

Request for Information

The ABRC is currently compiling records of *Chaetura* swifts for the province, particularly southwestern Alberta, to build a case that Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) is in all probability involved and should be added to the Official List of the Birds of Alberta. Please submit your observations of *Chaetura* swifts, even passing notes, to the ABRC.



VAUX'S SWIFT EDGAR T. JONES

Sixth Report of the Alberta Bird Record Committee

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The Alberta Bird Record Committee (ABRC; hereafter the Committee) continues to adjudicate provincial records of rare birds and update the "Official List of the Birds of Alberta".

With this report, the sixth since creation of the Committee in 1995, and the first since publication of the "Official List" (posted at <http://www.royalalbertamuseum.ca/natural/birds/birdlist/intro.htm>), the provincial list reaches 404

species, with the addition of one contemporary species (the Yellow-throated Vireo), and extinct one (Passenger Pigeon) previously omitted on invalid grounds. Since publication of the Fifth Report of the Committee (Slater and Hudon 2004), the

Committee has reviewed, and reached a decision on 54 records, and has evaluated evidence for the occurrence of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) and Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) in the province.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), created as a result of a recent split of the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) by the AOU's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature (Banks et al. 2004), this species is added to the List on the basis of two specimens housed at The Royal Alberta Museum (accessions Z79.136.1 and Z00.20.1) and band recoveries in Alberta from hunter-killed "Canada Geese" banded on the breeding grounds on Victoria Island (Hines et al. 2000). The Cackling Goose would appear to be a not-uncommon migrant in the fall and, to a lesser degree, spring in Alberta.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), Cold Lake; late November to mid-December 2001; brief note with 5 images captured from video (Richard Klauke; 8 December 2001). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Cold Lake; 4 December 2002; written description with sketch (Terry Thormin). **CODE 3 RECORD.**

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), Kininvie Marsh, E of Tilley; 22 - 24 May 2004; 4 images captured from video (Richard Klauke). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), Vista Lake, Banff National Park; 5 June 1975; written description (M. Scott O'Keeffe). This becomes the earliest documented occurrence in the province. **CODE 3 RECORD.** Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary; 19 September - 6 October 2004; written description (Brian Ritchie), written description with 5 photographs (Royce Howland), web page with 16 images (Royce Howland), 3 photographs (Steve Oliphant). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*), NW end of Frank Lake; 22 May 2004; written description (Greg Wagner). **CODE 3 RECORD.**

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary; from 13 April 2004, for about a week; 2 written

descriptions (Robert W. Storms, Andrew Slater), photograph (Bill Walker). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), Mildred Lake, Jasper National Park; 19 July 1984; written description and photograph in Connelly (1986). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), Red Deer (Onslow Square); several individuals; 2003; 3 images captured from video (Richard Klauke; 17 February 2003); written description (Andrew Slater; 1 March 2003), 3 photographs posted on the Albertabird Yahoo! web site (Dwight Arthur; 22 March 2003), 2 photographs (Ross Lein; 7 September 2003). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Medicine Hat; from 18 May 2003 to at least mid-July; 5 images captured from video (Richard Klauke). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Nanton; from 19 February 2004; written description (Greg Wagner); photograph (Jack Shier), 3 photographs (Ken Havard). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

RECORDS ACCEPTED...continued

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), N of Lacombe (34 Wildrose Street, Rosedale Valley); 1 September - 9 October 2003; written description (Mike Mulligan), photograph (Richard Klauke), 3 photographs (Alan Fishkin), written description with 2 photographs (Ross Lein). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), added to the list on the basis of the following published reports: Cooke (1912), Smith and Kidd (1971) and Houston (1972).

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), 5 km E, 1 km S of Picture Butte (SW1/4-31-10-20W4); 3 June 2003; written description (Dr. Gail R. Michener and Janeal Mick). **CODE 3 RECORD.**

Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*), East Boundary fireguard, Suffield National Wildlife Area; 16 June 2004 (23:30 P.M.); photograph (Andy Teucher). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Cypress Hills between Elkwater and Spruce Coulee, Alberta; from about 19 June 2004 (call) and 14 July (seen), until young fledged on 14 August 2004; 6 images of bird and eggs captured from video (Richard Klauke). See also Velner et al. (2004). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*), Banff town site; 2-4 November 2003; written description (Brian Ritchie), 2 photographs (Malcolm McDonald). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*), Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary; 2 August 2003; short note with measurements of banded bird (Doug Collister), 4 photographs (El Peterson, Steve Lane, Gwen Smiley). First documented occurrence in the province. **CODE 1 RECORD.** Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary;

24 August 2003; written description with sketch (John Riddell). Probably the former individual. **CODE 3 RECORD.**

Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), W of Longview; pair from about late April until at least 17 July 2003; image captured from video (Richard Klauke). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Crowsnest Pass area; 10 July 2004; written description (Yousif Attia). **CODE 3 RECORD.**

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Ralston; 16 May 2004; written description (Tim Cowley). **CODE 3 RECORD.**

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), SE of Manyberries along South Manyberries Creek; 29 June - early August 2002; brief note and 3 images captured from video (Richard Klauke), written description (Brian and Nancy Ritchie). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*), N.W. Calgary; 29 September 1987; written description (R.W. Storms). **CODE 3 RECORD.** Calgary (Riley Park); 20 December 1993 to 5 February 1994; several written descriptions (Andrew Slater, Mairi Babey, Harold Pinel, John B. Steeves, Joel Duncan). **CODE 2 RECORD.** NE of Taber; 9 September 2003; written description (Lloyd Bennett). **CODE 3 RECORD.**

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*), Lynnbrook Road / Lynnbrook Close neighbourhood, Calgary; 3 October - 6 December 2004; written description (Pat Bumstead), written description with 4 photographs (Royce Howland), web page with 5 images (Royce Howland). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), Lethbridge; 10 November 2004; PMA specimen Z04.09.1; window kill (Les Sarsfield). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Fort Saskatchewan; 31 October to 28 November 1992; photograph (Leah Gunther; 10 November 1992). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Near Ponoka; 16 February 1993; brief description (Jean & Rodger Dunn). **CODE 3 RECORD.** Near Rimbey; 27 April 1993; brief description (Gabe Paquette). **CODE 3 RECORD.** Edmonton; 21 November 1993 to 8 March 1994; written description (Pat Marklevitz); photograph (Otto Braun). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Cochrane; 29 December 1993; written description (Margaret Warman). **CODE 3 RECORD.** On acreage southwest of Stony Plain; seen for nearly a week at feeder on 28 November 2000; photograph (Randal Hoscheit). **CODE 1 RECORD.** W of Edmonton; had been at a feeder for about 2 weeks on 2 December 2001; photograph (Randal Hoscheit; 4 December 2001). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Near Blackfalds; 1 February to at least 10 March 2003 (apparently gone on 16 March 2003); 3 images captured from video (Richard Klauke). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Edmonton; 25 March 2004; PMA specimen Z04.2.1 (Jean MacIntyre, cat kill). **CODE 1 RECORD.** Edmonton; 20 May 2004; brief description (Warren Finlay). **CODE 3 RECORD.** SW Calgary; from about 15 August - 15 September 2004; brief description (Laureen McMullan and Rausard Danoit). **CODE 3 RECORD.** Fort McMurray; 26 September 2004; brief description with 5 photographs (Joe Price). **CODE 1 RECORD.**

THE CODE DEFINITIONS REPORTED ARE:

ACCEPTED, CODE 1. Records supported by material evidence, i.e. specimens, identifiable body parts, identifiable photographs or sound recordings, whose origin from within the borders of Alberta is in no doubt, that are accompanied by written reports of the circumstances of the observation.

ACCEPTED, CODE 2. Sight records (without supporting material evidence) by multiple observers that are supported by written descriptions that leave no doubt as to the species identity. A Code 1 or 2 sighting must receive four favourable votes and no more than one dissenting vote to be accepted.

ACCEPTED, CODE 3. Sight records by single observers that are supported by a written description that leaves

no doubt as to species identity, and which receive five favourable votes and no dissenting vote. A Code 3 is the minimum for inclusion in the official provincial list.

ACCEPTED, CODE 4. Sight records by single observers that receive four favourable votes and no more than one dissenting vote. For record adjudication purposes, such a record is acceptable, but does not pass the more stringent requirements for inclusion on the official provincial list. A list of species that have no higher than a Code 4 record may be published as an appendix to the official list.

INSUFFICIENTLY DOCUMENTED. Records supported by material evidence or written descriptions that are not detailed enough to eliminate all other possibilities,

or to support conclusively the identification of the species as presented. Placement in this category should in no way be interpreted as a reflection on the veracity of the observation, but should be looked upon as an encouragement to substantiate occurrence of the species in the province more fully.

ERROR IN IDENTIFICATION. Records that are not supported by the documentation available to the committee, or that describe another species from that suggested.

QUESTIONABLE ORIGIN. Records that concern species that are of questionable origin, possibly escapees, and whose wild status cannot be determined accurately.

RECORDS INSUFFICIENTLY DOCUMENTED

Smew (*Mergellus albellus*), Whitemud Creek Ravine, Edmonton; second or third week of October 1999; written description (Thelma Pirot).

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*), Clear Lake; 1 July, 16 July and 6 August 2003; written description, video footage (Richard Fyfe).

Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*), Lac La Biche; 4 July 2003; written description (Christine Found).

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), W end of Salt Lake (Reflex Lakes); 26 May 1995; written description (Kevin Cantelon).

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), Hwy 61, about 10 km E of Forestburg; 23 December 2001; brief description with drawing (David Muirhead).

Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*), SE corner of Namaka Lake; 24 September 1985; written description and field notes (Louis Guillemette).

Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*), near Taber; 9 - 10 September 1998; written description (Lloyd Bennett).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), 4 individuals at Medicine Hat City Landfill; 5 September 2003; written description (Jo-Anne Reynolds).

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), 2nd Chain Lake, SE of Ponoka; 15 May 2004; written description (Ann Barrett).

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*), NW Calgary; 1 October 1984; brief description (Lottie G. Garland). Just off Bearspaw Road; 16 August 1991; field notes (Peter Sherrington). SE Calgary; 21 September 1993; written description (Cedric Hitchon).

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*), N of Nanton; 30 December 2002 - 7 January 2003; brief written descriptions posted on Albertabird (Bill Wilson, Malcolm McDonald).

QUESTIONABLE ORIGIN

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), NE Calgary (intersection of Barlow Tr. and Country Hills Blvd); 25 May - June 2003; web page with 7 images (Royce Howland), photograph posted on Albertabird Yahoo! web site (Alan MacKeigan), written description (Andrew Slater). The Committee could not rule out a captive origin for this bird.

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), Clover Bar, Edmonton; 10 October 1979; University of Alberta Museum of Zoology specimen (UAMZ 5391); found dead, donated by Alberta Fish & Wildlife. Most likely an escapee.

CORRIGENDA

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) at Edson. The date of the observation was incorrectly reported in Slater (1997) as November 1988 - January 1989, when it should have been November 1989 - January 1990. Also see Quinlan and Kennedy (2005).

Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) pair at Saskatchewan Crossing; 10-12 July 1991. Photographic documentation of the pair (12 July 2001) was produced by Richard Klauke, elevating the level of support to Code 1 from Code 3 (Slater and Hudon 2004).

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