

ABA Checklist Committee 2003 Annual Report

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In 2003 the ABA Checklist Committee (hereafter, the Committee) reached decisions on seven species, of which six were accepted and added to the Checklist, with the seventh being assigned to the Origin Hypothetical category. This recently adopted category was described in the Committee's previous annual report (Robbins et al. 2003:142). See "Checklist Changes" (pp. 22–23) for recent nomenclatural and taxonomic changes by the AOU that affect the ABA Checklist.

The Committee has created an Appended List of Exotics to the ABA Checklist that includes species which were formerly established in our area but which no longer maintain viable populations here. This list includes the recently extirpated Crested Myna population in Vancouver, British Columbia (Self 2003).

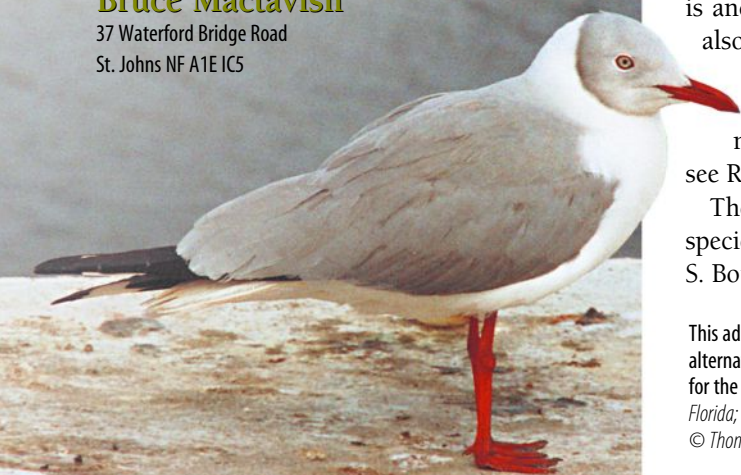
The Committee will soon begin working on revising the ABA Checklist. In response to several comments, the upcoming seventh edition will add a line, as in the fifth edition, immediately below each species' name—so that users can indicate personal data in their own copies of the Checklist. We would greatly appreciate receiving comments on the current (sixth) edition, especially in regard to incorrect information on bird records. Please recall that a number of corrections to the current edition already have been published (see Robbins et al. 2003). Those will be incorporated into the seventh edition.

New Species Accepted

Great-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*). ABA-CLC Record # 2002-4; 1 bird. 18 October 1998, Monterey Bay, Monterey County, California. Documented by numerous observers, with photos on the California Bird Records Committee website and on the cover of *North American Birds* (1999; 53[1]). Accepted 7-1 by the Committee. There is another record for the species (not reviewed by this committee), also photographed, from Cordell Bank, Marin County, California, 21 July – 24 August 1996 (Rottenborn and Morlan 2000). Both records were accepted by the California Bird Records Committee; for more information on identification and distribution, see Rottenborn and Morlan (2000) and Rogers and Jaramillo (2002).

The Great-winged Petrel is a polytypic Southern Hemisphere species that is nearly circumpolar. It regularly ranges north to 25–30° S. Both California birds exhibited characters consistent with the New Zealand subspecies, *P. m. gouldi*, which shows more extensive white on the face than does the one other subspecies of Great-winged Petrel. The *gouldi* subspecies is a common breeder on the islets and headlands of the

This adult Gray-hooded Gull in alternate plumage was the first for the ABA Area. *Apalachicola, Florida*; 26 December 1998.
© Thomas L. Lewis.



North Island of New Zealand. These are the first records for Great-winged Petrel north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

Great-winged Petrel is placed between Northern Fulmar and Herald Petrel on the ABA Checklist.

Gray-hooded Gull (*Larus cirrocephalus*). ABA-CLC Record # 2003-1; adult in alternate plumage. 26 December 1998, Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida. Written and photographic documentation provided by Douglas McNair (1999). This record received unanimous support from the ABA Committee from an identification standpoint and a 7-1 vote for occurring under natural conditions. There is a prior sight record for Panama (Ridgely 1976), which was an important reason for which the Committee accepted this record as pertaining to natural vagrancy.

This polytypic species is widespread in the Southern Hemisphere. The African subspecies (*poiocephalus*) breeds as far north as Mauritania, and it has occurred once as a vagrant as far north as the Marismas of Guadalquivir, Spain (Ree 1973). In South America, the nominate subspecies breeds as far north as Ecuador.

Gray-hooded Gull is placed between Heermann's Gull and Belcher's Gull (see "Checklist Changes", pp. 22–23) on the ABA Checklist.

Cuban Pewee (*Contopus caribaeus*). ABA-CLC Record # 2003-6; 1 bird. 11 March – 4 April 1995, Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, Florida. Found by Brian Hope and written documentation provided by him and P. William Smith. A videotape with vocalizations accompanied the written documentation and made the evaluation straightforward for the ABA-CLC; the record was unanimously accepted. Written details, along with a black-and-white photograph, appear in *Field Notes* (1995; 49:242). The record has been accepted by the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee, and documentation was forwarded to the ABA Checklist Committee in April 2003.

There have been several additional Florida observations, but only one of these, a sight observation by B. Quinn and M. Haig of a single bird on 16 February 2001 at Key Largo Hammocks State Botanical Site, Monroe County, was accepted by the Florida Ornithological Records Committee. This West Indian species, also known as the Crescent-eyed Pewee, is found on the Bahamas (Grand Bahama, Abaco, New Providence, Eleuthera, and Cat Islands) and on Cuba (Raffaële et al. 1998).

Cuban Pewee is placed between Eastern Wood-Pewee and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on the ABA Checklist.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). ABA-CLC

Record # 2003-3; 1 bird. 25–30 August 2002, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska; found by Paul Lehman. Excellent video accompanied the documentation. A color photograph graces the cover of *North American Birds* (2003; 57[1]), and additional color photographs and details are provided in Lehman (2003). The record was unanimously accepted by the ABA Committee and by the Alaska Checklist Committee.



It was straightforward to assign this *Sylvia* warbler to species—it is a Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)—but it is not clear to which subspecies it belongs. Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska; 8 September 2002. © Paul Lehman.

Willow Warbler is a widespread Old World species that breeds from the United Kingdom east to the western Anadyr River Basin (Cramp 1992). The species winters in Africa south of the Sahara. It has turned up as a vagrant in Japan (Brazil 1991, OSJ 2000), with other records, mostly from Hegura Island (see Lehman 2003). A bird banded at Ust-Kamchatsk, Kamchatka, Russia, on 15 September 1981 was recaptured at Kyushu, Japan, on 29 October 1981 (Brazil 1991). The species

is a frequent fall migrant to Iceland, with most records in late September (Cramp 1992), and it has occurred once in northeastern Greenland (Bird and Bird 1941, Boertmann 1994), so it may eventually appear in Newfoundland or Labrador.

Willow Warbler is placed between Wood Warbler and Dusky Warbler on the ABA Checklist.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*). ABA-CLC Record # 2003-5; 1 bird. 8–9 September 2002, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska; found by Paul Lehman. Details and color photographs are provided in Lehman (2003). The record was unanimously accepted by the ABA Checklist Committee and by the Alaska Checklist Committee.

The polytypic species (which may include three or four species) breeds across the Palearctic east to Lake Baikal, and it winters from Africa, south of the Sahara, east to the Indian subcontinent. It has occurred as a vagrant west to Madeira and Iceland (Cramp 1992) and east to Thailand and Japan (see references in Lehman 2003). The racial identity of the Gambell bird was not determined by the committee.

Lesser Whitethroat is placed between Lanceolated Warbler and Wood Warbler on the ABA Checklist.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*). ABA-CLC Record # 2003-4; 1 bird. 14 September 2002, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska; found by Paul Lehman. Details and color photographs are provided in Lehman (2003). The record was unanimously accepted by the ABA Checklist Committee and by the Alaska Records Committee.

This species breeds from the western Palearctic east only

to Lake Baikal, and it winters in Africa south of the Sahara. Its occurrence in Alaska was unexpected, as Spotted Flycatcher is unrecorded anywhere in eastern Asia or the Indian subcontinent (Cramp and Perrins 1993).

Spotted Flycatcher is placed between Asian Brown Flycatcher and Siberian Rubythroat on the ABA Checklist.

Origin Hypothetical

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*). ABA-CLC Record # 2003-2; flock of 6 birds. 23 July 2000, East Bay, Southampton Island, Nunavut; found by Karel Allard, Kerrith McKay, and Laura McKinnon. Written and photographic documentation provided in Allard et al. (2001).

The Committee unanimously accepted the identification. However, after reviewing Mactavish's first-round comments, the Committee unanimously voted to put this record in the Origin Hypothetical category. The rationale for this decision was based on Mactavish's examples of recent escapes involving several waterfowl species appearing in Iceland. Also in support of the decision was the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee action to relegate all post-1950 records of Ruddy Shelduck to their Category D (Origin Questionable). The BOU decision was based on the proliferation of numerous individuals in captivity and of free-flying feral birds (Harrop 2002). Nonetheless, there are records from an 1892 invasion, when multiple individuals—almost certainly representing a wild population—made it to Iceland and Greenland. (Harrop 2002); the BOU accepted those records.

In addition to having a relatively small permanent population in northwestern Africa and the Ethiopian highlands, the species breeds from southeastern Europe to Lake Baikal and Mongolia. It winters from the southern part of the breeding range



The introduced Crested Myna once numbered into the thousands in and around Vancouver, British Columbia. The population declined sharply in recent decades, however, and the last survivors were hit by cars and killed in February 2002. The species has been removed from the ABA Checklist. Vancouver, British Columbia; July 2001. © Tom Eckert.

south to southern India, southern China, and Indochina (Mayr and Cottrell 1979).

Appended List of Exotics

Crested Myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*). This species was removed from the main ABA list to the newly created list of exotics that have become extirpated; this list includes Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*) and Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*). Apparently, one or two pairs were released prior to 1897 in Vancouver (Johnson and Campbell 1995). The population increased rapidly, peaking in the early 1930s, when thousands of individuals were present in Vancouver. The population went through a rapid decline for a variety of reasons (see Johnson and Campbell 1995), and the last two birds were hit by cars in mid-February 2003 (Self 2003).

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In the ABA Area, exotic Ruddy Shelducks are often encountered in and around zoos, parks, and private collections. But is it possible that wild birds from Eurasia have vagrated to the ABA Area? The ABA Checklist Committee is uncertain. Los Angeles, California; February 1994. © Brian E. Small.

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