

# 2005 ABA Checklist Report

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Since the Committee's previous report (Robbins et al. 2004), we have reached decisions on five species, all of which were unanimously accepted and added to the *ABA Checklist*. We anticipate receiving documentation of a Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) record in the near future.

Since the previous report, several Committee membership changes have occurred. In the fall of 2003, Jon Dunn and Donna Dittmann were replaced by Paul Lehman and Bill Pranty, respectively. In the fall of 2004, Andy Kratter was elected to serve a second term, and Kevin Zimmer replaced Kimball Garrett. Dunn, Dittmann, and Garrett all had served a second term and as required by our Committee's bylaws must rotate off the Committee for at least one year. We are very grateful to the three of them for their long service to the Committee. We continue to tap Kimball's expertise, as he is now serving as a member on the ABA-CLC Exotic Species Subcommittee (see below). In October 2005, Lasley and Robbins completed their second terms and were replaced by Mark Lockwood and Jon Dunn, respectively. Bill Pranty is the new Chair.

### New Species Accepted

**Mangrove Swallow** (*Tachycineta albilinea*); ABA-CLC Record #2004-1; single adult, 18–25 November 2002, Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida. Added to *ABA Checklist* as Code 5 species; placed after Tree Swallow. Thoroughly documented with diagnostic photographs by several observers (Sykes et al. 2004). The bird was initially found by Murray Gardler. Unanimously accepted by the ABA-CLC and by the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee.

Although this species is a resident primarily along both coasts from northern Mexico through Central America, it does occur as high as 1,000 meters in Costa Rica (Stiles and Skutch 1989), with some seasonal movements (Howell and Webb 1995). It was predicted to occur in Arizona and Texas (Jones 1998, Lasley and Lockwood 1999), but not in Florida. Its appearance in Florida may have been the result of one or more weather systems resulting from the El Niño – Southern Oscillation (Sykes et al. 2004). For a thorough discussion of the identification of this species, see Sykes et al. (2004).



Adult Mangrove Swallow. Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida; 20 November 2002. © Lyn S. Atherton.

**Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush** (*Catharus mexicanus*); ABA-CLC Record #2004-3; Single adult, 27 May – 29 October 2004, Pharr, Hidalgo County, Texas. Added to *ABA Checklist* as Code 5 species; placed after Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush. Excellent photographs (including one on the cover of *North American Birds*, 2004, vol. 58, no. 3) by several observers documented the record (Lockwood and Bates 2005). The bird was initially found by Robert Bates. Unanimously accepted by the ABA-CLC and by the Texas Bird Records Committee.

Apparently, this species is partially migratory in the northern part of its range (*vide* John Arvin), and the dates of the bird's presence are consistent with that premise. The species is found as far north as southern Tamaulipas, Mexico (Howell and Webb 1995).

**Cape Verde Shearwater** (*Calonectris edwardsii*); ABA-CLC Record #2005-1; single individual, 15 August 2004, approximately 49 kilometers southeast of Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina. Added to *ABA Checklist* as Code 5 species; placed after Cory's Shearwater. Superb photographs accompanied the sighting by 39 observers (Patteson and Armistead 2004). Unanimously accepted by the ABA-CLC and accepted by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee.

Although originally described as a species, *edwardsii* had been lumped with Cory's Shearwater (*C. diomedea*) for 80 years until Bannerman and Bannerman (1968) and later Hazevoet (1995) recognized the species. The AOU has not yet made a formal decision on its taxonomic status, which is currently under review. Patteson and Armistead (2004) provide a summary of this shearwater's taxonomic history and identification. Movements away from the Cape Verde archipelago breeding grounds are poorly known; however, Cape Verde Shearwater was anticipated to occur in Atlantic North American waters, as there was one possible sight record on 3 June 1993 at Cape Point, Buxton, North Carolina (Davis 1993, Brinkley 2000).

**Black-bellied Storm-Petrel** (*Fregetta tropica*); ABA-CLC Record #2005-2; single bird, 31 May 2004, approximately 77 kilometers southeast of Oregon Inlet, North Carolina. Added to *ABA Checklist* as Code 5 species; placed after White-faced Storm-Petrel. Diagnostic photographs accompanied the observation by 20 people (Guris et al. 2004). Unanimously accepted by the ABA-CLC and accepted by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee.

As with Cape Verde Shearwater, the presence of this species in Atlantic North American waters had been pre-

dicted (Brinkley 2000). This storm-petrel is a circumpolar breeder on islands in Antarctic and Subantarctic waters; it disperses northward during the non-breeding months to subtropical and tropical waters in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans (Enticott and Tipling 1997).

**Social Flycatcher** (*Myiozetetes similis*); ABA-CLC Record #2005-3; single bird, 7–14 January 2005, Bentsen – Rio Grande Valley State Park, Hidalgo County, Texas. Added to *ABA Checklist* as Code 5 species; placed after Great Kiskadee. Excellent photographs accompanied the observation by numerous people; the bird was first found and identified by John Arvin. Unanimously accepted by the ABA-CLC and by the Texas Bird Records Committee.

This species was anticipated to occur in south Texas, as it is common about 250 kilometers south of Brownsville (G. Lasley, personal communication).

### Exotic Species Subcommittee

In early 2005, the ABA-CLC formed a subcommittee to deal with exotic, i.e., non-native, birds that now occur in the ABA Area as a result of accidental or intentional introductions by humans. Surprising as it may seem, the ABA-CLC has never had such a committee—or even formal guidelines—to guide it through decisions on whether or not to add an exotic to the *ABA Checklist*. As a result, the CLC's voting record on exotics has been inconsistent, with no standardized criteria to follow. Some species accepted to previous checklists have subsequently been removed. Furthermore, the CLC bylaws require that a local committee first add an exotic to its list before the ABA-CLC can vote on adding it to the *ABA Checklist*. However, only two local committees (those in California and Florida) among all the states and Canadian provinces have developed criteria to determine when an exotic is established. Needless to say, there exists a great deal of inconsistency as regards how exotics are added to state or provincial lists.

Members of the subcommittee (not necessarily members of the ABA-CLC) are Kimball Garrett, Chris Haney, Mark Lockwood, and Bill Pranty. The subcommittee's primary



Male **Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush**. Pharr, Hidalgo County, Texas; 31 May 2004. © Ruth Hoyt.



After-second-year **Cape Verde Shearwater**. Off Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina; 15 August 2004. © J. Brian Patteson.



**Black-bellied Storm-Petrel**. Off Oregon Inlet, North Carolina; 31 May 2004. © Michael H. Tove.

goal will be to establish a set of criteria (such as population size and persistence) that will allow more-consistent acceptance of exotic birds to the *ABA Checklist*. We hope that the ABA's criteria will also be used by state and/or provincial committees so that a standard set of criteria is in place continent-wide. Secondary goals of the subcommittee include discussing how to handle those exotics that already have been placed on the ABA list but that would not meet revised ABA-CLC criteria; deciding what to do with exotics that are strongly dependent on humans for their survival; and ruling

on placement on the checklist of exotics previously considered established but that subsequently become extirpated (e.g., the Crested Mynas in Vancouver and probably soon the Budgerigars in Florida).

It is hoped that the exotics subcommittee will have its first report ready for full vote by the ABA-CLC by the middle of 2006. We already have one potential addition to the *ABA Checklist* that is awaiting the subcommittee's revised criteria: Black-hooded Parakeet (*Nandayus nenday*) has been accepted to the Florida list based on a large and increasing population located primarily in the St. Petersburg area.

### Acknowledgments

Mark Lockwood kindly provided details on the Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush and Social Flycatcher records. We thank Lockwood, Chris Haney, and Kimball Garrett for serving on the Exotic Species subcommittee.

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Adult **Social Flycatcher**. Hidalgo County, Texas; 14 January 2005. © Geoff Malosh.

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**Black-hooded Parakeet** (shown here is a flock being evicted from its nest cavity by a Pileated Woodpecker) is likely to be added to the ABA Checklist, pending the first report of the new Exotic Species Subcommittee. St. Petersburg, Florida; 13 February 2005. © Don Margeson.

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