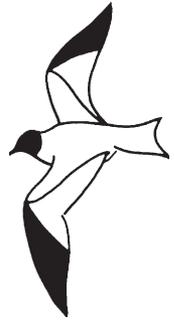


# WESTERN BIRDS



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## REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2003 RECORDS

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**ABSTRACT:** The California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 256 records involving 90 species and one species pair, endorsing 213 of them. Species new to California were the Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*), Oriental Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*), and Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*). The Falcatied Duck (*Anas falcata*) and Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) were elevated to the main list from the Supplemental List. The Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) was also added to the main list because of the determination by the American Ornithologists' Union (Banks et al. 2004) that this group of subspecies should be recognized as a full species. With these additions, plus those of the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), and Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*), to be addressed in the next report, California's bird list stands at 630 species, ten of which are non-native. Potential first state records of the Pink-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*) and European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) were not accepted on grounds of questionable natural occurrence, and a report of Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) was not accepted because of concerns regarding identification.

This 29th report of the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the CBRC or the Committee) details the evaluation of 256 records involving 262 individuals of 90 species and one species pair. The formal acceptance of specimens of the Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*; 8 records), Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*; 2 records), and Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*; 11 records), as well as a review of historical records of the Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*; 22 records, 20 accepted, 2 not accepted) had a noticeable effect on the statistical data for this report. Although most records treated here pertain to birds found in 2003, the period covered by this report spans the 115 years from 1889 through 2003. The Committee accepted 213 records involving 220 individuals of 76 species and one species pair for an acceptance rate of 83.2%. Thirty-eight records involving 38 individuals were not accepted because of insufficient documentation or

because descriptions were inconsistent with known identification criteria. Five additional records were not accepted because of questions concerning the bird's natural occurrence. Counties best represented by accepted records were San Diego (23 records), Los Angeles (19), Monterey (15), Lassen (13, 12 of which were old records of the Common Redpoll), Inyo (12), Orange (12), San Francisco (12, 9 of which were from Southeast Farallon I.), Kern (10), and Imperial (9). Records from 22 other counties involving an additional 88 accepted records are also noted.

The Committee has now been in existence 34 years and has evaluated the documentation for thousands of bird records. 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 strives to fulfill this role. Highlights of this report include the addition of Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*), Oriental Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*), and Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) to the state list. The Falcated Duck (*Anas falcata*) and Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) have been elevated to the main list from the supplemental list. The Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) was also added to the state list because of the determination by the AOU (Banks et al. 2004) that this group of subspecies should be recognized as a full species. The Committee placed the Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) on the supplemental list on the basis of a record from Staten I., San Joaquin Co., 30 Sep 2001–18 Feb 2002 (Cole and McCaskie 2004). As will be discussed in the next report, the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), and Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) have also been accepted to the California list. Details of the eider were published by McCaskie and Vaughan (2004). With the addition of these 10 species, California's list stands at 630 species, ten of which are not native and two of which have been extirpated within historical times.

Other highlights of this report include two Red-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon rubricauda*), the first coastal Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*) in 14 years, the third record of the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), three spring White-rumped Sandpipers (*Calidris fuscicollis*), the fourth record of Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*), and northern California's first Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*), in Monterey Co.

The acceptance rate of 83.2% was above the Committee's overall average acceptance rate of 79.7% (calculated by dividing the total number of accepted records by the total records in all 29 reports). Much of the variance in this report can be explained by the review of the historic records of Yellow Rail, Snowy Owl, Blue-headed Vireo, and Common Redpoll noted above (41 of the 43 records were accepted). The acceptance rate for this report with those 43 records excluded from the calculation is 80.8%. The overall average acceptance rate has trended downward over the past ten reports, with the exception of the 27<sup>th</sup> report (Garrett and Wilson 2003) and this one. Rottenborn and Morlan (2000) and Cole and McCaskie (2004) discussed trends in acceptance rates through the CBRC's history.

The total of 256 accepted records in this report is higher than the average of 215.3 records per report over the first 29 CBRC reports. The higher number is attributable to the Committee's review of historic records of 8

Yellow Rails, 2 Snowy Owls, 22 Blue-headed Vireos, and 11 Common Redpolls. The Yellow Rail and Common Redpoll specimens, all collected 1889–1912, were thought to have been lost but were recently found at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. The Snowy Owls were collected in 1916 and recently discovered at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley. The 22 records of the Blue-headed Vireo that reached final decision in 2003 were the result of the Committee's decision to add this species to the review list in 1998 and to solicit and compile documentation to review historical reports of this taxon before it was recognized as a species by the AOU (1998). The discovery of the specimens of Yellow Rails, Snowy Owls and Common Redpolls illustrate the fact that California field ornithologists—in the course of Committee investigation and other research—still uncover unreviewed historical documentation for birds on the review list.

Each year the Committee examines species on the review list to determine whether they meet with the Committee's general criteria for review under its bylaws (four or fewer records per year over the most recent 10 years) and, if not, whether Committee evaluation is still warranted. For some species, as the Committee accumulates data, patterns and trends of occurrence defining the predictable status and distribution of the species emerge. For such species, if identification is straightforward, the Committee may decide not to review further records. The Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) was removed from the review list on the basis of these criteria and a strong pattern of individuals considered to occur naturally. Records of the Painted Bunting after 2004 will no longer be reviewed. The committee also voted to review records of the Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) from the period 1974–1978, when this species was not on the review list. The Committee now solicits documentation for Roseate Spoonbill records for all years.

The list of species reviewed by the CBRC is posted at the Western Field Ornithologists' web site (<http://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, and digital images saved on compact disc, 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](mailto:guymcc@pacbell.net)).

## NEWS AND FORMAT

*Committee News.* The Committee's voting membership after the 29 January 2005 annual meeting consisted of Jon L. Dunn, Kimball L. Garrett,

Matthew T. Heindel (chair), Marshall J. Iliff, Todd McGrath, Joseph Morlan, Kristie N. Nelson, Peter Pyle, Daniel Singer (vice chair), and John C. Sterling. Guy McCaskie continued his role as nonvoting secretary. Recent Committee members who also voted on many of the records in this report include Luke W. Cole, Richard A. Erickson, Michael M. Rogers, Mike San Miguel, and John C. Wilson.

*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 *National Audubon Society Field Notes*, *American Birds*, and *Audubon 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 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 or digital image, (‡) indicates videotape, (§) indicates a voice recording, and (#) indicates a specimen record, followed by the abbreviation (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 review list.

In 2003, the Committee changed the way it reports records and individuals. In this report, as in Cole and McCaskie (2004), 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, as historically the Committee has treated groups of individuals appearing together with a single record number (e.g., a flock of Sprague's Pipits, *Anthus spragueii*). 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 reviewed 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'

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comments. We use the terms “juvenal” (restricted to a bird in *complete* juvenal plumage, usually in summer), “first-fall,” “first-spring,” “first-year” (from hatching through May of the bird’s second calendar year), “second-spring,” etc., and “adult” (a bird in definitive plumage). 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 from Humphrey and Parkes (1959) (e.g., “first alternate plumage”), when the bird’s age and the plumage state are both known and important information regarding the record.

The CBRC uses standard abbreviations for California counties; those used in this report are BUT, Butte; DN, Del Norte; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; LAS, Lassen; LA, Los Angeles; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MOD, Modoc; MNO, Mono; MTY, Monterey; ORA, Orange; PLU, Plumas; RIV, Riverside; SAC, Sacramento; SBT, San Benito; SBE, San Bernardino; SD, San Diego; SF, San Francisco; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SBA, Santa Barbara; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SAC, Sacramento; SIS, Siskiyou; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; TRI, Trinity; TUL, Tulare; VEN, Ventura; and YUB, Yuba. 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: Co., county; I., island; Ft., fort; L., lake; Mt., mountain; n. miles, nautical miles; N.W.R., national wildlife refuge; Pt., point; R., river; Rd., road; U.C., University of California.

Museum collections housing specimens cited in this report, allowing access to Committee members for research, or otherwise cited, are the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS); Humboldt State University Wildlife Museum, Arcata (HSUWM); Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, U. C. Berkeley (MVZ); Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles (LACM); San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego (SDNHM); Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History (SCMNH); U. C. Santa Cruz (UCSC), and the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo (WFVZ).

## RECORDS ACCEPTED

EMPEROR GOOSE *Chen canagica* (88, 1). One at Elkhorn Slough, MTY, 29 Dec 2002–7 Jan 2003 (YG, CT; BH†; 2003-047) was the sixth recorded in the county and the first since 1978 (Roberson 2002). A photograph was published in *N. Am. Birds* 57:287.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (59, 7). Two were at Marysville, YUB, 18 Dec 2001 (AE; 2002-055). Three adults were at Modoc N.W.R., MOD, 8 Feb–7 Mar 2003 (FT†, DS; AD, AEK; 2003-026). A first-spring bird was at this same location 11 Mar 2003 (TMcG, MSanM; 2003-043), while another first-spring bird was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., SIS, 12 Mar 2003 (MSanM, TMcG; 2003-044).

FALCATED DUCK *Anas falcata* (1, 1). A male at Honey Lake Wildlife Area, LAS, 19 Mar–9 Apr 2002 (JCS; BDu, NF, LL‡, GMcC, JM, MMR, BEW†; 2002-049) and published in *N. Am. Birds* 56:383 (Figure 1) and returning 2 Jan–11 Mar 2003 (BMS; TMcG, MSanM; 2003-041) represents the first accepted record for California. Previously this species was on the supplemental list on the basis of a record from Upper Newport Bay, ORA, 2 Jan–21 Feb 1969 (Roberson 1993). There is also a

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record from Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, 5 Apr–21 May 1953 (1986-458) that was not accepted because no good descriptions were submitted to the Committee, even though the bird was apparently seen by a number of observers (Hedgepeth 1954). Roberson (1993) erroneously listed this record as identification accepted but origin questionable. All members were concerned about the natural occurrence of the Honey Lake Falcated Duck, but the fact that it migrated and returned for a second year was enough to convince the required eight members to support the record. The two dissenting voters were concerned by the availability of this species from waterfowl breeders, as well as the weak pattern of records south of Alaska. Although some previous records from south of Alaska (as from Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina) have been considered to pertain to escapees (Peterjohn and Davis 1996, AOU 1998), six additional Pacific coast records have been accepted by state and provincial records committees. Three of these are from Washington: one shot at Willapa Bay, Pacific Co., 3 Jan 1979, one seen near Sequim, Clallam Co., 3 Jul 1993, and another seen on the Samish Flats, Skagit Co., 21 Feb–26 Mar 2002 (Wahl et al. 2005). The lone Oregon record is from Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane Co., 14 Feb–14 Mar 2004 (*N. Am. Birds* 58:273, 58:423). This bird was reported nearby during the winter of 2004–05 (J. L. Dunn pers. comm.). The two accepted records from British Columbia comprise one from Swan Lake 5 Apr 1932 (Campbell et al. 2001) and one from Tofino, Vancouver I., April 1994, returning for the two successive winters (Patterson 1994).

**KING EIDER** *Somateria spectabilis* (36, 1). A first-winter bird was offshore from Lincoln Park, SF, 13 Dec 2003 (HCo, ME†, ASH; 2003-196).

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** *Gavia adamsii* (71, 1). An adult in alternate plumage flying north was observed from the Newport Pier, Newport Beach, ORA, 26 Apr 2003 (BED; 2003-069). Most California records of the Yellow-billed Loon are of first-year birds, so an adult is noteworthy, but not unprecedented in southern California; the first record for Los Angeles Co. was also of a northbound adult (CBRC 1980-088) (Luther 1980). There are only seven accepted records of this species for southern California, and this is the first for Orange Co. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

**SHY ALBATROSS** *Thalassarche cauta* (3, 0). One reported by the captain of a chartered fishing boat at 38° 27' N, 123° 35' W, SON, 25 Sep 1999 (VO fide AD; 1999-139A) was considered to be the same individual recorded 24 Aug 1999 off Mendocino Co. (1999-139) (Rogers and Jaramillo 2002). The captain's familiarity with the Laysan Albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) and the fact he had seen the same Shy Albatross a month earlier while running a birding charter convinced nine members to endorse the record. Cole (2000) discussed the 24 Aug 1999 record in detail, including identification to subspecies. Different Shy Albatrosses were recorded in California each year from 1999 and 2001, but none has been reported since.

**SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS** *Phoebastria albatrus* (12\*\*, 1). One in its first or second spring was photographed following a trawler and sitting on the water with a group of Black-footed Albatrosses (*P. nigripes*) around 40° 41.28' N, 124° 39.23' W, west of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 6 Apr 2003 (TP†; 2003-066). All California records since 1900 have been of first- or second-year birds. No seasonal pattern is apparent, as the 12 accepted records are widely scattered among seven months. The Committee reviews all California records of the Short-tailed Albatross since 1900. As the species continues to recover from near extinction in the mid-20th century more frequent reports from California should be expected. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

**MOTTLED PETREL** *Pterodroma inexpectata* (54, 1). One crash-landed in view

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of observers on the south spit of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 1 Feb 2003 (not 3 Feb as reported in *N. Am. Birds* 57:252) (CW; EE, TD†; #HSU 8644; 2003-024). It later died and is now a life mount at Humboldt State University. Three quarters of California's Mottled Petrel records fall between November and February.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* (1, 1). One with a mixed flock of several thousand shearwaters over Bodega Canyon (38° 10.3' N; 123° 36.1' W), SON, 9 Aug 2003 (DLSh†; DCD, SNGH, CL, LL‡, TMcK; 2003-094) (Figure 2) was the first for California and the entire North Pacific. One observer estimated the composition of the flock to be roughly 94% Sooty (*Puffinus griseus*), 5% Pink-footed (*P. creatopus*), and 1% Buller's Shearwaters (*P. bulleri*). This flock was along a steep temperature gradient from 60.4° F to between 57° and 58° F. In the Atlantic, Cory's Shearwater relies for feeding on such temperature gradients more than do shearwaters of the genus *Puffinus* in part because it is not able to dive as deeply for prey (Haney and McGillivray 1985). The Cory's Shearwater most closely resembled a Pink-footed Shearwater but was 10% larger with a more massive head. When on the water it was distinguishable by its white flanks, white undertail coverts, and lighter grayish-brown head and neck, as well as its dark-tipped yellow bill. In flight (lumbering) the pure white underwings were also noted. There is only one other record from the Pacific, of a beached specimen of the subspecies *C. d. borealis* from Foxton on New Zealand's North I. in Jan 1934 (Marchant and Higgins 1990).

Three subspecies of Cory's Shearwater have been recognized historically, though Sangster et al. (1988) and Snow and Perrins (1998) treated the smallest subspecies (*C. d. edwardsii*) as a full species, the Cape Verde Shearwater. The AOU has yet to recognize this treatment, but a photograph of an apparent Cape Verde Shearwater off North Carolina 15 Aug 2004 (Patteson and Armistead 2004) may prompt it to review this matter. The Cape Verde Shearwater breeds on the Cape Verde Is., but its distribution away from the breeding grounds is poorly known (Patteson and Armistead 2004). Distinguishing the Cape Verde from the other subspecies of Cory's is straightforward and described by Porter et al. (1997) and Patteson and Armistead (2004). On the basis of its large yellowish bill, large size, lack of grayish tones in the brown dorsal coloration, and lack of white on the uppertail coverts, the Cory's Shearwater in California was certainly not *C. d. edwardsii*. Sangster et al. (1988) also recommended elevating the remaining two subspecies to full species status, although this view has its opponents (Wink et al. 1993, Heidrich et al. 1996). The two additional subspecies are *C. d. diomedea* (Scopoli's Shearwater), which breeds on Mediterranean islands and winters as far south as South Africa and may enter the Indian Ocean (Marchant and Higgins 1990), and *C. d. borealis* (Cory's Shearwater), which breeds primarily in the Azores, as well as at Madeira, the Salvages, and the Canary Islands, and winters off South America with substantial numbers reaching the southwest Indian Ocean east of 30° E (Marchant and Higgins 1990).

Nominate *C. d. borealis* is the most common subspecies off eastern North America, but observations of *Calonectris* shearwaters off North Carolina in spring have established that Scopoli's Shearwater is regular (S. N. G. Howell pers. comm., McGrath pers. obs.). Levine (1998) reported five specimens of *C. d. diomedea* from New York, and other eastern museums also contain specimens of this subspecies (Howell pers. comm.) Criteria for identifying these subspecies at sea were discussed by Gutiérrez (1998). The most objective difference is the pattern and extensiveness of black on the underside of the primaries. In the nominate subspecies of Cory's Shearwater the primaries are dark, and the contrast with the white coverts creates an even separation between the dark and light areas of the underwing. In Scopoli's Shearwater the inner webs of the outer primaries are extensively white, creating a more angled pattern to the underwing. Cory's Shearwaters also average larger, darker headed, heavier billed, and broader winged, but these characters are often difficult to assess at sea and are best used as supporting characters.



Figure 1. Male Falcated Duck (*Anas falcata*) at Honey Lake Wildlife Area, Lassen County, photographed 21 March 2002. This bird's return in two consecutive years, implying migration, prompted the CBRC to add the Falcated Duck to the main list of California birds.

Photo by Bruce Webb

The Cory's Shearwater in California showed the extensively dark undersides to the primaries consistent with *C. d. borealis*. In the South Atlantic Ocean, Cory's Shearwaters have reached Gough I. and have been recorded as far south as 48° S off Argentina but typically range south only to 39° S (Marchant and Higgins 1990). This species' preference for warmer waters, its limited southerly distribution, and the presence of large numbers in the Indian Ocean suggest that this species likely came to California via the Indian Ocean rather than around Cape Horn of South America. Two members commented that the bird might also have crossed the Isthmus of Panama.

**GREATER SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis* (4, 1). One seen on Monterey Bay, MTY, 24 Feb 1979 (JLD, FF, KLG, SGU, BS; 1979-017A) was originally accepted by the Committee as California's first record (Luther et al. 1983). It was later re-reviewed and not accepted because of the lack of subsequent records and the observers' failure to eliminate species like the Juan Fernandez Petrel (*Pterodroma externa*) specifically (Erickson and Terrill 1996). Subsequently, the Greater Shearwater has been recorded in California three times, one of these in January (Garrett and Wilson 2003), as well as once each in Alaska (Pearce 2002) and Washington (Wahl et al. 2005). On the basis of this emerging pattern of occurrence, the Committee decided to review this record once again, and after two rounds, nine members voted to accept, making it, once again, the first accepted record from California. The dissenting voter continued to believe that the documentation did not conclusively eliminate other species. The Committee is currently reviewing records from Monterey Bay 12 Oct 2003 and the Cordell Bank 29 Aug 2004.

**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus* (79, 4). One was seen from Capitola Beach, SCZ, 24 Sep 2001 (DLS; 2002-005). Another was observed from shore off

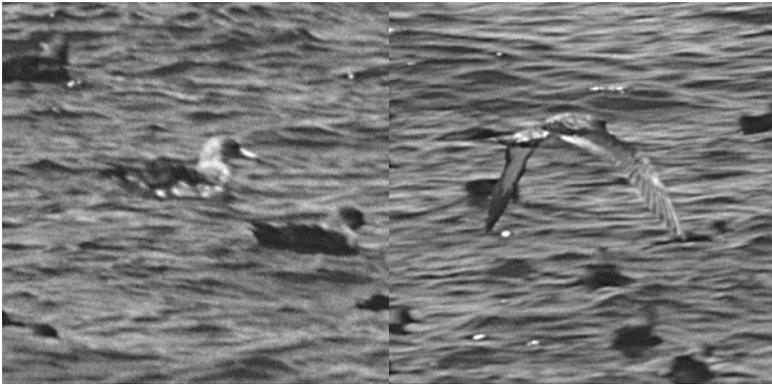


Figure 2. Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), photographed 9 August 2003 over Bodega Canyon, off Sonoma County. These photos support the first record of this primarily Atlantic species in the North Pacific Ocean.

Photo by Debra Shearwater

Pt. Vicente, LA, 17 Mar 2003 (KGL; 2003-077) for a fourth county record. A dead bird was found by a volunteer for the Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary at Thornton Beach, SM, 7 Oct 2001 (RS†; 2003-078). The specimen, which would have been the first for California, was unfortunately not retained. One was seen 2-3 miles west of Oxnard Harbor, VEN, 25 Oct 2003 (TMcG; JF; 2003-179). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

LITTLE SHEARWATER *Puffinus assimilis* (1, 1). One at 36° 37.0'N, 122° 0.14'W off Pt. Joe, MTY, 29 Oct 2003 (BA†, DCD, SK, NM, PP, DLSht; 2003-149) (Figure 3) was the first for California. A photograph of this bird was also published in *N. Am. Birds* 58:137. The Manx Shearwater was eliminated by the small size and bill, white lores, more rounded wings with white outer webs on the undersides of the primaries (see Cramp and Simmons 1977), and bluish-gray legs. Audubon's Shearwaters (*P. lherminieri*) are long tailed, and most subspecies have dark undertail coverts, in contrast to the pure white undertail coverts and short, wide tail of the Little Shearwater. Audubon's Shearwater also lacks the white outer webs on the undersides of the primaries. In flight the Little Shearwater has a very direct flight with little banking that can look almost like that of an alcid (Cramp and Simmons 1977), flight characteristics both specifically noted on the Monterey bird. Two unsubstantiated sight reports from Alaska (Gibson et al. 2003) and one photographed near Midway I. (P. Pyle pers. comm.) are the only others reported from the northern Pacific. A specimen reportedly of the Little Shearwater from Midway (Clapp and Woodward 1968) shows characteristics of Audubon's Shearwater (P. Pyle pers. comm.). Austin et al. (2004) revised the taxonomy of both the Little and Audubon's Shearwaters primarily on the basis of molecular biology. Changes relevant to this discussion include the reassignment of two Atlantic subspecies of the Little Shearwater, *P. a. baroli* and *P. a. boydi*, to Audubon's Shearwater and reassignment of *P. a. myrtae* from Rapa I. in the Austral Is., French Polynesia, to Townsend's/Newell's Shearwater (*P. auricularis*). Some experts find the reassignment of *P. a. myrtae* and *P. a. baroli* controversial (P. Pyle pers. comm.), suggesting that further work on this group is required. Should the AOU eventually adopt the classification proposed by Austin et al. (2004), all of North America's Atlantic Ocean records of the Little Shearwater would pertain to Audubon's Shearwater, and this California

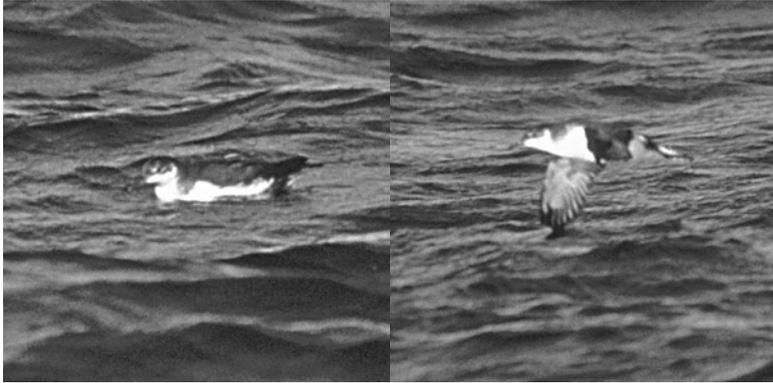


Figure 3. Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*), photographed 29 October 2003 off Point Joe, Monterey County. These photos support the first record of this largely Southern Hemisphere species for California and the second well-supported record for the North Pacific Ocean.

Photo by Debra Shearwater

record would likely be reviewed again to determine if it could be separated conclusively from both Audubon's and Townsend's/Newell's Shearwaters under the new taxonomy. The only specimen records of the Little Shearwater for North America involve beach-cast carcasses of *P. a. baroli* from Sullivan's I., South Carolina, Aug 1883 (Post and Gauthreaux 1989) and Sable I., Nova Scotia, 1 Sep 1896 (Dwight 1897). There are also two sight records, of three birds well studied about 45 n. miles southwest of Sable I. 23–24 2003 Sep (*N. Am. Birds* 58:31) and one less certain record from Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, 28 Dec 1984 (*Am. Birds* 39:157).

RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon rubricauda* (22, 2). One probable second-fall bird seen flying around Southeast Farallon I., SF, 29 Sep 2003 (PP, JC, KNN†; 2003-137) was the third to be recorded from the island but only the sixth for northern California. Another was seen approximately 200 n. miles sw. of San Clemente I., LA, 6 Sep 2003 (MG; TMcG, CRo; 2003-170).

MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra* (12, 1). One second-winter individual was on Bird Rock, San Clemente I., LA, 17 Jan–29 Mar 2003 (RSAK, BLS†; 2003-065), returning there 10 Aug–8 Oct 2003 (BLS†; RSAK; 2003-128).

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii* (81, 1). One seen from West Cove Pt., San Clemente I., LA, 17 Nov 2002 (BLS; 2002-203) was the first for California since 1998 (Erickson and Hamilton 2001) and the first along the California coast since 1990 (McCaskie and San Miguel 1999), although there is a recent record for coastal Oregon: 7–9 Oct 2002 (Marshall et al. 2003). A record for Washington (23 Sep 1935, Jewett et al. 1953) is the only other one north of California. This species occurred historically in numbers at the Salton Sea during sporadic influxes (McCaskie 1970). Years or decades may pass between these events. Numbers of Blue-footed Boobies in double digits have not been recorded in California since 1977.

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (80, 6). A second-winter female at Princeton Harbor, SM, 2 Jan–15 Mar 2003 (RST; KMB, LWC†, ME, RFi, NF, JFH, AEK, LL†, RWL, CAM, JM†, DSI; 2003-012) was judged by a majority of Committee members



Figure 4. Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), photographed 9 July 2003 near Calipatria, Imperial County, constituting the sixth accepted record for California.

Photo by Kenneth Z. Kurland

to be the same bird reported from Southeast Farallon I. the previous fall (2003-019; Cole and McCaskie 2004). A photograph was published in *N. Am. Birds* 58:142. An adult female found dead 11 miles east of Calexico, IMP, 17 Aug 2003 (KLG, KCM†; #LACM 112416; 2003-095) likely died sometime in early August. An adult female was seen flying south from Pt. Pedernales, Vandenberg Air Force Base, SBA, 4 Jun 2003 (AB; 2003-097). Another adult was at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 11 Aug 2003 (MR; 2003-100). An adult 5.5 n. miles offshore at 39° 51.450' N; 124° 02.456' W, MEN, 21 Sep 2003 (RST; DLS†, CV, JW; 2003-140) was the first from waters off that county and the northernmost recorded in California. There is one record for Oregon (3 Oct 1998, Marshall et al. 2003) and another from Washington (Wahl et al. 2005). First-fall birds were on the e. end of Anacapa I., VEN, 25 Oct 2003 (TMcG; JF; 2003-180; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 58:142) and on China Pt., San Clemente I., LA, 1–3 Nov 2003 (BLS†; 2004g-011). Cole and McCaskie (2004) discussed the increase in records of Brown Booby along the coast of California.

**RED-FOOTED BOOBY** *Sula sula* (15, 1). One second-fall individual came aboard the research vessel *Velero IV* near Anacapa I, VEN, 17–20 Oct 2003 (CR†; 2003-160). The bird remained on board for four days. Six of California's records were in 1987; typically this species is recorded only once every three to four years. The last record was off San Diego, 14 Oct 2000 (McKee and Erickson 2002).

**ANHINGA** *Anhinga anhinga* (5, 2). An adult male in alternate plumage at Ramer L., IMP, 5 Apr–12 Jun 2003 (KLG; HDD†, JF, PAG, GMcC, JM†, DN†, GW†; 2003-035) was a county first and the first for California since 1984. This bird's return to Finney/Ramer lakes 19 Mar–6 May 2004 will be discussed in a future report (*N. Am. Birds* 58:433). Remarkably, a second-fall male at Fig Lagoon, 2 mi. sw. of Seeley, IMP, 8 Nov 2003–18 Jan 2004 (GMcC, JCS; MBi, KZK†, CL, LL‡, CM, MSanM; 2003-159) gave Imperial Co. its second record in less than five months.



Figure 5. Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*), photographed 11 August 2002 at Marina, Monterey County. Eight sightings of probably four individual Crested Caracaras 2001–03 prompted the CBRC to add the species to the main list of California birds.

*Photo by Scott Hein*

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (42\*\*, 4). An adult at West Pond near Imperial Dam, IMP, 25 Mar 2003 (DEQ; 2003-037) was the first accepted for Imperial Co. away from the Salton Sink. Another adult was in s. San Diego Bay, SD, 15 Jan 1999 (MRa†; 2003-080). An adult and a one-year-old bird were seen together near Red Hill at the s. end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 9 Jul 2003, with the adult continuing through 17 Aug 2003 (AEK; MJI, GMcC; 2003-084). The Committee reviews Tricolored Heron records from 1990 onward.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (6, 2). An adult near Calipatria, IMP, 1–2 Jul 2000 (PAG, GMcC; CAM; 2000-109) took three rounds to gain acceptance, primarily because of concerns about the presence of one or more Glossy Ibises and on what dates they may have occurred. An adult with red tarsal joints was reported near this location on 27 May 2000, and the 1–2 July sightings, as well as sightings from 9 and 15 Jul, and 8 Aug were combined as one record and considered to be the same individual. After a thorough review and extensive discussions at the 2004 annual meeting, the Committee voted to limit the accepted date range to 1–2 Jul. More recently, an adult was with a group of White-faced Ibises (*P. chihii*) in a flooded field at the intersection of English and Sinclair roads, near Calipatria, IMP, 9 Jul 2003 (JLD†; KZK†, GMcC, MSanM; 2003-086) (Figure 4). Patten and Lasley (2000) and Arterburn and Grzybowski (2003) discussed the possibility of hybrid Glossy × White-faced Ibises. Observers should consider the possibility of hybrids carefully when reporting a Glossy Ibis in California. A record from Los Angeles Co., which may pertain to a hybrid, and another record for Imperial Co., which may be considered the same bird as 2000-109, are currently being evaluated by Committee. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

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ROSEATE SPOONBILL *Platalea ajaja* (15\*\*, 2). Two at Goleta Slough, SBA, 30 Jul–14 Sep 1973 (BSc†; 2004-037) were considered to be the same as the two at Pt. Mugu, VEN, 4–20 Jul 1973 (Webster et al. 1980). As noted in the introduction, the Committee now reviews Roseate Spoonbill records for all years, but the totals above exclude records 1974–78, when this species was not on the review list.

BLACK VULTURE *Coragyps atratus* (3, 1). California's third was at Arcata, HUM, 8–9 Oct 2003 (DFi; RF†, KeR; 2003-132). Remarkably, it was at the same location as California's second, 19 Sep 1993–9 Feb 1994 (McCaskie and San Miguel 1999).

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (33, 3). One in its first spring was soaring over Claremont, LA, 26 May 2003 (KW; 2003-064). One was at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 23 May 2003 (RB, JLD, CHo†; 2003-075). Furnace Creek Ranch has hosted one-third of all California's accepted Mississippi Kites. One in its first fall seen from the hawkwatch at the Marin Headlands, MRN, 28 Oct 2003 (SB, RFi; HBr, LC, AF, SStu; 2003-150) was the second at this location and for coastal northern California.

\*ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus* (67, 1). One collected at Chula Vista, SD, in April or May 1945 (SCMNH†; 2004-028) was at first thought to be a Short-tailed Hawk (*B. brachyurus*), then labeled a melanistic Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*) (Chester E. Bell pers. comm. to GMcC). A review of the life mount at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History confirmed the identification as a Zone-tailed Hawk.

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway* (4, 4). This species was elevated from the supplemental list to the main list on the basis of eight accepted records from 20 Oct 2001 to 5 Jan 2003. The Committee judged several of the records to pertain to the same individual, for a total of four separate birds. The first was in Long Beach,



Figure 6. Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) found dead at Harkins Slough near Santa Cruz, 25 October 2003.

Photo by Bev Brock

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LA, 20 Oct 2001 (KGL; 2002-061). A first-spring bird at Goleta, SBA, 30 Apr 2002 (PG; 2002-147) was judged to be the same bird as one at Vandenberg Air Force Base, SBA, 14–23 Jul 2002 (BHi†; DC; 2002-148), near Pt. Mugu, VEN, 8 Aug 2002 (AC, JC; 2002-192), and near Saticoy, VEN, 9 Dec 2002–5 Jan 2003 (SH; TE, JG†, CAM; TMcG, MSanM, SSo, WW; 2002-209). Another was at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, near Lakeview, RIV, 4 Jul 2002 (TS†; 2002-130). A two-year-old bird at Marina, MTY, 11–13 Aug 2002 (RS†; SH†, BH†, LL†; 2002-154) (Figure 5) was considered to be the same bird as one 2 miles n. of Davenport, SCZ, 21–27 Sep 2002 (MBr, CL†, JM, DEQ, DR†, KR†, MSc†, DLS, DVP, RW; 2002-161). The species had not been placed on the state list previously because of concerns over natural occurrence. After three rounds of circulation and further discussion at its annual meeting in 2005, eight members endorsed the natural occurrence of the Crested Caracara, noting that the species is little known in captivity, shows a pattern of dispersal during the nonbreeding season in Arizona, has been expanding its range in Texas, and appeared widely across the country in 2002 (Brinkley and Lehman 2002). The fact that some of the records pertained to immature birds was another point in support of natural vagrancy. The two dissenting voters argued that the pattern of vagrancy in California was counterintuitive, with no apparent seasonality, and that the records were concentrated along the coast from Los Angeles north to Santa Cruz, rather than in the Imperial Valley and along the Colorado R. Furthermore, the pattern of vagrancy in Arizona is not very strong, and there are several cases of this species' known (e.g., Virginia, Ned Brinkley in litt.) or presumed escape from captivity (e.g., records from Massachusetts, Nova Scotia, and elsewhere in the East). Five records, one each from Imperial, Humboldt, Mendocino, Santa Barbara, and Sonoma counties,



Figure 7. Little Gull (*Larus minutus*), photographed 1 January 2004 at Prado Regional Park, San Bernardino County.

Photo by Larry Sansone



Figure 8. This Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) in San Diego 11 October–29 November 2003 was the first identified conclusively in California.

*Photo by Matt Sadowski*



Figure 9. This Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) was at Point Loma, San Diego, 28 September–1 October 2003.

*Photo by Matt Sadowski*

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are currently under review by the Committee. Some of these may pertain to the same individual. Readers are encouraged to submit any information on the status of this species in captivity in California and elsewhere. Some records previously not accepted because of questions of origin may be reevaluated. See also records not accepted, identification not established, and records not accepted, identification accepted but natural occurrence questionable.

**GYRFALCON** *Falco rusticolus* (10, 2). One juvenile of the gray morph along Flannery Rd., SOL, 1 Dec 2001(SA, SiR†; 2001-210) was the second Gyrfalcon recorded in Solano Co. One first seen at Eel R. Wildlife Area, HUM, was resighted at various locations around Humboldt Bay 16 Oct–3 Nov 2003 (DFi, KeR; 2003-139) and was the first recorded in Humboldt Co.

\***YELLOW RAIL** *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (78, 2). One vocalizing at Cowhead Slough ne. of Ft. Bidwell, MOD, 14-28 Jun 2003 (JCS§, FT; MF, AH 2003-083) was considered a returning bird, since one was present there 27 May–24 June 2002 (Cole and McCaskie 2004). Although one observer reported hearing two birds at this location, the Committee reviewed and accepted only one. Another was heard near the city of Mt. Shasta, SIS, 6 Jun–12 Jul 2003 (JCS, JEH; MMR; 2003-092). An adult male was found dead at Harkins Slough near Santa Cruz, SCZ, 25 Oct 2003 (BeB; #UCSC A-641; 2003-146) (Figure 6).

The Committee provisionally accepted reports of 17 specimens listed by Grinnell and Miller (1944) because the specimens were presumed lost (Dunn 1988). Pyle recently located at CAS eight of the specimens, which the Committee reviewed and formally accepted. One was a first-spring male collected by Edward Garner at Quincy, PLU, 15 Apr 1889 (PP†; #CAS 73833; 2004-017). Grinnell and Miller (1944) listed



Figure 10. This Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) banded on Southeast Farallon I. 29 September 1985 is one of 19 accepted by the Committee in this report. It shows the sharp contrast between the bluish-gray head and clean white throat, a mark critical to distinguishing this species from a bright Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*).

Photo by Peter Pyle

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the date as 16 April. The other seven specimens were collected by Chase Littlejohn at Redwood City, SM, as follows:

Male, adult, 2 Jan 1893 (PP†; #CAS 73835; 2004-018).

Female, adult, 23 Dec 1894 (PP†; #CAS 73836; 2004-019).

Male, adult, 21 Dec 1896 (PP†; #CAS 73834; 2004-020).

Female, adult, 22 Jan 1897 (PP†; #CAS 73838; 2004-021).

Male, first-fall, 24 Oct 1897 (PP†; #CAS 73839; 2004-022).

Female, first-fall, 17 Nov 1911 (PP†; #CAS 73837; 2004-023).

Female, adult, 4 Jan 1912 (PP†; #CAS 73840; 2004-024).

The Committee reviews Yellow Rail records through 2003.

LESSER SAND-PLOVER *Charadrius mongolus* (9, 1). One in its first fall at Abbott's Lagoon, MRN, 22 Oct 2003 (SNGH; 2003-164) was well described, and the observer eliminated other possible species such as the Greater Sand-Plover (*C. leschenaultii*), which has occurred once in California (Abbott et al. 2001, Garrett and Wilson 2003). This record represented a significant extension of the late date in fall, as the next latest record for the Lesser Sand-Plover California is 3 October (Erickson and Hamilton 2001).

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* (22, 1). Tertials and axillar feathers recovered from a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) eyrie near Burnt Ranch, TRI, 5 Jun 1992 (fide JS†; 1993-002) provided a first record of the Upland Sandpiper for Trinity Co. The Committee analyzed photographs of the feathers to reach its decision. Pyle compared the feathers to specimens at CAS and found them to match the Upland Sandpiper. Other possible species such as the Little Curlew (*Numenius minutus*) and other Eurasian species of *Numenius* and *Limosa* were considered and eliminated.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (21, 3). One in its first fall was at New Chicago Marsh, Alviso, SCL, 27 Aug–6 Sep 2003 (DM; LWCT, ME†, RFe, CL, LL‡, MMA, JM, JMy, MMR, DSi, DVP†; 2003-112). A photograph was published in *N. Am Birds* 58:140. It was joined by another in its first fall 30 Aug–6 Sep 2003 (RFe, MMA, JMy†, MMR, DSi, DVP†; 2003-114). All previous California records were of single birds. Another individual in its first fall was at Lake Talawa, DN, 18 Oct 2003 (RF, KeR; 2003-143).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* (19, 3). The three spring records in 2003 were the most ever in California during a single season. One bird was at the north end of Crowley Lake, MNO, 24 May 2003 (not 26 May as reported in *N. Am. Birds* 57:399) (REM; 2003-093). The second was at the historic "I" ranch on Pt. Reyes, MRN, 31 May–3 Jun 2003 (CL, LL‡; KB, RS†; 2003-059). The third was at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 1 Jun 2003 (PAG, SSo; 2003-060). All of California's spring records of the White-rumped Sandpiper fall between 17 May and 12 Jun, with most in the last week of May or first week of June.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (32, 1). One in its first spring at Merced N.W.R., MER, 25–26 May 2003 (AJ†, KVV; 2003-079) was the fifth recorded inland in California in spring. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

\*BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* (121, 1). One in its first fall was at Morro Bay, SLO, 10 Sep 1988 (RZ; 2004-007). The Committee reviews Buff-breasted Sandpiper records through 1991.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (86, 7). Three observed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century were submitted to the Committee and accepted in 2004: one in its first spring at Yorba Linda Regional Park, ORA, 25 Mar 1995 (BED; 2004-001), an adult at the New Chicago Marsh, Alviso, SCL, 31 Dec 1998 (SBT; 2004-026), and one in its first spring at the Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant in Alviso, SCL, 28 Apr 1999

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(SBT; 2004-025). One in its first fall at Long Pt. on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, LA, 24 Nov 2002 (MSanM; 2002-199) was the first for Los Angeles Co. since 1995. Two adults were at Prado Regional Park, SBE, the first 21 Dec 2003–16 Feb 2004 (DF†, RF†, NF, MJ†, HK, CAM, GMcC, DWN†, MS†, LS†; 2003-198; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 58:282), and the second 26 Dec 2003–6 Jan 2004 (AH, MSanM, LS†; 2004-033) (Figure 7). These are the first records for San Bernardino Co. One adult at L. Mathews, RIV, 15 Nov–28 Dec 2003 (KFC; 2004-042) was only about 10 miles from Prado, but the Committee accepted it as a different individual. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* (22, 2). It took the Committee four rounds to conclude that an adult at Devereux Slough, Goleta, SBA, 10–31 Dec 2000 (GWe; DVP; 2001-001) was likely not the bird that had been returning to nearby Santa Barbara for six winters from 1992 through 1997 (Erickson and Hamilton 2001). Eventually all members agreed that the three-year period between sightings was sufficient to treat this individual as different. A one-year-old bird at Teal Pt., L. Earl, DN, 2–16 Aug 2003 (MJI; MF, KeR; 2003-124) was the first for that county since 1980 and only the third recorded in California in summer.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (23, 3). An adult at Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing, MTY, 9 Jan 2003 (TE; 2003-014) was only the second for Monterey County (Roberson 2002). One in its second fall at Crowley Lake, MNO, 22–26 Oct 2003 (JLD; RB, CHot; 2003-161) was the first on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, while a one-year-old bird at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, SAC, 24 Oct–12 Dec 2003 (SNHG†; CC, EH†, DJ; 2003-201) was a first for the San Joaquin Valley region.

THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia* (44, 2). One 5 miles west of Bear Harbor, MEN, 21 Sep 2003 (DLSh, CV, JW; 2003-003) was a first from waters off that



Figure 11. Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*) at Black Meadow Landing along the Colorado River, San Bernardino Co., 1 November 2003–18 March 2004.

Photo by Chuck Gordon

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county. A photograph of one on the north side of Monterey Bay, SCZ, 4 Oct 2003 (RP, DLSh†; 2003-138) is in *N. Am Birds* 58:138. More than 60% of California's Thick-billed Murre records are from Monterey Bay. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

**ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE** *Streptopelia orientalis* (1, 1). One in its first fall at Bolinas, MRN, 9–31 Dec 2002 (KH†, SNGH†, PP; 2003-036) was the first accepted for California. All ten Committee members accepted the bird's identification, but two questioned its natural occurrence. The bird's age and its appearing to be of the migratory Asian subspecies *S. o. orientalis* were factors cited by most accepting members. Although this species is uncommon in captivity and is not bred in numbers in the United States (L. W. Cole and M. M. Rogers in comments), two members felt that the risk of an escapee could not be eliminated satisfactorily. The bird was visiting a chicken coop for food, and its tail had been lost and was regrowing. The Oriental Turtle-Dove has an extensive pattern of vagrancy to Europe, and at least some records there pertain to *S. o. orientalis* (Hirschfeld 1986, Lewington et al. 1991). This species has been recorded in Alaska five times between 20 May and 26 Jul: twice at Attu, twice at or near the Pribilof Is. (A.O.U. 1998), and once from Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians (*N. Am. Birds* 49:964). One at Tofino, British Columbia, 14–25 Aug 1992 was accepted by the British Columbia Bird Records Committee (Campbell et al. 2002) but considered a possible escapee from captivity by the A.O.U. (1998). A previous California report from Furnace Creek Ranch 29 Oct 1988 was not accepted (Heindel and Garrett 1995) but is being reevaluated by the Committee.

**\*RUDDY GROUND-DOVE** *Columbina talpacoti* (104, 3). A female at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 6 Oct 2002–17 Feb 2003 (JLD; RB, CH†; 2002-193) apparently remained until 23 May 2003 (JLD; 2003-081). The record of a male at this location about the same time is still under review. Three reported from this same location 14



Figure 12. This female Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*), photographed 29 December 2003, was one of two spending the winter of 2003–04 at Veterans' Park, Imperial Beach, San Diego Co.

Photo by Ed Greaves

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Oct 2003, with two continuing through 11 Nov 2003 (JHo†, RB, CHo†, AH, AEK, CMcF†; 2003-157), were accepted as different birds, but the Committee's review of these individuals remains incomplete. A male was at Bishop, INY, 14 Dec 2003–13 Jan 2004 (JLD, CH†, 2003-081). The Committee reviews Ruddy Ground-Dove records through 2003.

**SNOWY OWL\*\*** *Bubo scandiacus* (69, 2). The Committee reviewed photographs of two specimens from the MVZ collection. The first was of a first-fall male collected 17 Nov 1916 at Gridley, BUT (SNGH†; #MVZ 27139; 2003-202). The second was of a skeleton of a bird collected at Loleta, HUM, 2 Dec 1916 (SNGH†; #MVZ 27606; 2003-203).

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** *Cynanthus latirostris* (62, 2). A male was at Sonoma, SON, 13–27 Nov 2003 (KB, ME†, MH, CL, LL‡, JM; 2003-162), providing a county first. A photograph of this bird was published in *N. Am. Birds* 58:139; a report of its return in May–June 2004 is under review. A first-year male banded at Big Morongo Preserve, Morongo Valley, SBE, 26 Jul 2003 (BAC; 2003-096) was exceptional for the date, as all of California's 61 other accepted records range from September to April.

**MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD** *Eugenes fulgens* (1, 1). An adult female at Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park, Pacific Beach, SD, 11 Oct–29 Nov 2003 (NS; MBi, KLG, PAG, MJI, GMcC, TMcG, MSanM, JM, GLR, MMR†, MS†, DSi, PU; 2003-133) was the first accepted for California (Figure 8). Another photograph was published in *N. Am. Birds* 58:176. This species has a pattern of northward dispersal in the late spring and summer, with numerous records (including some breeding) for Colorado, as well as reports from Nevada, Utah, Kansas, Wyoming, and Minnesota (Williamson 2001, Howell 2002). It also has dispersed to the southeastern United States in fall



Figure 13. Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) at Point Loma, San Diego Co., 19 September 2003

Sketch by Susan E. Smith

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and winter, with records from southeastern Texas, Alabama, and Georgia (Williamson 2001, Howell 2002); an adult male was photographed in Virginia 22–25 Oct 2004 (*N. Am. Birds* 58:460).

**GREATER PEWEE** *Contopus pertinax* (37, 1). One that vocalized frequently was in Escondido, SD, 30 Dec 1995–1 Jan 1996 (MC; KLW; 2003-090). Only eight of the previously accepted California records have been away from the coast. This species has been recorded in California only between 11 Sep and 30 Mar.

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** *Contopus virens* (10, 1). One singing the diagnostic *pee-a-wee* song was along the American River Parkway, Sacramento, SAC, 22 Jun 2003 (JML§; GE†, KCK; 2003-085). Vocalizations may be the only reliable way to distinguish this species from the Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*) in the field. This individual fits perfectly into the pattern of previous California occurrences: seven of nine accepted records are for June and July. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax flaviventris* (15, 1). A well documented, vocalizing bird was at Pt. Loma, SD, 28 Sep–1 Oct 2003 (GMcC; JRB, MBi, TC, MJl, TMcG, GLR, MS†, MSanM, SES, PU; 2002-123) (Figure 9). All accepted records for California fall within the interval 3 Sep–16 Oct. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

**DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (64, 1). One was at Mile Square Regional Park, Fountain Valley, ORA, 9 Dec 2003–25 Apr 2004 (JEP; MJl†, GT; 2003-186). The distribution and schedule of this species in California are similar to those of the Greater Pewee (*C. pertinax*), discussed above. This species has been recorded away from the coastal slope only five times (all in Imperial and Inyo counties), and all California sightings have been between 4 Nov and 24 May.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** *Vireo griseus* (47, 2). A singing male was at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 20 May–17 Jun 2000 (DR; 2004-073). An adult was at Galileo Hill, KER, 30 Sep 2003 (AH; MJl, TMcG; 2003-126). Kern Co. now has seven records, more than any other county, but this was Kern's first in fall. In California the White-eyed Vireo occurs predominantly in the spring; there are only six fall records. This was the first adult recorded in the fall. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** *Vireo flavifrons* (95, 6). One at Banning Park, Wilmington, LA, 26 May 2003 (JF†; 2003-068) was accepted in the third round of voting after apparent inconsistencies between a sketch and photographs were resolved. One was in Burns Canyon, San Clemente I., LA, 27 May 2003 (DH; 2003-129). One was at Huntington Beach, ORA, 30 May 2003 (BED; 2003-071); the following day another was nearby at the Newport Environmental Center, Newport Beach, ORA, 31 May–2 Jun 2003 (BED; 2003-070). The record of a one-year-old bird banded and photographed at Lanphere Dunes, HUM, 7–13 Jun 2003 (EE†; 2002-063) was not accompanied by a written description but nonetheless accepted. Even if the identification of a species through photo documentation seems obvious, the CBRC prefers that photographs be accompanied by a written description because photographs may not always record all important field marks (Cole and McCaskie 2004). The sixth Yellow-throated Vireo accepted by the Committee from 2003 was at Greenwood Cemetery, SD, 11 Dec 2003–18 Jan 2004 (JOZ; MBi†, EG†, MTH, GMcC; 2003-181); it was only the third found wintering in California.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** *Vireo solitarius* (33, 20). After the AOU (1998) split the Solitary Vireo complex into three species the Committee added the Blue-headed Vireo to its review list. At its annual meeting in 2002 it decided to review and consider as many records prior to 1998 as possible. Members Rottenborn, Cole, and Rogers

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assembled historical records of the Blue-headed Vireo for the Committee's review; 31 records were circulated. Nineteen records dating back to 1973 were accepted in the first round:

- San Nicolas I., VEN, 30 Sep 1973 (JLD†; #SDNHM 38562; 2003-116).
- Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, MRN, 24 Sep 1979 (JGE; 2002-070).
- Tijuana R. Valley, SD, 12 Nov 1979 (GMcC; 2002-071).
- Carpenteria Creek, SBA, 22 Sep 1980 (KLG; PEL; 2002-072).
- Southeast Farallon I., SF, 2 Nov 1981 (PH†; 2002-074).
- Southeast Farallon I., SF, 29 Sep 1985 (PP†; 2002-076) (Figure 10).
- New Willows, Point Reyes, MRN, 12–13 Sep 1986 (JML; PEL; 2002-078).
- Southeast Farallon Is., SF, 23 Sep 1986 (PH, OL; 2002-079).
- Point Loma, SD, 16 Jan–1 Feb 1987 (GMcC; 2002-081).
- Point Loma, SD, 10 Oct 1987 (GMcC; 2002-082).
- Point Loma, SD, 18 Oct 1987 (GMcC; 2002-083).
- Turtle Rock Nature Center, ORA, 18 Sep 1989 (DEW; 2002-100).
- Oceano, SLO, 1 Oct 1989 (GMcC; 2002-084).
- Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 23 Sep 1991 (GMcC; 2002-085).
- Stinson Beach, MRN, 15 Sep 1993 (SNGH; 2002-087).
- Southeast Farallon I., SF, 6 Oct 1993 (PP†; 2002-088).
- Southeast Farallon I., SF, 9–13 Sep 1995 (PC; 2002-091).
- San Jose, SCL, 28 Nov 1996 (SR; 2002-093).
- Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 12 Sep 1999 (CH; 2002-094).

In addition to this historical review, the Committee accepted a report from Pt. Loma, SD, 4 Oct 2003 (JOZ; MBI, GMcC, SES; 2003-127). Prior to this report only 13 of 28 records submitted were accepted. The low acceptance rate is indicative of the difficulty in distinguishing the Blue-headed from bright Cassin's Vireos (*V. cassinii*) (Heindel 1996). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

**YELLOW-GREEN VIREO** *Vireo flavoviridis* (82, 8). On the basis of new information, the Committee voted to endorse one at Mission Ranch, MTY, 5 Oct 1996 (BH; 1997-051) as being different from the one at the Carmel R. Mouth, MTY, 28 Sep–14 Oct 1996 (McCaskie and San Miguel 1999, Rottenborn and Morlan 2000).

The seven Yellow-green Vireos reported in fall 2003 made the strongest showing since 1998. One in its first fall was at Pt. Loma, SD, 20 Sep 2003 (DL, GMcC; MBI, 2003-120). One in a residential area on Point Loma, SD, 21 Sep 2003 (MBi; 2003-145) was accepted on the second round. Others were at Westminster Cemetery, ORA, 9–10 Oct 2003 (JEP; TMcG; 2003-166), Seagate Park, Huntington Beach, ORA, 10 Oct 2003 (JEP; 2003-177), South Coast Botanic Garden, Rolling Hills Estates, LA, 13 Oct 2003 (GH; 2003-174), and Lake Los Carneros, Goleta, SBA, 26–28 Oct 2003 (DC, WF, NL TMcG; 2003-167). One at Galileo Hill, KER, 28–30 Oct 2003 (AH; AEK, LS†, TEW; 2003-153) was only the fourth recorded in the interior, although three of them have been at this location.

**WOOD THRUSH** *Hylocichla mustelina* (18, 2). A one-year-old bird was at Ridgecrest, KER, 8–10 Jun 2003 (JSe; BB, DGB, AEK, KL†, MSanM, TEW; 2003-067). One at Desert Center, RIV, 19 Oct 2003 (CMcG†, DG, JG†; 2003-142) was the first recorded in that county.

**CURVE-BILLED THRASHER** *Toxostoma curvirostre* (16, 1). One was at Black Meadow Landing along the Colorado R., SBE, 1 Nov 2003–18 Mar 2004 (CG†; CAM, AEK, GMcC, DN†; 2004-027) (Figure 11), representing the first accepted record for San Bernardino Co. A record from this location from the fall of 2004 that may involve the same individual is currently under review. Not surprisingly, all other California records but one are from Imperial and Riverside counties. The western edge of the species' breeding range lies about 20 miles east of the Colorado River in Arizona (Rosenberg et al. 1991).

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BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL *Motacilla lugens* (13, 3). One near Woodlake, TUL, 26 Apr 2003 (JeW, JWe†; 2003-046) represented a first county record. One at Deep Springs College, INY, 10 May 2003 (RB, CHo†; 2003-049), a photograph of which was published in *N. Am. Birds* 57:432, was considered by one member to be the same bird as in record 2003-046, but a majority of the Committee judged these records to pertain to different individuals because the locations are separated by the Sierra Nevada. These records represent the first sightings of the Black-backed Wagtail inland in California. One seen sporadically for three weeks in the concrete-lined channel of the Los Angeles R., Paramount, LA, 10 Sep–3 Oct 2003 (RiB; KLG, MJI, JEP, KR†, MJSanM, MSanM; 2003-144) provided the first record for that county.

WHITE/BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*/*M. lugens* (4, 0). The report of one at the Big Sur River mouth, MTY, 28 Sep 1998 (DR†; 1998-173A) was re-circulated after the publication of Alström and Mild (2003). After three rounds, eight members were still comfortable endorsing this record only to the species pair, while two accepted it as a White Wagtail (*M. alba*). First-fall White and Black-backed Wagtails pose an extremely difficult identification challenge, and not all birds are identifiable to species. Moreover, there are no criteria for identifying hybrids of these species. Sibley and Howell (1998) addressed the identification of White and Black-backed Wagtails in basic plumage. The Committee most recently established criteria for accepting species pairs as described by McKee and Erickson (2002).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii* (60, 10). One was at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 19 Oct 2003 (CMcF; 2003-187). At least five were in fields of dormant Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) adjacent to the Calipatria State Prison, IMP, 29–30 Nov 2003 (GMcC; MSanM; 2003-165). These birds were in the same location where 11 stayed the previous winter. Another four were near the intersection of Hwy. 111 and Sinclair Rd., IMP, 15 Dec 2003–17 Apr 2004 (GMcC; RF†, MJI, CAM, MM†, MMR,



Figure 14. This Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) at Southeast Farallon I., 28 September 2003 made only the fourth accepted record for California.

Photo by Kristie N. Nelson

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BLS†; 2003-188). This species favors fields of dormant Bermuda Grass (Rosenberg et al. 1991) and appears to be a regular winter visitor in the Imperial Valley where this grass is grown commercially. A photograph of one of four near Calipatria was published in *N. Am. Birds* 58:283.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (35, 2). A male was observed briefly at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 26 May 2003 (SBT; KL, DVP; 2003-061). A male was at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 26 Jun 2003 (SaH†; 2004-043).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (101, 5). A male at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 10 May 2003 (MMcQ; 2003-039), a male at Glen Helen Regional Park, SBE, 13 May 2003 (DGu; AEK; 2003-040), one at Los Osos, SLO, 21 May 2003 (KAH; 2003-072; supported by a nicely detailed sketch), and a male at Huntington Beach, ORA, 30 May 2003 (IH; 2003-071), were all of the subspecies *albilora*. A single bird seen briefly at Pt. Loma, SD, 29–30 May 2003 (PAG; 2003-054) was of undetermined race. Although this species is most often found in California in the spring, the total of five reports between 10 and 30 May 2003 was unprecedented.

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae* (44, 7). The record of one at Aldrich Park, U. C. Irvine, ORA, 26 Oct 2002 (IH; DRW; 2003-213) was accepted unanimously when a second observer submitted details. One at Del Mar, SD, on 8 Jan 2003 (EAC; 2003-028) was considered the same as 2001-191 (Garrett and Wilson 2003), returning to the same locale. A pair in the forest of White Fir (*Abies concolor*) on Clark Mt., SBE, 24 May–4 Jul 2003 (MBr, DVP; SBT; 2003-056) was in an area where this species is suspected to have nested. One was at Buckhorn Campground, San Gabriel Mountains, LA, 14 Jun 2003 (JF; 2003-091). An adult female returned to Pt. Loma, SD, for its third winter and was present 11 Sep 2003–9 Jan 2004 (MBi†, MTH, CAM, GMcC, MMR, DVP; 2003-119). Another individual was at Pt. Loma, SD, 14 Sep 2003–9 Jan 2004 (MTH, GMcC, MS†, SBT; 2003-175). One was near Pino Alto Camp, Figueroa Mt., SBA, 5 Oct 2003 (MAH; 2003-195). One at Pt. Loma, SD, 2 Jan 2004 (MTH, GMcC, SBT; 2004-006) was considered to be a third Grace's Warbler wintering at this location. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (67, 4). One at Cactus City Rest Area, Interstate 10, RIV, 21 Oct 2001 (DSC; 2001-180) was only the seventh recorded in California's interior. Two wintered at Veterans' Park, Imperial Beach, SD, 7 Dec 2003–27 Jan 2004 (MBi, EG†, MTH†, CM, GMcC, MS†; 2003-176) and 7 Dec 2003–27 Jan 2004 (MBi; MTH†, GMcC, MS†; 2003-197). Some on the Committee considered the duller of the two (2003-176) (Figure 12) to be an immature female, the brighter an adult female. One was at Morro Bay State Park, SLO, 12–14 Dec 2003 (TME; 2004-044). At least 23 of California's 67 accepted Pine Warblers stayed for 10 days or longer; many remained for months through the winter. Wintering birds have a strong preference for mature Canary Island Pines (*Pinus canariensis*), planted in abundance in coastal central and southern California. San Diego Co. accounts for 23 accepted records, far more than any other county.

\*BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Dendroica castanea* (9, 1). A single bird was at Otay Mesa, SD, 29 Sep 1973 (GMcC; 2004-047). The Committee reviews records only from 1972 to 1975. California now claims over 250 records of the Bay-breasted Warbler (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

\*PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Protonotaria citrea* (96, 1). A female was at Galileo Hill, KER, 2–3 Oct 1987 (JCW†; 1988-048). The Committee reviews records only through 1989.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorus* (97, 3). A singing male was

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in Grapevine Canyon, Hunter Mt., INY 24–25 Jun 1995 (REW; TH; 2004-040). A singing male was at Butterbrecht Springs, KER, 17–20 May 2003 (TMcG, KR, MSanM, SSo; 2003-050). One at Galileo Hill, KER, 12–28 Oct 2003 (AH, TEW; 2003-168) established the first fall record for Kern Co.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH *Seiurus motacilla* (15, 1). One banded at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 30 May 2003 (JGr†; DR; 2003-058) was the first recorded in Monterey Co. and in northern California away from Southeast Farallon I. A photograph was published in *N. Am. Birds* 57:400.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (93, 1). A probable first-fall female banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 27 Sep 2003 (AB, KNN†; 2003-135) was the 50<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Warbler recorded at this location.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (124, 3). One was at Ridgecrest, KER, 26 May 2003 (RST; KL, DVP; 2003-062). The report of a first-fall male at Pt. Loma, SD, 19 Sep 2003 (DF, SES; 2003-122) (Figure 13) was accepted unanimously. One in its first fall was at California City, KER, 2 Oct 2003 (HCl, LS; 2003-131). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons* (14, 1). A singing male at the nature center in El Dorado Park, Long Beach, LA, 10 Jun 2003 (KSG†; MSanM; 2003-074) was the first recorded in the lowlands of Los Angeles Co. Twelve of California's 14 accepted records are for spring.

SCARLET Tanager *Piranga olivacea* (125, 6). An adult male with scarlet underparts and contrasting black wings was at Montana de Oro State Park, SLO, 24 May 2003 (JR; 2003-073). A female at the Environmental Nature Center, Newport Beach, ORA, 3 Oct 2003 (DRW; 2004-008) was a bit early for fall. A first-fall female at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 28 Oct–6 Nov 2003 (MBR; DR†, RST; 2003-147), another female at Arroyo Grande, SLO, 30–31 Oct 2003 (JMC; BS 2003-190), a male at Pt. Loma, SD, 2–15 Nov 2003 (GMcC; MBi, PAG, HI, AL, TMcG, MS†, MSanM; 2003-154), and a first-fall male at Loyola Marymount University, Westchester, LA, 29 Nov 2003 (DSC; 2004-015) fit this species' usual late-fall pattern of occurrence. Almost 70% of all accepted Scarlet Tanagers have occurred in fall, 23 Aug–13 Dec; except for the one in August all occurred after late September. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

BAIRD'S SPARROW *Ammodramus bairdii* (4, 1). Remarkably, one on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 28 Sep 2003 (KNN†; JC, PP; 2003-134) (Figure 14) was at the same location and on the same date—34 years later—as California's first on 28 Sep 1969 (DeSante and Ainley 1980). Three of California's four records of this secretive sparrow are from this location. The first is a specimen (CAS #68476), and the other three are supported by photographs.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (32, 1). One wintered at the Arcata Bottoms, HUM, 2 Dec 2003–29 Jan 2004 (RG; BDu, KCK, KeR†, JCS; 2003-172), establishing California's fifth winter record of this species. One Committee member noted the orange forehead stripe plainly evident in the photo accompanying this record. Descriptions in this record and drawings in some field guides indicate the forehead and crown stripe are pure white. The front cover of *Western Birds* 35(1), illustrating CBRC 2003-002 (Cole and McCaskie 2004), also clearly shows the orange forehead. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (102, 2). One was on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 29 Oct 2003 (NC; MB; 2003-158). A first-fall male at Lemon Tank, San Clemente I., LA, 15 Nov 2003–21 Feb 2004 (BLS†; 2004-013) was the first for Los Angeles Co. and extends the southern limit for this species in California about 180 miles beyond the previous southernmost record, in Kelso Valley, KER (Luther

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et al. 1983). A record from the same locale in Nov 2004 is currently under review and may pertain to the same bird. A photograph of the bird on San Clemente I. was published in *N. Am. Birds* 58:144.

**PAINTED BUNTING** *Passerina ciris* (103, 6). One in its first fall was at Big Pine, INY, 18 Aug 2003 (JH; 2003-191). Reports of first-fall birds from Andrew Molera S.P., MTY, 31 Aug 2003 (CH; 2003-113A) and 16 Sep 2003 (MBr; 2003-113B) most likely pertained to the same individual. One was in Santa Cruz, SCZ, 1-4 Sep 2003 (SG; DLS; 2003-152). Another was at Deep Springs, INY, 7 Sep 2003 (CHo†; 2003-192). One in its first fall was trapped and banded at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 15-22 Sep 2003 (AB†, KNN; 2003-136). The remains of one discovered in a cache of the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) on San Clemente I., LA, 22 Aug 2003 (BLS†; #SDNHM 50815; 2003-141) was the first accepted for Los Angeles Co. See also records not accepted, identification not established and natural occurrence questionable.

**COMMON GRACKLE** *Quiscalus quiscula* (65, 4). Males were at Tulelake, SIS, 30 Jan-6 Feb 2003 (KS†; 2003-023) and Sepulveda Basin, Los Angeles, LA, 26 Apr-4 May 2003 (TMcG, MSanM, SSo; 2003-042). One was in Independence, INY, 13 Nov 2003 (RAH; 2003-193), and another was in the Arcata Bottoms, HUM, 28 Nov 2003-14 Jan 2004 (CL; LL†, KeR, JCS, RS; 2003-173). As expected, all records were of *Q. q. versicolor*, the only subspecies of the Common Grackle known from California. The first state record was supported by a specimen from El Cajon, SD, 20 Nov 1967 (Unitt 2004), and it took 20 years for the first 20 records to accumulate. In the 18 years since then, another 45 have been accepted, some of multiple birds (Cole and McCaskie 2004). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

**STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE** *Icterus pustulatus* (7, 1). A bright "rich reddish-orange" adult male was at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 24 Nov 2003 (JT; DR; 2003-171). Like all but one of California's previous six Streak-backed Orioles, this one occurred from late fall to early spring. It represents the first record for Monterey Co. and northern California.

**COMMON REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea* (73, 11). The Committee reviewed and accepted photographs of 11 specimens collected by John M. Willard at Eagle Lake, LAS, that are housed at CAS:

Female, adult, 30 Nov 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47881; 2003-101).

Male, adult, 30 Nov 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47861; 2003-102).

Male, adult, 30 Nov 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47860; 2003-103).

Male, adult, 30 Nov 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47862; 2003-104).

Female, adult, 5 Dec 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47863; 2003-105).

Male, first-winter, 5 Dec 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47864; 2003-106).

Female, adult, 5 Dec 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47882; 2003-107).

Male, first-winter, 9 Dec 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47866; 2003-108).

Male, first-winter, 12 Dec 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47867; 2003-109).

Male, adult, 13 Dec 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47868; 2003-110).

Male, first-winter, 13 Dec 1899 (PP†; #CAS 47869; 2003-111).

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established

**GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula*. A bird photographed at the Baker sewage ponds, SBE, 23-24 May 2003 (2003-057) was considered by all ten members to be a female Green-winged Teal (*A. crecca*).

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** *Gavia adamsii*. One reported as a fly-by from Goleta Pt., SBA, 14 May 2003 (2003-076) failed to gain acceptance after two rounds.

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Many Committee members felt that the observer likely saw a Yellow-billed Loon, but the distance involved, the late date, and failure to fully eliminate a worn second-year Common Loon (*G. immer*) warranted caution.

**SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS** *Phoebastria albatrus*. One reported from shore at Pebble Beach, MTY, 9 May 1999 (1999-092B) originally circulated through the Committee as part of a single record of a bird present 1–10 May. However, the plumages described suggested multiple individuals of various ages, so the Committee divided the record into three and reviewed each sighting as a separate record, with the option of combining any or all as “the same bird.” The reports for 1 and 10 May were previously not accepted (Cole and McCaskie 2004). Although many Committee members thought that this sighting was the best documented of the three, the majority concluded that the distance involved and the occurrence of Black-footed Albatrosses (*P. nigripes*) with very pink bills (A. Jaramillo and S. B. Terrill pers. comm.) were causes sufficient to question this sighting.

**BLACK-CAPPED PETREL** *Pterodroma hasitata*. One reported by multiple observers from Pt. Vicente, LA, 20 Sep 2001 (2002-104) was described as slightly larger than a Black-vented Shearwater (*Puffinus opisthomelas*), but Black-capped Petrels are 10–15% larger (Harrison 1983). Leucistic Black-vented Shearwaters are encountered in California frequently (Garrett 1990), and such an identification is perhaps the most likely explanation for this report, as any *Pterodroma* seen from shore in southern California would be remarkable. Even if a *Pterodroma* was seen, the submitted report did not eliminate the similar Juan Fernandez Petrel (*P. externa*) or White-necked Petrel (*P. cervicalis*). Although neither of those species has yet been recorded in California, both inhabit the Pacific Ocean and so seem more likely than the Black-capped Petrel, which is unrecorded in the Pacific.

**STREAKED SHEARWATER** *Calonectris leucomelas*. A report from West Cove Pt., San Clemente I., LA, 24 Nov 2002 (2002-204) was questioned because of the distance involved and the possibility that a light-morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) and Cory’s Shearwater (*C. diomedea*) might have been difficult to distinguish, given the view. The record received strong support in the first round (8–2) but was questioned by six members in the final round.

**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*. The report of one from Pt. Piedras Blancas, SLO, 7 May 2001 (2001-102) received substantial support in the 3rd and 4th rounds (8–2), but two members believed the documentation was not sufficiently detailed to establish the bird’s identity to the standards required for acceptance. Another sighting from Pt. La Jolla, SD, 18 Dec 2002 (2002-219) received only one supporting vote on the second round. Most members agreed that the bird might have been a Manx Shearwater, but the brief and distant sighting left one of the original observers uncertain of the identification.

**NAZCA BOOBY** *Sula granti*. One reported from a boat during a Christmas Bird Count in San Pedro Harbor, LA, 22 Dec 2002 (2003-082) was seen for only 5 to 10 seconds. All members were uncomfortable with such a brief view, and several important details were not noted, such as the presence of a mask, the black tail, and the extensively black remiges. While some members were comfortable accepting the bird as a Masked/Nazca Booby, most felt the documentation was too brief for acceptance even to the species pair. California has no accepted records of the Nazca Booby, but the species is on the supplemental list on the basis of a first-spring bird that came aboard a fishing boat in Mexican waters 27 May 2001. It stayed aboard until the boat returned to San Diego later that day (Garrett and Wilson 2003).

**PINK-BACKED PELICAN** *Pelecanus rufescens*. One reported at Abbott’s Lagoon, MRN, 31 Oct 2001 (2003-051) was videotaped. Although the tape shows a white

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pelican other than the American (*P. erythrorhynchos*), the images on the tape are not adequate to eliminate other pelican species, such as the Great White (*P. onocrotulus*) and Dalmatian (*P. crispus*). Even if the identification had been established, the record would have been questioned on grounds of natural occurrence (see records not accepted, natural occurrence questionable).

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus*. The report of a juvenile photographed near Pt. Mugu, VEN, 19 Jul–31 Aug 2003 (2003-115) failed after two rounds. The lack of bluish tones to the facial stripe and the date's being very early for a juvenile Glossy were enough to cause eight members to question the identification. The discrimination of young *Plegadis* ibises remains a significant identification challenge, and many juveniles may not be identifiable in the field (Patten and Lasley 2000).

**CRESTED CARACARA** *Caracara cheriway*. One reported 7 Dec 2002 (2002-218) in Brawley, IMP, was questioned because of the brief view and incomplete description from an observer unfamiliar with the species.

**EURASIAN DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus*. One was reported from Goleta, SBA, 10 Aug 2002 (2002-211). While suggestive of this species, the documentation failed to note several important field marks, such as the supercilium wrapping behind the head and the pale band on the breast. The date was also two weeks earlier than any previous California sighting of this species. Some members were also concerned that the Mountain Plover (*C. montanus*) was not eliminated. The record received some initial support in the first round but failed in the second round.

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus palliatus*. A report of one at Pt. Lobos, MTY, 7 Jan 2003 (2003-204) did not eliminate the possibility of a hybrid American × Black Oystercatcher (*H. bachmani*). These species hybridize regularly in Baja California and perhaps on the Channel Islands (Jehl 1985). Jehl (1985) established criteria for identifying hybrids that the CBRC has used to judge submitted records.

**BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW** *Numenius tahitiensis*. The report of one from Goleta, SBA, 20 Jan 2003 (2003-017) received no support. Most on the Committee were concerned that the Whimbrel (*N. phaeopus*) had not been eliminated, and the January date would have been unprecedented.

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*. One photographed at Moonglow Dairy, Elkhorn Slough, MTY, 26 Oct–1 Nov 2003 (2003-155) was actually a small second-fall Marbled Godwit retaining abnormally faded juvenal plumage wing coverts.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*. Reports of one at Knight I., SOL, 14 Feb 2003 (2003-052) and four at Russ I., SOL, 19 Feb 2003 (2003-053) were questioned because the descriptions did not mention the white rump or eliminate other species such as the Dunlin (*C. alpina*) or Stilt Sandpiper (*C. himantopus*). The Curlew Sandpiper is unrecorded in California during winter, and four birds together would be unprecedented at any season.

**LONG-TOED STINT** *Calidris subminuta*. A report of a juvenile from the wastewater treatment plant in Blythe, RIV, 6–7 Sep 2002 (2003-045) was accompanied by a videotape, but eight members felt the identity of the bird on the video was inconclusive or better fit a juvenile Least Sandpiper (*C. minutilla*). The pale base of the bill, a mark critical for the Long-toed Stint, was not described in the report.

**LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus*. One reported from Red Hill at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 24 Mar 2003 (2003-055) was photographed, but the photos and accompanying descriptions did not eliminate Bonaparte's Gull (*L. philadelphia*).

**BELCHER'S GULL** *Larus belcheri*. An alternate-plumaged adult reported flying by San Clemente I., LA, 8 Feb 2002 (2002-039) was questioned because of the brevity of the view (1 minute or less), and the failure of the documentation to eliminate a

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Black-tailed Gull (*L. crassirostris*) or a third-year Western Gull (*L. occidentalis*).

**THICK-BILLED MURRE** *Uria lomvia*. A report of one seen briefly on Monterey Bay, MTY, 12 Oct 2002 (2002-194) suggested this species, but several key marks such as the tomial stripe were not noted.

**LONG-BILLED MURRELET** *Brachyramphus perdix*. One in partial alternate plumage reported about 1 mile off the mouth of the Little R. near Trinidad, HUM, 28 Aug 2001 (2001-147) received eight votes for acceptance in the fourth and final round. The two dissenting members expressed concern that the bird was with a juvenile Marbled Murrelet (*B. marmoratus*) but the description notes no structural differences between the two. There were also concerns that the criteria for distinguishing transitional plumages of the Long-billed and Marbled Murrelets are not yet well established.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** *Archilochus colubris*. The report of one from Lemon Tank on San Clemente I., LA, 8 Oct 2003 (2004-014) failed on the first round. While the majority of members felt the bird was likely a Ruby-throated, the description's failure to address the shape of the inner primaries made it difficult to rule out species of the genus *Calypte*. Moreover, the failure to note the shape of the outer primaries made it difficult to rule out the Black-chinned Hummingbird (*A. alexandri*). Identification of immature Ruby-throated Hummingbirds requires great care and excellent views.

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** *Contopus virens*. A report of one in Grasslands Regional Park, YOL, 30 Oct 2003 (2003-183) received no support. The majority of members expressed concern that no vocalizations were heard. Absent their vocalizations, distinguishing the Eastern from the Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*) in the field by plumage and structural criteria only is nearly impossible. Only 10 records of this species have been accepted, while 14 reviewed by the Committee have not been endorsed.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax flaviventris*. One reported at Pt. Loma, SD, 14 Sep 2003 (2003-130) was not accepted because of the brief views and discrepancies in the descriptions of the bird's vocalizations. One near Cantil, KER, 4 Oct 2002 (2002-165) received considerable support in the first voting round but in the end was not endorsed because it was silent, and several marks such as the color of the eyering and wingbars were not typical for this species. Another silent bird at Maria Ygnacio, SBA, 14 Oct 2003 (2003-194) was also not endorsed. Distinguishing this species from the Western Flycatcher (*E. difficilis/occidentalis*) is challenging. See Pyle (1997), Heindel and Pyle (1999), and Erickson and Hamilton (2001) for helpful discussions on this identification issue.

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax alnorum*. An *Empidonax* trapped, banded, and photographed at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 25 Oct–2 Nov 2002 (2003-007) was nearly accepted after the first round, but one of the original observers expressed concerns about the record and indicated that the bird was more likely a Hammond's Flycatcher (*E. hammondi*). Most of the Committee agreed with this observer, but some still considered it to be an Alder Flycatcher, as some measurements fit that species better and the wings appeared to be too black for Hammond's. Identification of most species of *Empidonax* still poses great challenges, even for observers with significant field experience with the genus.

**NUTTING'S FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus nuttingi*. A first-winter *Myiarchus* in a residential area of Santa Cruz, SCZ, 1 Jan–3 Feb 2003 (2003-013) was supported by exhaustive documentation including very detailed descriptions and good photographs. As the record circulated through the first round, a review of recordings of the bird's vocalizations indicated that it was an Ash-throated Flycatcher (*M. cinerascens*), and the record received only two supporting votes. By the third round the record received

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no support. Distinguishing Nutting's from the Ash-throated Flycatcher by plumage characters alone is very difficult, and not all individuals may be identifiable in the field (Lanyon 1961). Lanyon (1961) suggested that the most reliable field marks for distinguishing this sibling pair are the color of the mouth lining (pink in Ash-throated, orange in Nutting's) and vocalizations. Descriptions of the mouth lining of the bird at Santa Cruz ranged from "bright orange" to "some shade of pink," so differences in this field mark cast doubt among Committee members about the identification. A video recording by one observer captured the vocalizations, which were then converted to a sonogram to allow for direct comparison with vocalizations of known Nutting's Flycatchers. The sonograms provided compelling evidence that the bird was an Ash-throated Flycatcher. A photograph of this controversial bird was published in *N. Am. Birds* 57:287.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** *Vireo solitarius*. One reported at Manila, HUM, 1 Sep 1973 (2002-066) was not endorsed because it was described as being "grayish-green," and most Committee members felt that Cassin's (*V. cassinii*) and Hutton's Vireos (*V. huttoni*) were not eliminated. The early fall date was also a concern since all accepted records of the Blue-headed are after 14 Sep. The description of one at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 26 Sep 1974 (2002-068) was lost. The description of one seen near Camarillo, VEN, 1 Oct 2001 (2001-206) did not adequately eliminate Cassin's Vireo so was not accepted on the third round. One report from Blue Jay Campground, ORA, 19 Sep 2003 (2004-030) was not accepted because it lacked sufficient description of critical field marks such as the contrast between the throat and auriculars, and most on the Committee concluded that Cassin's Vireo was not eliminated. Another at Pt. Loma, SD, 22 Sep 2003 (2003-121) circulated twice but lacked details sufficient for endorsement.

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** *Catharus minimus*. One photographed in El Centro, IMP, 15-16 Sep 2002 (2002-173) was endorsed by half the Committee on the first round, but support waned in subsequent rounds over concern that Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus*) was not eliminated.

**GRACE'S WARBLER** *Dendroica graciae*. A single bird was reported at Natural Bridges S. P., SCZ, 27-29 Sep 2001 (2001-166) at the same time that a Blackburnian Warbler (*D. fusca*) was in the same area, causing some members to be concerned that the reported bird was the Blackburnian.

**MOURNING WARBLER** *Oporornis philadelphia*. One reported at Mono County Park, MNO, 18 Aug 2003 (2003-125) received support in the first round, but concern about the possibility of its being confused with MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*), also known to be present, led most on the Committee to withdraw their support. The date also raised some concern because it was over one week earlier than California's earliest accepted fall Mourning Warbler. The Mourning Warbler is a rather early migrant in the East, however, and might be expected in California by mid-August (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

**SCARLET TANAGER** *Piranga olivacea*. A report of one at the Presidio, San Francisco, SF, 31 Aug-3 Sep 2002 (2002-202) was questioned by all but one Committee member in the second round. The description of faint wing bars (atypical for the Scarlet Tanager) and the early date were the primary reasons the record failed.

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** *Ammodramus lecontei*. A report of one at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 30 Sep 1995 (2003-089), submitted seven years later, was nearly accepted after the first round of voting. Concerns that the Grasshopper Sparrow (*A. savannarum*) had not been eliminated and lack of full confidence by the observer about the identification eroded Committee support, and the record failed in the second round.

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\*PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris*. One at Sand Dune Park, Manhattan Beach, LA, 27 Sep 2003 (2003-185) lacked adequate documentation and received little support after the first round. The Committee no longer reviews Painted Buntings recorded after 1 January 2005.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*. One observed only in flight at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 18–26 May 2002 (2002-118) was not accepted because of concern over brief views and the possibility that it could have been a hybrid Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) × Great-tailed Grackle (*Q. mexicanus*). A hybrid exhibiting characteristics of this parentage was observed in Santa Maria, SBA, during spring 1999 as noted in *N. Am Birds* 53:331.

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification accepted but natural occurrence questionable

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. Inquiries by L. Chibana (pers. comm.) revealed that one at the Ridgemark Golf Course near Hollister, SBT, 16 Oct 2003 (MP; 2003-156) had been released there by a local aviculturist.

PINK-BACKED PELICAN *Pelecanus rufescens*. The Committee concluded that one at Harkins Slough near Santa Cruz, SCZ, 24 Oct–24 Nov 2003 (PEG; AS; 2002-148) was most likely the same as the one seen at Southeast Farallon I., SF, in Oct 2000 and Nov 2001 (Cole and McCaskie 2004).

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway*. One near Oceano, SLO, 1 Jan 1967 (2004-032) was photographed, with the picture appearing in the 4 Jan 1967 edition of the *San Luis Obispo Telegram Tribune*. Most members felt the tameness of the bird, as well as its falling outside the recent pattern of vagrancy, was reason to question its natural occurrence. See discussion above on this species' being moved from the supplemental list to the main list.

\*PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris*. A green bird coming to a feeder at Mission Bay, San Diego, SD, 21 Feb 2003 (J&HB†; 2003-029) was not far from the Mexican border, south of which Painted Buntings are commonly sold as pets. One adult male at Madrona Marsh, Torrance, LA, 23 Sep 2001 (DMo; 2001-164) was in an urban region, where more Painted Buntings are likely to be kept in captivity. The presence of adult males in urban areas where escapees are common poses a difficult challenge for the Committee, as it is likely that some of the reports pertain to wild birds. The Committee does not review Painted Buntings recorded after 1 January 2005.

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*. One coming to a feeder at Sea Ranch, SON, 23–26 Apr 2003 (RK†; 2003-038) was considered by all Committee members to be an escaped bird. One Committee member tabulated at least nine records of this species in the San Francisco Bay Area from 1996 to 2003, and the Committee considers all of them to be escapees. The European Goldfinch is a popular cage bird, and there are many additional sightings of it throughout California.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report would not have been possible without the 251 observers who submitted reports to the Committee. We are particularly grateful to the many observers who provide ever-improving documentation in the form of photographs and sketches with their reports. Other individuals contributing to the Committee's review of particular species: Tamar Danufsky at HSU provided photographs of the Mottled Petrel; Dan Singer and Lee Evans provided helpful comments on the Bar-tailed Godwit record not endorsed by the Committee, and David Vander Pluym and Alvaro Jaramillo provided the sound recording and sonogram of the reported Nutting's Flycatcher. Committee

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members Cole, Heindel, and secretary McCaskie provided input on earlier drafts. Current and recent Committee members Jon L. Dunn, Richard A. Erickson, Kimball L. Garrett, Robert A. Hamilton, Matthew T. Heindel, Marshall J. Iloff, Joseph Morlan, Kristie N. Nelson, Peter Pyle, Michael M. Rogers, Daniel Singer, John C. Sterling, and John C. Wilson reviewed and provided valuable and insightful comments on the draft of this report. Peter LaTourrette provided his editing skills for the photographs and figures in this report. Philip Unitt continues providing his guidance, considerable talent, and editing skills for our publication. We are grateful to WFVZ, whose staff continues to support and generously house the CBRC archives. We extend particular thanks to WFVZ staff members Linnea Hall, Jon Fisher, René Corado, and Peg Stevens, and to Chrystal Klabunde, who recently rearranged and labeled the files for the CBRC archives. We thank Daniel D. Gibson and David L. Suddjian for their comments and corrigenda to the 2002 report.

### CORRIGENDA

The following are corrections for the 2002 CBRC report (Cole and McCaskie 2004), *W. Birds* 35:2-31.

The date of the Brown Booby on page 11, given as 12 Sep 2001, is 12 Sep 2000.

On page 11 the genus for Tricolored Heron and Reddish Egret is *Egretta*, not *Egreta*.

In the photo caption for the Harris's Hawk on page 22 and text on page 26, the correct scientific name is *Parabuteo unicinctus*.

On page 9 the correct name of the Garganey is *Anas querquedula*, not *Anas formosa*.

For the Demoiselle Crane on Page 26, the bird was only observed, not photographed, during its two-day stay at Gustavus, Alaska.

On page 25 the correct name of the Yellow-breasted Bunting is *Emberiza aureola*, not *Emberiza elegans*. The latter name applies to the Yellow-throated Bunting.

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