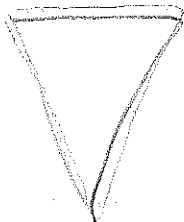


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LOUISIANA  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY



No. 107

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Thomas S. Schulenberg

This report contains the decisions of the LOS Bird Records Committee reached during the last year (October 1983-October 1984). During this period the Committee reviewed 38 records. Among these are four that the Committee accepted as first state records: Eurasian Wigeon (Anas penelope), Sabine's Gull (Xema sabini), Williamson's Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus thyroideus), and Hepatic Tanager (Piranga flava).

The Committee solicits reports of species on the Review List, which is published at the end of this Annual Report, as well as any species previously unrecorded in Louisiana. Photographs may be especially valuable in documenting records, and contributors are encouraged to submit photographic documentation when possible.

All documentation (including photographs) for the records submitted to the Committee, as well as the Committee's comments and votes, are housed at the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. These records are available for inspection to any interested parties.

The Committee currently consists of Horace H. Jeter (Chairman), Robert J. Newman, Robert D. Purrington, J. V. Remsen, Buford M. Myers, III, David P. Muth, and Thomas S. Schulenberg (Secretary).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologist's Union 1983 Check-list of North American Birds. Within each species account records are arranged chronologically. The Committee's official file number for each record is given in parentheses. The information in each account is usually based only on the information given in the original documentation submitted, but I

have made some effort to supplement this, whenever possible, with the full range of dates that a bird(s) was present. The original discoverer of a bird, when this information was available, is marked by an asterisk (\*). I have not made an effort to list all observers who might have seen a given bird. Observers who submitted documentation (contributors) are listed first (by initials); other observers, if any, mentioned by the observer who submitted details, are listed second, separate from the contributors by a semicolon.

Photographs are not mentioned as documentation in a species account unless copies are on file with the Committee. Photographs that are not submitted to the Committee, which could then store these for "posterity" and make them available to other researchers, are worthless from the point of view of documenting rare occurrences. All specimens are deposited at the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ).

#### ACCEPTED RECORDS

Western Grebe (Aechmophorus occidentalis). Two birds (82-39) on the Gulf 2-3 miles west of Holly Beach, Cameron Parish on 25 January 1981 (JK\*), with one bird still present from 14-22 February 1981 (VR; MR, BC, PO, DH).

The Western Grebe has two color morphs, usually called "light-phase" and "dark-phase." The Holly Beach grebes were believed to be "dark-phase" birds. The two morphs are currently under consideration for full species status by the AOU Checklist Committee (VR, pers. comm.); therefore Louisiana observers should familiarize themselves with the differences between them (see Rattii, J. T., 1981, Identification and distribution of Clark's Grebe, Western Birds 12:41-46; National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America).

Masked (Blue-faced) Booby (Sula dactylatra). An immature (82-20) found dying on 30 June or 1 July 1982 on an off-shore oil-rig about 100 miles south of Cameron, Cameron Parish (LSUMZ 105421).

Northern Gannet (Sula bassanus). Up to thirty-five individuals (82-38), of all recognizable age classes, on the Gulf 2-3 miles west of Holly Beach, Cameron Parish on 14-15 February 1981 (VR; MR, BC, PO, DH).

Ross' Goose (Chen rossii). One (82-24) shot by a hunter 5 miles northwest of Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish on 22 December 1981 (LSUMZ 104012); one (82-40) seen at Hackberry Ridge, Cameron Parish on 19 December 1982 (VR\*; TP\*).

Eurasian Wigeon (Anas penelope). A male (81-30) present in New Orleans, Orleans Parish from 14 December 1980 - 22 February 1981 (DP\*, JK; NN\*) was photographed and seen by many for the first state record.

Black-shouldered (White-tailed) Kite (Elanus caeruleus). One (82-32) south of Holmwood, Calcasieu Parish on 20 November 1982 (JW); one (83-1) 3 miles north of Morganza, Pointe Coupee Parish from 4-8 January 1983 (TS; DG\*, BN); one (83-8) 1 mile north of Oberlin, Allen Parish on 18 February 1983 (TK).

Prior to the winter of 1982-1983 there were only three or four records of Black-shouldered Kite for Louisiana, including a pair that bred unsuccessfully in Bossier Parish in 1976. Kites now appear to have exploded into Louisiana. In addition to the records cited above, several other records are pending and there are probably an equal number of reports that have not been submitted to the Committee. There are now several reports of Black-shouldered Kites breeding in southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi.

Ruff (Philomachus pugnax). A single bird (81-36), believed to be a male on the basis of size, on "Magnolia Road," 3-4 miles north of Holly Beach, Cameron Parish on 20 March 1978 (TS\*; BE, DH, BL). There are now three accepted records for Louisiana, of which this was actually the first to be found.

Red-necked (Northern) Phalarope (Phalaropus lobatus). Three to four (82-26) on Fourchon Road, LaFourche Parish from 12-18 September 1982 (MM\*, NLN, TD; NN\*).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus). An adult (82-34) found on the beach 1/4 mile east of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass, Cameron Parish on 23 October 1982 (VR\*, GR, SC; MM, DM, NN); this is the second record for Louisiana.

Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus). A first winter immature (82-42) at the Paris Road dump, Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish on 23 January 1982 (VR; SC\*, DM, MB, JR, TD); a first-winter immature (82-44) collected (LSUMZ 103495) at the same location on 28 February 1982 (SC); a first-winter immature west of Holly Beach, Cameron Parish on 16 January 1983 (MS).

The collected bird represents the first specimen record for Louisiana. Because of minor plumage differences, this was thought not to be the same individual seen there a month earlier.

Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus). A first-winter immature (82-42) at the New Orleans city dump, Orleans Parish on 28 February 1982 (MR\*, DP; SC\*, MM, DM); a first-winter immature (82-46) photographed on Lake Pontchartrain at Seabrook Bridge, New Orleans, Orleans Parish on 28-29 March 1982 (MM\*, DP; JR, MB, BE, BC).

Both records may pertain to the same individual. There was only one previous record for Louisiana, from Ponchartrain Beach, New Orleans, Orleans Parish on 11 November 1981 (not 1982 as was erroneously stated in last year's Annual Report).

Sabine's Gull (Xema sabini). An immature (81-29) at Barataria Pass, Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish on 11 September 1976 (RS, RH) was a first record for Louisiana.

Bridled Tern (Sterna anaethetus). One immature (81-32) photographed 70 miles south-southeast of Grand Isle on 21 July 1979 (DP; JK, JS, BC, BN).

Northern Saw-whet Owl (Aegolius acadicus). An adult (81-27) found dead (LSUMZ 87085) on the road 1/4 mile east of Kisatchie National Forest, Hwy 493, Natchitoches Parish on 15 February 1978 (JH).

Williamson's Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus thyroideus). A male (82-22) collected (LSUMZ 107748) at Garner Ridge, 3 miles west of Johnson's Bayou School, Cameron Parish on 14 November 1982 (VR\*; SC, TS, TD, MA).

A first state record, and a truly remarkable one at that of a bird considered accidental as far east as central Texas.

Western Wood-Pewee (Contopus sordidulus). One (82-30) collected (LSUMZ 105627) at Hackberry Ridge, Cameron Parish on 12 September 1982 (SC).

This is the sixth accepted record for Louisiana. All accepted records are from fall, and all are of specimens (the species would be almost impossible to identify with certainty in life during fall migration). The present record is 3 1/2 weeks earlier than any other from Louisiana.

Say's Phoebe (Sayornis saya). One (82-37) at Ben Hur Farms, south of LSU, Baton Rouge,

East Baton Rouge Parish from 9-15 October 1982 (EB\*,MS).

Ash-throated Flycatcher (Myiarchus cinerascens). One (82-28) collected (LSUMZ 107753) at Hackberry Ridge, Cameron Parish on 14 November 1982 (SC); one (82-29) collected (LSUMZ 107754) at Hackberry Ridge, Cameron Parish also on 14 November 1982 (VR\*; TS); one (82-31) at East Jetty Woods, 2 miles south of Cameron, Cameron Parish on 15 December 1982 (SC\*,VR).

Sage Thrasher (Oreoscoptes montanus). One (82-35) at Hackberry Ridge, Cameron Parish on 4 December 1982 (JD\*; VR,GR).

Hepatic Tanager (Piranga flava). A male (82-37) collected (LSUMZ 105459) at Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Parish on 7 May 1982 (SC).

This is the first record for Louisiana, and only the second for the eastern United States.

Green-tailed Towhee (Pipilo chlorurus). One (83-7) found in a field south of LSU, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish on 5 February 1983 and remained for several weeks (CO\*,TD,TS).

#### UNACCEPTED RECORDS

"Great White Heron" (Ardea herodias occidentalis). One (82-19) at the Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Plaquemines Parish on 20 March 1982.

California Gull (Larus californicus). One (81-33) at LaBranch Marsh, St. Charles Parish on 12 March 1978.

Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus). An immature (82-45) on a beach near Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish on 19 December 1982.

Ivory Gull (Pagophila eburnea). One (81-31) at the East Jetty, Cameron Parish on 30 October 1976.

Lewis' Woodpecker (Melanerpes lewis). One (81-26) at Ft. Polk, Vernon Parish on 30 October 1970.

Brown-crested (Wied's Crested) Flycatcher (Myiarchus tyrannulus). One (82-23) at Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Parish on 23 October 1982.

Hutton's Vireo (Vireo huttoni). One (81-35) at Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish on 12 April 1981.

Townsend's Warbler (Dendroica townsendi). One (81-28) at Metairie, Jefferson Parish on 13 October 1977; one (82-21) at Metairie, Jefferson Parish on 12 October 1982.

#### CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS:

Melissa Allen, Eugene Beckham, Mike Braun, Steve Cardiff, Bruce Crider, Tristan Davis, Jon Dunn, Bill Eley, Gary Rosenberg, Dale Gustin, Dudley Harrington, J. Hart, Robert Hines, David Hunter, Joe Kennedy, Tom Kee, Brad Lown, David Muth, Mac Myers, Nancy L. Newfield, Bob Newman, Norton Nelkin, Carol O'Neill, Peter Osenton, Ted Parker, Dan Purrington, Jack Reinoehl, Van Remsen, Mark Robbins, Tom Schulenberg, Ron Stein, Jim Stewart, Mark Swan, Jim Whelan.

## REVIEW LIST

The following is a list of all species the LOS Bird Records Committee solicits reports of (in addition to any species previously unrecorded in Louisiana). Contributors are encouraged, although by no means required, to use the Committee's official report form, obtainable from the Secretary (Thomas S. Schulenberg, Museum of Zoology, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803-3216).

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Red-throated Loon                    | Brown Noddy                               |
| Least Grebe                          | Ancient Murrelet                          |
| Red-necked Grebe                     | Band-tailed Pigeon                        |
| Western Grebe                        | Passenger Pigeon (E)                      |
| Yellow-nosed Albatross               | Inca Dove                                 |
| Greater Shearwater                   | Carolina Paroquet (E)                     |
| Audubon's Shearwater                 | Smooth-billed Ani                         |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel                | Flammulated Owl                           |
| Leach's Storm-Petrel                 | Snowy Owl                                 |
| White-tailed Tropicbird              | Long-eared Owl                            |
| Masked Booby                         | Northern Saw-whet Owl                     |
| Brown Booby                          | Vaux's Swift                              |
| Red-footed Booby                     | Buff-bellied Hummingbird                  |
| Northern Gannet                      | Anna's Hummingbird                        |
| "Great White Heron"                  | Broad-tailed Hummingbird                  |
| Greater Flamingo                     | Allen's Hummingbird                       |
| Black-bellied Whistling-Duck         | Williamson's Sapsucker                    |
| Tundra (Whistling) Swan              | Ivory-billed Woodpecker                   |
| Trumpeter Swan (e)                   | Western Wood-Pewee                        |
| Ross' Goose                          | Alder Flycatcher                          |
| Brant                                | Willow Flycatcher                         |
| Eurasian Wigeon                      | Hammond's Flycatcher                      |
| Harlequin Duck                       | Say's Phoebe                              |
| Masked Duck                          | Ash-throated Flycatcher                   |
| Black-shouldered (White-tailed) Kite | Brown-crested (Wied's Crested) Flycatcher |
| Northern Goshawk                     | Great Kiskadee                            |
| Harris' Hawk                         | Sulpher-bellied Flycatcher                |
| Swainson's Hawk                      | Couch's Kingbird                          |
| White-tailed Hawk                    | Cassin's Kingbird                         |
| Ferruginous Hawk                     | Gray Kingbird                             |
| Rough-legged Hawk                    | Northern Wheatear                         |
| Greater Prairie Chicken (e)          | Mountain Bluebird                         |
| Yellow Rail                          | Sage Thrasher                             |
| Black Rail                           | Curve-billed Thrasher                     |
| Whooping Crane (e)                   | "Plumbeous Vireo"                         |
| Mongolian Plover                     | Black-whiskered Vireo                     |
| Eskimo Curlew                        | Bachman's Warbler                         |
| Curlew Sandpiper                     | Lucy's Warbler                            |
| Ruff                                 | Townsend's Warbler                        |
| Red-necked (Northern) Phalarope      | Hermit Warbler                            |
| Red Phalarope                        | Connecticut Warbler                       |
| Pomarine Jaeger                      | MacGillivray's Warbler                    |
| Parasitic Jaeger                     | Painted Redstart                          |
| Long-tailed Jaeger                   | Hepatic Tanager                           |
| Little Gull                          | Blue Bunting                              |

Thayer's Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Glaucous Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Black-legged Kittiwake  
Sabine's Gull  
Roseate Tern  
Smith's Longspur  
Snow Bunting  
Red Crossbill

Green-tailed Towhee  
American Tree Sparrow  
Brewer's Sparrow  
Lark Bunting  
Golden-crowned Sparrow  
"Gray-headed Junco"  
McCown's Longspur  
Chestnut-collared Longspur  
Scott's Oriole  
Lesser Goldfinch

(e) Extirpated from Louisiana  
(E) Extinct

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The Return of the Brown Pelican. Joseph E. Brown with photographs by Dan Guravich. 1983. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803. 118 pages. \$24.95.

The Brown Pelican, Louisiana's state bird, has declined in population throughout its North American range except in Florida. Even there, serious injuries from man's activities are common. In The Return of the Brown Pelican author Brown and photographer Guravich eloquently detail the efforts made to restore the species to areas where they have historically been common.

This oddly shaped volume begins with an introduction to the unique Brown Pelican and its life cycle. Every step of the intricate courtship and nesting is chronicled in brilliant color. After capturing your attention with a picture story, the author and photographer introduce the many hazards that contribute to the population decline. Except for severe weather and parasite infestations, all of the species' problems are man-made. Pesticide pollution, monofilament fishing line, and fish hooks are major threats.

After itemizing these problems, Brown and Guravich show the massive efforts being made by those concerned biologists to mitigate the damage that man has done. The re-stocking of Brown Pelicans on the Louisiana coast is shown in fine detail. In Florida, the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary provides both veterinary care to injured birds, and education to those who may be careless.

Strictly a coastal species, the Brown Pelican is conspicuous wherever it occurs. In this book, the pelican's intriguing story is beautifully told in non-technical language. This book is highly recommended to those readers who love pelicans and those who are concerned with the environment.

Reviewed by: Nancy L. Newfield