

FOURTH REPORT OF THE LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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This report contains the decisions of the LOS Bird Records Committee reached during the last year (October 1984 - October 1985). During this period the Committee reviewed 56 records, a significant increase over preceding years. Among these records of seven species that the Committee accepted as first state records: Zone-tailed Hawk, Calliope Hummingbird, Tropical Kingbird, Rock Wren, Varied Thrush, Tropical Parula, and House Finch. Also accepted by the Committee were second state records of nine species: Eurasian Wigeon, Purple Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Calliope Hummingbird, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Townsend's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, and House Finch. The Committee has also voted to remove Connecticut Warbler from the state list.

The Committee solicits reports of species on the Review List, which is published at the end of this 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, separated 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

NORTHERN GANNET (Sula bassanus). A minimum of 55, probably over 100, (83-9) over the Gulf at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, on 24-25 January 1981 (JK). All age classes were present, with sub-adult the commonest plumage type and full adult the rarest.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK (Dendrocygna autumnalis). A flock of seven (84-82), all believed to be adult, on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron Parish, on 15 December 1984 (SOW). Louisiana observers should be on the lookout for this species; it may appear in our state with increasing frequency following population increases in east Texas (see American Birds 38:221, 1984; American Birds 39:76, 1985).

TUNDRA (WHISTLING) SWAN (Cygnus columbianus). Three birds (84-39), at least two of them fully adult, near Madisonville, St. Tammany Parish in December 1984 (MN; DM, MM, DP, et al.); these birds were probably present during November as well, and remained until at least early January 1985 (see American Birds 39:175, 1985). Care should be taken in identifying swans in Louisiana following recent re-introductions of Trumpeter Swans in Minnesota and Ontario.

ROSS' GOOSE (Chen rossii). One (84-23) at Hackberry Ridge, two miles WSW Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish, on 18 December 1983 (VR).

EURASIAN WIGEON (Anas penelope). A male (84-1) shot by a hunter in Vermilion Parish on 23 November 1979; the bird was prepared by a taxidermist, and photographs (PD) of the mounted bird are in the Committee files. This is the second verified report of Eurasian Wigeon in Louisiana, and actually antedates our previous record by one year (see LOS News 107, December 1984).

BLACK-SHOULDERED (WHITE-TAILED) KITE (Elanus caeruleus). One (84-4) at Holmwood, Calcasieu Parish, on 11 February 1984 (TK); one (84-33) at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, on 5 November 1984 (TS; GR, DH).

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (Buteo albonotatus). An adult (84-33) at Violet, St. Bernard Parish, on 23 December 1984 (TD*, MN, DP). The bird was weak when discovered and was captured by hand the following day after having been seen by many observers. The captive bird was taken to the Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center, Audubon Park Zoo in New Orleans, where it died of unknown causes on 15 March 1985 (LSUMZ 122218). There is no indication that the bird had previously been in captivity; Zone-tailed Hawks are probably rarely kept anywhere. This remarkable record is the first for the species for Louisiana, and one of the very few for anywhere east of central Texas.

PURPLE SANDPIPER (Calidris maritima). One (84-2) in winter plumage collected (LSUMZ 113130) west of Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, on 12 January 1984 (VR; BC, LM, DM, GR). The only previous record for Purple Sandpiper is also from Cameron Parish, at Calcasieu Pass on 4 April 1974.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (Calidris ferruginea). One juvenile (84-5) 2.5 miles north of Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, on 4 September 1976 (TS; GG, BK*, RK, BN). This is also only the second Louisiana record for this species, not seen in the state since the original report near Cameron on 13 September 1953.

PARASITIC JAEGER (Stercorarius parasiticus). Two light-phase sub-adults (82-33) at the mouth of Calcasieu Pass, Cameron Parish, on 14 February 1982 (VR; BC, et al.).

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri). One first-year immature (83-13) collected (LSUMZ 104002) at the Paris Road dump, St. Bernard Parish, on 7 March 1982 (SC); a first-year immature (83-21) at the mouth of Calcasieu Pass (East Jetty Beach), Cameron Parish, on the remarkably late date of 28 May 1983 (VR; TP). The collected bird is the first Louisiana specimen accepted by the Committee.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (Larus fuscus). One bird (84-15), at least three years old, on

the beach at the end of Fourchon Road, LaFourche Parish, from at least 11 March to 22 April 1984 (NN, TS, DM*, et al.).

GLAUCOUS GULL (Larus hyperboreus). Two first-winter immatures (84-24) on the beach at the end of Fourchon Road, LaFourche Parish, on 17 April 1984 (TS; NLN, VR, et al.), with one bird still present on 21 April 1984.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (Amazilia yucatanensis). One (81-16) at a feeder in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, during March 1978 (TS; KM*, et many al.).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (Stellula calliope). One immature female (84-34) trapped and banded at Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, 24-27 November 1983 (RS*; NLN); a tail feather and several gorget feathers from this bird were preserved to document the record (LSUMZ 113137). Another immature (84-3), a male, was present in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, from 25 November to 21 December 1983, when it was collected (LSUMZ 112917) (PM). These are the first Louisiana records for this western species accepted by the Committee; the Committee is aware of an additional, earlier record (see Newfield, 1984, Condor 86:346-348) that it will review at some point in the future.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD (Selasphorus sasin). An adult female (85-1) in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, present since 30 November 1984, collected (LSUMZ 121548) on 3 December 1984 (PM*; NLN). Found in the same well-tended "hummingbird haven" as the preceding Calliope Hummingbird.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (Empidonax traillii). Two adults tending nest that fledged one young (83-24) in Monroe, Ouachita Parish, between 18 May - 29 June 1983 (BB; TK); a singing bird (84-13) at the same location 12-15 May 1984 (TK); a singing bird (84-11) on the D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge, Union Parish, on 5 May 1984 (TK). The first record (83-24) was particularly well-documented with a photograph of an adult at the nest and tape recordings of the song.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (Myiarchus cinerascens). One (83-11) well photographed at Gum Cove, Cameron Parish, on 25 January 1981 (JK).

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (Myiarchus tyrannulus). One collected (LSUMZ 113039) two miles south of Cameron, Cameron Parish, on 17 December 1983 (PSc*, VR). This is the first record of this species in western Louisiana, and also the first record for anywhere in the state in at least eight years.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (Myiodynastes luteiventris). One (84-44) on Monkey Island, Cameron Parish, found on 28 April 1984 and collected (LSUMZ 113475) the following day (GR; DG*, et many al.). This is the first specimen for Louisiana, and only the second record for Louisiana of this tropical species.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (Tyrannus melancholicus). One (84-21) collected (LSUMZ 113418) west of Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish, on 12 May 1984 (BC, BN); the bird was identified by Van Remsen (LSUMZ) and Mel Traylor (Field Museum of Natural History) as belonging to the Middle American subspecies. This is the first Louisiana record of this species (the previously accepted record, discussed in Louisiana Birds 1974:423, pertains to the recently-split Couch's Kingbird, Tyrannus couchii; see LOS News 98, October 1982).

ROCK WREN (Salpinctes obsoletus). One (83-23) along the Lake Ponchartrain waterfront in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, from 19 December 1983 to 4 February 1984 (GR, TS; MM*), when the bird was collected (LSUMZ 113167). This is a long-overdue first state record.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (Sialia currucoides). A female or immature (81-22) at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, on 28 October 1978 (VR; seen by many others at fall LOS meeting). This is only the third Louisiana record.

VARIED THRUSH (Ixoreus naevius). One (85-2) photographed at East Hackberry, Cameron Parish, on 16-17 December 1984 (VR, PS; CR*, et many al.). Another long over-due first state record, this bird was seen by some 50 birders the morning after its discovery but could not be relocated on later visits.

SAGE THRASHER (Oreoscoptes montanus). One (84-25) was well-photographed in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, on 27-28 October 1979 (JK, MM, DP).

TROPICAL PARULA (Parula pitiayumi). One immature female (84-19) found at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, on 17 December 1983 (VR; DM*) and collected the following day (LSUMZ 113128) after being seen by many observers. A surprising first Louisiana record, and the first U. S. record away from southern Texas.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (Dendroica townsendi). One (83-23) at Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Parish, from 18 to 23 December 1983 (WB, RM, TS; TV*). This is the second Louisiana record; the first, also from Cameron Parish, was in October 1981 (see LOS News 103, February 1984).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER (Oporornis tolmiei). One male (83-25) at Hackberry Ridge, west of Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish, on 30 April 1983 (MW). This is another second state record, the first since 1959.

HEPATIC Tanager (Piranga flava). One female (84-20) collected (LSUMZ 112120) at Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Parish, on 22 May 1983 (VR; DM). This bird, the second found in Louisiana, was found only 100 yards from the location of the first state record, found there on 7 May 1982 (see LOS News 107, December 1984).

HOUSE FINCH (Carpodacus mexicanus). One female or immature (84-36) in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, from 8 to 18 January 1978 (BH); one adult male (84-6) photographed at Fort Polk, Vernon Parish, from 30 March - 24 April 1984 (GP). These are the first Louisiana records for the species accepted by the Committee; two other records are currently under review.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

ARCTIC LOON (Gavia arctica). One in winter plumage (83-17) west of Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, 11 April 1983.

SOOTY SHEARWATER (Puffinus griseus). Four (84-31) off of Grand Isle, 25 August 1976.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER (Puffinus lherminieri). Six (83-10) at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, 22 February 1981.

GREAT CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax carbo). One immature (81-34A) at Fourchon Road, LaFourche Parish, 29 January 1978; one or two (81-34B,C) immatures at the east end of Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish, 5 February 1978; one (81-34D) immature at the east end of Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish, 12 February 1978.

BLACK-SHOULDERED (WHITE-TAILED) KITE (Elanus caeruleus). One (83-5) at the entrance to Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron Parish, 26 January 1983.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK (Accipiter gentilis). One adult (83-6) south of Swartz, Ouachita Parish, 29 January 1983.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (Buteo regalis). One immature (82-36) at East Jetty Woods, Cameron Parish, 31 October 1981; one immature (83-14) north of intersection of highways 190 and 71, St. Landry Parish, 28-30 January 1983; one (84-32) east of Hammond, Tangipahoa Parish, 22 January 1983.

MONGOLIAN PLOVER (Charadrius mongolus). One (84-17) at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, 5 May 1984.

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri). One immature (84-8) at Fontainebleau State Park, St. Tammany Parish, 1 April 1984.

GLAUCOUS GULL (Larus hyperboreus). One immature (81-37) at Rutherford Beach, Cameron Parish, 22 March 1981. This record unfortunately was decided on a technicality. The supporting photograph was accidentally lost during the review process. Many Committee members felt that the identification was correct, based on an initial examination of the original slide, but the accompanying written description was too weak to stand alone, and so was not accepted once the slide was lost. The Committee has learned its lesson from this accident, and no longer circulates unique copies of documentation. Contributors should draw their own lesson: while a photograph always helps support a record, it should always be accompanied by a good written description. Such descriptions serve to emphasize important features shown in the photograph, and to supply supplemental information not conveyed by the photograph.

ROSEATE TERN (Sterna dougallii). One adult (83-16) at Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish, 6 April 1983.

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (Myiarchus tyrannulus). One (84-22) near Lafayette, Lafayette Parish, 18 December 1983.

COUCH'S KINGBIRD (Tyrannus couchii). Pair (83-15) at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, 8 May 1971. Louisiana records of this species will come under intense scrutiny following the addition of the very similar Tropical Kingbird (see above) to the state list. Contributors should be aware, however, that the Committee is willing to review records as unresolved identifications in the case of look-alike pairs such as this (i. g., the Committee will review records submitted as Tropical, Couch's, or Tropical/Couch's).

ROCK WREN (Salpinctes obsoletus). One (84-12) south of Juanita, Beauregard Parish, 20 April 1984.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER (Dendroica kirtlandii). One (84-35) at Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, 21 September 1977.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (Oporornis agilis). One male (82-15) in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, 14 May 1980; one (83-18) at the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge, Madison Parish, 30 April 1983; one (83-20) at the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge, Madison Parish, 16 September 1983. As a result of these decisions, the Committee has effectively removed the Connecticut Warbler from the Louisiana list (see LOS News 111:4, October 1985).

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS:

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CORRIGENDUM:

In the last report (LOS News 107, December 1984) an error was made in reporting the records of Ash-throated Flycatcher; the correct date for record 82-31 is 15 December 1979.

REVIEW LIST

The following is a list of all species that the LOS Bird Records Committee solicits reports of (in addition to any species previously unrecorded in Louisiana). Included on the Review List are 3 recognizable geographic varieties that the Committee will review: "Great White Heron" (Great Blue Heron), "Plumbeous Vireo" (Solitary Vireo), and "Gray-headed" (Dark-eyed Junco). 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, Least Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Masked Booby, Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby, Northern Gannet, "Great White Heron," Black-bellied Whistling-duck, Tundra Swan, Trumpeter Swan (e), Ross' Goose, Brant, Eurasian Wigeon, Masked Duck

Black-shouldered Kite, Northern Goshawk, Swainson's Hawk, White-tailed Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Greater Prairie Chicken (e), Yellow Rail, Black Rail, Whooping Crane (e), Mongolian Plover, Eskimo Curlew, Purple Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope

Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Little Gull, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Roseate Tern, Bridled Tern, Brown Noddy, Ancient Murrelet, Band-tailed Pigeon, Passenger Pigeon (E), Inca Dove, Carolina Paroquet (E)

Flammulated Owl, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Vaux's Swift, Bull-bellied Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Williamson's Sapsucker, Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Western Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Sulfur-bellied Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Couch's Kingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Rock Wren, Northern Wheatear, Varied Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Sage Thrasher, Curve-billed Thrasher

"Plumbeous Vireo," Black-whiskered Vireo, Bachman's Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, Tropical Parula, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Blue Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Golden-crowned Sparrow, "Gray-headed Junco," McCown's Longspur, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Scott's Oriole, House Finch, Red Crossbill, Lesser Goldfinch.

(e) Extirpated from Louisiana
(E) Extinct