

# FIFTH 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 since the last report (Schulenberg 1986). During this period the Committee has reviewed 62 records. Among these are reports of two species that the Committee accepted as first state records: California Gull and Antillean Nighthawk. Also accepted by the Committee was the second state record of Lesser Goldfinch. The rate of acceptance for the records reported on here was 85%, significantly higher than the overall acceptance rate of 76% for all records reviewed by the Committee to date.

Since its inception in 1981, the Committee has reviewed over 200 bird records. As a result of these actions, the Committee has admitted 23 species to the Louisiana state list: Eurasian Wigeon, Zone-tailed Hawk, Mongolian Plover, Ruff, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Antillean Nighthawk, Anna's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Williamson's Sapsucker, Tropical Kingbird, Rock Wren, Varied Thrush, Tropical Parula, Townsend's Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, Blue Bunting, McCown's Longspur, and House Finch (Anonymous 1982, 1984;

Schulenberg 1984, 1986). The Committee has also voted to remove from the state list 9 species previously accepted by Lowery (1974): Greater Shearwater, White-tailed Tropicbird, Greater Flamingo, Harlequin Duck, Harris' Hawk, Black Francolin, Smooth-billed Ani, Connecticut Warbler, and Snow Bunting (Schulenberg 1985). Two taxonomic revisions have also affected the state list: the prior Louisiana record of Tropical Kingbird was found to refer to a relatively recently recognized species, Couch's Kingbird, while the Gray-headed Junco is now regarded as a subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco (AOU 1983). Taking all of these additions and deletions into account, the Louisiana state list currently stands at 423.

The Committee solicits reports of a species on the Review List, which is published at the end of this report, as well as of any species not previously recorded 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 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 party.

Committee members who voted on some or all of the following records are D. Bruce Crider, 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 *Check-list of North American Birds* (AOU 1983). Within each species account, records are usually arranged chronologically. The Committee's official file number for each record is given in parentheses. For records of birds at sea, the name of the parish of the nearest point on the mainland is placed 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 during which 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.

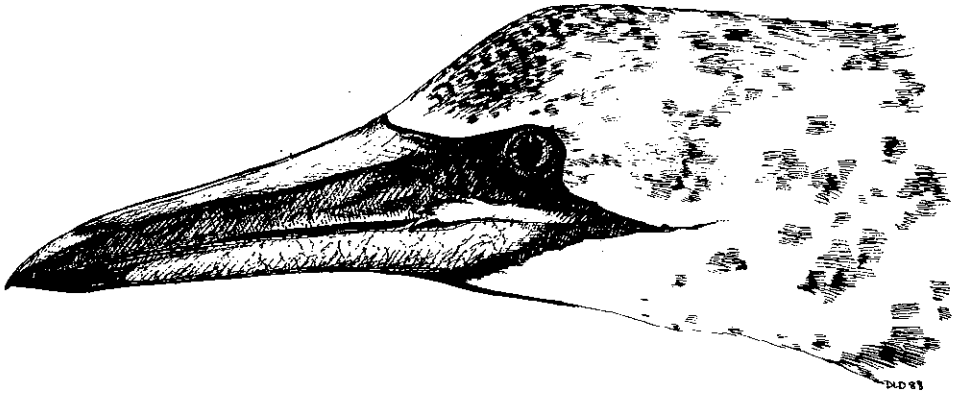
Photographs are not mentioned as documentation in a species account unless copies are on file with the committee. Photographs that are not submitted to the Committee, which could then store them for "posterity" and make them available to other researchers, are worthless from the point of view of documenting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

#### Accepted Records

WESTERN GREBE (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). One (85-

37) on the Mississippi River at New Orleans, Orleans/Jefferson Parish, from 3-6 November 1971 (DP,MM\*). This bird was photographed, and a photo published in *American Birds* (Purrington 1972:74). This was the first record of any kind of "Western Grebe" for Louisiana and was accepted by Lowery (1974). The American Ornithologists' Union "Check-list Committee" recently (AOU 1985: 680-681) recognized as a species the very similar Clark's Grebe (*A. clarkii*), formerly regarded as merely a color phase of the Western Grebe. This change in nomenclature requires that the Committee will review all previous Louisiana records of "Western" Grebe to ascertain to which species they in fact refer. The Committee has accepted the original 1971 record as a true Western Grebe. Other Louisiana records of "Western" Grebes have yet to be reviewed with the aim of differentiating between Western and Clark's Grebe's, and such review may in fact prove difficult in cases in which the relatively subtle distinctions between the two species were not noted at the time. (This is one more reason why a rare bird description should be as detailed and complete as possible, and *not* merely a recitation of currently accepted field-marks!)

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*). One (85-27) about 20 miles SSE of Southwest Pass at the mouth of the Mississippi River (Plaquemines Parish) on 11 June 1985 (MM); two (85-28) at the same location on 10 June 1985 (MM); one (86-11) about 8 miles south of East Timbalier Island (Lafourche Parish) on 15 July 1985 (DD,SC); two (86-12) 28-35 miles south of



Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*), adult. Pen and ink by Donna L. Dittmann.

Belle Pass (Lafourche Parish) on 16 July 1985 (DD,SC); one (86-13) 25-28 miles south of Belle Pass (Lafourche Parish) on 16 July 1985 (DD,SC); 12 (86-14) from 53 miles south of Barataria Pass to 55 miles south of Cheniere Caminada (Jefferson/Lafourche Parish) on 16 July 1985 (DD,SC); one (86-15) 18.5-25 miles south of Point au Fer Island (St. Mary/Terrebonne Parish) on 17 July 1985 (DD,SC). This rash of records substantiates the view that small numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels are regular visitors to Louisiana off-shore waters, and the Committee has removed this species from the Review List.

**MASKED BOOBY** (*Sula dactylatra*). One adult (85-24) about 62 nautical miles south of Raccoon Point (Terrebonne

Parish) on 19 July 1985 (MM); one adult (85-25) at the same location on 6 August 1985 (MM); and one adult (85-30), also at the same location, on 31 August 1985 (MM).

**BROWN BOOBY** (*Sula leucogaster*). One (85-26) photographed about 20 miles South-southeast of Southwest Pass at the mouth of the Mississippi River (Plaquemines Parish) from 29 May to 8 June 1985 (MM). This bird was an immature, not an adult as previously reported (Imhof 1985).

**NORTHERN GANNET** (*Sula bassanus*.) Two (86-17), one mile southeast of Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish, on 2 February 1986 (DD,SC); one immature (86-18) found dead (LSUMZ #126836) about one mile east of Belle Pass, Lafourche Parish, on 11 September 1985 (DD; GR,DM); 3 or 4

immatures (86-19) at "Rutherford Beach," 2-10 miles west of the old mouth of the Mermentau River, Cameron Parish, on 20 December 1985 (DD,SC). This species is now regarded as a regular winter visitor to Louisiana, and is no longer on the Review List.

**TUNDRA SWAN** (*Cygnus columbianus*). Six birds (85-3), 3 ad., 3 immatures, seven miles south of Start, Richland Parish, from 26 January to 24 February 1985 (TK;HJ,PD, et al). These birds were part of a small invasion into Louisiana during the winter of 1984-85; see Muth (1985) and Schulenberg (1986).

**BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** (*Elanus caeruleus*). One (86-21) at Hackberry Ridge, west of Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish, on 16 September 1984 (DD; GR,VR,DM).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** (*Buteo swainsoni*). One (85-8) at Cameron, Cameron Parish, on 4 May 1985 (JA;CA,TD); one immature (85-12) photographed about 1 mile west of the Calcasieu Pass ferry at Cameron on 19 December 1982 (MM; JS,JW).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus lobatus*). One immature (86-20) collected (LSUMZ 126654) at Hackberry Ridge, Cameron Parish, on 22 December 1985 (DD,SC).

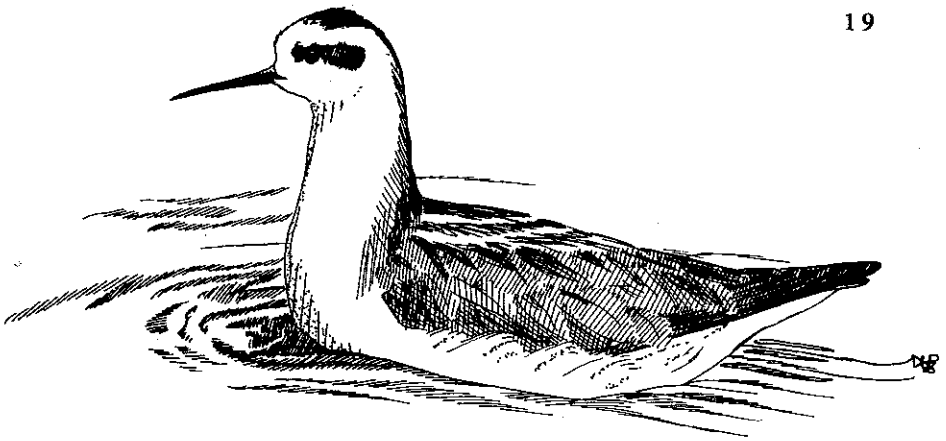
**POMARINE JAEGER** (*Skua pomarinus*). One immature and one adult or sub-adult (85-15) about 20 miles South-southeast of Southwest Pass at the mouth of the Mississippi River (Plaquemines Parish) on 4 April 1985 (MM); one sub-adult (85-21) at the same

location 12 May 1985 (MM) (Imhof erroneously reported an adult Parasitic Jaeger at this location on this date); one adult (85-20) about 62 nmi south of Raccoon Point (Terrebonne Parish) on 29 June 1985 (MM).

**PARASITIC JAEGER** (*Skua parasiticus*). One adult and one immature (85-18) about 62 nautical miles south of Raccoon Point (Terrebonne Parish) on 7 July 1985 (MM); one adult (85-19) about 20 miles South-southeast of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River (Plaquemines Parish) on 6 May 1985 (MM); one adult (85-31) about 62 nautical miles south of Raccoon Point on 31 August 1985 (MM).

**LITTLE GULL** (*Larus minutus*). One immature photographed between Holly Beach and Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish, from 27 April to 12 May 1985 (KR\*,PM,DP;BC, et al). This is believed to be only the fourth or fifth record for Louisiana.

**CALIFORNIA GULL** (*Larus californicus*). The following records are all from "Rutherford Beach," 2-10 miles west of the old mouth of the Mermentau River, Cameron Parish: one first winter immature (86-27) found on 29 September 1985 and collected the following day (LSUMZ 126708) (DD,SC\*); one second-winter immature (86-29) collected (LSUMZ 126709) on 12 October 1985 (DD,SC\*); one second-winter immature (86-30) from 13 to 25 October 1985 (DD,SC\*; VR,MM, DP,NoN,DM); one winter adult (85-34) on 25 November 1985 (JK;DH); one winter adult (86-31) from 27 November to 8 December 1985 (DD\*,SC); one



Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), winter adult. Pen and ink by Donna L. Dittmann.

winter adult (86-32) on 8 December 1985 (DD,SC\*). This is an amazing set of records for a species not previously recorded in Louisiana. Details of the plumage, size, and soft-part colors of these seven records suggest that at least six individual California Gulls were represented by these sightings. Only two winter adults were believed to have been present during November and December, so there is evidently some overlap in the three reports from this period; the descriptions suggest that records 85-34 and 86-32 refer to the same individual.

**THAYER'S GULL** (*Larus thayeri*). Three records of first-winter immatures, all from the New Orleans city dump on Almonaster Road, Orleans Parish; one (83-12) collected (LSUMZ 103493) on 28 February 1982 (DP,SC;DM\*); one (85-7) on 23 December 1984 (DM\*,JH); one (86-10) on 29 December 1985 (JH\*,DM).

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus fuscus*). One sub-

adult (84-15), at least three years old, photographed on "Rutherford Beach," west of the old mouth of the Mermentau River, Cameron Parish, on 26 April 1985 (KR).

**GLAUCOUS GULL** (*Larus hyperboreus*). One immature (85-9) photographed on Fourchon Beach, Lafourche Parish, on 21 April 1985 (PW\*;AS,GS,CS,JS); one in first winter immature (85-35) two miles west of Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, on 25 November 1985 (KR;DH).

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus marinus*). One adult (85-6) along "Rutherford Beach," west of the old mouth of the Mermentau River, Cameron Parish, on 2 March 1985 (TK).

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTI-WAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*). One immature (85-16) five miles south of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River, Plaquemines Parish, on 1 April 1985 (MM); one immature (86-8) at the West Jetty at the mouth of Calcasieu

Pass, Cameron Parish, on 26-27 April 1985 (KR\*;NoN,DM,MM, DP).

**BRIDLED TERN** (*Sterna anaethetus*) One adult and three immatures (85-22) about 20 miles South-southeast of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River on 10 June 1985 (MM).

**INCA DOVE** (*Columbina inca*). Three adults (84-18), including a pair that successfully bred in Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish from 26 February to 31 March 1984 (DB); a bird on the nest was photographed. This represents the first confirmed nesting record for Louisiana. Inca Doves are clearly increasing in the Lake Charles area, from breeding, immigration, or both. The main colony has grown slowly but steadily (see Muth 1985). The Committee

currently regards the Inca Dove as a regular, although local, breeding bird, similar in status to other highly local breeding species such as Crested Caracara or Bronzed Cowbird. Inca Dove has been removed from the Review List.

**ANTILLEAN NIGHTHAWK** (*Chordeiles gundlachii*). One (83-3) in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, from 27 May to 17 August 1977 and (presumably the same bird) 24 to 26 May 1978 (JR\*;DP,BN, et al). Vocalizations of this bird were tape-recorded by Purrington and the tape was invaluable in documenting this record. The Antillean Nighthawk is very similar to the Common Nighthawk and was only recently recognized by the A.O.U. "Check-List Committee" as a separate species (AOU 1983). The typical "songs" of the Antillean and Common



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*), immature, at Fourchon Beach, Lafourche Parish, April 21, 1985. Photo by Phillip Wallace.

Nighthawks are quite distinct, allowing for field identification of calling birds. This is the only U.S. record to date outside of Florida.

**SAY'S PHOEBE** (*Sayornis saya*). One (86-4) in northwestern Red River Parish on Yearwood Road, near La Chute, from 21 January to 9 February 1986 (MH, TK, AE, PL, JA, PD, PM; HJ) This is the seventh or eighth state record and the first for northern Louisiana.

**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). One collected (LSUMZ 122216) eight miles southwest of Ringgold, Bienville Parish, on 13 January 1985 (PD\*; DD). There is only one other record for northern Louisiana from Concordia Parish (Lowery 1974).

**GRAY KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). One (85-23) about 20 miles SSE of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River (Plaquemines Parish) on 30 May 1985 (MM).

**"PLUMBEOUS" SOLITARY VIREO** (*Vireo solitarius plumbeus*). One immature (85-36) collected (LSUMZ 118774) at Hackberry Ridge, west of Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish, on 16 September 1984 (VR). This western subspecies breeds in the Great Basin and Rocky Mountains. While the Committee does not normally review records of subspecies, recent unpublished information (*vide* V. Remsen) suggests that the "Plumbeous" form may represent a full species. This form has now been added to the Review List. I know of no other records of this subspecies in the eastern U.S.

**SCOTT'S ORIOLE** (*Icterus parisorum*). One immature male (84-38) photographed in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, on 24-25 October 1984 (NoN\*, MM); one adult male (85-4) at Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish, on 19 February 1985 (AS, GS); one adult male (86-3), photographed, at a feeder in Heflin, Webster Parish, from 18 December to 29 March 1986 (VD, PM; BC, PD, et al). There are only six previous records for Louisiana, and no Scott's Oriole had been reported in the state since 1974; the record from Webster Parish is the first from northern Louisiana.

**LESSER GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis psaltria*). One sub-adult male (85-5) photographed at a feeder in Gretna, Jefferson Parish, from 19 January to 20 February 1985 (FB\*; BC, DP, BN, et al). The only other state record is of a bird in Cameron Parish in 1954.

### Unaccepted Records

The following records were not accepted by the Committee. It is rather uncommon for a record to be rejected because the bird was obviously mis-identified. More often, a record may be denied acceptance because the information provided was not sufficient to document the reported occurrence. It is very difficult to supply the Committee with too much detail on a record; it is all too easy, however, to not take enough time to describe a bird well.

**WHITE-TAILED HAWK** (*Buteo albicaudatus*). On immature (85-13) four miles south of DeQuincy, Calcasieu Parish, on 19 March 1985.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*). One adult (85-32) on "Rutherford Beach," west of the old mouth of the Mermentau River, Cameron Parish, on 19 October 1985.

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*). One immature (86-9) two miles west of Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, from 25 to 28 April 1985. This bird was "mostly" Glaucous in its features, but the wing-tips were noticeably darker than the rest of the wing, suggesting some degree of hybridization with some other species of gull.

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KING-BIRD (*Tyrannus melan-cholicus/ couchii*). One (83-19) near Bains, West Feliciana Parish, on 3 June 1983.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (*Dendroica townsendi*). One (84-37) in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, on 27 November 1984.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (*Spizella arborea*). One (84-29) near Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, on 3 February 1977; one (86-1) near Ball, Rapides Parish, on 18 December 1985.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE (*Icterus parisorum*). One female (86-6) at Heflin, Webster Parish, 21-22 January 1986. The photograph of this bird reveals it to be a female "Baltimore Oriole."

#### Contributors and Observers

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### Appendix: The Review List

The following is a list of all species for which the LOS Bird Records Committee solicits reports (in addition to any species not previously recorded in Louisiana). Included on the Review List are three recognizable geographic varieties that the Committee will review: "Great White Heron" (Great Blue Heron), "Plumbeous Vireo" (Solitary Vireo), and "Gray-headed Junco" (Dark-eyed Junco). Three species (Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Northern Gannet, and Inca Dove) have been deleted from the Review List since it was last published (LOS News No. 113, April 1986), and one species (Golden Eagle) has been added. Contributors are encouraged, although by no means required, to use the Committee's official report form, available from the Secretary (Museum of Zoology, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 70803-3216).

Red-throated Loon, Least Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Audubon's Shearwater, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Masked Booby, Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby, "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, Golden Eagle, 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, California 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), Carolina Parakeet (E), Flammulated Owl, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Antillean Nighthawk, Vaux's Swift, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, William-son's Sapsucker, Ivory-billed Wood-pecker.

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

"Plumbeous Vireo", Black-whiskered Vireo, Bachman's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, 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