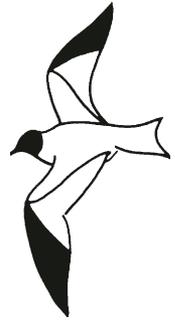


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REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2002 RECORDS

LUKE W. COLE, 561 Hill Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

GUY McCASKIE, 954 Grove Avenue, Imperial Beach, California 91932

ABSTRACT: The California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 188 records involving 79 species and one species pair reported in 2002, endorsing 139 of them. New to California was the Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). Adjusted for this addition, California's bird list stands at 620 species, ten of which, including this addition, are non-native. Potential first state records of the Pink-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*) and Demosseille Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) were not accepted on grounds of questionable natural occurrence, and a potential state first Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza elegans*) was not accepted on grounds of identification. Other significant records reported here include the return of California's first Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), the state's second Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*), third Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*), and fourth Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). In addition to discussing the decisions of the Committee on 2002 records, this report discusses trends in documentation of birds submitted to the Committee.

This 28th report of the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the CBRC or the Committee) details the evaluation of 188 records involving 292 individuals of 79 species and one species pair. Although most records pertain to birds found in 2002, the period covered by this report spans the 27 years from 1976 through 2002. Four of the reviewed records were not new but reassessments of earlier decisions reached by the Committee. The Committee accepted 139 records involving 241 individuals of 63 species and one species pair, for an acceptance rate of 74.9%. Thirty-eight records of 40 individuals were not accepted because of insufficient documentation or because descriptions were inconsistent with known identification criteria. Eleven additional records were not accepted because of questions concerning the bird's natural occurrence. Counties best represented by accepted records were Humboldt (13 records), Los Angeles (12), Imperial (11), Monterey (10), San Francisco (9, 8 of which were from Southeast Farallon I.), Santa Barbara (9), Ventura (9), Riverside (8) and San Diego (8). Records from 20 other counties were also accepted.

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Highlights of this report include the addition of the Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) to the California list, the return of California's first Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), the state's second Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*), third Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*), fourth Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and fifth Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). Potential first state records of the Pink-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*) and a widely seen Demosseille Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) were judged by the Committee to pertain to birds of uncertain origin. A reported Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza elegans*), another potential state first, was not accepted because of uncertain identification.

With the addition of the Eurasian Collared-Dove, California's list stands at 620 species, ten of which are not native, and two of which have been extirpated within historical times. The Committee currently is considering potential first state records of Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*), Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), Oriental Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*), and Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*). The Committee is also reviewing reports of three species currently on the Supplemental List—the Falcated Duck (*Anas falcata*), Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*), and Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)—for inclusion on the main list.

Other highlights of this report include the first Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) to winter in California and northern California's third Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). Species recorded in especially high numbers in 2002 included the Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) with an unprecedented 28 individuals, Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) with 3 (these, with another report published here from 2001, increase by 50% the previous total of 8 accepted records for the state; a fourth 2002 record is in review), Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) with 9, Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) with 11, and Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) with 4. This report also includes six accepted Painted Buntings from 2000, bringing that year's total to an unprecedented 17 birds.

The acceptance rate of 73.9% was below the overall weighted average of 79.7% but generally consistent with acceptance rates from the mid-1990s on. (The "weighted average" is the actual ratio of reports accepted to reports submitted, as opposed to the "unweighted average," the average of the reported acceptance rates of each report regardless of number of species treated per report.) The Committee's weighted average acceptance rate has dropped consistently over the past ten reports, with the exception of our 27th report (Garrett and Wilson 2003). The current weighted average is the lowest in the history of the Committee, though only slightly lower than the 79.8% weighted average acceptance rate through the 26th report (McKee and Erickson 2002). Rottenborn and Morlan (2000) discussed trends in acceptance rates through the CBRC's history.

The total of 188 records reviewed is below the Committee's average of 213.8 records per report over its first 27 reports. The lower number is the result of three factors: first, the CBRC report is now published annually; some earlier reports included Committee decisions over multiple years (Binford 1985). Second, several earlier committee reports included the Committee's review of historical records; that review is largely complete, so recent reports

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have addressed primarily records from a single year. Finally, the list of species the CBRC reviews has changed substantially from its earliest incarnations, which included many birds we now know to occur regularly—even commonly—in California.

The list of species reviewed by the CBRC is posted at the Western Field Ornithologists' web site (www.wfo-cbrc.org). This site also includes the entire California state list, the Committee's bylaws, a reporting form for the direct e-mail submission of records to the CBRC, the addresses of current Committee members, a photo gallery of recent submissions, including several birds published in this report, and other information about the CBRC, WFO, and its journal, *Western Birds*.

All documentation reviewed by the CBRC, including copies of descriptions, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings and Committee comments, is archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, California 93012, and is available for public review. The CBRC solicits and encourages observers to submit documentation for all species on the review list, as well as species unrecorded in California. Documentation should be sent to Guy McCaskie, CBRC Secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, CA 91933-0275 (e-mail: guyMcC@pacbell.net).

A NOTE ON DOCUMENTATION

The Committee has now been in existence 33 years and has evaluated the documentation of thousands of bird records. The 28 published reports of our decisions provide a window into the evolution of the California birding community and the Committee itself. As our bylaws instruct, the Committee was established, in part, to “provide a means by which sight records can gain universal acceptance as valuable scientific data,” and it has fulfilled this role well.

The Committee has evolved in both its use of corroborating documentation—such as photographs, sound and video recordings, and specimens—and its reporting of that use. The first report (Winter 1973) made no mention of corroborating documentation at all. The second report (Winter and McCaskie 1975) listed, separately from the main records, three specimen records but did not mention photographs. The third report (Luther et al. 1979) was the first to note which records are supported by photographs; in it, 1% of the accepted records were supported by specimens and 22% by photographs; 19% were multiple-reporter sight records, and the majority—58%—were single-reporter sight records. It was not until the Committee's eighth report (Morlan 1985) that it noted considering a sound recording submitted with a record. In the ninth report, Roberson (1986) inaugurated the use of the dagger (†) to indicate a photograph and the pound sign (#) for a specimen; Committee reports have followed this format since. By the 11th report (Bevier 1990), 1% of the accepted records were supported by audio recordings, 3% by specimens, and 33% by photographs, with the rest being multiple-reporter (20%) and single-reporter (43%) sight records.

Videotapes were mentioned for the first time in the 13th report (Pyle and McCaskie 1992), more than 20 years into the Committee's life; it was not until the 17th report (Patten et al. 1995) that videotapes and sound record-

ings were received commonly enough to warrant their own symbols, the double dagger (‡) for videotape and the section sign (§) for audio tapes. Sight records continued to make up the large majority of the CBRC's accepted records, except for our review of historical records in the 14th report (Roberson 1993), in which 21% of the accepted records were supported by specimens, 24% by photographs. That report also detailed decisions on the highest number of records (412) and had the lowest acceptance rate (67.0%) of any of our 28 reports.

In the 1990s, the percentage of records with corroborating documentation beyond written notes continued to rise. By the 20th report (Howell and Pyle 1997), it reached close to 53% of the records: 48% with still photographs, just over 2% with videotape and still photographs, just over 2% with specimens, and just under 1% (1 record) with audiotape. In our recent reports, the percentage of records with such evidence has ranged from 40% (McCaskie and San Miguel 1999, Erickson and Hamilton 2001) to 51% (Garrett and Wilson 2003). Of the records detailed in this report, almost 54% were supported by evidence beyond written notes: 47% by photographs, 2% each by specimens, audio recordings, and videotapes, and 1% by a combination of these methods. Of the remainder, 13% are multiple-reporter sight records and 33% are single-reporter sight records.

What may surprise some readers is that a significant percentage of records accepted by the Committee—one third of those reported here and a similar percentage in recent years—are still single-reporter sight records with no other documentation. From this fact we draw two conclusions. First, many of the records involve birds *seen* by multiple observers but *documented* by only a single observer. The Committee strongly urges all who see a reviewed species to document it and submit that documentation. Each observer may see field marks, experience behavior, or hear vocalizations not noted by other observers, important data that factor into the Committee's decisions. Second, a substantial number of the records the Committee accepts are indeed single-observer sight records. We hope that this finding encourages those who observe rare birds in California, if they have doubted that their single-observer sightings can achieve acceptance, to submit their reports to the Committee.

In part, the Committee's 28 reports illustrate the democratization of acceptable documentation for rare birds; the Committee has indeed made sight records scientifically acceptable as "a valuable source of distributional data," as its founders envisioned (Winter 1971). For example, the AOU (1998) relied heavily on the decisions of the CBRC and other records committees in its treatment of local records. The CBRC's reports also show that more corroborating documentation is submitted with records today than in the past. With the improvement of old technology (cameras and tape recorders) and the advent of new technology (video cameras, digital cameras, digital recording devices), more birders in the field have the means to document rarities with equipment other than the human brain. The Committee cautions, however, that reliance on technology *alone* is not a substitute for the time-honored tradition of taking careful and complete field notes, preferably while or shortly after watching the bird in question. Photographs can be ambiguous; different computer monitors display colors differently; voice

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recordings can be inconclusive. Written details and sketches are critical to establishing subtle differences among confusing species or plumages, for describing behavior that cannot be captured in a still photograph, and for documenting the location, viewing conditions, habitat, and other potentially important details of the record. So, while the rise in physical documentation is to be lauded, members of the California birding community are urged to use it as a complement to, rather than a substitute for, their written field notes. Indeed, several members of the Committee view photo-only records with skepticism.

Although new technologies have proven invaluable in documenting numerous bird records, the new technologies have also posed a challenge to the Committee on the archival front. No one knows how long certain documentary media—videotape, for example—will last, and no one knows how long the technology to gain access to certain documentary media—videotape, for example—will remain readily available. Records committed to a computer disk in 1985 are likely inaccessible today; who knows how long records committed to compact disks today will be accessible in the future? As each new generation of technology moves to the fore, previous generations, the victim of industry's "planned obsolescence," move into disuse, obscurity—and the CBRC's file cabinets. Researchers confront the anachronistic archives of the CBRC regularly. The Committee has only begun to address these archival issues; with the help of David Vander Pluym it started transferring records onto CDs for electronic storage during the summer of 2003. Member Todd McGrath is supervising the Committee's archival work. We welcome suggestions from knowledgeable readers as to how to preserve our existing archives and to make them easily available to researchers in the future.

The CBRC is taking one large step toward making the body of knowledge that is the CBRC archives more accessible to the public: the publication of the CBRC's *Rare Birds of California*, edited by Michael A. Patten, Robert A. Hamilton, and Richard A. Erickson. This compendium encompasses the Committee's decisions from its inception through 2001, listing all records of all species the Committee has ever reviewed during that time (including several records published here). *Rare Birds of California* will make it a simple task to determine how many accepted records of a particular species there are, and where and when they were reported, adding immeasurably to our knowledge of the status and distribution of state's avifauna for the 239 of the 610 native species on the California list it discusses, as well as the 82 hypothetical, supplemental, nonnative or extirpated species it also addresses. It is due to be published in 2004. We predict the book will be the most valuable resource for California birders since Grinnell and Miller (1944) and Garrett and Dunn (1981); our only certainty is that it will have more photographs than both.

NEWS AND FORMAT

Committee News. The Committee's voting membership after the 24 January 2004 annual meeting consisted of Luke W. Cole (chair), Jon L. Dunn, Matthew Heindel (vice chair), Marshall Iliff, Todd McGrath, Kristie

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N. Nelson, Peter Pyle, Michael M. Rogers, Mike San Miguel, and John C. Sterling. Guy McCaskie continued in his role as nonvoting secretary. Recent Committee members who also voted on many of the records in this report include Richard A. Erickson, Kimball L. Garrett, Tristan McKee, Joseph Morlan, Scott B. Terrill, and John C. Wilson. The Committee voted to add the American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) to the review list because of the difficulty of distinguishing it from the Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*) and because the Committee is not aware of its true status and distribution, the result of many potential misidentifications. The Committee will review all records after 1 January 2004. When the Committee achieves a better understanding of the status and distribution of the American Golden-Plover, it may remove the species from the review list. The Committee also removed two species from the review list: the Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), after the discovery of possible nesting and the conclusion that the species' patterns of occurrence in the state have remained stable over a long period, and the Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*), because there are more than 100 accepted records and the bird is nesting in the state. The Committee placed the Black-backed Oriole (*Icterus abeillei*) on the supplemental list.

Format and Abbreviations. As in other recent CBRC reports, records are generally listed chronologically by first date of occurrence and/or geographically, from north to south. Included with each record is the location, county abbreviation (see below), and date span. The date span usually follows that published in *North American Birds* (formerly *American Birds* and *Field Notes*) but, if the CBRC accepts a date span that differs from a published source, the differing dates are italicized. Initials of the observer(s) responsible for finding and/or identifying the bird(s)—if known and if they supplied supportive documentation—are followed by a semicolon, then the initials, in alphabetized order by surname, of additional observers submitting supportive documentation, then the CBRC record number consisting of the year of submission and a chronological number assigned by the secretary. All records are sight records unless otherwise indicated: initials followed by a dagger (†) indicate the observer supplied a supportive photograph, (‡) indicates videotape, (S) indicates a voice recording, and (#) indicates a specimen record, followed by the acronym (see below) of the institution housing the specimen and that institution's specimen catalog number. An asterisk (*) prior to a species' name indicates that the species is no longer on the CBRC's review list.

During 2003, in preparation for the publication of *Rare Birds of California*, the Committee changed the way it reports records and individuals, a change in our tradition to bring our reporting into conformity with our bylaws. In this report, the first number in parentheses after the species' name is the number of *individual birds* accepted by the CBRC through this report, not the number of accepted *records*; the number of individual birds may be higher than the number of records. Historically, the Committee has treated groups of individuals appearing together with a single record number (e.g., a flock of Red-throated Pipits, *Anthus cervinus*). The second number is the number of new individuals accepted in this report (because this number excludes records thought to pertain to returning individuals treated

in previous reports, it may be zero). Two asterisks (**) after the species' total indicate that the number of accepted records refers only to a restricted review period or includes records accepted for statistical purposes only; see Roberson (1986) for more information.

When individual birds return to a location after a lengthy or seasonal absence, each occurrence is reviewed under a separate record number, and Committee members indicate whether or not they believe the bird is the same as one accepted previously. Such decisions follow the opinion of the majority of members and, if a bird is considered a returning individual, the total number of individuals remains unchanged.

Although the CBRC does not formally review the age, sex, or subspecies of each bird, information on these subjects is often provided during the review process (and in some cases a strong majority or consensus is achieved). We report much of this information; the diagnosis of age, sex or subspecies is the authors' opinion based on the evidence in the files and Committee members' comments. Our terminology for age is based on a system devised for the Committee's use by Peter Pyle, in consultation with Michael A. Paten, Richard A. Erickson, and Robert A. Hamilton, which largely follows the calendar-based terminology of the U.S.G.S. Bird Banding Laboratory, detailed by Pyle (1997). We prefer a calendar-based system because other age-coding systems, including those based on the plumage terminology of Humphrey and Parkes (1959), become imprecise during periods of transition or molt, in North America most frequently in the summer and early fall. In the accounts we use the terms "juvenile" (restricted to a bird in *complete* juvenal plumage), "first-fall," "first-spring," and "first-year" to designate birds less than a year old, "second-fall," etc., for birds between one and two years old, "third-fall," etc., for birds between two and three years old, and "adult" for birds in definitive plumage that may be at least one, two, three or four years old depending on the species. To avoid ambiguity we use the terms "one-year-old," "two-year-old," etc., in lieu of "first-summer," "second-summer," etc., for birds observed from June through August. We also sometimes use age/plumage terms based on Humphrey and Parkes (1959), e.g., "first alternate plumage," when both the age and the plumage state are known and are important information regarding the record.

The CBRC uses standard abbreviations for California counties; those used in this report are DN, Del Norte; FRE, Fresno; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; KIN, Kings; LAK, Lake; LA, Los Angeles; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MOD, Modoc; MNO, Mono; MTY, Monterey; NAP, Napa; ORA, Orange; RIV, Riverside; SBE, San Bernardino; SD, San Diego; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SBA, Santa Barbara; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SHA, Shasta; SIS, Siskiyou; SOL, Solano; SUT, Sutter; VEN, Ventura. A list of county abbreviations for all 58 California counties is available on the WFO-CBRC web site and in Langham (1991). Other abbreviations used: I., island; L., lake; Mt., mountain; n. miles, nautical miles; N.W.R., national wildlife refuge; Pt., point; R., river; S.P., state park; W.M.A., wildlife management area.

Museum collections housing specimens cited in this report, allowing access to Committee members for research, or otherwise cited, are the California

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Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS), Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles (LACM), University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor (UMMZ), and the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo (WFVZ).

RECORDS ACCEPTED

EMPEROR GOOSE *Chen canagica* (87,3). One in the Arcata Bottoms, HUM, 7 Jan–28 Mar 2002 (EE; 2002-035) was in coastal NW California where considered casual in winter (Harris 1996). A first-fall bird near Nice on Clear L., LAK, 29 Sep–7 Nov 2002 (DH, JKn; RJk†, RS†, JWh; 2002-190) was inland, where rarer than along the coast, and established California's earliest date for the arrival of a fall migrant. One at Becher's Bay on Santa Rosa I., SBA, 16 Jan–6 Mar 2002 (SMacG†; 2002-048) was exceptionally far south, with two records (six birds) in Orange Co. (Hamilton and Willick 1996) being the only ones farther south in North America, though there are multiple records for Hawaii.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (52,5). A previously rejected record of three calling adults in flight at Stanton I., SJ, 22 Jan 1999 (DGY; 1999-049A) was reconsidered after receipt of original documentation and unanimously endorsed. In addition, two adults were on Sump 1A at Tule Lake N.W.R., SIS, 26–27 Dec 2002 (KSt; 2003-022).

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* (11,3). A group of one adult and three first-winter birds at Unit 4 of Lower Klamath N.W.R., SIS, 10 Jan–10 Mar 2001 (DM†, JM, MM; 2001-064) was believed to include the adult that had been there 28 Jan 1998 (1998-026; Erickson and Hamilton 2001). The identification of a smaller adult at adjacent White L. on Lower Klamath N.W.R., SIS, 10 Mar 2001 was questioned and not accepted (although endorsed by a majority), with at least one member suggesting it was a hybrid Whooper × Tundra Swan (*C. columbianus*) from a mixed pair with three young there during the winter of 2000–2001 (Sullivan 2001, *N. Am. Birds* 55:220).

GARGANEY *Anas formosa* (23,1). One was shot by a hunter at the Mendota Wildlife Area, FRE, during the weekend of 26–27 Oct 2002 (GGe; WM†; 2003-030). The wing was collected as part of a project monitoring kills during the waterfowl hunting season and identified by GGe. The upper and under sides of the wing were photographed by WM. The wing is archived at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Migratory Bird Management in Laurel, Maryland, tagged with species name, age, sex, location, date, and source information, but no catalogue number.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (70,2). The Committee reconsidered and unanimously endorsed a previously rejected record of one at Grant L., MNO, 8 Dec 1976 (DAG†; 1977-010A), long before this species was known to occur regularly in small numbers on large inland lakes. Gaines (1988) included the record in his list of hypothetical species. One near Westport, MEN, 17 Aug 2002 (JLD, PP; EG†, GMcC, DWN†, MSanM, BLS†; 2002-143) was in basic plumage and suspected to have summered locally.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* (11** 2). Single first- or second-year birds were off the NW corner of Santa Barbara I., SBA, 19 Feb–22 Mar 2002 (JAn, KO†; PM†; 2002-046), and at 40° 40.038' N, 124° 39.788' W, ca. 18 n. miles off False Cape, HUM, 25 Mar 2002 (TP†; 2002-062). The Committee reviews all post-1900 records of the Short-tailed Albatross.

STREAKED SHEARWATER *Calonectris leucomelas* (11, 4). One on Monterey Bay, MTY, 6 Oct 2001 (TMcG†; 2002-150) was in the area where all but one of

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California's previous Streaked Shearwaters had been recorded. Single birds were 5 miles off Westport, MEN, 17 Aug 2002 (JLD; GE†, RJK, GMcC, DWN†, PP, MSanM, BLS†; 2002-144; Figure 1), at 38° 07.270' N, 123° 18.229' W, ca. 16 n. miles NW of Pt. Reyes, MRN, 29 Sep 2002 (DCD, TMcG; 2002-163), and 4-5 miles S of Sandstone Pt. on Santa Cruz I., SBA, 7 Sep 2002 (JF, DMH†, PK; 2002-156). These, along with another record (2002-204) still under review and a possible Streaked Shearwater off Santa Barbara Co. (see Records Not Accepted, identification not established, below), suggest an influx of this western Pacific species to the waters off California during the fall of 2002.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* (75, 9). One 4.5 n. miles NW of the Palos Verdes Peninsula 23 Feb 2002 (TMcG†; DMH, MS†; 2002-041) and one seen from West Cove Point on San Clemente I., 4 Mar 2002 (BLS; 2002-063) were the second and third to be recorded in Los Angeles Co. One off Pigeon Point, SM, 12 May 2002 (AME; 2002-099) was the sixth to be seen from shore at this location. One off Fort Bragg 2 Jun 2002 (PP; RJK, TMcK, DT; 2002-106) and another seen from shore at Fort Bragg 16 Aug 2002 (JLD; GMcC, MSanM; 2002-149) were the first and second for Mendocino Co. One seen from shore at the Santa Maria R. mouth 8 Sep 2002 (BKS; 2002-210) was the first for Santa Barbara Co. Single birds 3 miles W of Point Pinos, MTY, 17 Feb 2002 (TMcG; 2002-151), at 36.396°N, 122.009°W on Monterey Bay, MTY, 9 Aug 2002 (DLSh; 2002-145), and 36° 49.67'N, 122° 01.01'W on Monterey Bay, MTY, 17 Dec 2001 (LWC; TMcG; 2002-059) were in the area where most of California's Manx Shearwaters have been recorded.

RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon rubricauda* (20,1). An adult photographed at 32° 20'N, 120° 20'W, 75 n. miles SW of San Nicolas I., VEN, 15 Oct 1993 (RRV†; 1994-030) was over waters where this species is probably of regular occurrence but birders rarely venture. Another Red-tailed Tropicbird reported with this one was not accepted by a majority of the Committee because of a lack of documentation.



Figure 1. This Streaked Shearwater, *Calonectris leucomelas*, 5 miles of Westport, Mendocino Co., 17 August 2002 was one of an unprecedented four of this species reported in 2002.

Photo by Gil Ewing

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MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra* (11,1). A second- or third-winter bird caught on a beach in Corona del Mar, ORA, 12 Jan 2002 (*Orange County Register*†, AD†, DL†; 2002-021) was taken to a nearby wildlife rehabilitator and eventually released at Dana Point, ORA, where it remained 25 Feb–24 Mar 2002 (*N. Am. Birds* 56:356), spending much of this time with another Masked Booby of similar age there 11 Feb–28 Apr 2002 (MD†, DL†, CAM, GMcC, JM, MSanM; 2002-038). The Committee, after much consideration, comparing plumage and injuries to the webbing on the feet, believed the latter was probably the same as the Masked Booby at La Jolla, SD, 30 Dec 2001–10 Jan 2002 (2002-001; Garrett and Wilson 2003).

MASKED/NAZCA BOOBY *Sula dactylatra/granti* (7,1). A juvenile in the San Pedro Channel 10 n. miles off Long Beach, LA, 22 Jul 2001 (CHa†; 2001-167) was clearly one of this species pair. Adults may be separated on the basis of bill color, but characters for identifying juveniles with mostly gray bills have yet to be determined conclusively (see Pitman and Jehl 1998, Roberson 1998).

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (74,4). Adult males seen from Point Loma, SD, 8 Apr 2001 (REW; 2001-098) and Capitola Beach, SCZ, 12 Sep 2001 (DLSu; 2002-006) were both believed to be the expected race *brewsteri*. A brown-headed adult on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 26 Oct–9 Nov 2002 (AdB; KNN, PP; 2003-019) was followed by a pale-headed adult there 23 Nov 2002, also apparently *brewsteri* (AdB; 2003-020). Reports of this booby along the coast have increased substantially during the past 15 years; it is now found annually on Los Coronados Is., Baja California (*N. Am. Birds* 55:230, 56:226).

RED-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula sula* (14,1). One caught on the pier at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, La Jolla, SD, 20 Jul 2002 had a fish hook in its throat and was taken to a nearby wildlife rehabilitator, from whom it escaped 22 Jul 2002 (MF; GMcC†; 2002-138; Figure 2).

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (38**,4). A juvenile near the Salton Sea N.W.R. headquarters, IMP, 22 Jul 2001 (SSo†; 2001-119) was in an area where the species is a rare spring and summer vagrant (Patten et al. 2003). A one-year-old bird at Los Osos, SLO, 9–11 Aug 2002 (KAH; 2002-214), an adult at the Point Mugu Naval Base, VEN, 25 Jun 2002 (MR†; 2002-146), and an adult in Goleta, SBA, 12–21 May 2002 (DMC†, CC†; 2002-110) were on the coast but all north of Orange County, where few Tricolored Herons are recorded. The Committee reviews Tricolored Heron records only from 1990 onward.

*REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (94**,0). A long-staying bird at Mugu Lagoon, VEN, 15 Sep 2001–2 Mar 2003 (DMC, JLD†, WW; 2001-222) was believed by a majority of CBRC members to be the first-fall bird in Santa Barbara Co. 14 Jul–11 Sep 2001 (2001-117; Garrett and Wilson 2003). The Committee reviews records of Reddish Egret through 2001 only.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (22,3). A one- or two-year-old bird at San Elijo Lagoon, SD, 11 Jun–24 Aug 2002 (BC†; GMcC, BoM†; 2002-137) was in extreme S coastal California where most of the state's Yellow-crowned Night-Herons have been recorded. An adult in Ventura 19 Sep 2002–10 Apr 2003 (DDesJ†, DVV†, WW†; 2002-159) was the fourth in Ventura Co., and an adult at Coyote Point Regional Park, SM, 23–24 Jul 2002 (RST; LWc†, RoF, MM, JM, KR, MMR, SR, AW†; 2002-139) was only the third in northern California.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (4,1). An adult with a group of White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) in the Prado Basin 13–16 Sep 2002 (JEP; 2002-222) established the first record for Riverside Co. and the first for California in fall. See also Records Not Accepted, identification not established.



Figure 2. This Red-footed Booby, *Sula sula*, injured with a fish hook in its throat, was picked up at a pier in La Jolla, San Diego County, 20 July 2002. It escaped from a wildlife rehabilitator before the hook could be removed.

Photo by Guy McCaskie

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* (33**, 1). After the record circulated seven times, with no resolution of the question of natural occurrence, the Committee finally agreed on considering an adult in the Antelope Valley, LA, 25 Mar–6 Apr 1996 (KLG; 1996-080HA) as one of the more than 50 Harris's Hawks that arrived naturally in southern California and northern Baja California in the 1990s (Patten and Erickson 2000). The Committee reviews selected records of Harris's Hawk from before 1980 and all records after 1993. See also below under Records Not Accepted, identification accepted but natural occurrence questionable.

YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (76,5). One at Inverness, MRN, 9 Jan 2001 (GMcC; 2001-012) was forced into view by an exceptionally high tide. Two were captured during the trapping and marking of Ring-necked Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*) at Grizzly I., SOL, 10 Jan–12 Feb 2002 (CJ; TB†, RL†; 2002-042). The Yellow Rail may prove to be a regular rare winter visitor in both areas. At least two vocalizing at Cowhead Slough in the extreme NE corner of Modoc Co. 27 May–24 Jun 2002 (GK§; MSanM§; 2002-126) were in suitable breeding habitat and possibly nesting. At its 2004 meeting, the Committee voted to remove the Yellow Rail from its review list.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus* (24, 1). One on San Nicolas I., VEN, 21 May 2002 (WW; 2002-102) scored high according to the characters tabulated by Jehl (1985). A high score indicates an American Oystercatcher; a low score indicates a Black Oystercatcher (*H. bachmani*).

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* (1, 0). One at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary in Arcata, HUM, 18–25 Oct 2001 (EE†, DFx; 2002-174) was believed by a majority of CBRC members to be the same as the one at the nearby Mad R. mouth the previous fall (2001-137; Garrett and Wilson 2003).

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UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* (21,3). One on Southeast Fallon I., SF, 17 Aug 2002 (KK; 2003-005) was found dead the following morning (#CAS 5901). Two more arrived there 20 Aug 2002 (KK; DG†; 2003-006); one of these remained the following day, the other to 26 Aug 2002.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* (7,1). An adult was along the Los Angeles R. in Long Beach, 25–26 Aug 2002, a first for Los Angeles Co. (KGL; GMcC, TMcG, DWN†, MSanM; 2002-152).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* (16,1). An adult at evaporation basins near the intersection of Jersey Ave. and Highway 14, near Stratford, KIN, 12–14 Oct 2001 (JS; 2001-176) established the latest date for a fall migrant in California.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (31,1). One at the Tulare Lake Drainage District's Hacienda Evaporation Basin, KIN, 19–20 May 2002 (JS†; 2002-127) was the fourth to be found inland in California in spring.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (79,1). One in its first spring was at the Santa Ana R. mouth, ORA, 6 Apr 2002 (JEP; 2002-221).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (20,1). An adult at the San Jose–Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant in Alviso, SCL, 9 Mar 2002 (MMR; 2002-098) was the same individual present at this location each of the past seven winters (McKee and Erickson 2002). An adult at Prado Regional Park in Chino 9 Jan 2002 (JEP; 2002-003) was the first to be recorded in San Bernardino Co.

THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia* (42,5). The record of one at 36° 57' N, 122° 01' W, 0.6 n. miles off Santa Cruz, SCZ, 4 Oct 1999 (TMcK, SF†; 2000-056) generated much discussion regarding the apparent shape of the bill but was accepted unanimously during the fourth circulation through the Committee. Four were at about 40° 43.67' N, 124° 31.47' W, ca. 10 n. miles NW of the Eel R. mouth, HUM, 12 May 2002 (TMcK, EE†; 2002-180, 2002-181, 2002-182 and 2002-183). The CBRC has endorsed two previous records for this area, but not the same two listed by Harris (1996).

LONG-BILLED MURRELET *Brachyramphus perdix* (14,3). The identification of a headless, decomposed, and partially mummified *Brachyramphus* murrelet picked up by Emilie Strauss and David Shuford on the east shore of Mono Lake, MNO, 29 Jul 1983 (#UMMZ 224,651; 2000-066) could not be confirmed by bill measurements. All Committee members but one, however, agreed that the wing and tarsus measurements support the identification as *perdix* (see Sealy et al. 1991). One in the channel between the north and south jetties at the entrance to Humboldt Bay, HUM, 7–10 Dec 1995 [not 7–9 Dec as published in *Field Notes* 50:330 and Mlodinow 1997] (JT, SMcA†; 2003-031) was one of only two to be found in California in December. One at Patrick's Point, HUM, 13 Aug 2001 (BO'B; 2001-155) was encountered during a survey for the Marbled Murrelet (*B. marmoratus*) and fit the pattern set by the majority of the state's Long-billed Murrelet records—along the coast from Santa Cruz Co. northward between mid-July and mid-October.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* (65, 65). The CBRC believes the increase from one to 50 at Calipatria, IMP, 4 May–28 Dec 2002 (GMcC; JM†; 2002-117A; Figure 3) was the result of birds reaching California from the east of the state, rather than by local introduction and/or escape. The Eurasian Collared-Dove apparently reached Florida in the early 1980s from introduced populations in the Bahamas (Smith 1987), and the species was well established in southern Florida by the end of the 1980s. In the early 1990s the population expanded north and west, as shown by records from numerous localities scattered throughout the southeastern United States (Romagosa and McEneaney 1999). This range expansion continued

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through the 1990s, and by the end of 2002 the Eurasian Collared-Dove had been placed on the state lists of Arizona (Gary H. Rosenberg pers. comm.), Oregon (Marshall et al. 2003), and Washington (Steven G. Mlodinow pers. comm.). The westward spread of this dove is well illustrated by the maps in National Geographic (2003). By 2002 this dove had been found as close to California as Yuma, Arizona (Henry Detwiler pers. comm.), and Campo Mosqueda in the Rio Colorado delta, Baja California (*N. Am. Birds* 55:360).

A population of Eurasian Collared-Doves in coastal Ventura County since at least 1992 is believed to have originated from locally released birds (Romagosa and McEneaney 1999, Walter Wehtje pers. comm.), and another population in Monterey County is believed to have originated from an intentional release at King City in 1999 (Roberson 2002). Populations now breeding in coastal Santa Barbara (David M. Compton pers. comm.) and San Luis Obispo (Tom M. Edell pers. comm., *Field Notes* 52:257-258) counties are suspected to have originated from the Ventura County population or locally released and/or escaped birds.

Reports of Eurasian Collared-Doves in southeastern California near Lancaster, LA, 15 Mar–25 May 1998 (2001-089) and Brawley, IMP, 18 Jul–25 Aug 1999 (1999-140) and on the coast in Chula Vista, SD, 29 May 2002 (2002-112) were suspected to involve escapees. However, two in Ridgecrest, KER, 13 May 2001–present (LLa†; 2002-121), two near El Centro, IMP, 7 Aug 2001 (GMcC;2002-034), one at Desert Center, RIV, 2 Nov 2001 (CMcG†; 2002-031), one near Bishop, INY, 8 Mar 2002 (DP, JPa; 2002-044), and nine at Blythe, RIV, 19 May 2002 (RH†; 2002-123) appear to have been the first to arrive by dispersal from the east. As of the end of 2003, populations appeared established at Blythe, RIV (Roger Higson pers. comm.), Desert Center, RIV (Chet McGaugh pers. comm.), and through much of the Imperial Valley, IMP (McCaskie pers. obs.). Individuals have been found as far west as San Clemente I., LA (Brian Sullivan pers. comm.).



Figure 3. Flock of Eurasian Collared-Doves, *Streptopelia decaocto*, at Calipatria, Imperial County, 28 December 2002. The dove's rapid colonization of southeastern California led the Committee to add the species to the California state list.

Photo by Joseph Morlan

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Ringed Turtle-Doves (*S. risoria*) and hybrid Eurasian Collared-Dove × Ringed Turtle-Doves occur in California as well. The Eurasian Collared-Dove in Brawley in 1999 was paired with a Ringed Turtle-Dove and fledged two young. Two Ringed Turtle-Doves were in Imperial, IMP, 8 Dec 2001 (Kimball L. Garrett pers. comm.). A *Streptopelia* near Calipatria, IMP, 26 Jan 2002 and two together with a Ringed Turtle-Dove in Calipatria 28 Jun 2002 were apparent hybrids (McCaskie pers. obs.). See also Records Not Accepted, identification not established, below.

Although the Committee added the Eurasian Collared-Dove to the California bird list, it did not add it to the review list and will not review any further records of this species.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti* (101,28). Up to five (3 males/2 females) were at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, INY, 13 Oct 2001–11 May 2002 (JLD; RB, ChH, AEK, JH, TH, JM, LS†, JWi; 2001-199; Figure 4). A female was at Mayflower Park in Blythe, RIV, 3 Nov–8 Dec 2001 (RH‡; HBK, DWN; 2001-201), and up to four (2 males/2 females) were near there 4 Nov 2001–8 Mar 2002 (GMcC; NF, RH‡, KZK†, BLaF, NLaF, MM, BoM†, JM, DWN†, MMR†, MSanM; 2001-189). Also in Blythe were two along Broadway 1 Dec 2001–27 Mar 2002 (RH‡; 2002-124) and up to four along Riviera Drive 26 Oct 2002–30 Mar 2003 (HBK; 2002-178). A male was at L. Perris, RIV, 7–23 Dec 2002 (BED†, DFu†, MJSanM; 2002-208). Two were near the SE corner of El Centro, IMP, 27 Jan–15 Mar 2002 (KZK†; GCH, GMcC; 2002-033). Two were at Laguna Dam, IMP, 20 Dec 2002 (BH; 2003-016). All these were fall vagrants or winter visitors as has been the pattern of records for this species to date, but a female on the Primm Valley Golf Course near Nipton, SBE, 14 May 2002 (JCS; 2002-116) may have been



Figure 4. This Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columbina talpacoti*, photographed 4 November 2001, spent the winter of 2001–2002 at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Park, Inyo County. The Committee removed the Ruddy Ground-Dove from the review list following the unprecedented 28 birds, including this female, reported in 2002.

Photo by Larry Sansone

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a spring vagrant. Up to six were near Calipatria, IMP, from 8 Dec 2002 to at least 1 Dec 2003 (GMcC; RoF, CAM, JM†; 2002-200). Over 100 individuals have now been recorded in California, and one pair near Calipatria successfully nested in 2003 (McCaskie 2003). At its 2004 meeting, the Committee voted to remove the Ruddy Ground-Dove from the review list.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (16,1). One at Pachalka Springs at the base of Clark Mountain, SBE, 24 Jun 2002 (JA; RJN, SSo; 2002-119) provided California its first record in spring and one of only three in the interior.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris* (60,2). A first-fall male near Centerville Beach, HUM, 14 Sep 1997 (SMcA†; 2003-032) was the second to be found around Humboldt Bay (Harris 1996), far north of where expected. There are two records for Oregon, however, including one from Gearhart in extreme north-western Oregon (Marshall et al. 2003). One at Oak Park Cemetery in Claremont, LA, 8–21 Sep 2002 (MJSanM; 2002-172) was in coastal southern California where most of the state's Broad-billed Hummingbirds have been recorded.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris* (5,1). A first-fall male that frequented a feeder at the Lanphere–Christansen Dunes Preserve near Arcata, HUM, 25–29 Sep 2002 (JT; PAG, SWH†, RLeV†, GMcC, TMcK, MSanM†; 2002-162) was the latest of the four recorded in California in fall and the first one viewable by multiple observers.

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (36,0). A calling bird recorded at Brock Research Center, IMP, 20 Jan 1998 (JRBS; 2001-053) was considered the same bird present there the following winter, 24 Dec 1998–15 Feb 1999 (1999-043; Erickson and Hamilton 2001).

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (64,1). One was at Mason Regional Park in Irvine, ORA, 16 Dec 2002–24 May 2003 (KMB, RoF, JM†, SSo, DW; 2002-215).

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (15,0). One at River Ranch in Santa Paula, VEN, 19 Nov–21 Dec 2002 (DDesJ†, WW; 2002-220) was considered the same individual there 23 Feb–3 Mar 1999 (1999-086; Rogers and Jaramillo 2002). Although no documentation has been submitted to the Committee, the bird was reported wintering there in 1999–2000 and 2000–2001, though not found in winter 2001–2002.

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (45,1). A singing male was at Lompoc, SBA, 13–15 Jun 2002 (JT†; DMC, BrH†, JCS§; 2002-140).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons* (89,5). One at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 13 Apr 2002 (KHL; 2002-114) was the earliest found in California in spring. A male was singing at Andrew Molera S.P., MTY, 8 Jun 2002 (CHo; RHo; 2002-142). One at the University of California Hopland Research and Extension Center, MEN, 23 Aug 2002 (CEV; 2002-153) tied the earliest fall record for California. Individuals were at Banning Park, Wilmington, LA, 2–6 Oct 2002 (TMcG, MSanM; 2002-168) and Point Loma, SD, 19 Oct 2002 (PAG, GMcC, GLR, SES; 2002-175; Figure 5). The total of five in 2002 was well below the record of 10 reported in 2001 and 1992 (Garrett and Wilson 2003).

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (74,1). A first-year bird was at Lemon Tank, San Clemente Island, LA, 18 Sep 2002 (JPl†; BLS†; 2002-171).

SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus platensis* (7,1). One at Half Moon Bay State Beach, SM, 7 Dec 2002–15 Mar 2003 (PJM; WGB, KMB, HCot, MWE, MLF, RoF, JFH, AEK, CAM, TMcG, JM, RR; 2002-201) was the first to overwinter in California. A photograph was published in *N. Am. Birds* 57:255.

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ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis* (3,1). One seen well but briefly along Stevens Creek in Mountain View, SCL, 7 Sep 2000 (MMR; 2000-138) took four rounds to achieve acceptance. Committee members were concerned about the duration of the observation for such a rare bird, and the description of the bird as "brownish" above was questioned by some (but see Sibley 2000, Jonsson 1993, Mullarney et al. 1999).

RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN *Turdus rufopalliatu*s (12,2). Two were with American Robins (*T. migratorius*) at Laguna Dam, IMP, 21-24 Dec 2002 (HDD†, TMcG; 2002-225).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre* (15,1). One at Otay Mesa, SD, 28 Apr 2002 (PU; 2002-095) is the westernmost recorded in North America. Although the bird was in sight of Tijuana, Mexico, raising concerns about its origin, the Curve-billed Thrasher is a known long-distance vagrant from its range in the south-central U.S., with records from as far afield as Alberta (*Birders' Journal* 7:274), Manitoba (Manitoba Avian Research Committee 2003), Florida, and Wisconsin (AOU 1998). Furthermore, surveys of cagebirds in Baja California, Mexico, while finding numerous other Mimidae, have not revealed this species (Hamilton 2001).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii* (49,11). Up to 11 spent the winter near Calipatria, IMP, 17 Dec 2002-8 Apr 2003 (TE; NF, JFH, MM, CAM, GMcC, BoM†, JM†, DEQ, MJSanM, MSanM, AW†; 2002-217; Figure 6). This species may prove to winter annually in the Imperial Valley.

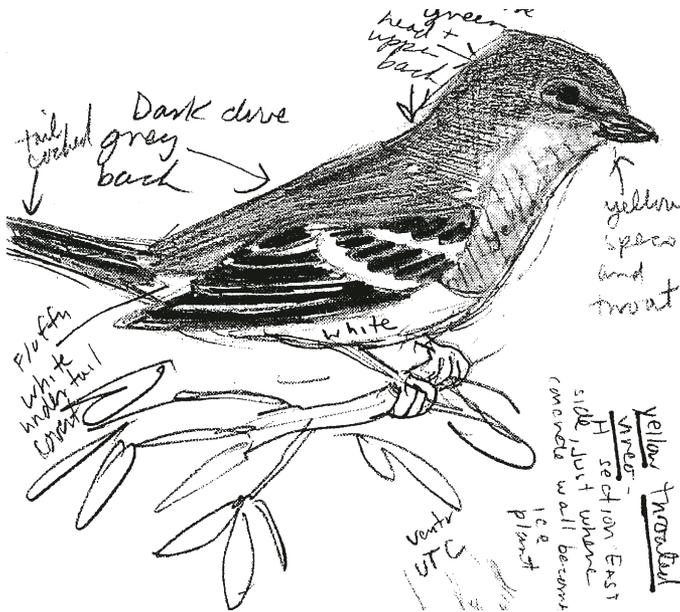


Figure 5. Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*, Point Loma, San Diego County, 19 October 2002.

Sketch by Susan E. Smith

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BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (33,2). A singing male was at the Big Sur R. mouth, Andrew Molera S.P., MTY, 8 Jun 2001 (DR; 2002-131). A first-fall male was near Cantil, KER, 4 Oct 2002 (TMcG; MSanM; 2002-166).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (67,1). An adult male was on Point Reyes, MRN, 27 Sep–2 Oct 2002 (EG†, EH†, JM; 2002-167). Its photograph appeared on the cover of *Western Birds* 34 (2).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (96,3). A male of the expected subspecies *albilora* was on San Clemente I., LA, 3 May 2002 (JBr; 2002-120). Singing males were in Goleta, SBA, 23 May 2002 (NS; GT; 2002-115) and at El Prado Golf Course near Chino, SBE, 30 May 2002 (DPe; 2002-122).

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae* (37,0). A female wintering at Point Loma, SD, 11 Sep 2002–2 Feb 2003 (GMcC, TMcG; 2002-158) was thought to be the same bird that spent the previous winter there (2001-153; Garrett and Wilson 2002).

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (63,1). A first-spring male was banded on Point Loma, SD, 3 Apr 2002 (VPJ†; GMcC; 2002-061; Figure 7).

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorus* (94,2). One at the Santa Clara R. estuary, VEN, 21 Oct 1983 (GGi; 1994-068A) was first submitted to the Committee in 1994 and not accepted after four rounds (1994-068; McCaskie and San Miguel 1999). Subsequently the observer submitted additional documentation in the form of his original field sketch and notes and requested reevaluation, after which the record was accepted on the first round. Another Worm-eating Warbler was along Carpinteria Creek, SBA, 26 Sep–31 Oct 2002 (AC, JC; DMC, JEL, MSanM; 2002-179).



Figure 6. Sprague's Pipit, *Anthus spragueii*, 6 January 2003, one of a flock of up to 11 spending the winter of 2002–2003 near Calipatria, Imperial County.

Photo by Bob Miller

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*KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus* (109**,1). A male was in Santa Barbara, SBA, 24 May 1994 (PEL; 1994-089). The Kentucky Warbler is no longer on the CBRC's review list, and the Committee reviews records only through 1994.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (92.2). One at Mt. Davidson, SF (PS; 2002-197), 10 Sep 2002 provided a long-overdue first record for mainland San Francisco Co.; there are 49 accepted records—more than half the state's total—from the Farallones. In keeping with this pattern, a first-fall individual was banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 3 Oct 2002 (RDIG†; PPT†; 2003-008).

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (121,7). A male was at Army Springs on San Nicolas I., VEN, 17–18 Jun 2000 (RAH; 2002-141). One at the Arcata Marsh Project, HUM, 5 Oct 2001 (DFx; 2001-168) was seen briefly and required three rounds for passage. A female was at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 26 May 2002 (SBT; 2002-108). One was at Mojave, KER, 11 Sep 2002 (MJSanM; TMcG, MSanM, JCW; 2002-157). An adult male was at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma, SD, 21–25 Sep 2002 (JWo; DFu, PAG, GMcC, TMcG, BiM; 2002-160). Single first-fall birds were banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 31 Aug 2002 (KNN†; AdB†; 2003-010) and 26 Sep 2002 (KNN†; AdB†; 2003-009).

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (119,4). A first-fall male was on San Clemente I., LA, 7 Nov 2001 (HCa; 2002-028). A male in Santa Cruz, SCZ, 7–11 Dec 2001 (KA; 2002-027) made California's third record for December. A male on San Nicolas Island, VEN, 8 Aug 2002 (SH; 2003-015) may have summered; it is only the second accepted in August and the earliest by more than two weeks. A first-fall male at Lemon Heights, ORA, 24–27 Nov 2002 (JEP; 2002-224) fit this species' usual late fall pattern; almost 70% of all accepted records of Scarlet Tanager are from this season.



Figure 7. First-spring male Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*, banded on Pt. Loma, San Diego County, 2 April 2002.

Photo by Philip Unitt

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LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (31,2). One was at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 6–7 Oct 2002 (RB, ChH†; JLD, TMcG, SSo; 2002-186). One wintered in a damp ditch adjacent to a field of okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) at Niland, IMP, 17 Dec 2002–3 Mar 2003 (PAG; JFH, KZK†, AEK, MM, CAM, GMcC, MJSanM, MSanM, AW†, RW†; 2003-002; see cover of this issue).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (100,3). One was at Mad River Slough Wildlife Area near Arcata, HUM, 30 Oct–28 Nov 2002 (JT; KMB; 2002-191). A first-fall female was at Point Cabrillo, MEN, 10 Nov 2002 (JKH†; 2003-021), and another first-fall female was just 9.5 miles north of there at Laguna Point, MacKerricher S.P., MEN, 11–16 Nov 2002 (ME†, RJK†, MaM†; 2002-196; Figure 8).

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* (2,1). One on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 27–28 Sep 2002 (KNN†; AdB, PC, PP; 2002-223) was only the second for California, following one 21–24 Oct 1991 at Pt. Loma, SD (1991-145; Patten et al. 1995). The Little Bunting breeds from Finland across northern Eurasia to Anadyr Bay on the Bering Sea; it is casual in Alaska in fall. Two were at Gambell, Alaska, in fall 2002 (Tobish 2003). Bradshaw (1991) provided details on how to distinguish the Little from the Rustic Bunting (*E. rustica*), of which there are four California records.

PYRRHULOXIA *Cardinalis sinuatus* (21,1). A male was near Palo Verde, IMP, 27 May 2002 (KMB; 2002-105). Although the observer heard and reported two birds, he saw, and the Committee endorsed, only one.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (97,6). The CBRC regards as natural vagrants single green first-fall birds at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 27 Aug–2 Sep 2000 (IS†; DR; 2002-132), 6 Sep 2000 (IS†; 2002-133), 20 Sep 2000 (IS†; 2002-134), and 13 Oct 2000 (Rif; 2002-135), at Bishop, INY, 5–6 Sep 2002 (DPa, JPa; RB†, ChH†; 2002-216), and at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 14 Sep 2002 (TW; 2002-207). With the acceptance of these records, the 2000 total for the Painted Bunting is an unprecedented 17 individuals. See also Records Not Accepted, natural occurrence questionable, below.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (61,7). Up to four (three females and a male) were in El Dorado Park in Long Beach, LA, 2 Jan–10 Mar 2000 (KSG; JLD, KLG, CAM, GMcC, JM, GP, MJSanM, MSanM†; 2000-033). One female was at Panamint Springs, INY, 3 Nov 2002 (PAG; GMcC; 2002-189). Three males were at the Earvin "Magic" Johnson Recreation Area in Willowbrook, LA, 30 Dec 2002–19 Jan 2003 (KGL†; 2003-034). All Common Grackles reported here were the expected subspecies *Q. q. versicolor*.

BLACK ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte atrata* (9,1). Following the report of a Black Rosy-Finch with Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches (*L. tephrocotis*) at Montgomery Creek Ranch near Benton, MNO, on 10 Feb 2001, many observers made the trek to this remote corner of the state in an effort to refind this bird. Several reported finding what they believed to be a Black Rosy-Finch, but descriptions of the bird(s) differed and viewing conditions were typically horrible, with strong winds and skittish distant birds. Ultimately the committee concluded that only the descriptions from 16 Feb 2001 (NBB, MSanM; 2001-057) were acceptable, although the original report from 10 Feb also received strong support (8–2).

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* (62,1). A first-winter male visiting a feeder in Anderson, SHA, 3–17 Feb 2002 (BP†, LWC†, MH, LL‡, JM, DWN†, DEQ, MSanM; 2002-036) was part of a significant irruption of this species in Canada and the western United States in winter 2002. Floyd (2002) described it as "the best invasion ever documented in the Great Basin Region," with multiple flocks in Nevada and Utah; more than 7000 were reported in Washington and Oregon (Mlodinow et al. 2002). A photo of the redpoll at Anderson was published in *N. Am. Birds* 56:220.

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RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. One reported at Tule Lake, SIS (2000-057), 21 Feb 2000 went four rounds before falling 8–2 because of two members' concerns about the brevity of the description of a bird seen briefly at a distance. One reported at Crescent City, DN, 12 Jan 2002 (2002-037) received some support (3–7), but the bird's being described as about the size of the nearby Common Loons (*G. immer*) rather than larger, and appearing gray rather than brown on the upperparts, suggested a pale-billed Common Loon. The report of one on L. Perris, RIV, 24 Jan 2002 (2002-045) received no support.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus*. Single birds seen from shore at Pebble Beach, MTY, 1 May 1999 (1999-092A) and 10 May 1999 (1999-092C) were originally circulated through the Committee as a single record of a bird staying through these 10 days. Described plumage differences, however, suggested different individuals of different ages, so the Committee divided one record into three and reviewed each sighting as a separate individual, with the option of combining any or all as "the same bird." Another sighting on 9 May is still under review. The sightings on 1 and 10 May were of albatrosses at a great distance, possibly immature Short-tailed Albatrosses, but the documentation was inadequate to eliminate a hybrid Laysan (*P. immutabilis*) × Black-footed (*P. nigripes*) Albatross or an aberrant Black-footed Albatross.

STREAKED SHEARWATER *Calonectris leucomelas*. One reported 6 miles south of Santa Barbara, SBA, 26 Oct 2002 (2002-185) received some support (4–6), but a majority of the Committee found the documentation inadequate for such a significant record.

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii*. All CBRC members believed an obvious booby in flight at San Clemente I., LA, 26 Jul 2001 (2002-026) to have been either a Blue-footed or an immature Masked/Nazca (*S. dactylatra/granti*). But the documentation was inadequate to eliminate the latter. Observers are cautioned that the Blue-footed Booby is the booby least likely to be encountered along the coast today, and that the first-year Masked, and particularly first-year Nazca, can look similar and must be distinguished carefully.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*. One in Blythe, RIV, 12 Apr 2002 (2002-109) may have been correctly identified but lacked adequate documentation.

ANHINGA *Anhinga anhinga*. One reported in flight over the San Carlos area of San Diego, SD, 7 Apr 2002 (2002-064) was believed to be a member of the genus *Anhinga*. However, the documentation does not eliminate the Darter (*A. melanogaster*), an Old World species recently reported in the wild in Imperial Co. (Patten et al. 2003, McKee and Erickson 2002), San Diego Co. (Philip Unitt pers. comm.), and northern Baja California (*N. Am. Birds* 56:111).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*. One reported near Calipatria, IMP, on 1 and 15 Jul 2000 (2000-110) was photographed on the first date and was obviously an ibis of the genus *Plegadis*. The record was sent to Bruce Peterjohn after circulating through the Committee one time. Peterjohn stated that the bird was in first alternate plumage rather than adult basic plumage as reported. He noted that in the genus *Plegadis* soft-part coloration is variable at this age; while a red iris and facial skin indicate a White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*), the absence of these characteristics (as in this bird) is inconclusive. In addition, he stated that the white border across the base of the bill in this bird strongly suggested it was a White-faced Ibis and pointed out that in first alternate plumage the Glossy has relatively inconspicuous pale lines on the



Figure 8. Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*, at MacKerricher State Park, Mendocino County, 13 November 2002.

Photo by Mark Ellness



Figure 9. This Harris's Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*, at Irvine, Orange County, 10–12 December 1994 was judged by the Committee to be outside the range of the incursion into the state that year and thus was not accepted on grounds of questionable natural occurrence.

Photo by Robert A. Hamilton

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facial skin and no white at the base of the bill. After these comments were added, the record received only one supporting vote.

Patten and Lasley (2000) listed four records for California; as it now stands, the identity of the birds they reported at Twentynine Palms, SBE, 29–31 Aug 2000 and in the Imperial Valley, IMP, 1–15 Jul 2000 are questioned by the Committee. The difficulties in distinguishing the White-faced and Glossy Ibises are compounded by hybridization; Arterburn and Grzybowski (2003) reported apparent hybrids in Oklahoma.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis*. One reported near Palo Alto, SM, 27 Jan 2002 (2002-032) was seen briefly from a vehicle going north on Interstate 280. Not only was the description of the bird limited to “white head and dark gray body,” but the bird was perched on a utility pole (most unusual for this species), and the species is virtually unknown in North America in winter.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus*. One reported in Brawley, IMP, 3 Nov 2002 (2002-198) was almost certainly the Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) known to be wintering at that locality (*N. Am. Birds* 57:117, 57:257).

YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. One was reported at an unspecified location along Highway 29, NAP, 21 Apr 2002 (2002-096). Only the upperparts were seen as the bird scurried into cattails (*Typha* sp.). The description of the bird included nothing about the bill size or wing pattern. In addition, the habitat was not typical for this species.

WHOOPIING CRANE *Grus americana*. A report of two adults near Pleasant Grove, SUT, 16 Apr 2002 (2002-097) received no support.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. The documentation provided for an adult at the Santa Maria R. mouth, SBA, 17 Aug 2002 (2002-212) suggested this species (four Committee members endorsed the record); however, some diagnostic plumage characteristics were lacking from the description. Two members felt the Sanderling (*C. alba*) was not eliminated. The Committee has traditionally required exhaustive details prior to endorsing any record of a stint in California.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*. One was reported at Tule Lake N.W.R., SIS, 8 Jul 1989 (2002-113). The single observer stated that the bird appeared to be an adult in molt and that there was a buffy wash on the breast. Adult White-rumped Sandpipers should not have buffy washes on their breasts but instead have prominent dark streaks extending down onto their flanks. In addition, the expected early arrival date for fall migrant adults in the United States is mid-August, so the 8 July date was far too early. The record received virtually no support from the Committee, though published by Kemper (2003).

BELCHER'S GULL *Larus belcheri*. An immature gull at Natural Bridges State Beach, SCZ, 6 Jul 2002 (2002-187) bore a resemblance to field-guide illustrations of juveniles of this species, and the record was supported by three Committee members (3–7). However, comparisons of the written description and specimens revealed differences. Some members were concerned about aberrant immatures of other gulls, and some were reluctant to endorse such a significant record by a single observer.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. After first being considered a Slaty-backed Gull (*L. schistisagus*), then a Lesser Black-backed Gull, a large dark-mantled sub-adult gull at Obsidian Butte on the south shore of the Salton Sea, IMP, 22 Dec 1998–7 Mar 1999 (1999-061A) and again 21 Nov–5 Dec 1999 (2000-001) was left unidentified. Patten et al. (2003) discussed it and concluded “its identity remains a mystery.” Attempts to collect it failed.

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LONG-BILLED MURRELET *Brachyramphus perdix*. A report of one at the Garcia R. mouth, MEN, 23 Jul 2001 (2001-188) was accompanied by documentation that failed to convince a majority of the Committee that the bird was not a juvenile Pigeon Guillemot (*Cephus columba*).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. Two were reported in Brawley, IMP, 24 Feb 2001 (2001-072), but their undertails and bellies were described as "almost white," strongly suggesting they were domesticated African Collared-Doves (*S. roseogrisea*) or hybrid Eurasian Collared-Doves × Ringed Turtle-Doves (*S. risoria*). The observer reporting one seen briefly at Point Reyes Station, MRN, 29 Jul 2001 (2001-124) also was not positive a hybrid could be eliminated.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens*. A wood-pewee banded and measured on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 12–13 Sep 2001 (2002-012) had an Eastern-like call note and an entirely orange mandible, but its measurements were inconclusive for identification by the formulae in Pyle (1997). During the circulation of this record Hubbard (2002) updated Pyle's formulae; by Hubbard's criteria, the bird was more likely a Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*).

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum*. One at Deep Springs, INY, 13 Sep 2002 (2003-011) received no support, as the observers were uncertain in the field as to the identification and the bird was silent. Many Committee members thought it could have been an Alder but were unwilling to endorse what would be only the state's fifth record on such slender documentation. The well-known difficulties in *Empidonax* flycatcher identification have led the Committee to a conservative approach to the Alder Flycatcher, reflected in the CBRC's 24% acceptance rate for this very rare species.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer*. One described from Hansen Dam Recreation Area, LA, 25 Nov 2001 (2001-213) received no support on its second circulation, with Committee members concerned about the brevity of the observation and description of a silent bird.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus*. One reported on Point Loma, SD, 19 Oct 2002 (2002-176) received little support because of the brevity of the observation (several looks of 3–5 seconds) of a bird observed only in flight. The skimpy description did not eliminate several other, more common *Myiarchus* flycatchers.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis*. One reported on Pt. Loma, SD, 26 Sep 2002 (2002-205) received little support, as most Committee members thought that a bright Warbling Vireo (*V. gilvus*) was not eliminated.

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens*. One reported at the Point Reyes lighthouse, MRN, 5 May 2002 (2002-103) received little support. Committee members concluded that the Russet-backed Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus ustulatus*), was not eliminated; it also has a reddish-brown back and is the thrush expected in early May. There are only three accepted spring records of Veery, the earliest 17 May. One reported at Manzanar, INY, 24 May 2002 (2002-107) was seen for 35 seconds at 80 feet, a duration too short and a distance too great for the Committee to be comfortable with the identification. The Committee appreciates the very difficult identification challenge that *Catharus* thrushes pose and reviews such records carefully; its conservative approach is reflected in the 42% acceptance rate for the Veery, among the lowest of recurring birds on the review list.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*. One on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 12 Sep 1999 (2000-082) received strong support in the third and fourth rounds (8–2), but one member believed the description did not rule out the Citrine (*M. citreola*) and

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Gray (*M. cinerea*) Wagtails, while another was concerned with the brevity of the observation (less than 30 seconds) by an observer not experienced with the species. The Committee has been inconsistent in its review of Yellow Wagtails over the years; with growing knowledge of wagtail distribution and the occurrence of a Citrine Wagtail in Mississippi in 1992 (AOU 1998), Committee members are now more likely to expect elimination of that species in a report of the Yellow Wagtail than they have been in the past.

*RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*. One reported from Salinas, MTY, 29 Sep 1984 (1984-226A) was originally accepted when submitted to the Committee in 1984 (1984-226; Dunn 1988), but the primary observer has since withdrawn this claim as "the bird was seen rather briefly, did not call, and the *japonicus* race of American Pipit was not considered" (Roberson 2002:483). The bird was unanimously not accepted on re-evaluation by the Committee in light of the observer's reconsideration.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis*. One reported at Morongo Valley, SBE, 20 Sep 2002 (2002-169) was observed briefly, and although all members thought it may have been a Connecticut Warbler, the short description did not eliminate other warbler species and did not include mention of diagnostic behavior (walking) or structure (long undertail coverts/short tail).

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia*. A majority of the Committee concluded that a bird banded and photographed on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 27 Sep 2000 (2001-028) was indeed a Mourning Warbler, but after four rounds three members had concerns regarding the bird's non-definitive measurements and believed that a hybrid Mourning × MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*) was not ruled out. One reported on the Christmas Bird Count at Palos Verdes, LA, 23 Dec 2001 (2002-056) received considerable initial support, although on subsequent rounds several Committee members reasoned that the description of underparts bright yellow from throat to undertail coverts and no hood eliminated this species. The Mourning Warbler is extremely rare in winter; there are only two accepted winter records for California.

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons*. One reported on Point Loma, SD, 19 Oct 2002 (2002-177) received some support, but the brevity of the observation (10 seconds) and slender documentation were not enough for such a significant record; there are only two accepted fall records of Red-faced Warbler, the later being 12 Sep. Eight of the 13 accepted records of this species are from late May or early June at inland locations.

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza elegans*. One reported frequenting a feeder in Mission Hills, LA, 5–6 Mar 2000 (2000-105) went through four rounds of careful review before falling 7–3 because three members believed the documentation (including distant, blurred photographs) was inadequate to support the identification and 1–9 because the occurrence was unlikely to be natural.

PYRRHULOXIA *Cardinalis sinuatus*. The brief description from De Anza Springs Resort near Jacumba, SD, 1 Sep 2002 (2002-206) of a bird in "complete silhouette" with a cardinal-like call note left many members uncomfortable about making an identification of which the observer appeared uncertain in the field.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*. One reported in the town of Klamath River, SIS, 9–11 May 2002 (2002-136) had majority support among Committee members in the first round before falling 4–6 on concerns that the description did not eliminate an immature male Great-tailed Grackle (*Q. mexicanus*) or a hybrid Great-tailed Grackle × Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*).

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RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification accepted but natural occurrence questionable

PINK-BACKED PELICAN *Pelecanus rufescens*. One on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 1–2 Nov 2002 (AdB†; KNN†; 2003-004) was considered the same as the one there 22–24 Oct 2000 (2001-019; McKee and Erickson 2002). A report of what was probably this same bird at Abbott's Lagoon, MRN, 10 Oct 2001 (2003-051) is currently under review.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicincus*. One in Irvine, ORA, 10–12 Dec 1994 (RAE, RAH†; 2003-018; Figure 9) was outside the apparent geographic limits of the 1994 incursion (Patten and Erickson 2000).

DEMOISELLE CRANE *Anthropoides virgo*. The Committee unanimously endorsed the identity of an adult with wintering Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) near Lodi and on Staten Island, SJ, 30 Sep 2001–18 Feb 2002 (CP; KMB, KH†, LL, KMCK†, JM, DEQ, MMR, DGY; 2001-173; Figure 10). But only three members considered it a genuine vagrant. This easily identified crane breeds across central Asia and migrates to the Indian subcontinent and sub-Saharan Africa to winter (Cramp 1980). Vagrants have been recorded well to the north of this range in N Europe (Lewington et al. 1991, Beaman and Madge 1998) and NE Siberia (Dement'ev et al. 1951). Since Sandhill Cranes nest well into NE Siberia (Flint et al. 1984), there is a possibility of a vagrant Demoiselle Crane joining up with Sandhill Cranes breeding in Siberia, then migrating south with those cranes into North America. Indeed, what was probably the California Demoiselle Crane was photographed with migrant Sandhill Cranes near Smithers, British Columbia, 2 May 2002 (Bain 2002) and at Gustavus, Alaska, 13–14 May 2002 (Daniel D. Gibson pers. com.).

Because the Sandhill Cranes breeding in Siberia are all believed to winter in the Great Plains rather than California, and because Demoiselle Cranes are relatively common in captivity, with documented records of escapees in North America, a majority of CBRC members questioned the bird's origin, though all agreed it may have been a genuine vagrant.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris*. An adult male in Arcadia, LA, 1–2 Aug 2002 (MSanM, SSo†; 2002-155) was wearing an ill-fitting band, suggesting it was other than a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band. A female or first-fall Painted Bunting frequenting a feeder in Los Angeles, LA, 25 Nov–2 Dec 2000 (AnB, EB; 2000-148) took four rounds before being not accepted (6–4) because of Committee members' doubts about the late date and the urban locality. The overwhelming majority of accepted records of Painted Buntings (94%) are of fall migrants; those outside the window of fall migration, and those reported from urban areas in southern California, particularly adult males, are generally considered by the Committee to be probable escapees.

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Figure 10. This striking Demoiselle Crane, *Anthropoides virgo*, spent the winter of 2001–2002 associating with Sandhill Cranes, *Grus canadensis*, in San Joaquin County. The Committee did not accept this record on grounds of questionable natural occurrence.

Photo by Kevin McKereghan

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James Abernathy, Jon Anderson (JAn), Onik Arian, Kumaran Arul, Joseph R. Barth, Tony Battiste, John B. Bazuin, Rosie Beach, William G. Bousman, Chris Brady, Matt Brady, N. Bruce Broadbooks, John Brollini (JBr), Ann Brooks (AnB), Eric Brooks, Adam Brown (AdB), Kenneth M. Burton, Phil Capitolo, Heather Carlisle (HCa), Bob Chaddock, Bob Claypole (BCl), Luke W. Cole, David M. Compton, Hugh Cotter (HCot), Chris Coulter, Art Cupples, Janet Cupples, Brian E. Daniels, Maya Decker, Allan Der, Don DesJardin (DDesJ), Henry D. Detwiler, Ryan DiGaudio, Donald C. Doolittle, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton, Alan M. Eisner, Elias Elias, Mark Elness, Richard A. Erickson, Gil Ewing, Meryl Faulkner, Jon Feenstra, Michael L. Feighner, Robbie Fischer (RoF), Nick Fittinghoff, David Fix (DFx), Rick Fournier (RiF), Sam Fried, Dave Furseth (DFu), David A. Gaines, David Gardner, Kimball L. Garrett, Greg Gerstenberg (GGe), Karen S. Gilbert, Greg Gillson (GGi), Peter A. Ginsburg, Edward Greaves, Kay Green, Chris Halsted (CHa), Robert A. Hamilton, Keith Hansen, Ed Harper, Stanley W. Harris, Sandee Harvill, Merry Haveman, Karen A. Havlena, Gjon C. Hazard, Darlene Hecomovich, D. Mitch Heindel, Jo Heindel, Tom Heindel, Roger Higson, Brad Hines (BrH), Craig Hohenberger (CHo), James F.

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Holmes, Bob Hoover, Robert Horn (RHo), Chris Howard (ChH), Virginia P. Johnson, Conrad Jones, Katie Kauffman, Robert J. Keiffer, Geoff Keller, Paul Keller, Howard B. King, Jeannette Knight (JKn), Jon Klein (JKl), Alexander E. Koonce, Kenneth Z. Kurland, Bill LaFramboise, Nancy LaFramboise, Kevin G. Larson, Lisa Lavelle (LLa), Paul E. Lehman, Joan E. Lentz, Robin Leong, Ron LeValley, Kelli Heindel Levinson, Leslie Lieurance, Dan Lockshaw, Sandra MacGillivray, Michael Mammoser, Curtis A. Marantz, Paige Martin, Woody Martin, Matthew Matthiessen (MaM), Sean McAllister, Guy McCaskie, Chet McGaugh, Todd McGrath, Tristan McKee, Kevin McKereghan, David Menke, Peter J. Metropulos, Bob Miller (BoM), Bill Mittendorff (BiM), William J. Moramarco, Joseph Morlan, David W. Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson, Richard J. Norton, Brit O'Brien, Koji Ono, Debby Parker, Jim Parker (JPa), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Barbara Peck, Gary Peebles, Dharm Pellegrini, Tim Peretti, James E. Pike, Jonathan Plissner (JPl), Celeste Pryor, Peter Pyle, David E. Quady, Will Richardson, Don Roberson, Kathy Robertson, Geoffrey L. Rogers, Michael M. Rogers, Martin Ruane, Siobhan Ruck, Ruth Rudesill, Ivan Samuels, Michael J. San Miguel, Mike San Miguel, Larry Sansone, Paul Saraceni, Brad K. Schram, Mary Scott, Jeff Seay, Debra Love Shearwater (DLSH), Susan E. Smith, Steve Sosensky (SSo), Kevin Spencer, Nancy States, Don Sterba, John C. Sterling, Ron Storey, David L. Suddjian (DLSu), Brian L. Sullivan, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, Guy Tingos, Dorothy Tobkin, Philip Unitt, David Vander Pluym, Charles E. Vaughn, Richard R. Veit, Stan Walens, Richard E. Webster, Walter Wehtje, Jerry R. White (JWh), Judy Wickman (JWi), Doug Willick, John C. Wilson, Adam Winer, Joseph Worley (JWo), Tom Wurster, Riley Wyna, David G. Yee.

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