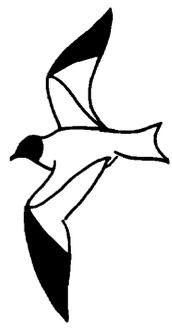


WESTERN BIRDS



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ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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This report contains 257 records reviewed by the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the Committee) and is the largest of the eleven reports compiled thus far. A total of 81 species is covered as follows: 234 records of 73 species accepted and 23 records of 20 species not accepted. Thus, 91% of the reports are accepted. The rate of acceptance in the last four Committee reports has varied from 88% to 92%, whereas in previous reports the rate has been as low as 74% and as high as 97%. The records dealt with here span 90 years from 1896 to 1986 and include reports for almost every year from 1960 onward. Over half of the records, however, are from the last two years of that period (99 for 1985 and 40 for 1986).

Half of the counties in California are represented in this report, including all but two of the coastal counties. Of these, San Diego and San Francisco counties have 40 and 37 accepted records, respectively; these numbers are slightly over twice the next highest totals of 17 and 16 for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, respectively. The largest number of rarities per land area goes to Southeast Farallon Island, which has 15% of the accepted records (a total of 35) and only one ten-thousandth of one percent of California's total land area. The quality and consistency of the reports from there has recently been among the highest that the Committee reviews. Special recognition for this goes to Peter Pyle, Dave DeSante, and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

Three species are added to the state list in this report: Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Ruddy Ground-Dove, and Three-toed Woodpecker. These decisions and other recent decisions (Roberson 1990) place the total number of bird species recorded in California at 572. In addition, the earliest records for the state are accepted for four species: Anhinga, Common Black-headed Gull, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Pine Warbler.

PROCEDURES

In evaluating a submitted report, members of the Committee assess the adequacy of the evidence supplied—written, photographic, and otherwise. The Committee can neither verify nor invalidate records, but can provide a judgment on the acceptability of the report for the permanent historical record that is maintained. Observers whose reports are not accepted by the Committee should not take this to mean that the bird or birds were misidentified or that the observer's abilities are questioned. Cases in which the Committee is convinced of an error are rare, and the majority of unaccepted reports involve a lack of adequate documentation. It is the accuracy and completeness of the field report and the rigor and objectivity of the review procedure that distinguishes an accepted record from an uncorroborated report.

One of the major aims underlying the establishment of the Committee was to foster an awareness in California's field ornithologists of the importance of providing corroboration for reports of rarities. Careful field notes, sketches, photographs, and sound recordings are essential to establishing a record of lasting ornithological value. In most cases the best evidence for the occurrence of a bird species in the state is a specimen, but current constraints against collecting, coupled with the improvement of photographic and recording equipment and the sharpening of field skills have given rise to the need for procedures for evaluating and preserving this evidence, in much the way museum collections allow for the evaluation and preservation of specimens. This means that careful attention must be paid to acquiring all the necessary details for identification at the time of the observation and that a cautious approach must be used for evaluating the evidence.

When reviewing the documentation of a rarity, the Committee attempts to eliminate all other possible species from consideration. Therefore, it is important for the observer to document the presence of characters that exclude other similar species. In fact, a thorough description may sometimes include critical field marks that distinguish the species from others not considered at the time of the observation. By relying only on characters that support an identification and that fail to reject other species, including those sometimes ignored, one risks making a misidentification. Two examples of this type of error involved some extraordinary rarities, the circumstances of which are well worth reviewing—see Morlan and Erickson (1983) regarding a Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) that was identified by many as a Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) and Abbott and Finch (1978) regarding a Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*) that many labeled as a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*). To persons using these records in their research, it should be said that the Committee strives to evaluate reports in this fashion but is not infallible. In addition, questions involving the natural occurrence of a bird cannot be assessed by a similar method whereby all possible explanations are eliminated. It is extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible, to prove that a bird did not escape from a cage or was not purposely transported into the state. To help document such rarities, the reporter should supply the Committee with information on the

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captive status and likelihood of vagrancy for the species as well as justifying its identification. In such cases, the Committee's decisions represent a collective opinion based on the information available. (See Anhinga, Ruddy Ground-Dove, and Barnacle Goose in this report.)

The purposes and procedures of the Committee have been published in its bylaws (Western Birds 8:161-165, 1977) and updated periodically in some of its reports (Binford 1983, 1985). The current membership of the Committee, recent changes in policy and practices, and the list of reviewed species were published most recently by Roberson (1990). Please note the removal from the review list of Cook's Petrel, *Pterodroma* petrels identified only as the subgenus *Cookilaria*, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Barred Owl, and Prothonotary Warbler. Also, the Committee is now soliciting reports of Tricolored Heron occurring after 1 January 1990. Send all rarities reports directly to the secretary, Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515. The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (1100 Glendon Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024) continues to maintain the archive of all published records. All voice recordings are housed at the California Academy of Sciences, Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

FORMAT

The organization and style of this report are similar to those used in the tenth report (Dunn 1988). The systematic lists for accepted and unaccepted records follow the AOU Check-list (1983) and its supplements (AOU 1985, 1987, 1989). The number after each species' name represents the total accepted records for California. Two asterisks following this number mean that the total reported covers only the period of years for which the species is reviewed or that reports not formally accepted are added to the total (see Roberson 1986). Species marked with a single asterisk are no longer reviewed by the Committee.

Within each species account, records are listed chronologically according to the first known date of occurrence. Each record presents in order as much of the following information as possible: number of birds, age, sex, locality, county, date or complete date span, and, in parentheses, initials of contributing observers, repository of specimens, and the official record number. The diagnosis of age and sex is my own opinion based on evidence in the files and comments by other Committee members; annotations on subspecific identification are handled in the same way. Designations for either category are made only when supported by the evidence available. The initials of the contributing observers are listed in alphabetical sequence by name; if the observer or observers first finding or identifying the bird submitted documentation, then their initials are placed first and separated from the others by a semicolon. Observers who submitted a photograph have a dagger (†) following their initials. Photographs greatly assist in the review procedure, and their submission with the written report is strongly encouraged. As in previous reports, I have attempted to provide the full date span for records. The seasonal reports of *American Birds* and its predecessor *Audubon Field Notes* are the primary source for these dates,

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but where I have given a revised date, it is italicized. These revised dates are considered correct by the Committee.

Decisions regarding the number of individuals involved, especially when the species returns to the same locality annually, are made by a consensus of the Committee. An individual judged as the same or probably the same as a previous bird is not counted in the total of accepted records, whereas an individual considered not the same or possibly the same is added to the total. These decisions are rarely based on firm evidence, such as a uniquely banded bird, but are the considered opinions of the Committee members based on their experience and the evidence available.

ABBREVIATIONS

The Committee has adopted the following abbreviations for counties cited in this report: ALA, Alameda; BUT, Butte; CC, Contra Costa; COL, Colusa; DN, Del Norte; GLE, Glenn; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; LA, Los Angeles; MER, Merced; MNO, Mono; MOD, Modoc; MRN, Marin; MTY, Monterey; ORA, Orange; RIV, Riverside; SBA, Santa Barbara; SBE, San Bernardino; SD, San Diego; SF, San Francisco; SHA, Shasta; SIS, Siskiyou; SJ, San Joaquin; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SON, Sonoma; STA, Stanislaus; TUO, Tuolumne; VEN, Ventura.

Museums cited as the repository for a specimen are abbreviated as follows: CAS, California Academy of Sciences; CM-EHS, Clarke Museum, Eureka High School, Eureka; DVNMM, Death Valley National Monument Museum; SDNHM, San Diego Natural History Museum; SFSU, San Francisco State University collection; UCLA, University of California, Los Angeles. Journals cited are spelled out or given the following abbreviations: AmB, *American Birds*; AFN, *Audubon Field Notes*. Parks, refuges, and the like are abbreviated with the following: NF, National Forest; NM, National Monument; NP, National Park; NS, National Seashore; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (33). One was at Pacific Grove, MTY, 22–25 Jan 1969 (AB; LCB; 38-1985). One was at Bodega Bay, SON, 6 Dec 1980 (JW; 225-1986). One was seen from Fields Landing, Humboldt Bay, HUM, 1 Jan 1981 (RLeV†; 241-1986). One was found on Carmel Bay, MTY, 23 Jan 1982 (KHa; GPo†; 163-1986). An adult in alternate plumage off the south jetty at Humboldt Bay, HUM, 27 Aug–3 Oct 1982 (RLeV†; 242-1986) represents the earliest record for fall and is only the fourth seen in alternate plumage in California. One was about 3/4 mile southwest of Moss Landing harbor, MTY, 30 Dec 1985–19 Jan 1986 (SFB†; AB; 6-1986). One immature was observed feeding on Dungeness crab (*Cancer magister*) in the harbor at Eureka, HUM, 25 Apr–18 May 1986 (RAE; GSL, LPL, SS†; 283-1986); this is the latest spring occurrence of any Yellow-billed Loon in California.

The Pacific Grove bird was published as an adult (AmB 23:514), but the description does not support any conclusion as to age; from records of birds of known age, an immature is much more likely. Both Remsen and Binford (1975) and Roberson

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(1985) published this bird as present through 26 Jan, which is incorrect. The Carmel Bay bird was published by Roberson (1985) incorrectly as off Asilomar on 17 Jan 1982; this same error was published in *The Gull* 64:52 and *AmB* 36:325.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Diomedea albatrus* (3**). A first-year bird was seen over the west edge of the Cordell Bank, about 25 miles west of Point Reyes, MRN, 3 and 5 Nov 1985 (Figure 1; RS†: SFB, LCB, RAE, WEG†, JSL†, RM†, GMcC, BDP, DR†, RAR†; 142-1985).

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this record is that a chartered boat with California's most enthusiastic field ornithologists returned two days after the initial sighting to find the bird within 1/4 mile of where Rich Stallcup had first seen it. At least one photograph shows what appears to be a band on the left foot; this species is banded on Torishima, a small volcanic island 380 miles south of Tokyo, Japan, and the only known breeding locality for this endangered species (Hasegawa and DeGange 1982).

A century ago, the Short-tailed Albatross was not uncommon along the Pacific coast of North America south to Baja California, and first-year birds were then apparently the most frequently encountered age class in the southern part of its range (Anthony 1924). This is the third record for California this century, and all birds have been entirely dark immatures such as this one, although there is a recent report of an adult off Baja California (D. Ainley pers. comm.) and an older report published by Traylor (1950) of an adult off San Francisco in 1946. This latter report was recently reviewed but not accepted by the Committee because the published description,



Figure 1. Short-tailed Albatross. Cordell Bank, about 25 miles west of Point Reyes, Marin Co.. 3 November 1985.

Photo by Rich Stallcup

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although intriguing, failed to eliminate the Wandering and Royal Albatrosses (*D. exulans* and *epomophora*); this decision will be published in a forthcoming report.

MOTTLED PETREL *Pterodroma inexpectata* (15). Ten were seen 150 to 200 miles southwest of Cape Mendocino, HUM, 20 Apr 1985 (RLP†; 133-1985). Two photographs on file document at least one of these birds.

This record was published by Morlan and Erickson (1988). The species will undoubtedly prove to be regular in these waters.

STREAKED SHEARWATER *Calonectris leucomelas* (4). One was 3.5 miles southwest of Point Pinos, MTY, 22 Sep 1985 (Figure 2; JLD; LJ†; 61-1986). This is only the fourth record for California and North America. A report from Monterey Bay on 14 Oct 1978 has unfortunately still not been submitted for review (AmB 33:209, Roberson 1980, 1985, AOU 1983, Morlan 1985).

WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER *Puffinus pacificus* (1). One was 4.5 to 5 miles west of Point Pinos, MTY, 31 Aug 1986 (RS†; RB, BM, NM, PaN, PhN, SP, AKT, KW, WU; 456-1986).

Superbly documented, this sighting establishes the first record for California. Details of the observation along with distributional and identification summaries were published by Stallcup et al. (1988).

***WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanites oceanicus* (74). Three were on Monterey Bay, MTY, 3 Oct 1970 (GMcC; 133-1986), and one was there 5 Oct 1974 (GMcC; 141-1986). Up to two were seen on four separate days on Monterey Bay, MTY, 31 Aug-6 Oct 1985 (JLD, JML; SFB, MJL, GMcC; 138-1985). At least 45 were seen over the Cordell Bank, about 25 miles west of Point Reyes, MRN, 3-7 Nov 1985 (RS; SFB, LCB, RAE, RM†, GMcC, JM, BDP, DR†; 144-1985) with at least seven on 3 Nov, at least 45 on 5 Nov, and about 15 on 7 Nov.



Figure 2. Streaked Shearwater, Monterey Bay, 3.5 miles southwest of Point Pinos, Monterey Co., 22 September 1985.

Photo by Lars Jonsson

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Even by conservative estimates, the numbers over the Cordell Bank are unprecedented for the eastern North Pacific Ocean. The birds on Monterey Bay were more expected, as a few individuals have been found regularly with storm-petrel flocks in fall since 1967. The Committee no longer reviews this species.

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (20). One immature was at Rock Hill, Salton Sea, IMP, 15–23 Aug 1970 (GMcC; 134-1986). One immature was at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 28 Aug–7 Sep 1971 (GMcC; 136-1986). One sub-adult was near Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 1 Jul 1984 (KFC; HAG, TMcE; 122-1985); this bird and one the previous fall at the Farallones (previously accepted 126-1985, Dunn 1988) are the northernmost records for the Pacific coast of North America.

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax olivaceus* (3). An adult was seen at the Whitewater River mouth, north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 23 Mar and 20 Apr 1986 (BEDa; 329-1986) and was seen there again 19 Jul and 23 Aug 1986 (GMcC; 376-1986). This is probably the same individual first found at this locality 1 Aug 1982 and seen intermittently at both ends of the Salton Sea over the next four years (previously accepted 76-1982, 37-1983, Morlan 1985; 66-1983, Roberson 1986; 100-1985, Dunn 1988).

ANHINGA *Anhinga anhinga* (2). An adult female was at Sweetwater Reservoir, SD, 4 Feb 1977–20 Jan 1979 (GMcC†, JVR, DR; 3-1977).

This currently represents the earliest record accepted for California, although an earlier report for 1939 in San Francisco has recently been accepted and will be published in a forthcoming report. Originally submitted in 1978, the current record was reviewed on two circulations and not accepted to the state list on the basis of questionable natural occurrence (Luther et al. 1979). The main points of concern were the exceptionally long period of residence for a vagrant bird and the lack of any pattern of occurrences supporting the likelihood of vagrancy to California. Subsequently, another Anhinga found in the fall of 1983 at Lee Lake, RIV, remained for just over six months and was accepted by the Committee (Roberson 1986). This record, along with information on the recent occurrence of the Anhinga in Sonora, Mexico, and the apparent scarcity of the species in captivity, were the main cause for reconsideration and ultimate acceptance of this older record.

The latest date for this bird is based on the last known report. Unitt (1984) and Garrett and Dunn (1981) gave "fall 1980" as the latest date, but there appears to be no documentation for this date.

REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (17). One was at Long Beach, LA, 26 Sep 1980 (JLA; 9-1985). One adult at San Diego Bay, SD, 9 Nov 1985–26 Jan 1986 (GMcC; JML, REW†; 69-1986) was considered the same bird returning for its fourth winter (previously accepted 49-1984, 45-1984, Roberson 1986; 50-1985, Dunn 1988). An immature reported at Seal Beach and Bolsa Chica, ORA, 8 Nov 1980–end of Feb 1981 (AmB 35:225, 335) may have been the same individual at Long Beach accepted above, the first county record for LA. This species is rarely reported north of San Diego Bay.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (12). An adult was at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, La Jolla, SD, 19 Aug–9 Oct 1984, again 19–31 Mar 1985, and 5 Dec 1985–28 Feb 1986 (JLD†, JML, MJL, GMcC, REW†; 18-1986). This was judged to be the same individual that had been seen periodically here and at nearby San Elijo Lagoon since 25 Oct 1981 (88-1981, Binford 1985; 81-1982, 36-1983, Morlan 1985; 237-1984, Dunn 1988).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (5). Two were near the Salton Sea NWR headquarters, IMP, 29 May–22 Jun 1985 (JML, MJL, GMcC, REW†; 141-1985).

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TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (7). Four adults wintered with Tundra Swans (*C. columbianus*) near Fort Dick and the Smith River estuary, DN, 2 Dec 1985–14 Mar 1986 (RAE; SFB, ADB, JLD, JML, GSL, MJL, CM, GMcC, JM; 1-1986).

EMPEROR GOOSE *Chen canagica* (37**). One was at the Sacramento NWR, GLE, 11–27 Nov 1960 (GMcC; 93-1986).

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* (31). One male was at Tiburon, MRN, 3 Jan 1981 (CB; 91-1986); this is not the same bird that returned to Mill Valley and Richardson Bay, MRN (see Morlan 1985). A male at Lopez Lake, SLO, 17–28 Feb 1981 (CM; 465-1986) probably returned to that locality and was one of two males seen there in early 1986, the first 25 Jan–21 Feb 1986 (TME; JLD†, CM, JEM; 73-1986) and the second 15–16 Feb 1986 (TME; 203-1986). One female was at Arcata, HUM, 22 Nov 1985–1 Feb 1986 (GSL, GMcC, JCS†; 19-1986). A male at Saticoy, VEN, 2–25 Jan 1986 (REW; GMcC; 21-1986) was considered the same as one there the previous winter (42-1985, Dunn 1988). A female was at the same locality 20 Feb 1986 (KTS; 188-1986) and was probably the same bird returning for its second winter (previously accepted 197-1985, Dunn 1988). One male was on the Fall River near Glenburn, SHA, 18 Jan 1986 (REk; 207-1986). A single female was at the San Francisco Zoo, SF, 25 Jan–13 Feb 1986, moving to Golden Gate Park, SF, 24 Feb–4 Mar 1986 (JM; SFB, LE, JMcC†, DGY; 161-1986). One male was at O'Neill Forebay, San Luis Reservoir, MER, 17 Feb 1986 (JKr; 173-1986). Another male was at Arcata Marsh (Lake Arcata), HUM, 13 Apr–3 May 1986 (RAE; 284-1986).

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* (20). An immature male was at Bodega Bay, SON, 17 Sep 1961 (GMcC; 95-1986). One female was near Brooks Island, Richmond, CC, 18 Dec 1983 (GPe, PW; 98-1986); this bird was judged probably the same as one seen at Brooks Island in the summer of 1984 and the fall of 1985 (156-1984, 120-1985, Dunn 1988) and possibly the same as one wintering at Emeryville, ALA, in 1982–1983 (7-1983, Morlan 1985). A female at Morro Bay, SLO, 28 Oct 1985–28 Feb 1986 (TME; JLD, RRH†, P&MC; 72-1986) was judged probably the same as one off nearby Montaña de Oro State Park, SLO, 12 Jan 1986 (TME; 81-1986). One female was at Moss Landing, MTY, 12 Jan 1986 (FRC†; 171-1986). Another female was at Point Saint George, DN, 29–31 Mar 1986 (ADB, SHe; 208-1986). An immature male was at the Salinas River mouth, MTY, 27 Apr–15 Jun 1986 (RFT†, CT, TC; DR; 229-1986).

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (16). One adult was at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY, 2–5 Jun 1968 (GMcC; 125-1986); this was the second state record. One immature was at Point Loma, SD, 21 Sep 1985 (GMcC; 67-1986).

The immature seen flying south over Point Loma represents the third fall record for California and the latest by one week; the previous fall records involved one immature and one adult. One member noted that the Plumbeous Kite (*I. plumbea*), which occurs from southern Mexico to northern Argentina, was not clearly eliminated. Middle American populations are migratory, withdrawing to South America in the winter, and the immatures of both species are very similar (see Ridgely and Gwynne 1989). Nevertheless, other members responded that no extralimital records of Plumbeous Kite are known and that the paler head and notched tail noted on the Point Loma bird probably eliminate that species.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus* (18). One was on the Plano Trabuco near O'Neill Park, ORA, 22 Dec 1985–17 Jan 1986 (MJL, GMcC, GT, REW; 17-1986).

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GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus* (3). One was at Tule Lake NWR. MOD. 31 Oct 1983 (BEDe: 128-1985). This is only the third record for California, the first being from nearby Lower Klamath NWR also in late October (Roberson 1986). The description suggests that this was an immature bird; immatures typically have a more noticeable vertical streak below the eye and dark gray feet.

YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (54**). One was at Mono Lake County Park. MNO. 15 Jul 1985 (DAG: 158-1985). The date is noteworthy because a Yellow Rail nest was found by W. L. Dawson (1922) on 6 Jun 1922 just south of here in the Long Valley near Lake Crowley, and the species formerly nested to the north at Bridgeport until 1950. The boggy grass at the northwest corner of Mono Lake is suitable breeding habitat if kept free of disturbance.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus* (7). A bird missing one foot was at Avila Beach. SLO. 25 Oct 1964–late Mar 1965 (GMcC: 115-1986). One was at Santa Barbara Island. SBA. 30 May 1986 (BWAt, RAC: 375-1986).

The bird at Avila Beach represents the second definite mainland record and the first definite record in over 100 years for California. It is also the farthest north that the species is reliably documented in the state; unaccepted sight records exist for MTY and MRN counties. Marantz (1986) mentioned two reports from nearby localities around the time of the Avila bird: Pismo Beach. 11 Jun 1963 (C. Mills, Jr.), and Montaña de Oro State Park. 20 Jul 1966 (Vera Barnes). These may pertain to the same bird at Avila Beach, but the reports are unreviewed and not certain. The Committee would welcome any information on these sightings.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* (3). One juvenile just beginning molt into first basic plumage was in the Santa Maria River valley near Betteravia. SBA. 25 Oct 1985 (LRBe: JLD†, PEL†; 167-1985).

This sighting is dedicated to the memory of Carolyn Fredericksen who died tragically in an automobile accident while searching for this bird. This is the third record for California and the first of a bird in juvenal plumage.

RUFOUS-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* (4). One alternate-plumaged bird was at Crescent City. DN. 18 Jun 1974 (PFSt; RLeV†; 57-1986). This is the second record for California.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* (36). All of the following records involved birds in juvenal plumage. Two were at Goleta. SBA. 10–26 Sep 1964 (GMcC: 111-1986). One was at Oceanside. SD. 16 Sep 1967 (GMcC: 117-1986). The following records represent the remaining reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers for the fall of 1985 (others were reported by Dunn 1988): one at the Salinas sewage ponds, MTY. 23–28 Aug (CT: 183-1986); one at the Smith River mouth. DN. 24 Aug (Figure 3; ADB: 195-1985); singles at Southeast Farallon Island, SF. 30 Aug–4 Sep (PP†: 177-1985) and 6 Sep (PP: 178-1985); one at Crescent City, DN. 6 Sep (ADB; RAE: 162-1985); one at the Lancaster sewage ponds, Antelope Valley, LA. 7–11 Sep (NBB†; JLD†, MH†; 148-1985); two near Imperial Beach. SD. 11 Sep (GMcC. REW†; 64-1986).

The total of 15 birds in the fall of 1985 is surpassed only by the fall of 1978, when as many as 24 were reported from California.

*RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* (32). One in juvenal plumage was at Arcata bottoms. HUM. 21 Sep–8 Oct 1979 (SWH. BBe†; 79-1979).

Originally submitted in 1979, this record was published as not accepted by Binford (1985). This decision was reached after four circulations and following much discussion of the single description then supporting the record. Later, two photographs of a Ruff in juvenal plumage were sent to the Committee, and the record was accepted without question. The Committee is always pleased to correct past decisions; we also welcome any comments that suggest a previous decision might be incorrect.

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The Ruff was removed from the Committee's review list in 1981; the species is a regular but rare migrant, primarily in fall, and a rare winter visitor in California.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (28). One adult was at King Harbor, Redondo Beach, LA, 22-26 Dec 1969 (KLG, GMcC, GSS; 356-1986). Representing the second state record, it was reportedly found on the first date about 3 miles south of this locality on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Another adult at Inverness, MRN, 21-22 Nov 1984 (RS; 287-1986) is previously unpublished.

The Stockton sewage ponds, SJ, had up to four adults as follows: one from 9 Oct 1985 until a second joined it 11 Jan 1986, a total of three on 18 Mar, four together 14-16 Apr, and two remaining until 28 Apr 1986. A single adult seen foraging over a flooded field near Woodbridge, approximately 16 miles north of the sewage ponds, on 13 Mar 1986, was considered probably the same as one of the three at the Stockton sewage ponds five days later (DGY; JML, MJL, GMcC, JM; record 165-1985 refers to the two wintering birds, and record 478-1986 refers to all other observations by DGY from the earliest to the latest dates). The Committee judged the two wintering birds probably the same as previous adults at Stockton over the past seven winters (21-1979, Luther et al. 1983; 85-1983, 93-1983, 1-1984, 42-1984, Roberson 1986; 269-1984, Dunn 1988).

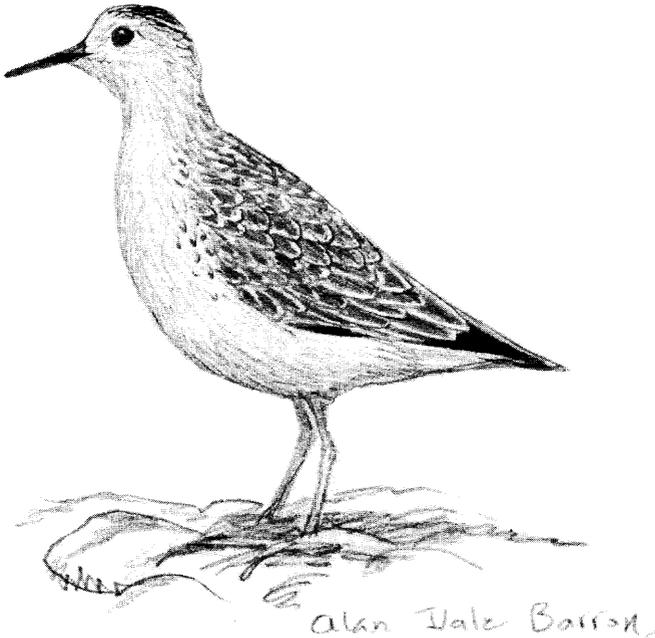


Figure 3. Buff-breasted Sandpiper, mouth of Smith River, Del Norte Co., 24 August 1985.

Sketch by Alan D. Barron

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COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* (12). One adult was at the Richmond inner harbor, CC, 23–24 Jan 1954 (HLC; 219-1986). An adult at the Stockton sewage ponds, SJ, 10 Nov 1985–Mar 1986 (DGY; SFB†, JML, MJL, GMcC, JM; 5-1986) returned for its eighth winter (see Roberson 1986 for dates of previous occurrences; 20-1979, 2-1984, 84-1983, 43-1985).

The Richmond bird was the first for the state. Since the late 1970s, this species has occurred almost annually in California.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* (1). One was seen in a nesting colony of Elegant Terns (*S. elegans*) at San Diego Bay, SD, 12–14 Jun 1985 (REW†; GMcC; 9-1986). This was judged probably the same bird seen here in May 1981 and May–Jun 1982, the only other occurrences of this species in California (Schaffner 1981; 80-1980, Luther et al. 1983; 58-1982, Morlan 1985).

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti* (2). A male was at Iron Mountain Pump Station, SBE, 11 Oct–3 Nov 1984 (RMcK†; GMcC; 23-1985), and a female was there one year later on 9 Oct 1985 (BW†; MMcC; 62-1986).

These are the first and second accepted records for California, and part of a growing number of reports from the desert Southwest over the past five years. Another report from September of 1984 (record in circulation) would supersede the first of these records and bring the total number of Ruddy Ground-Doves reported in California to 20 through the fall of 1989. Crucial to understanding this increase in sightings are reports north of this species' known range in western Mexico—two reports for the fall of 1982 in southern Sonora and twenty or more birds in northern Sinaloa in the fall of 1984 (Witzeman 1985 and AmB 39:87). Previously, this species had not been known north of southern Sinaloa despite the attention that these areas have received, including a distributional survey of Sonora by van Rossem (1945) and recent Christmas bird counts at Alamos, Sonora. These reports tie in with those from southeastern California, southern Arizona, southern New Mexico, Big Bend, and the lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas, and show a seasonal pattern of primarily fall and winter occurrences. In addition, it appears that the west Mexican race, *C. t. eluta*, is involved in most of these sightings. The male of *eluta* is paler and less richly colored than the east Mexican (and Central American) race, *rufipennis* (Ridgway 1916). Several of the males photographed in the Southwest, including the male at Iron Mountain Pump Station, showed the characters of *eluta*, whereas only one, from Big Bend, showed the characters of *rufipennis*.

The Committee does caution that Ruddy Ground-Doves are held in captivity, though not in great numbers (J. Jennings, president of the American Federation of Aviculture, in litt.), and the possibility exists that birds could be escaping and some even mixing with natural vagrants. Since these reports are restricted to the desert Southwest and fit a seasonal pattern, natural occurrence is strongly suggested. Other species of American ground-doves have shown such long-range dispersal, sometimes coupled with a range expansion. As noted by McCaskie (AmB 43:169), the Inca Dove (*C. inca*) underwent such an expansion beginning in the late 1800s in Arizona and Texas, as documented by Phillips et al. (1964), Oberholser (1974), and Rea (1983). In Texas at least, this expansion was preceded principally by fall and winter occurrences. Indeed, the Inca Dove established itself along the Colorado River in California only recently, between 1948 and 1970 (Monson and Phillips 1981). The Common Ground-Dove (*C. passerina*) has also expanded its range in California since at least 1944, when it was essentially restricted to the extreme southeastern portion of the state, and has now established itself north to southern Santa Barbara County (Spencer 1987).

Once again, however, observers are warned that not all sightings may involve wild birds, and further study is required. The Committee previously rejected a record from Fillmore, VEN, 24–26 Nov 1978 (31-1981, Binford 1985) on the basis of ques-

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tionable natural occurrence; this bird was reported prior to the range expansion of the last few years. The first of the current records was accepted by all but two members—the first record to pass under a recent bylaws change allowing acceptance of records with up to two votes questioning natural occurrence on the fourth round. The second record was accepted by all but one member.

A lesson learned by the Committee in attempting to analyze these records was that our knowledge about the status of birds in captivity is extremely limited. Efforts to compile information on the status of this species in captivity failed to obtain good estimates of the numbers held. Declared imports from 1968 to 1972 listed only one Ruddy Ground-Dove (Banks 1970; Banks and Clapp 1972; Clapp and Banks 1973a, 1973b, 1974), and yet a series of books on pet doves (Delacour 1959, 1980; Gos 1989) claimed that the species is frequently imported from Mexico and South America to the United States. However, this statement is repeated unchanged by the same publisher for both authors and probably does not reflect the current situation. The Committee has no way to substantiate this statement, but some members suspect illegal importation occurs.

Regardless of the circumstances, this species presents a new identification problem for California birders, who should now carefully study all ground-doves they encounter, especially in the northern deserts where the Common Ground-Dove is a scarce vagrant. The male Ruddy Ground-Dove is quite richly colored, but the female could be confused with a Common Ground-Dove. The key points to look for on the Ruddy Ground-Dove are the entirely dark bill, complete lack of scaling on head, neck and breast, linear black marks on the scapulars, and black wing linings. These features are diagnostic and were discussed along with other aspects of the identification by Dunn and Garrett (1990).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (7). One immature was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 18 Oct 1985 (PP†; 12-1986). This record is over two weeks later than the next latest record for the state, and that record involved a bird dead one to two weeks (Morlan 1985).

SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca* (38**). Two specimens were taken at Eureka, HUM, 8 Dec 1896 (CM-EHS 644 and 678; 318-1986). A minimum of four were in the coastal dunes near the Mad River estuary, HUM, 31 Jan–26 Mar 1967 (GMcC; 143-1986); these were the first Snowy Owls seen in California since the winter of 1916–17 (Harris and Yocum 1968). One was reportedly photographed, but the photograph is not with the record. One was at Berkeley, ALA, 16 Feb 1974 (SFB; 221-1986); this occurrence was part of the record invasion of Snowy Owls into California during 1973–74 (AmB 28:685).

The Eureka specimens are the only evidence known to the Committee for reports of this species from Humboldt County “in flocks” during the winter of 1896–97, when these and several other birds were reported in California (Grinnell and Miller 1944). The Committee does not count pre-1900 reports in the total number of records.

***BARRED OWL** *Strix varia* (4). One at Howland Hill near Crescent City, DN, 3–12 May and 22 Dec 1985 (SFB, GSL; 224-1986) was judged the same bird first found here 12 Mar 1982 and detected intermittently until recently (26-1982, Binford 1985; 28-1983, Morlan 1985). This species is now resident in this region of California and has been removed from the Review List.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cyananthus latirostris* (27). One immature male was at Goleta, SBA, 16–25 Oct 1985 (JLD†, PEL, REW†; 168-1985). Another male was at San Marcos Pass, near Santa Barbara, SBA, 3–5 Nov 1985 (J&GH; LRB†; 169-1985). An adult male at Balboa Park, San Diego, SD, 1 Dec 1985–5 Jan 1986 (GMcC, REW; 23-1986) was considered the same bird first found

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there in the winter of 1979–80 (43-1980, Binford 1983; 240-1980, 241-1980, 2-1983, Binford 1985—the last record was inadvertently published without a record number but the bird was reported as present 18 Dec 1982–5 Jan 1983). An immature male was at Coronado, SD, 11 Jan–28 Feb 1986 (JML, MJL, GMcC, DR, REW; 26-1986). Another immature male was at Goleta, SBA, 27 Jan–22 Feb 1986 (LRBet, JLD†, PEL; 74-1986).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris* (2). An immature male was captured, examined, and released on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 21–22 Aug 1985 (Figures 4 and 5; PPT; TP†; 179-1985). This represents the second record for California.

Southeast Farallon Island biologists are to be commended for recognizing this bird as unusual and taking careful notes and measurements. At the time, characters used to distinguish this species from the Black-chinned Hummingbird (*A. alexandri*) were culmen length, bright green upperparts, and a bright buffy wash with admixture of green in the flanks. While useful, these characters are not proven to separate the two species in all cases. Therefore, the descriptions and photographs were sent to Louisiana State University for review by J. V. Remsen, Jr. and Nancy L. Newfield, both of whom supported the identification and directed the Committee's attention to features of the primaries that were diagnostic for Ruby-throated but that were not initially studied or described when the bird was in hand. The tenth (outer) primary tapered evenly to a narrow, blunt tip, which is quite different from the comparatively broad and strongly curved outer primary of the Black-chinned Hummingbird. This feature, clearly visible in two photographs, the short culmen, the strongly sculptured notches on the inner primaries, and the plumage features mentioned above, combine to eliminate the Black-chinned. The heavily spotted throat and the distinct notches on the inner primaries identify the bird as an immature male. Phillips (1975) first discussed using the outer primaries to distinguish the Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds. Baltosser (1987) quantified these characters in his comprehensive key to *Archilochus* and *Calypte* (in North America).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (2). One at Point Saint George, DN, 9 Jun 1986 (JKg†; ADB, GSL, WER; 290-1986) established the second accepted record for California. This bird exhibited two black bars in the secondaries, indicating that it was one year old; the juvenal plumage of Red-headed Woodpecker has barring in the secondaries and tertials, some of which may be retained following its molt into first alternate plumage (Bent 1939).

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER *Picoides tridactylus* (1). One male at South Fork Pine Creek, Warner Mountains, MOD, 2 Nov 1985 (JT; 146-1985) represents the first record for California. A potential first state record is treated with great scrutiny by the Committee, especially when it is only a sight record by one observer. In this case, the record was accepted, following two circulations, by all but one member. The extremely detailed description was convincing and overcame concerns that this species is largely resident within its range, only occasionally showing irruptive fall movements. The pattern and amount of white noted on the back suggest that the bird was of the race *fasciatus*, which occurs in nearby southern Oregon. The nearest report to this sighting is approximately 130 miles to the northwest and involves a family group of three birds at Fourmile Lake along the east base of Mount McLoughlin, Oregon (Gabrielson and Jewett 1940). Over most of its range in western North America, the Three-toed Woodpecker inhabits forests of Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and Mountain Hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), or forests of Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*); of these, only Lodgepole Pine grows in the Warner Mountains, and then only in small stands, confirming the likelihood that this record represents only a vagrant. Details of this record along with distributional and identification summaries were published by Trochet et al. (1988).

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GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (19). One was at Griffith Park, Los Angeles, LA, 31 Dec 1967–10 Apr 1968 (GMcC; 124-1986). One was near Balboa Park, San Diego, SD, 21 Dec 1985–26 Jan 1986 (REW†; JML, MJL, GMcC, JEP, DR; 25-1986).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris* (2). An immature female present on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 27–28 Sep 1983 (KHA; 87-1986) was found in weakened condition on the second day and later died. A detailed analysis of the specimen (CAS 71430), the first for California, was published by DeSante et al. (1985). This is the second record for the island and the state.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (11). One was at Goleta, SBA, 1 Dec 1985 (JLD, PEL; 75-1986).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (17). One was at Point Fermin, San Pedro, LA, 26 Sep 1970 (GSS, SW; 357-1986). One was at Montaña de Oro, SLO, 26–29 Sep 1984 (GPS, CM; 1-1985). One was at the Big Sur River mouth, MTY, 30 Sep 1984 (RFT; 227-1984). One was at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 5 Sep 1985 (PP†; 186-1985). One was at Doheny State Beach, ORA, 30 Sep 1985 (DRW†; 84-1986).

The Farallon bird represents the earliest fall record for the state by two weeks, and the Point Fermin bird record is the second for California.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (7). One was at Point Loma, SD, 18–23 Oct 1967 (GMcC; 122-1986). The same adult returned to Peters Canyon, Lemon Heights, ORA, 26 Nov 1983–3 Jan 1984 (KAH; 97-1986) and 26 Oct 1985–9 Mar 1986 (JML, MJL, GMcC, REW; 16-1986); apparently, this bird was missed by observers during the intervening winter. This is considered the same bird as first found wintering here 19 Dec 1982–9 Apr 1983 (previously accepted 110-1982, Morlan 1985).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus* (38). One male was collected by Roland H. Wauer at Furnace Creek, Death Valley NM, INY, 3 May 1962 (DVNMM 10896; 252-1986). Single birds were seen near Imperial Beach, SD, as follows: 22 Feb–early Apr 1965 (GMcC; 114-1986), 21–23 Sep 1967 (GMcC; 118-1986), 16 Oct 1968 (GMcC; 126-1986), and 3–6 Nov 1971 (GMcC; 140-1986). One was at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY, 18 May–1 Jun 1975 (GMcC; 142-1986). One was at Oasis, MNO, 31 May 1977 (JVR; 258-1986). A single female constructed and sat on a nest near Needles, SBE, 26 May–end of Jun 1979 (GMcC; 145-1986). Four years later at the same locality, what was probably the same bird was again seen sitting on a nest, 19 Apr to at least 14 May 1983 (SFB†, EAC†; 227-1986). One was at the Prado Basin near Corona, RIV, 6 Jan–3 Feb 1980 (JLD, PEL; 239-1986); a photograph of this bird was published (AmB 34:307). One was at Triangle Park, Big Pine, INY, 31 Jul 1985 (MCS; 99-1985). One was near Lompoc, SBA, 6 Sep–13 Oct 1985 (LRBe, JLD†, PEL†; 170-1985). One was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 30 Sep 1985 (MM; 185-1985). One was at the Smith River estuary, DN, 5–6 May 1986 (RAE; GSL; 285-1986). One was at San Diego, SD, 13–17 Jun 1986 (MF†, JF; 371-1986). One was near Imperial Beach, SD, 17 Aug–19 Oct 1986 (GMcC; BBr; 377-1986).

The first nest built and attended by the female at Needles was reported to contain five eggs (AmB 33:806), but these were apparently abandoned (AmB 33:897–898). In both nesting attempts, the bird was presumed mated to a Western Kingbird (*T. verticalis*). These are the only occurrences of nesting by Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in California.

SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus platensis* (2). One was found singing at Little Shasta Valley, SIS, 8 Jun–4 Jul 1986 (Figures 6–8; REK†; HCl†, SEF, KLH, JML [voice

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recording], MJL, GMcC, JM, DR, DGY; 263-1986). This is only the second record for California.

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens* (6). One adult was captured and banded on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 26–29 Sep 1985 (PP†; 184-1985). One was at Deep Springs, INY, 17 May 1986 (TME; BSc, JML, MJL, CM; 264-1986).

The observer of the Farallon bird suggested that it was from western populations of the Veery, *C. f. salicicola* (AmB 40:331), an opinion based on experience with the nominate race of eastern North America. Most Committee members, however, cautioned against making any subspecific identification. The distinction between the races is based on differences in color tone to the upperparts and, especially, patterning on the underparts, but these differences are best determined when individuals of both subspecies can be compared side by side.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus* (4). One was trapped and banded on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 10 Oct 1979 (RPHT; 10-1981).

RUFIOUS-BACKED ROBIN *Turdus rufopalliatu*s (5). One was at Saratoga Springs, Death Valley NM, SBE, 19 Nov 1974 (MA; 235-1986). This is the second record for California.

GRAY CATBIRD *Dumetella carolinensis* (24). One landed on a boat 15 miles off Oceanside, SD, 26 Oct 1983 (MWG†; 100-1987). One female (with brood patch) was banded on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 24 Jun 1985 (JP†; 180-1986).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* (6). One immature was at Abbotts Lagoon, Point Reyes NS, MRN, 12–13 Sep 1985 (ALE†; RAE; 159-1985). This record falls in the middle of the narrow 12-day span of dates over which this species has occurred in California, 7–19 Sep.

BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL *Motacilla lugens* (3). One was seen in flight at close range near the Mad River estuary, HUM, 13 May 1985 (RLeV; 247-1986).

One member voted to accept this as only identifiable to White (*M. alba*)/Black-backed wagtail, feeling that the observation was too brief for careful checking of the wing pattern. Other members, while expressing some reservations, endorsed the record as this species because the flight feathers were described as being mostly white, which, along with other characters distinguishes, this species from the White Wagtail.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* (32). One was near Imperial Beach, SD, 6–11 Oct 1985 (GMcC; 65-1986). More Red-throated Pipits have been seen in this area than anywhere else in California.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons* (22). One male was collected by Bruce P. Paige at Wildrose Campground, Death Valley NM, INY, 7 May 1963 (DVNMM 10904; 251-1986) and published by McCaskie (1968) as the first record for California. One was seen and heard singing at Fort Piute, SBE, 30 May 1979 (GMcC; 144-1986). One was at Los Osos, SLO, 14–19 Apr 1985 (JTH, KAH; 103-1985). One was at Huntington Beach, ORA, 26–28 Sep 1985 (JRG†; 68-1986). One was at Santa Barbara, SBA, 1 Oct 1985 (HR; 171-1985). One was at Point Loma, SD, 13–20 Nov 1985 (CM, GMcC, REW†; 2-1986).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus* (51). One was near Imperial Beach, SD, 4–11 Oct 1970 (GMcC; 135-1986). One was at Pismo State Beach, Oceano, SLO, 17 Sep 1985 (JAJ; 78-1986). One was at Bodega Bay, SON, 23 Sep 1985 (BDP; 119-1985).

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (13). One was at Dana Point, ORA, 22–27 Sep 1964 (GMcC; 110-1986). One was near Imperial Beach, SD, 23 Sep

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1967 (GMcC; 119-1986). One was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 19 Oct 1982 (RPH†; 107-1987). One was at Point Loma, SD, 16–18 Sep 1983 (BEDa; 296-1986). One was on the Oxnard plain, VEN, 3–4 Oct 1983 (JLD, PEL; 76-1986). One was at Stinson Beach, MRN, 27–30 Oct 1985 (JM; 172-1986).

The Dana Point bird represents the second record for California (McCaskie 1968), but an earlier report of one collected near Riverside, 1 Oct 1887 (Price 1888) has not yet been reviewed by the Committee, as the specimen has not been located.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (5). One was seen near Imperial Beach, SD, 26 Sep 1964 (GMcC; 112-1986) for the second accepted record in California (one earlier report has not been reviewed yet); Roberson (1980) published the incorrect date of 25 Sep. One was at California City, KER, 25 May 1986 (JWj; 231-1986); this record is not previously published.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (43). One male was at Corn Springs, RIV, 25 Apr 1981 (AS†; 259-1986). One was seen and heard singing at Berkeley, ALA, 14 May 1985 (JCT; 48-1985); this is previously unpublished. One singing bird was at Point Reyes NS, MRN, 12 Jun 1985 (MCM; 147-1985); this also is previously unpublished. One was at Point Loma, SD, 12 Oct 1985 (REW; 10-1986).

The Corn Springs bird, a color photo of which appears in Clarke (1989), showed characters of the race *abilora*, while the other records were suggestive of that race or undetermined. This subspecies, typically white-lored and white-chinned, is the race most frequently found in California.

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae* (16). One adult was at Ventura, VEN, 23 Oct 1985–1 Feb 1986 (JLD, GMcC, REW; 22-1986) and regarded as spending its second winter here (previously accepted 6-1985, Dunn 1988). A male returning for its seventh winter was at Montecito, SBA, 19 Oct 1985–21 Feb 1986 (PEL, JLD; 77-1986); this is the same bird as previously accepted (114-1984, Roberson 1986; 3-1985, 221-1984, Dunn 1988). Another bird, possibly a female, only a few blocks away in Montecito, SBA, 10 Nov 1985–21 Feb 1986 (PEL, GMcC, REW; 20-1986) was spending its second winter there (previous record 5-1985, Dunn 1988). One singing male was at Clark Mountain, SBE, 23–28 May 1986 (PDG, HAG; DCR, JWb, PR, SEF; 327-1986). This record was reported as involving at least two males (AmB 40:525), but observations on the later date showed that one male was covering a large territory.

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (14). An immature male collected at Imperial Beach, SD, 22 Oct 1966 (GMcC; SDNHM 36049; 15-1985) is the first record for California. A singing male was photographed and its voice was recorded (recording to CAS) at the Clear Creek Outdoor Education Center in the Angeles NF, 10 miles north of La Cañada, LA, 7 Apr 1984 (HP†; 249-1984); this record is previously unpublished and is the first for LA. One was at Coronado, SD, 15 Dec 1984–9 Mar 1985 (JLD, JML, MJL, GMcC, REW†; 11-1985); this was published as a female, but the descriptions indicate that it was probably an immature male. One was at Long Beach, LA, 1 Jan–8 Mar 1986 (JLD, KLG, JML, MJL, CM, GMcC, REW†; 24-1986).

CERULEAN WARBLER *Dendroica cerulea* (9). An immature male was at Cambria, SLO, 13–15 Oct 1985 (GPS, JTH, KAH; JLD, TME, CM; 161-1985).

This bird was initially identified as an aberrant Black-throated Gray Warbler (*D. nigrescens*). The cautious observer should keep in mind the possibility of mistaking a Black-throated Gray, especially immatures, for Cerulean. Confusion with dull Blackburnian Warbler (*D. fuscescens*) in autumn has been a problem as well (see Lehman 1987).

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*PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Protonotaria citrea* (51). One male was at Point Loma, SD, 27 Sep 1969 (GMcC; 130-1986). One was at Doheny State Beach, ORA, 8–11 Oct 1981 (BSc; 256-1986). A male was at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY, 26 May 1984 (JLA; 236-1986). One was at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY, 20 Oct 1984 (GMcC; 232-1986). One was at Carpinteria, SBA, 2–18 Sep 1985 (LRBa; JML; 150-1985), and another was there 15–21 Sep 1985 (LRBa; 149-1985). One male was at Cambria, SLO, 13–19 Oct 1985 (TME; JLD, CM, GPS; 3-1986). One was at Inglewood, LA, 18 Oct 1985 (LMcC, NMcC; 79-1986). One male at Pismo State Beach, Oceano, SLO, 27 Oct 1985 (J&AC; 255-1987) is previously unpublished. One was at Smith River, DN, 17–24 Nov 1985 (GSL, ADB; RAE, LPL; 164-1985).

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorus* (32). A female collected on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 5 Jul 1965 (SFSU, now CAS 84320; 272-1986) is the second record for California (Tenaza 1967). One was on the Otay Mesa, SD, 12 Sep 1971 (GMcC; 138-1986). One was at Point Loma, SD, 16 Sep 1984 (BF; REW; 238-1984). One was at Goleta, SBA, 21–22 Aug 1985 (TEW; 172-1985).

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus* (23). One was at Lincoln Park in San Francisco, SF, 16 May 1981 (ASH; 255-1986). One was at Montaña de Oro State Park, SLO, 27 Oct 1983 (GPS; 40-1984). One was clearly heard singing but only briefly glimpsed at the Yurok Experimental Forest, Klamath, DN, 19–20 May 1985 (RAE; 96-1985). One was at Iron Mountain Pumping Station, SBE, 22 May 1985 (BH; 108-1985). One male was at Carpinteria, SBA, 22–23 Aug 1985 (LRBe; 82-1986), a rather early fall date. One was at Oasis, MNO, 15 Sep 1985 (AME; 80-1986). A male was at the old Eureka airport willows near Fairhaven, HUM, 11 Jun 1986 (GSL; 289-1986).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (29). One immature collected near Imperial Beach, SD, 27 Sep 1963 (GMcC; SDNHM 30776; 16-1985) represents the second state record (McCaskie 1970). The following single birds were caught and banded on Southeast Farallon Island, SF: 23–29 Sep 1974 (DDeSt; 81-1978); 23 Sep 1974 (DDeSt; 174-1986), when another was seen only (DDeS; 175-1986); 10 Oct 1982 (RPHT; 114-1987); 25 Sep 1983 (GSM; KHat; 208-1987); 20 Sep 1984 (RPH; PPT; 115-1987); 6–7 Sep 1985 (PP; 183-1985), reportedly photographed but the photograph is not in Committee files; 6 Sep 1985 (PPT; 194-1985); and 1–2 Oct 1985 (PPT; 14-1986). One was at Pismo State Beach, Oceano, SLO, 13–14 Oct 1985 (BSc; CM; 4-1986).

The two records from the first week of September are exceptionally early, being the earliest fall records for California. Nearly all records of the Connecticut Warbler are after mid-Sep and average slightly later than those of the Mourning Warbler in fall.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (32). One immature female collected on Point Loma, SD, 3 Oct 1968 (GMcC; SDNHM 36933; 13-1985) constitutes the first record for California (McCaskie 1970); an earlier report, of a bird collected in June of the same year from Deep Springs, INY, has not been accepted by the Committee (decision will be published in a forthcoming report). One at Bolinas, MRN, 16 Sep 1973 (DDeS; 179-1986) was not included in Amb. The following birds were on Southeast Farallon Island, SF: one, seen only, 17–18 Sep 1974 (DDeS; 178-1986); three caught, banded, and each photographed 25 Sep 1974 (DDeSt; 82-1978, 37-1984, 176-1986); and one banded 26 Sep 1974 (DDeS; 177-1986). One was also on Southeast Farallon Island 20 Sep 1984 (PPT; RPHT; 119-1987). A male was at Mesquite Springs, Death Valley NM, INY, 25 May 1985 (JWh; 107-1985). One was banded on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 4 Sep 1985 (PPT; 182-1985). One was near Imperial Beach, SD, 21 Sep 1985 (GMcC; 66-1986). One was at Goleta, SBA, 26 Sep 1985 (PEL; JLD, LRBe; 173-1985).



Figure 4. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co., 21 August 1985.

Photo by Teya Penniman



Figure 5. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co., 21 August 1985 (note the shape of the primaries).

Photo by Teya Penniman

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Figure 6. Sedge Wren, Little Shasta Valley, Siskiyou Co., 23 June 1986.

Photo by Ray Ekstrom



Figure 7. Sedge Wren, Little Shasta Valley, Siskiyou Co., 28 June 1986.

Photo by Herbert Clarke

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SCARLET Tanager *Piranga olivacea* (40). A male was at Point Loma, SD, 14-21 Oct 1967 (GMcC: 120-1986). One female was near Imperial Beach, SD, 4 Nov 1967 (GMcC: 123-1986). An immature male was banded on Point Loma, SD, 29 Oct 1968 (GMcC: 127-1986). A female was on Point Loma, SD, 7-17 Nov 1969 (GMcC: 131-1986). One female was at Scotty's Castle, Death Valley NM, INY, 23-29 May 1970 (GMcC: 132-1986). A female was at Point Loma, SD, 12 Oct 1984 (REW, GMcC: 223-1984). An adult male was at Santa Barbara, SBA, 6-7 Oct 1985 (PWC: CM: 174-1985). An immature male was at Ventura, VEN, 27 Oct 1985 (JSR: CM: 175-1985). One immature male was at Point Loma, SD, 13-16 Nov 1985 (REW; GMcC: 11-1986).

*NORTHERN CARDINAL *Cardinalis cardinalis* (3). An immature male was at Earp (Wheel-er-In trailer park), SBE, 4 Aug 1968 (GMcC: 216-1986), and a pair was seen there 30 Apr 1977 (GMcC: 215-1986). Up to four were reported over a three-year period along the Colorado River about 10 miles south of Earp at the Vidal Wash, SBE/RIV, 23 Mar 1983-28 Feb 1986 (JLD, EGr, BWK, JML, MJL, CM; 74-1985). A small population is known to have existed in this area since 1946, when A. J. van Rossem and Loye Miller, working on a report from Boris Krichesky, observed three males, a female, and a nest five miles north of Earp on 7 May of that year (van Rossem 1946; specimen of male 33414 in the Dickey Collection at UCLA). These birds were identified as the race *superba*, which occurs in Arizona and part of New Mexico south to the Mexican state of Sonora and which has undergone an expansion of its range since the late nineteenth century, including establishment of a population along the nearby Bill Williams River in Arizona (Phillips et al. 1964, Rea 1983). The population has had a tenuous hold in California, and continued disturbance to the brushy habitats bordering the Colorado River endangers its existence. The race involved in the records reported here has not been determined. The race *superba* has a longer tail and wing than the nominate race of eastern North America; males of *superba* show little or no black crossing the forehead and have the crest as red as the breast, whereas males of the nominate race show black across the forehead and have a crest that is duller red than the breast (Ridgway 1901).

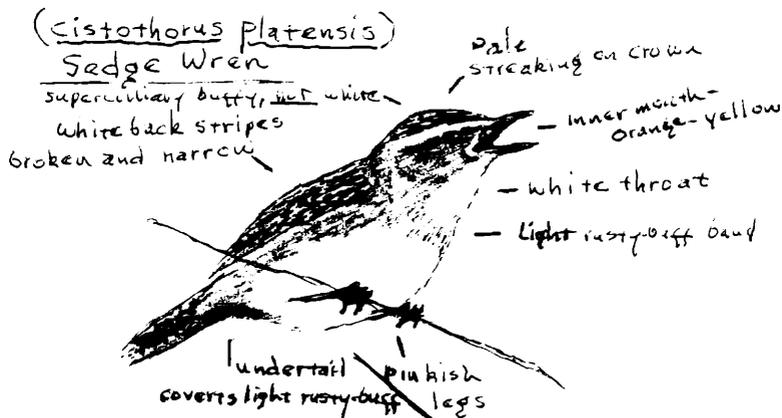


Figure 8. Sedge Wren, Little Shasta Valley, Siskiyou, 8 June 1986.

Sketch by Ray Ekstrom

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Prior to van Rossem's observations, the Northern Cardinal was known in California since at least 1880 as an escape or introduction. Alden Miller (1928) summarized these occurrences, including the establishment of the nominate race at El Monte, LA, since 1923; the viability of that population has not been determined by the Committee, however. It should be noted that while these birds are of the eastern race, several individuals of the race *superba* were released at Riverside (1914), Montebello (1925), and Los Angeles (1930) by W. J. Sheffler (Michener and Michener 1938).

The Committee no longer reviews records of this species, and the total number given above represents only records accepted in this report and the eighth report (Morlan 1985). Information on introductions is still requested.

PYRRHULOXIA *Cardinalis sinuatus* (10). One female was east of Lancaster in the Antelope Valley, LA, 7–10 May 1983 (JLD; KLG; 117-1983). One male was at Encinitas, SD, 26–27 May 1983 (GMcC; 89-1986). Another male was at Cottonwood Springs, Joshua Tree NM, RIV, 1 Jun 1986 (GH; 372-1986).

While this species has exhibited a tendency for long-distance dispersal, the Encinitas bird is only the second record accepted for the coastal slope of California; all others have been from desert areas, which are contiguous with similar habitats occupied within the normal range of the species.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (13). An immature was caught and banded at Lanphere Dunes, HUM, 12 Sep 1984 (JCS, KVR†; 78-1985). Single immatures were found on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, as follows: 14 Sep 1984 (GW, EH; 122-1987) and 27 Sep–6 Oct 1984 (PP; RPH†; 123-1987). One male was near Oasis, MNO, 23 May 1986 (PJM; DR†; 262-1986).

The Lanphere Dunes bird, the northernmost known for California, had a deformed crossed bill causing several members to note the possibility of its having been caged. However, the records of immatures from Southeast Farallon Island later the same season supported a pattern of natural occurrence. The Oasis bird represents the first accepted spring record for California and was possibly a one-year-old male, having pale red underparts. This color, however, was not like that observed in some caged male Painted Buntings, which show yellow to yellow-orange underparts.

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Aimophila cassinii* (15). One was near the mouth of the Little River, HUM, 29 May 1984 (KVR; 462-1986). Single birds were on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 1–3 Oct 1984 (PP; RPH†; 211-1987), 17–30 Sep 1985 (PPT; 181-1985), and 29 Sep–2 Oct 1985 (Figure 9; PPT; 180-1985). One was at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 10–18 May 1986 (CM, DRW, GMcC; 268-1986).

The first of the Farallon birds in 1985 was quite rufous in comparison to the gray-brown bird that arrived later. This coloration and the large bill initiated thoughts of Bachman's Sparrow (*A. aestivalis*), which is normally found only in the southeastern United States and is unrecorded in California. The correct identification was based on the anchor-shaped black marks on the uppertail coverts, the moderate barred pattern to the tail, lack of an orange tinge to the plumage or heavy streaks in the back shown by Bachman's, and the presence of pale tips to the outer tail feathers. Wolf (1977) analyzed the genus *Aimophila* and discussed some of these characters; Kaufman (1990) discussed the field identification of Cassin's Sparrow.

***SHARP-TAILED SPARROW *Ammodramus caudacutus* (30).** One was at Morro Bay, SLO, 12 Nov 1970 (RLeV†; 245-1986). One was near Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, 22 Dec 1980 (EGu; 205-1986); this is considered the same as one of up to three birds wintering there from 1980 to 1983 (record 32-1983, which now includes two on 22 Nov 1980, a maximum of three 9 Jan–6 Feb 1982, and up to two 11 Oct 1982–1 Mar 1983; see Morlan [1985] for how the Committee previously handled this record). One was at Morro Bay, SLO, 19 Nov–4 Dec 1983 (CM; 70-1986). One at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 8 Dec 1985 (MJL; B&MS; 160-1985) is not previously published.

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Figure 9. Two Cassin's Sparrows, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co., 29 September 1985.

Photo by Peter Pyle



Figure 10. Snow Bunting, Point Lobos State Reserve, Monterey Co., 27 October 1985.

Photo by Ronald L. Branson

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SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (21). One was at Sacramento NWR, GLE, 4 Nov 1961 (GMcC; 96-1986). One was at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 30 Oct 1982 (PP; 125-1987). One at Point Lobos State Reserve, MTY, 22 Oct-1 Nov 1985 (Figure 10; RLB†, DR†; 137-1985) was published by Morlan and Erickson (1988). One was near Lake Talawa, DN, 14 Nov-3 Dec 1985 (ADB, RAE; 163-1985).

The Point Lobos record is the southernmost for the coast of California.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (13). One at Deep Springs, INY, 10-12 Jun 1986 (BSa; 374-1986) showed the characteristics of the Bronzed Grackle, *Q. q. versicolor*, the only race known to have occurred in California.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* (3). One was at Arcata Marsh, HUM, 20 Nov 1985 (JMH; 293-1986). One was at Chico, BUT, 11-19 Feb 1986 (RK†; 265-1986). Both of these records were published by Morlan and Erickson (1988).

These are the second and third records of this Palearctic finch for the state. The Arcata bird was described as having black flecking in the face, which indicates that it was probably a male, whereas the Chico bird showed a rather plain gray face, which is more typical of females.

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* (3). A flock of up to twenty-four was at Tule Lake NWR, SIS, 29 Dec 1985-11 Jan 1986 (Figure 11; ADB; LRBe†, JLD†, RAE, MJL, CM, GMcC, DR, JT†; 8-1986). A separate flock of thirty was at Lower Klamath NWR, SIS, 20 Jan-2 Mar 1986 (SFB, LCB, JML, JM; 63-1986). These are the second and third accepted records for the state, although one previous record is still in circulation. The first record, in 1899, was also of a flock in this same region of California (Roberson 1986).



Figure 11. Common Redpoll, Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Siskiyou Co., 31 December 1985.

Photo by Louis Bevier

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Careful study of the flocks revealed females, immatures, and adult males, which showed streaked rumps and undertail coverts. These characters are important in distinguishing the Common Redpoll from the Hoary Redpoll (*C. hornemanni*), which is unrecorded in California but has occurred south to Oregon. In autumn, both species of redpoll are in fresh plumage and appear paler than in late spring and summer when the plumage is worn. This is due to the wide pale edges of the fresh feathers; thus, late autumn is when Common Redpolls, especially adult males showing rather whitish rumps, are confusingly similar to Hoary Redpolls. By contrast, immature and adult female Hoary Redpolls (especially the circumpolar subspecies *exilipes*) show moderate streaking when these pale edges are worn away and their appearance becomes more similar to Common Redpoll (Molau 1985). The identification of these intermediate birds has been variously interpreted, some considering them examples of hybrids or part of a continuum of one species (Troy 1985), others of two species with complex, overlapping plumages (Knox 1988, Molau 1985). It should be noted that the nominate race of Hoary Redpoll, which breeds only on Ellesmere and Baffin islands and in northern Greenland, is quite distinct, being larger and paler than the circumpolar *exilipes*. Recently, the AOU Committee on Classification and Nomenclature rejected a proposal to merge these taxa (AOU 1989). A cautious approach to the identification is urged. Observers should pay special attention to the bill shape (comparatively short and deep in Hoary), and the pattern of streaks on the rump, undertail coverts, and flanks (faint and narrow streaking or none at all in Hoary, depending on age, sex, and race).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. One at Bodega Bay, SON, 18 Jan 1971 (92-1985). One at Lake El Estero, Monterey, MTY, 11 Apr 1986 (253-1986). The Bodega Bay report was published by Bolander and Parmeter (1978) with the date 17 Jan 1971. A majority of the members felt that the description did not eliminate Common Loon and that it failed to point out key features such as culmen color and the post-auricular spot characteristic of Yellow-billed Loon. Identification of this species is treated by Binford and Remsen (1974) and Appleby et al. (1986).

*COOK'S PETREL *Pterodroma cookii*. One 10 miles west of Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 30 Jun 1985 (27-1986).

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii*. One at Moss Landing, MTY, 8 Oct 1984 (45-1987). Most members felt that this bird was a booby but that the Red-footed Booby (*S. sula*) was not eliminated. In fact, some aspects of the description seemed to indicate Red-footed—entirely dark wings and upperparts apparently lacking any white mottling. Since this record circulated following the fall of 1987 when several Red-footed Boobies were seen in California (records in review; see AmB 42:128, 135), the Committee was very cautious about this possibility.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. Two at Pescadero Beach, SM, 20 Nov 1985 (170-1986). These birds were felt by many to be immature Tundra Swans (two were seen at the same locality). In addition, the details were insufficient to make a positive determination.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis*. One at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, Yosemite NP, TUO, 27 Jun 1983 (50-1984). A majority (6-4) of the Committee accepted this report on its final round, but the others noted that the description did not correctly match any known plumage for this species. In addition, the bird was heard giving "a long, clear, dying whistle," a call for this species that was unfamiliar to any member. It may well have been a Mississippi Kite, but the details were not quite convincing. This would have been the first record for the Sierra Nevada.

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable (Cont.)

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus*. One at Barker's Dam, Joshua Tree NM, SBE, 23 Apr 1985 (110-1985).

This report was published (AmB 39:350). The brief and inconclusive description from only one of the observers and the extraordinary rarity of the species in California was the primary reason for the Committee preferring to leave this bird as unidentified. An individual of this species was seen at Thousand Palms Oasis, RIV, only ten days before this report (previously accepted 46-1985, Roberson 1986; Daniels et al. 1989). That locality is approximately 20 miles to the southwest over the Little San Bernardino Mountains, and the possibility that this was the same bird was raised but not considered further by the Committee.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*. One at Big Pine, INY, 10 Nov 1985 (86-1986). The Committee was almost unanimous in pointing out that other species of dark *Buteo* were not eliminated, in particular the Rough-legged Hawk (*B. lagopus*), which would have been a likely species at this locality in late autumn.

YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. One at Coyote Hills Regional Park, ALA, 11 Nov 1973 (196-1986). One at Pescadero Beach, SM, 14 Apr 1986 (282-1986).

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. One at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 12-14 Sep 1985 (13-1986).

The Committee and the observer, after circulation had already begun, were unanimous in the opinion that this was a juvenal-plumaged Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*). The bird demonstrated some of the potential identification problems involved with this species pair. The extent of webbing between the middle and inner toes was clearly seen and seemed intermediate between that in the Semipalmated and that in the Common Ringed, which lacks this web or has only a minute one. This character and the call note—a mellow, rising whistle in Common Ringed—are the only features known to separate the two species in non-breeding plumages. Although other minor differences may distinguish the two on occasion, validation of any claimed Common Ringed Plover in California will require extensive documentation, including a careful description or recording of the call, details of the webbing between the toes, and plumage characters (for example, the face pattern, which is especially useful on alternate-plumage males).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*. One at Jacoby Creek, Humboldt Bay, HUM, 25 Aug 1970 (243-1986).

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. One at Oakland, ALA, 4 Jan 1956 (220-1986). This report was published (McCaskie et al. 1979). The details obtained for this old report were insufficient to support the identification, but most members felt that it was probably correct.

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD *Eugenes fulgens*. One at Ridgecrest, KER, 24 Apr 1984 (253-1984). A potential first state record, the majority (6-4) of the Committee accepted the report on its final round, and even more agreed that the description fit a male Magnificent Hummingbird. The bird was seen briefly at close range by a single person, apparently without binoculars, and was not described in detail. In the opinion of those not accepting this record, these circumstances were too tenuous to establish firmly a first state record. Further, it was pointed out that there are no verified lowland records for this species in Arizona (Monson and Phillips 1981), the species being found only at higher elevations in pine-oak woodland. There is one lowland report for Texas, of a male at San Antonio, 24-26 May 1959 (Oberholser 1974), and one for northeastern Kansas, Linn County (AOU 1983);

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UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable (Cont.)

both are only sight records, however. Other extralimital records are from mountain areas in summer or fall, which is not surprising, since many species of hummingbird tend to migrate at higher elevation in fall. Since this species strays northward to the mountains of Colorado and Utah, a verified record for California is anticipated. This report from Ridgecrest was published (AmB 38:961).

The Magnificent Hummingbird has been reported previously three times from California as follows: an unreviewed report of a bird collected at San Geronio Pass, RIV, 15 Jul 1899 (Loomis 1902), and two reports for which the identification was not accepted (see Luther et al. 1979 and 1983). Grinnell and Miller (1944) included the San Geronio Pass bird on their supplementary list only, citing some doubt that the bird was actually collected in California (the specimen was 17394 at CAS but was destroyed by fire following the San Francisco earthquake in 1906).

GREEN KINGFISHER *Chloroceryle americana*. One at Tennessee Cove, MRN, 10-13 Sep 1986 (368-1986). The Committee unanimously agreed that the documentation did not support the identification. Additionally, the probability of this species reaching coastal northern California was felt to be exceedingly small. The Green Kingfisher has demonstrated only a slight tendency for vagrancy and is unrecorded from California, although Grinnell and Miller (1944) cited two reports in their supplementary list: one by Elliott Coues, who claimed to have observed it at several points along the Colorado River from Fort Mojave to Fort Yuma in 1865, and another at Poway, SD, a report they thought likely a misidentification (neither has been submitted to the Committee).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus*. One at Arroyo Grande, SLO, 22 May 1982 (52-1982). One at Carpinteria, SBA, 15 Nov 1986 (471-1986). The Arroyo Grande report was provisionally accepted (Morlan 1985) but was reviewed again in light of the scarcity of spring records from the coast. A majority is required to overturn a previous acceptance.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis*. One at the Carmel River mouth, MTY, 2 Sep 1985 (28-1986).

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus*. One at the Carmel River mouth, MTY, 2 Sep 1985 (145-1985).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*. One at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY, 9 Oct 1979 (288-1986). This bird was not seen well enough for the observer to describe the back color or to reconfirm characters. The Great-tailed Grackle (*Q. mexicanus*) had already established itself at this locality, and many members felt that the chance of error was high given the brevity of the sighting. The Bronzed Grackle (*Q. q. versicolor*), which shows a contrasting, bronzy back color, is the only subspecies of Common Grackle known to occur in California.

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*. A flock of seven along the Shasta River near Edgewood, SIS, 21 Dec 1985 (206-1986). Although this sighting occurred immediately previous to other redpolls just to the northeast of this locality (see Accepted Records), the documentation failed to eliminate several other possible species, notably Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, natural occurrence questionable (identification accepted)

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. One was at Lower Klamath NWR, SIS, 18 Nov 1984 and 5-17 Apr 1985 (185-1986). A photograph was reportedly taken

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, natural occurrence questionable
(identification accepted) (Cont.)

but is not with the record; the Committee would like to include this photograph with the file and requests that anyone having a photograph documenting this record contact the Secretary. A Barnacle Goose reported near Colusa, COL, 7-10 Dec 1984 and later near Modesto, STA, 12-21 Dec 1984 were presumed to involve the same individual as the Klamath bird (AmB 39:345), but the Committee did not review details of these sightings. A Barnacle Goose, presumably the same bird again, was reported in nearby southern Oregon shortly after the last sighting in California, but again no details have been reviewed. We would appreciate anyone having notes on these reports sending them to the Secretary.

The Klamath bird associated with a flock of Greater White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) and a few Cackling Canada Geese (*B. canadensis minima*) and was not considered tame. Nevertheless, the Committee unanimously agreed that Barnacle Goose is not a reasonable candidate for vagrancy to western North America and chose not to admit this species to the state list.

The Barnacle Goose's normal wintering grounds are on coastal bluffs and islands of northern Great Britain and Ireland, with a separate group wintering in the Netherlands. While a dislocation of this distance is not unprecedented (see the report of an Aleutian Tern in Great Britain, Dixey 1981), it is highly unlikely and is made even more suspect by the popularity of this species with aviculturalists, who commonly raise this goose in captivity, from which it frequently escapes. These escapes are capable of long-distance dispersal, often flocking with other geese, especially the Canada Goose. Barnacle Geese have been reported across North America, and mated pairs of Canada and Barnacle Goose are seen occasionally. An interesting case of this involved a Barnacle Goose mated with a Richardson's Canada Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*) and seen with two hybrid offspring in Connecticut from 22 Nov 1984 to 10 Jan 1985 (Szantyr 1985). Since Richardson's Goose breeds along the eastern coastline of the District of Keewatin and western Baffin Island in the Northwest Territories, this pair probably migrated at least 2,000 miles together each direction. This Barnacle Goose was presumed to be an escaped bird now traveling with Canada Geese, much as the California bird did. A Barnacle Goose seen at Palmer, Alaska (near Anchorage), 22 Apr-12 May 1985 (AmB 39:338), only five days after the California bird was last seen, was widely presumed to be the same individual because Cackling Geese are known to migrate to Alaska non-stop from the Klamath Basin in about 40 hours (M. J. Lippmeyer in litt.). However, the date that the Barnacle Goose was last seen in Oregon is unknown, and if later than the Alaska individual, then obviously a different was bird was involved.

The Barnacle Goose has occurred naturally in North America, as demonstrated by a pair shot in the late fall of 1981 on the northeast coast of Newfoundland, the male banded in Spitsbergen, a Norwegian archipelago about 360 miles north of mainland Norway (Montevocchi and Wells 1984). On the other hand, Ryff (1984) argued against the natural occurrence of most North American birds, referring especially to the numbers held in captivity and the tendency for this species to migrate strictly between Greenland and western Europe. A point missed by Ryff and favoring the potential for vagrancy to North America was that another species of goose follows a similar migration route and yet does stray to this continent. The race of Greater White-fronted Goose (*A. a. flavirostris*) that breeds in western Greenland and winters in Great Britain and Ireland is a rare but regular visitor to the northeast states and provinces. Another trans-Atlantic migrant that winters in the same areas as the Barnacle Goose is the subspecies of the Brant, *B. bernicla hrota*, that breeds on Canadian arctic islands. While this subspecies winters primarily on the east coast of North America, a portion of the population regularly migrates to Ireland for the

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, natural occurrence questionable (identification accepted) (Cont.)

winter (Cramp and Simmons 1977), thus offering a group of birds that could lead a Barnacle Goose to this continent. The western North American subspecies of the Brant, *B. b. nigricans*, is also a regular but rare vagrant to western Europe and another example of a goose that can successfully navigate the passage between the two continents.

Although the California record is not accepted, it is still important to document records of Barnacle Goose because new information may change our view, but for now, the safest approach is to treat these birds as probable escapees.

*NORTHERN CARDINAL *Cardinalis cardinalis*. An adult male was near Imperial Beach, SD. 13–14 Oct 1962 (217-1986). Reports of escaped Northern Cardinals are not infrequent, and the reader is referred to the account for this species under Accepted Records for more information.

CORRIGENDA TO TENTH REPORT (Dunn 1988)

Under Accepted Records: Record 94-1985 (Spotted Redshank) should indicate the bird's presence at Elk Creek in Crescent City harbor, 14 May 1985, and at the mouth of Jordan Creek (not Elk Creek as published) on Lake Earl, 15 May. The caption to figure 8 on page 147 (Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, record 56-1985) shows the wrong date; the correct date is 26 May 1985 (not 2 May as published). Record 275-1984 (Gray Catbird) should indicate the year as 1984.

Under Unaccepted Records, Identification Questionable: Record 111-1985 (Yellow-billed Loon) has the locality misspelled; the birds were reported off Endert Beach (not Erdent Beach).

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