

## REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Michael Todd  
178 Diamond Drive  
McKenzie, TN 38201

This report summarizes the actions taken by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC) of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) from the winter 2003 through 2004 timeframe. Some records were voted on by different individuals, as there is typically at least one member rotating off every year, with someone else coming on. Committee members and alternate that voted on these records were: Jay Desgrollier, K Dean Edwards, John Henderson, Rick Knight, Nell Moore (Alternate), Dick Preston, Rob Peeples, Chris Sloan, Micheal Todd (Secretary).

Acceptance criteria is as follows: A species is placed on the confirmed list based upon either (a) extant, verified specimen, photograph, or sound recording, each accompanied by written details, or (b) satisfactory written documentation of three independent sight records, or three independent observers of the same bird. Without these levels of documentation a species is placed on the Provisional list based on one or two sight records with satisfactory written documentation. Acceptance to either list requires either a unanimous vote in favor, or at most with one dissenting vote, out of 6 votes cast.

This report contains ten records, nine of which were accepted, and publication of one past record.

### **Records Accepted:**

**Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*): Written documentation by Ken Leggett and Glen Criswell of a bird on June 7, 2004, at White Lake Refuge in Dyer Co.

Vote: 5-1

This species is on the Official State List already, listed as casual with this being the 4<sup>th</sup> record that the TBRC has reviewed and passed. There are other records which haven't been submitted.

**Great White Heron** (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*): Written documentation and photographs by Steven J. Stedman of a bird present from September 21 to November 11 of 2002 in both DeKalb and Putnam Co.

Vote: 6-0

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for this Great Blue Heron subspecies for TN. This subspecies is very rare north of Florida.

**White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadis chihi*): Written documentation and photograph from Ron Hoff and Dollyann Myers of fourteen of these birds on June 5, 2003 along the Great River Rd. in Dyer Co.

Vote: 6-0

This species is already on the Official State List, listed as accidental. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> record that has been reviewed and passed by the TBRC. There are other records which haven't been submitted.

**Black-necked Stilt** (*Himantopus mexicanus*): Written documentation and photographs of two adults seen by Judy C. Fuson and Carol D. Williams, on May 8, 2004 in DeKalb Co.

Vote: 6-0

This species is regular in west TN, but quite rare towards the eastern end of the State

**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginia*): Written documentation by Terry Witt of a juvenile bird seen on October 4, 2004 at Britton Ford in Henry Co.

Vote: 5-1

This species is already on the Official State List, as accidental. This is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for TN.

**Gull-billed Tern** (*Sterna nilotica*): Written documentation by Michael Todd of an adult bird seen on May 22, 2004 along the Great River Rd in Dyer Co.

Vote: 6-0

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> record of this species for TN, and is placed in the Provisional section of the Official State List as it was a single observer observation.

**Sooty Tern** (*Sterna fuscata*): Written documentation by Kevin Calhoun of an adult on September 17, 2004 at Nickajack Dam in Marion Co.

Vote: 6-0

This species is on the Official State List, and is accidental in the State.

**Calliope Hummingbird** (*Stellula calliope*): Written documentation of an adult male seen by Jo and Scott McMillan on October 29, 2003 of a bird in Louisville, TN; Blount Co.

Vote: 6-0

This species is on the Official State List, listed as casual. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> record for this species in TN.

**Townsend's Warbler** (*Dendroica townsendi*): Written documentation by Rick Knight of an adult male seen on January 13, 2004 at Wilbur Lake in Carter Co.

Vote: 5-0

This species is on the Official State List, listed as accidental. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> sight record of this species for TN, which moves it off the Provisional list.

In addition, it has been brought to my attention that we have at least one record on the books, that apparently never made it into The Migrant. The following record thus hasn't shown up in record-form in The Migrant:

**Lazuli Bunting** (*Passerina amoena*): Written documentation of a female seen by Jeff Wilson and Mark Greene, on May 3-4, 1996, at the EARTH Complex, Shelby Co.

Vote: 6-0

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> record of this species in the State, with it being placed in the Provisional Category.

**Records Not Accepted:**

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (*Calidris acuminata*): written documentation of an adult by Virginia Reynolds and Linda Zimpel on September 9, 2004 at Ensley Bottoms in Shelby Co.

Vote: 0-6

There is one previous record of this species for TN. This record wasn't accepted because all similar species couldn't be eliminated from the description.

The list of observers who submitted documentation and/or photographs to the Committee for these records: Ken Leggett, Glen Criswell, Steven Stedman, Ron Hoff, Judy Fuson, Carol Williams, Terry Witt, Michael Todd, Kevin Calhoun, Jo McMillan, Rick Knight, Jeff Wilson, Mark Greene, Virginia Reynolds, and Linda Zempel.

If you have questions about the status of a particular species, the Official List of Tennessee Birds can be found in the Tennessee Bird Records Committee section of the Tennessee Ornithological Society website ([www.tnbirds.org](http://www.tnbirds.org)). This list was designed as a guide to the status and distribution of the avifauna of Tennessee. A rare bird reporting form can be downloaded from the same section of the TOS website.