

REPORT OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CHECKLIST AND RECORDS COMMITTEE

OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2004

Committee Members

Terry Moore (Chairman), Jim Flynn (Secretary), Malcolm Hodges, Pierre Howard, Ty Ivey, and Brad Winn

Note: This report completes the Georgia Ornithological Society's Checklist and Records Committee (GCRC) activity for the year 2004. A summary of the committee's activity for the first 9 months of 2004 was published in *The Oriole* 69(3/4):70-72.

Review Species Report Summary

During the final quarter of 2004, 19 reports of 11 species were received by the GCRC for review. Seventeen reports were accepted, one was rejected, and one was commuted to a second round of voting in accordance with GCRC by-laws. One new species (Thayer's Gull) was added to the official GOS Checklist, bringing the regular list to 409 species. There are also 8 Provisional species, for a total of 417 species.

Conventions used in this report include:

- GCRC Record Identifier: Year of the report submission (not the year of the observation) followed by a hyphen and a unique sequential identifier. For example: 2004-08.
- Species Name: Follows the American Ornithologists' Union's (AOU) Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (AOU 1998) and incorporates changes in subsequent supplements through the Forty-fifth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (AOU 2004).
- Location of observation.
- Date of observation/date of report submission.
- Only observers authoring reports are mentioned in this summary. Other sources, such as "From the field" (published in *The Oriole*) should be consulted for proper credit of initial discovery.

2004-08 MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*): Discovered behind the Bird Watchers Supply store along Pleasant Hill Rd., Duluth, Gwinnett Co.; 29 September - 12 October 2004. The original observer declined to submit a report to the committee, but Earl Horn's report with photos was accepted unanimously and becomes the second Georgia record for the species.

2004-09 Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*): Pelagic trip, Navy tower R7 (31°49.046N, 80°16.560W); 19 August - 25 October 2004. Russ Wigh's report of 3 juveniles with photos by him and Pierre Howard was accepted unanimously and becomes the third Georgia record for this species.

2004-10 Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*): Winston, Douglas Co.; 29 April - 25 October 2004. Bob Zaremba's report with photographs of an adult male of this species was accepted unanimously and becomes approximately the seventeenth Georgia record for this species.

2004-11 Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*): Lake Blalock, Henry Co.; 6 June - 25 October 2004. Bob Zaremba's report with photographs was accepted unanimously. This is possibly the second record of this formerly rare and local (now accidental) Coastal Plain resident in the Piedmont geophysical province.

2004-12A – 2004-12E Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*): Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, Richmond Co.; 24 October 2004/24-30 October 2004. Five observers submitted reports for this bird discovered on an Atlanta Audubon Field Trip. Four of the reports were accepted unanimously (Lois Stacey, who provided photos with her report, along with reports from Bob Zaremba, Bill Lotz, and Paul Sykes). One report (2004-12E) was not accepted due to a split Committee vote. Dissenting committee members noted that there were conflicting plumage descriptions. This discovery was the fourth record for this species for the state.

2004-13 Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*): Pelagic trip, approximately 31°40.643N, 80°36.863W; 10 August - 25 October 2004. A sight record for this species was submitted, but will be re-circulated in a second round due to unresolved first round voting results.

2004-14 Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*): Pelagic trip; GPS not recorded; described as approximately 80 mi off of the coast of Tybee Island,

Chatham Co.; 25 June - 4 November 2004. A sight report submitted by Malcolm Hodges was accepted 5-0, with Malcolm abstaining.

2004-15 Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*): Spring Creek arm of Lake Seminole, Decatur Co.; 12-16 September 2004. A sight report submitted by Michael Bell was accepted unanimously, becoming the third accepted state record for the species.

2004-16 Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*): Jekyll Island, Glynn Co.; 14 November 2004. A sight report submitted by Paul Sykes was accepted unanimously. The bird described by Paul generally fits that of the Caribbean race (*P. f. fulva*), but the pattern of vagrancy for this subspecies has not been as well documented as the Mexican subspecies (*P. f. pelodoma*). Seventh record of this species for the state.

2004-17 Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*): near Lake Pamona, Liberty Co.; 6-19 November 2004. A sight report submitted by Jim Flynn was accepted 5-0, with Jim abstaining. Sixth record of this species for the state.

2004-18 Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*): West Point Dam, Troup Co.; 20-24 November 2004. Earl Horn's report with photographs was accepted unanimously. The observers who discovered this bird declined to submit a report. This becomes the first documented record for the species in Georgia. There are several previous reports of Thayer's Gull in the state, but difficulty with producing adequate documentation to separate this species from 'Kumlien's' Iceland Gull (*L. glaucooides kumlieni*), Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), and associated hybrids and back-crosses has precluded acceptance by the GCRC.

2004-19 Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*): Pelagic trip, Navy tower M2R6 (31°32.006N, 81°14.500W); 2-4 December 2004. A report with photographs by Russ Wigh was accepted unanimously, making it the fourth state record for this species.

2004-20A – 2004-20B Brant (*Branta bernicla*): Jekyll Island, Glynn Co.; 27 November 2004/30 November -10 December 2004. Two reports were submitted for this species, one by Earl Horn (with photographs) and the other by Sterling Blanchard. Both reports were accepted 5-0, with one committee member abstaining (without comment), making it the tenth accepted record for the species in Georgia.

2004-21 Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*): Decatur, DeKalb Co.; 11-16 December 2004. This bird was captured by bander Rusty Trump and determined to be the same individual that he banded at this location in December 2003 (GCRC record 2003-20). Rusty's report with photos was accepted unanimously for the tenth state record.

Changes to the Georgia Checklist

During 2004, the AOU published the Forty-fifth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds. In the supplement, several changes occurred that affected the GOS Official Checklist. These changes are summarized as follows:

Taxonomy

Brant and Canada Goose switch taxonomic order (Brant now precedes Canada Goose).

Nomenclature

The scientific name of Spotted Sandpiper was changed from *Actitis macularia* to *Actitis macularius*.

The scientific name of Worm-eating Warbler was changed from *Helmitheros vermivorus* to *Helmitheros vermivorum*.

"Splits" and "Lumps"

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) was split into 2 species: Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) and Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*).

Canada Goose is comprised of the "large-bodied" group: *B. c. canadensis*, *B. c. interior*, *B. c. maxima*, *B. c. moffitti*, *B. c. parvipes*, *B. c. fulva*, and *B. c. occidentalis*.

Cackling Goose is comprised of the "small-bodied" group: *B. h. hutchinsii*, *B. h. asiatica*, *B. h. leucopareia*, *B. h. taverneri*, and *B. h. minima*.

There is one Georgia report (Sewell 1996) of a “Richardson’s” Canada Goose (formerly *B. c. hutchinsii*), now the nominate subspecies of Cackling Goose (*B. h. hutchinsii*). However, because it was classified as a subspecies of Canada Goose at the time of discovery, the report was not reviewed by the GCRC.

Literature Cited

- American Ornithologists’ Union. 1998. Checklist of North American birds, 7th ed. American Ornithologists’ Union, Washington, D.C.
- American Ornithologists’ Union. 2004. Forty-fifth supplement to the American Ornithologists’ Union checklist of North American birds. *Auk* 121(3):985–995.
- Beaton, G., P. W. Sykes Jr., J. W. Parrish Jr. 2003. Annotated checklist of Georgia birds. Georgia Ornithological Society, No. 14.
- Sewell, J. 1996. From the field. *The Oriole* 61(1):16.

REPORT OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CHECKLIST AND RECORDS COMMITTEE JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2005

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Review Species Report Summary

During 2005, 19 reports of 15 species were received by the Georgia Checklist and Records Committee (GCRC) for review. Seventeen reports were accepted and 2 were rejected. One new species (Buff-bellied Hummingbird) was added to the official GOS Checklist, bringing the Regular List to 410 species. The Provisional List remains at 8 species, for a total of 418 species on the Regular Checklist.

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- GCRC Record Identifier: Year of the report submission (not the year of the observation) followed by a hyphen and a unique sequential identifier. For example: 2005-08.