Newfield	JRS	Jim Stewart
SAH	Stanley Heath	PCN	Paul Newfield	TSS	Schulenberg

The committee heartily thanks all those observers who took the time and effort to submit tedious reports, expensive photographs, and other materials. Without them the Committee would not function. We hope that everyone will continue to support the Committee in the documentation of rare birds as they occur in Louisiana. We hope that all who read this will be motivated to submit accurate and detailed reports on any rare birds they may see in the state, or that may have been seen in the past, so that their ornithological efforts might become known to all.

Blank report forms may be obtained free of charge from and completed reports, photographs, sketches, and other materials may be submitted to:

David B. Crider, Secretary
Louisiana Bird Records Committee
c/o Museum of Zoology
Drawer MU
University Station
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893

The Secretary wishes to thank Dr. J. V. Remsen, Jr. for his editorial assistance. Apologies are extended to those observers whose names were not included in any sighting; however, in most cases the omission of an observer's name is probably the result of the failure of that person to submit a report.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Crider, Secretary

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is continuing its program of color-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink wing-tags. Many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies in 1982 still carrying their tags. The tagged birds appeared fit and nested normally. Most tags were still clearly legible and showed little wear.

In 1982 bright blue wing-tags (with black lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags have combinations of letters and numbers (the two tags on any bird have the same combination). When you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, color of the tag, and, if possible, the number/letter combination to: BANDING OFFICE, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA, K1A 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.

LONG-LIVED BIRDS IN LOUISIANA

by

Horace H. Jeter

In the Spring 1982 issue of Journal of Field Ornithology is a paper by Roger B. Clapp, M. Kathleen Klimkiwicz, and John H. Kennard entitled Longevity Records of North American Birds: Gaviidae through Alcidae. It is based in large measure on data on file at the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is extremely interesting. Several of the individual birds that are the oldest known of their respective species were banded or recovered in Louisiana, or both.

An Olivaceous Cormorant banded at the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge in April 1965 and aged "After Hatching Year" was found dead about 15 miles west of Hackberry in January 1977 and was thus over 12 years old.

An Anhinga banded by L.O.S. member Ben B. Coffey, Jr., of Memphis at Glen Allan, Mississippi, in May 1936 aged "Unknown" was shot about 18 miles north of Natchitoches in May 1948 -- another over-12 individual.

A blue phase Snow Goose banded by E. A. McIlhenny at Cheniere Au Tigre in November 1934, age unknown, was shot near Bassett, Arkansas, in December 1953 -- over 19 years old. (But this tough old bird hardly compares with a white phase bird banded in Canada and shot in Texas that was a least 26.)

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck banded at Rockefeller Refuge as a duckling in August 1971 was shot near Creole in December 1977 at age 6. Relatively few individuals of this species have been banded.

A duckling Blue-winged Teal banded in Nebraska in July 1955 was shot at Point Au Chien Wildlife Management Area in November 1972 at the rather ripe old age of 17.

A Black Vulture of unknown age was banded at Avery Island by E. A. McIlhenny in

October 1940. It was found dead near Lutchter in December 1965 and thus was at least 25 years old.

A Common Moorhen (the new official name of the Common or Florida Gallinule), also banded at Avery Island by Mr. McIlhenny, aged "After Hatching Year" in February 1931, was recovered there by Mr. McIlhenny in December 1940, age at least 10 years.

Yet another bird banded by Mr. McIlhenny, an American Coot aged "After Hatching Year" in January 1934, was shot in Tennessee in December 1952 for an age of at least 19 years.

An American Woodcock of unknown age was banded by L. L. Glasgow at Gross Tete in December 1951. It was shot in Michigan in October 1960 for an age of at least 9 years.

And finally, a Sandwich Tern banded as a chick by Lovett Williams on Chandeleur Island in June 1963 got caught by fishing gear in Mobile Bay, Alabama, in July 1979 at 16 years of age.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Juvenile Cattle Egrets were color banded and color marked this summer as part of a study of post-fledging dispersal. One or both wings are colored with red, blue, green or gray paint. Birds are color banded with red, green, yellow, white and blue plastic bands. Observer reports will be appreciated - noting color sequences (and if possible, color band numbers), date and place of observation and number of Cattle Egrets present. Please report observations to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland 20811 and to Debbie Mignogo, P.O. Box 1490, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853.

NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the L.O.S. Bird Records Committee following the informal Friday night gathering at the fall meeting of the L.O.S.. The meeting will be held at the Town and Country Motel.