

## THE CALIFORNIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT 1970-1972

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In the first issue of *California Birds* (1:2-3, 1970) the formation of the Records Committee<sup>1</sup> was announced. The need for the committee and the format for the submission of reports has been outlined (Winter, Calif. Birds 2:109-110, 1971), and a list of species that the committee would review has been published (C.F.O. Field List of the Birds of California, 1972). The following is the first report from the Records Committee and includes the years 1970-1972.

The committee system of reviewing rarities records seems, in retrospect, to be the best method of establishing the scientific credibility of sight records. The care with which the records contained in this report were reviewed, often requiring many hours of individual research, seems to reinforce this position. The probability of erroneous data appearing in print is therefore greatly minimized.

At a meeting in Death Valley on 24 November 1973, the committee members deleted a number of species previously acceptable for review and added a few others. It was agreed that if any species on the rarities list had a total of twenty established records in California it would be deleted from the list. The following species meet the aforementioned criteria and will no longer be accepted for review by the committee: Blue-footed Booby, Brown Booby, Magnificent Frigatebird, Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Common Teal, Long-tailed Jaeger, Black Skimmer, Craveri's Murrelet, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Parula Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Yellow Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Orchard Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Hepatic Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Clay-colored Sparrow, McCown's Longspur, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. The following species have been added to the rarities list: Laysan Albatross, Short-tailed Shearwater, and Black Rosy Finch. A revision of the *C.F.O. Field List of the Birds of California* is currently underway. Richard Stallcup was elected to the committee on 9 June 1973 to fill the seat vacated by Pierre Devillers. The rest of the committee membership remains unchanged (Calif. Birds 2:109-110, 1971).

1. Variously called the Rare Bird Committee (Calif. Birds 1:2-3, 1970); and the California Rarities Committee (Calif. Birds 2:109-110, 1971). The official name adopted at a recent meeting is the California Field Ornithologists Records Committee.

## RECORDS COMMITTEE

The committee would like to thank all of the contributors listed at the end of this report for their cooperation in submitting records. In the first three years of operation, the committee found that less than 20% of the records submitted were unacceptable. This is a very good average (the British Rarities Committee in its first three years of operation had an average rejection rate of about 23%) and in general seems to attest to the high quality of the records received rather than to an uncritical attitude of the committee. Most of the records found to be unacceptable to the committee were lacking in detail sufficient enough to make an adequate judgement on the reported species.

We encourage the establishment of similar committees in other western states and hope that the publication of rarities reports can become a regular feature of *Western Birds*. Arizona already has an operating committee and hopefully other states will follow their fine example. As secretary of the California committee, I will lend whatever help can be offered to groups interested in establishing their own committees in their respective states.

Records are grouped according to the year in which they were received regardless of the year of observation. The number assigned to each record is in parentheses. All the records are on file with the committee secretary and are available to interested researchers upon request. The initials of the observers who submitted the record are in italics. Unitalicized initials are those of additional observers.

### 1970 ACCEPTED RECORDS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*). One immature (7-1970) banded (No. 121-89689) on 26 September 1970 at San Pedro, Los Angeles Co. (SW).

### 1970 UNACCEPTED RECORDS

COOK'S PETREL (*Pterodroma cookii*). One (6-1970) on 21 September 1970 SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*). One (1AB-1970) on 26 September 1970 Lower Tubbs Island, Sonoma Co.

FIELD SPARROW (*Spizella pusilla*). One (4-1970) on 10 September 1970 Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co.

### 1971 ACCEPTED RECORDS

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*). One adult (1-1971) on 13 April 1971 at West Pond 0.25 mile west of Imperial Dam, Imperial Co. (LJ, BC, RMacI); first state record.

PYRRHULOXIA (*Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*). One adult male (2-1971) on 24 and 28 February 1971 (same bird) at Heise Springs, 8 miles west of Westmorland, Imperial Co. (GMcC, JF, GSS, LJ).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*). One immature (3-1971) banded (No. 129-98170) on 18 November 1971 at San Pedro, Los Angeles Co. (SW).

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### 1972 ACCEPTED RECORDS

- YELLOW-BILLED LOON** (*Gavia adamsii*). One (7-1972) on 11 and 12 March 1972 at Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (GMcC).
- OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*). One immature (13-1972) on 22 and 23 April 1972 at West Pond 0.25 mile west of Imperial Dam, Imperial Co. (JW, GMcC, ST).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** (*Fregata magnificens*). One adult male (6-1972) on 20 February 1972 at the mouth of the Whitewater River, Salton Sea, Riverside Co. (EC, TAS). One immature (58-1972) on 17 June 1972 near the mouth of the New River, Salton Sea, Imperial Co. (GMcC, SLi, BRa). One female (69-1972) on 6 July 1972 at Del Mar, San Diego Co. (SS). One immature (74-1972) on 10 July 1972 at the mouth of the New River, Salton Sea, Imperial Co. (GH, RLeV). One immature (93-1972) on 6 August 1972 two miles south of Davenport, Santa Cruz Co. (BE).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON** (*Florida caerulea*). One adult (24AB-1972) on 12 and 13 June 1972 at the mouth of the Santa Margarita River, San Diego Co. (GMcC, GSS, AF).
- REDDISH EGRET** (*Dicromanassa rufescens*). One adult (11-1972) on 16 April 1972 in the SW portion of San Diego Bay, San Diego Co. (GMcC). One immature (81-1972) on 9 October 1972 at the salt works 0.5 mile NW of Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. (RS, ST); this bird was present from 19 September 1974 until the end of the year (GMcC).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL** (*Ajaia ajaja*). Two immatures (75-1972) on 10 July 1972 at the mouth of the New River, Salton Sea, Imperial Co. (GH, RLeV); up to 7 were present in the area between 8 July and 8 October 1972 (GMcC).
- TUFTED DUCK** (*Aythya fuligula*). One immature male or adult female (?) (5-1972) on 20 February 1972 at Stow Lake, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, San Francisco Co. (GMcC, KG, JD, RW); the bird was present from 15 February to 3 March 1972 (GMcC).
- ZONE-TAILED HAWK** (*Buteo albonotatus*). One (94-1972) on 27 and 28 August 1972 at Big Pine, Inyo Co. (TH, GSS, LJ).
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). One adult (72-1972) on 16 September 1972 about 15 miles south of Anacapa Island (GSS).
- BLACK SKIMMER** (*Rynchops nigra*). One adult (15-1972) on 24 April 1972 at Ballona Creek channel, Playa Del Rey, Los Angeles Co. (HB, JD, KG, et al.). Two adults (36-1972) on 29 May 1972 at the mouth of the Whitewater River, Salton Sea, Riverside Co. (GMcC, ST). Eleven (60-1972) on 17 June 1972, six birds (and a nest with four eggs) at the mouth of the New River, Imperial Co., two in the southeast corner of Salton Sea, Imperial Co., and three at the mouth of the Whitewater River, Salton Sea, Riverside Co. (GMcC, SLi, BRa). Six adults (76-1972) on 10 July 1972 at the mouth of the New River, Salton Sea, Imperial Co. (GH, RLeV).
- THICK-BILLED MURRE** (*Uria lomvia*). One (90-1972) on 23 September 1972 approximately 13 miles southwest of Santa Cruz (RS, DS).
- WHIP-POOR-WILL** (*Caprimulgus vociferus*). One male (8-1972) on 20 March 1972 at Coronado, San Diego, San Diego Co.; the bird was present since late December 1971 or early January 1972 (GMcC). Two (29-1972) on 28 and 29 April 1972 in the area around Lake Fulmor, San Jacinto Mts., Riverside Co. (LJ, JD, KG, HB).
- CHIMNEY SWIFT** (*Chaetura pelagica*). One (22AB-1972) on 20 May 1972 at Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC, GSS, BB).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscivora forficata*). One (25AB-1972) on 28 May 1972 at Covington Park, Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. (GMcC, LJ, ST, JM, RW).

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- BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*). One (1-1972) on 15 January 1972 at Heise Springs 8 miles west of Westmorland, Imperial Co. (GMcC, JW, ST). One (3-1972) on 12 and 13 February 1972 at San Diego, San Diego Co. (GMcC).
- WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*). One (104ABC-1972) from 18 to 20 October 1972 at McGrath State Park, Santa Clara River estuary, Ventura Co. (VP, RP, RD); first state record.
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). One female (56AB-1972) on 5 June 1972 at Deep Springs College, Deep Springs, Inyo Co. (RS, JG).
- NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER (*Parula americana*). One female (44-1972) on 19 May 1972 at Covington Park, Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. (RS, GMa, JL, SL). One male (68-1972) on 25 July 1972 at Waddell Creek (near coast), Santa Cruz Co. (BE). One immature male (?) (84-1972) from 19 to 25 September 1972 at Esplanade Park, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. (RS, VY, AB, LB, BRe).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Dendroica magnolia*). One (85-1972) on 15 September 1972 at El Carmelo Cemetery, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. (RS, GMa, KK, AW); the bird was reported to have stayed through 17 September 1972 (BRe).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Dendroica tigrina*). One female (26AB-1972) on 27 May 1972 at Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC, LJ, JD, RW, ST, JM).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens*). One immature (?) (80-1972) on 20 and 21 October 1972 at Crespi Pond, Point Pinos, Monterey Co. (RS).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*). One adult male (62-1972) on 6 August 1972 four miles southwest of Haskins Resort, Bucks Lake, Plumas Co., elevation 5000 feet (RS, TM).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica albiflora*). One (102-1972) on 21 October 1972 at the Southwest Botanical Gardens, Rolling Hills, Los Angeles Co. (GM, LM, GSS, et al.).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Dendroica castanea*). One adult male (46-1972) on 28 May 1972 at Oasis, Mono Co. (RS, PA, DD, JFa).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Dendroica discolor*). One (probable male)(78ABCD-1972) on 6 September 1972 on Point Reyes (Mendoza Ranch), Marin Co. (RS, JL, SL, GMa).
- OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). One (82-1972) on 9 October 1972 at Cabrillo National Monument, Point Loma, San Diego, San Diego Co. (RS, ST).
- HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*). One female (35-1972) on 10 June 1972 at Deep Springs College, Deep Springs, Inyo Co. (GMcC). One male (65AB-1972) on 22 August 1972 at Wildcat Creek, near Jewel Lake, Tilden East Bay Regional Park, Contra Costa Co. (RS, GH).
- CANADA WARBLER (*Wilsonia canadensis*). One male (?) (86-1972) from 15 to 17 September 1972 at Crespi Pond, Point Pinos, Monterey Co. (RS, AW).
- ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*). One immature male (21AB-1972) on 21 May 1972 at Deep Springs College, Deep Springs, Inyo Co. (GMcC, GSS, JW, BB, ST). One female or immature male (67-1972) on 19 June 1972 on the Jewel Lake Nature Trail, Tilden Park, Contra Costa Co. (GH, RS, DE, ST). One female (88-1972) on 20 September 1972 at the Asilomar Sewage Plant, Point Pinos, Monterey Co. (RS, BRe).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*). One male (103-1972) on 16 November 1972 at Eureka, Humboldt Co. (BD).
- SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*). One adult male (66-1972) on 24 May 1972 at Palo Alto, San Mateo Co. (TL).

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- HEPATIC Tanager (*Piranga flava*). Two adult males (18-1972) on 21 July 1972, three males and three females (probably paired) on 11 May 1972, and three males on 31 May 1972 (same record) three to four miles east of Baldwin Lake, San Bernardino Co.; on 18 June 1972 a nest was found about 50 feet up in a large Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) along Arrastre Creek (GSS, KG, JD, BB). One adult male (30-1972) on 14 May 1972 three miles east of Baldwin Lake, San Bernardino Co. (GMcC, JD, HB).
- PYRRHULOXIA (*Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*). One adult male (2-1972) on 15 January 1972 at Heise Springs, 8 miles west of Westmorland, Imperial Co. (GMcC, JW, ST); probably the same bird reported by McCaskie (Calif. Birds 2:99-100, 1971), present from 31 December 1971 to March 1972.
- ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). One adult male (27AB-1972) on 28 May 1972 at Kelso, San Bernardino Co. (LJ, GMcC, ST, JD, et al.). One male (31-1972) on 20 and 21 May 1972 at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo Co. (GMcC, JW, ST). One adult male (43-1972) on 21 June 1972 at Arrastre Creek four miles east of Baldwin Lake, San Bernardino Co. (GSS, KG, SW). One adult male (47-1972) on 20 May 1972 at Hayfield Lake 32 miles east of Indio, Riverside Co. (RS). One immature male and one female (48-1972) on 26 May 1972 at Deep Springs College, Deep Springs, Inyo Co. (RS, DD, PA, JFa). Two immature males (49-1972) on 2 June 1972 at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo Co. (RS, GMa, JG). One adult male (61-1972) on 27 June 1972 at Glendale, Los Angeles Co. (GSS). One immature male (83-1972) on 9 October 1972 at the Cabrillo National Monument, Point Loma, San Diego, San Diego Co. (RS, ST). One male (95-1972) banded (No. 78-135339) on 25 September 1972 at San Pedro, Los Angeles Co. (SW). One adult male (99-1972) on 22, 23 and 24 June 1972 two miles northwest of Sunol, Alameda Co. (MS).
- INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*). One adult male (17-1972) on 26 May 1972 at Point Loma, San Diego, San Diego Co. (AS, RMacI). One immature male (19-1972) on 27 May 1972 at the Yucca Valley Golf Course, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co. (GSS, JF). One female (23-1972) on 10 June 1972 at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo Co. (GMcC). Two to three males (28AB-1972) on 27 May 1972 at Deep Springs College, Deep Springs, Inyo Co. (LJ, GMcC, JD et al.). One female (33-1972) on 20 May 1972 at Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC, JW). One adult male (41-1972) on 21 May 1972 at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo Co. (GMcC, JW, ST). One adult male (50-1972) on 26 May 1972 at Batchelder Springs (on the west slope of Westgard Pass), Inyo Co. (RS). One male (51-1972) on 26 May 1972 at Deep Springs College, Deep Springs, Inyo Co. (RS, PA, DD). One female (52-1972) on 27 May 1972 at Panamint Springs, Inyo Co. (RS, PA). One immature male (54-1972) on 2 June 1972 at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo Co. (RS, GMa, JG). One immature male (55-1972) on 5 June 1972 at Deep Springs College, Deep Springs, Inyo Co. (RS, GMa, JG). Two females (63 and 64-1972) on 25 August 1972 at Scotty's Castle, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo Co. (RS, TM, VR, JT). One adult male (73-1972) on 27 May 1972 at Kelso, San Bernardino Co. (SC). One female (89-1972) on 14 September 1972 near the mouth of the Carmel River, Monterey Co. (RS).
- DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*). Two females (45-1972) on 27 May 1972 at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo Co. (RS, PA, DD, JFa). One immature male (?) (98-1972) on 2 October 1972 on the Yucca Valley Golf Course, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co. (GSS).

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- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*). One (87-1972) on 17 September 1972 at Crespi Pond, Point Pinos, Monterey Co. (RS, RB, DD, JFa, et al.). One (91-1972) on 24 September 1972 at Crespi Pond, Point Pinos, Monterey Co. (RS, BRo).
- MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius mccownii*). One (16-1972) on 9 January 1972 seven miles northwest of Calipatria, Imperial Co. (BB, HC, OC).
- CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR (*Calcarius ornatus*). Four (4-1972) on 19 February 1972 five miles south-southeast of Litchfield, Lassen Co. (GMcC, KG, JD, RW).

### 1972 UNACCEPTED RECORDS

- BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY (*Sula nebouxii*). One (14-1972) on 8 January 1972 ten miles southwest of Ventura, Ventura Co.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). One (79-1972) on 28 September 1972 at Mill Valley, Marin Co.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*). One (105-1972) on 12 October 1972 near the mouth of the Big Sur River, Monterey Co.
- RUFOUS-NECKED SANDPIPER (*Calidris ruficollis*). One (9-1972) on 5 May 1969 at Humboldt Bay, Eureka, Humboldt Co.
- CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*). One (59-1972) on 24 and 26 May 1972 at Encino Reservoir, Encino, Los Angeles Co.
- GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*). One (92AB-1972) on 24 September 1972 at Point Lobos State Reserve, Monterey Co.
- EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*). One (101-1972) on 17 and 18 October 1972 at Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co.
- YELLOW-GREEN VIREO (*Vireo flavoviridis*). One (70-1972) on 4 September 1972 at Finney Lake, Imperial Co.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Dendroica caerulescens*). One (96-1972) on 9 September 1972 at San Pedro, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co. One (100-1972) on 14 October 1972 at China Lake, Inyo Co.
- ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*). One (15-1972) on 5 December 1971 at Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co.
- PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*). One (10-1972) on 18 April 1972 at Imperial Beach, San Diego Co.; nearly all committee members agreed that this bird was an escaped cage pet. One female (71-1972) on 4 May 1972 at Covington Park, Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co.

### CONTRIBUTORS

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