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## Species of Birds Newly Recorded in Arkansas Since 1985

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The number of bird species recorded in Arkansas has been increasing since early this century due mainly to changing patterns of avian distribution and to progressively increased coverage of the state by devotees to bird study. James and Neal (1986) summarized the results of previous compilations and reported that the first monograph on Arkansas birds (Howell, 1911) listed 242 species for the state. The next monograph (Wheeler, 1924) named 272 species, although as explained in James and Neal (1986) some of these should not have been included. Then Baerg (1931, 1951) published two treatises including 277 and 324 species respectively. The most recent study (James and Neal, 1986) named 366 bird species recorded in the state. Now 14 more have been found increasing the Arkansas list to 380.

In this paper we list the 14 new species and describe the particulars concerning their discovery. In most cases photographs were made, some specimens were obtained, and for each first record a documentation form was completed and placed in the file of Arkansas bird records maintained by the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS). The forms include the particulars of the sightings and details of the birds seen and are designated by AAS number in the text below. The photographs also are filed with the Audubon Society, often several for each bird, but we name only the photographer(s) whose results provide the primary documentation for the species concerned. All these new Arkansas species were accepted by the committee of the Arkansas Audubon Society that approves unusual bird records for the state.

This annotated list of added species includes 7 water birds, a group that is well known for strong flight and vagrant distributions. The other 7 species are land birds, 4 of which are hummingbirds. Hummingbirds have been increasingly vagrant in recent years. The remaining 3 are 2 dove species that are expanding their ranges and a songbird that characteristically is a wanderer.

**Pacific Loon.**--(*Gavia pacifica*). There are four records of this species. The first one was found by Bo and Don Verser on the first nursery pond next to Greer's Ferry Lake near the town of Greer's Ferry, Cleburne County,

on 25 May 1991 where it remained through 1 June 1991 and was seen by many people. It was in adult winter plumage with a conspicuous chinstrap marking, was documented by AAS form No. 823, and was photographed by Max Parker. The second record, a bird in first winter plumage, was near the dam site in Beaver Lake, Carroll County, on 21 November 1991 where it was seen by Charles Mills (AAS No. 831). The third bird was found by Don Simons on 6 February 1993 on Lake Chicot at Lake Village in Chicot County (AAS 851) and was last seen on 1 April 1993. The final record also was at Lake Chicot found by Don Simons this time on 8 February 1994 where it stayed through 20 February 1994 (AAS No. 856). The chinstrap marking also was well developed in this bird. [This taxon, formerly conspecific with the Arctic Loon, *Gavia arctica* (American Ornithologists' Union, 1983), now has been given species status (American Ornithologists' Union, 1985)].

**Yellow-billed Loon.**--(*Gavia adamsii*). An individual of this species in immature plumage was discovered by Mike Mlodinow just above the dam site in Beaver Lake, Carroll County, on 19 November 1991 (AAS No. 827). It was also seen on 21 and 30 November by several others and photographed by Max Parker.

**Brant.**--(*Branta bernicla*). Jeff Wilson found a single Brant on 13 January 1990 at a location east of Turrell, Crittenden County, near the Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge (AAS No. 785). Charles Mills and Max and Helen Parker were present too and agreed with the identification.

**Wilson's Plover.**--(*Charadrius wilsonia*). A single bird was found by Nigel Ball on 18 May 1986 at the fish hatchery operated by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission located just south of Centerton, Benton County. It was seen later by other observers on 21 and 24 May. Photographs were made by Max Parker and the sighting is documented by form AAS No. 675.

**Common Black-headed Gull.**--(*Larus ridibundus*). There have been two occurrences of this gull. The first (AAS No. 805) was a bird in adult plumage observed by Charles Mills at Millwood Lake, Little River County, on 29

December 1990. It was seen again by many viewers on 2, 5, and 8 January 1991 and photographed by Jeff Wilson. The second bird, in first winter plumage, was found by Don Simons at Lake Chicot, Chicot County, on 8 January 1991 (AAS No. 808).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull.**--(*Larus fuscus*). A lone bird of this species was first observed by Don Simons on 6 February 1994 on Lake Chicot at Lake Village, Chicot County, and photographed by him (AAS No. 857). The bird, which was in nearly adult plumage, was seen by others on several dates through 18 February.

**Royal Tern.**--(*Sterna maxima*). The Arkansas County record on 26 August 1950 mentioned in Baerg (1951) was omitted by James and Neal (1986). Also omitted was an old report included in the Audubon Society file describing two Royal Terns sighted by Brooke Meanley on 28 September 1951 at a place known as Tindall's in Arkansas County. More recently, on 14 and 15 June 1986, another individual of this species appeared in Arkansas this time at minnow raising ponds west of Lonoke, Lonoke County, where it was found by Max and Helen Parker and viewed by others (AAS No. 681, photographed by Helen and Max Parker). This female bird was found dead there (shot) on 17 June 1986. A specimen was prepared and deposited in the collection of The University Museum, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (cat. no. 88-51-1).

Because this species was not included in James and Neal (1986) the three records mentioned here represent an addition to the list of Arkansas birds included in their monograph. Supporting the action taken by Baerg (1951) this returns the Royal Tern to the state list.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove.**--(*Streptopelia decaocto*). This new species for Arkansas was present in Harrison, Boone County, from 25 June to 1 August 1989 in Martha Milburn's yard (AAS No. 854) where it was photographed by Max Parker. On 17 August it was found dead, feathers plucked and carcass consumed, apparently killed by a predator. The feathers were sent to Roxie Laybourne of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., who confirmed that the bird was an Eurasian Collared-Dove.

It has been established (Smith, 1987) that the Eurasian Collared-Dove is a different species from the caged bird available at pet stores known as the Domestic Collared-Dove (*S. risoria*), which is derived from a wild species called the African Collared-Dove (*S. roseogrisea*). This similarity of forms has led to the mistaken belief that the appearance of ringed-doves at various places around the USA has been the result of escapees of the domestic caged variety. In reality, Eurasian Collared-Doves are seldom if ever found caged because dove fanciers are not raising them in captivity (Smith 1987). A rare exception to this situation (Smith 1987) resulted in the establishment of wild Eurasian Collared-Doves in the Bahama

Islands after 1974 when a bird breeder's aviary there was ransacked. From there they reached Florida in the late 1970's (Smith, 1987), and by 1991 occurred in all corners of the state (Hengeveld, 1993). There are now numerous outlying records in Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana (M. Parker, pers. comm.), and this first Arkansas record fits this pattern. This is the same pattern of outlying bridge-heads the European Collared-Dove utilized beginning in the 1920's when it spread outward from its original range in Asia to occupy all of Europe by the 1980's (Hengeveld, 1993). This was stated by Nowak (1971) to be "the most impressive example...of the expansion of an animal species" in his comprehensive treatise on range expansions in animals. The repeat of this phenomenon seems to be in progress in North America and the opportunity now exists to monitor its spread through Arkansas.

The last Check-list of North American Birds (American Ornithologists' Union, 1983) named this species the Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*), but in a recent supplement (American Ornithologists' Union, 1989) it has been changed to Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*).

**White-winged Dove.**--(*Zenaida asiatica*). On 8 April 1994, Jean and Jim Niemyer observed a White-winged Dove in their yard in El Dorado, Union County (AAS No. 860). The conspicuous white wing patches and other diagnostic characteristics of the species were noted.

**Buff-bellied Hummingbird.**--(*Amazilia yucatanensis*). In Searcy, White County, an individual of this species in immature plumage arrived at the hummingbird feeder maintained by T.R. and Doris Garner on 12 November 1992 and stayed through 10 March 1993. It was first identified by Roberta Crabtree, subsequently seen by many others (AAS No. 844), and photographed by Helen and Max Parker.

**Magnificent Hummingbird.**--(*Eugenes fulgens*). An adult male bird was discovered by Donald and Dolores Harrington on 18 July 1993 at their hummingbird feeder in Arkadelphia, Clark County (AAS No. 850). Although present only one day, its occurrence was verified by other observers and it was photographed by Charles Mills.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird.**--(*Archilochus alexandri*). There are four records for this species. The first one was an immature male bird in El Dorado, Union County, at Luvois and Shug Shugart's feeder seen between 7 November 1987 and 27 January 1988 by numerous observers (AAS No. 727). The second one was an immature male in North Little Rock, Pulaski County, from 21-27 December 1987 identified by Helen Parker (AAS No. 723) and photographed by Max Parker. The third record was an immature male at a feeder in Little Rock, Pulaski County, from 18 December 1992 through 28 March 1993, seen by many competent observers and photographed by Perk Floyd. It also was trapped, closely inspected, banded

and released by Perk Floyd and Bill Baltosser. The fourth one was in Hope, Hempstead County, at Mrs. Bob Brown's residence from about 26 October 1993 to when last seen on 20 March 1994. It was trapped, banded, and released by Perk Floyd and was photographed by Max Parker.

**Anna's Hummingbird.**--(*Calypte anna*). Two sightings of this species have been reported. The first was an adult female bird at a hummingbird feeder in Gillett, Arkansas County, from 27-30 January 1988, identified by Helen Parker (AAS No. 726), photographed by Max Parker, and seen by other experienced observers. The second one, found by Donna Adams and viewed by others, also was an adult female but at a feeder in Conway, Faulkner County, from 15 November 1992 through 8 March 1993 (AAS No. 843). It was photographed by Perk Floyd and trapped, closely inspected, banded, and released by Floyd and Bill Baltosser. Baltosser collected a 5th rectrix and 3 magenta gorget feathers that now are kept in the Department of Biology, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

**Northern Wheatear.**--(*Oenanthe oenanthe*). This is the only songbird represented in this list. It was found by Helen and Max Parker near Okay Landing at Millwood Lake, Howard County, on 18 October 1990 (AAS No. 799) and seen by many others daily through 21 October. It was photographed by Helen and Max Parker and Jeff Wilson and was representative of the eastern form (*O. o. leucorrhoea*) in first winter plumage.

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