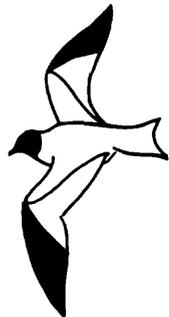


WESTERN BIRDS



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TWELFTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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Western Field Ornithologists and the California Bird Records Committee are again pleased to thank Bushnell, a division of Bauch & Lomb, for its continued generous support in helping to sponsor the publication of these reports.

This report contains 244 reviewed records of 70 species plus one hybrid. The 206 accepted records of 58 species and 38 unaccepted records of 25 species plus one hybrid represent an 84.8% acceptance rate.

The California Bird Records Committee (hereafter, the CBRC or the Committee) is very grateful to the 183 observers who took time to contribute descriptions and/or photographs of birds on our Review List that they encountered in California. Although this report includes records from more observers than any previous report, we still encourage additional birders and ornithologists to support the CBRC process by submitting reports and/or photographs to Michael A. Patten, CBRC Secretary, P.O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515. The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (1100 Glendon Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024) and its director Lloyd Kiff continue to maintain the archive of all records published in CBRC reports. All voice recordings are kept at the California Academy of Sciences, Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

The Committee has accelerated its progress of reviewing older records while continuing to review current ones. The former include some specimen records as well as old records from the files of both the Middle and the Southern Pacific Coast regions of *American Birds* (hereafter abbreviated AB) and its predecessor *Audubon Field Notes* (hereafter AFN). Many of these reports have long been considered valid by other authors; their publication in this report marks their CBRC acceptance or unacceptance

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under a formal record number. With the publication of our upcoming summary of old records in the fourteenth report, the CBRC will have evaluated about 91% of all published records of Review List species. We welcome all documentation of unreviewed past records, published or not.

State List. As of the eleventh report (Bevier 1990), the California list stood at 572. Since then, three additional species, the White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucurus*), Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*), and Gray Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) have been accepted, bringing the list to 575. Details of these recent decisions will appear in the thirteenth and fourteenth reports. In addition, reported here is the earliest acceptable California record of the Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*).

The most recently published state checklist (Field List of California Birds, 1987) contains 565 species and is available from *Western Birds'* circulation manager for \$1.00 postpaid.

Review List. The list of species and species complexes we review has remained fairly stable over recent years and was recently published by Roberson (1990). In general, our Review List includes species that average four or fewer records per year over the most recent 10-year period and any species not yet on the California list. The Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) was recently added to this list (Bevier 1990), and documentation is desired only for observations since 1990. Cook's Petrel (*Pterodroma cookii*), Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), and Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) were deleted (Bevier 1990), but we still desire documentation for records prior to 1990 of these four species.

Format. The format is very similar to that of the tenth (Dunn 1988) and eleventh (Bevier 1990) reports. The accepted and unaccepted records are listed separately by species in the order of the *Check-list of North American Birds*, 6th ed. (AOU 1983), and its supplements (AOU 1985, 1987, 1989). Within each species account, the records are usually listed chronologically according to first known date of occurrence. On rare occasions, to facilitate understanding of CBRC decisions, the order has been changed. Names preceded by an asterisk are of species no longer on the Review List. The number of CBRC-accepted records, in parentheses, follows the species name. For species we no longer review, this number reflects only CBRC-accepted records during the period in which the species was on our Review List. Two asterisks following this number denote that the period of years for which the species has been reviewed is restricted or that some older reports not formally accepted have been included (Roberson 1986). Each record includes the locality, a standard abbreviation for the county (see below), and full date spans. In most cases, the dates are from the seasonal reports in AB and AFN. Dates differing from those listed in these publications are italicized, indicating that ours are correct. Enclosed in parentheses are the initials of the reporting observer(s), listed in alphabetical sequence by last name and followed by the CBRC record number. If the observer(s) who initially found or identified the bird provided documentation, their initials are listed first, followed by a semicolon. If an observer submitted a photograph, a dagger follows the initials. Many photographers also submitted

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written descriptions with their photos, a practice we strongly encourage. A specimen is indicated by an acronym (see below) for the museum that houses it and the specimen number (if available). Unless indicated by “+” or “#,” all reports are sight records. When individual birds return for additional years, each annual occurrence is reviewed under a separate record number, and Committee members indicate if they believe the bird is the same individual as one previously accepted. If a majority agrees it is the same, it is treated as additional dates of a previous record and does not add to the number following this species’ name. If a majority thinks it is different, it is considered a new individual. Individuals judged probably the same are considered the same individual, but those judged only possibly the same are considered new birds.

All annotations are mine, although the information usually is derived from the Committee’s files. The CBRC does not review the sex or age of rarities. Such designations here are my opinions based on what I consider clear evidence. Likewise, the Committee generally does not assign rarities to any particular race. However, I include subspecific information on specimens where the identification was made by an ornithologist who examined a specimen or when other evidence was compelling.

Abbreviations. The Committee has adopted standard county abbreviations, with only the abbreviation for Monterey being changed (MNT to MTY) since the tenth report (Dunn 1988). California’s counties are ALA, Alameda; ALP, Alpine; AMA, Amador; BUT, Butte; CLV, Calaveras; COL, Colusa; CC, Contra Costa; DN, Del Norte; ED, El Dorado; FRE, Fresno; GLE, Glenn; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; KIN, Kings; LAK, Lake; LAS, Lassen; LA, Los Angeles; MAD, Madera; MRN, Marin; MRP, Mariposa; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MOD, Modoc; MNO, Mono; MTY, Monterey; NAP, Napa; NEV, Nevada; ORA, Orange; PLA, Placer; PLU, Plumas; RIV, Riverside; SAC, Sacramento; SBT, San Benito; SBE, San Bernardino; SD, San Diego; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SBA, Santa Barbara; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SHA, Shasta; SIE, Sierra; SIS, Siskiyou; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; STA, Stanislaus; SUT, Sutter; TEH, Tehama; TRI, Trinity; TUL, Tulare; TUO, Tuolumne; VEN, Ventura; YOL, Yolo; and YUB, Yuba. This report contains records received from 31 of the state’s 58 counties.

Museums that house specimens reported herein, and have permitted CBRC members access to their specimens or are otherwise cited are abbreviated as follows: AMNH, American Museum of Natural History, New York; CAS, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; LACM, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History; MVZ, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley; PGMNH, Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History; HSU, Humboldt State University, Arcata; SDNHM, San Diego Natural History Museum; and USNM, United States National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

Other abbreviations include NM, National Monument; NP, National Park; NS, National Seashore; and NWR, National Wildlife Refuge.

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YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (36). One was at Crescent City harbor, DN, 28–30 Oct 1986 (GSL, LPL, JAR†; 1-1987). One was at Woody Island marina, Eureka, HUM, 10-11 Mar 1987 (GSL, LPL; 126-1987). One was photographed about 4 miles out from Monterey harbor, MTY, 28 Mar 1987 (BA†, MPart, DEQ; 151-1987).

Those submitting reports of this species should read Phillips (1990), who cautioned that only adults in alternate plumage are readily distinguishable from the more widespread Common Loon (*G. immer*). Since most of California's records are not in this plumage, see Binford and Remsen (1974), Burn and Mather (1974), Appleby et al. (1986), Godfrey (1986), and Kaufman (1990) for other important field marks.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Diomedea albatrus* (4**). A first-year bird was seen during a seabird census 20 miles west of Cypress Point in outer Monterey Canyon, MTY, 18 Apr 1987 (DGA; 97-1987).

***WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanites oceanicus* (78). One was 13 miles west of the Eel River mouth, HUM, 6 Oct 1979 (RLeV; 324-1986). One was on Monterey Bay, MTY, 15 Oct–13 Nov 1983 (SFB; 222-1986). One was just beyond the Cordell Bank, MRN, 13 Jul 1986 (JM; SFB, RS; 291-1986). Up to two birds were seen on Monterey Bay, MTY, 31 Aug–12 Nov 1986 (RAE, JML, DLS; 387-1986).

The 6 Oct 1979 sighting becomes the northernmost accepted record for California, although there is a 31 May 1976 report from the south jetty of the Columbia River mouth in Oregon Schmidt (1989). The 13 Jul 1986 individual establishes the earliest accepted fall California record for this species, with the earliest previous accepted records falling in the last week of August. However, the CBRC is reviewing a report of 16 individuals seen 15 Aug 1987 just a few miles from the Cordell Bank location. California's only spring record is 1 May 1978, Monterey Bay (Roberson 1985, 1986).

RED-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula sula* (3). One adult (or close to it) was seen at Morro Rock, Morro Bay, SLO, 27 May 1985 (JSc; DT; Figure 1; 76-1985).

This record was almost rejected by the CBRC with a 1–9 vote on the first round and 2–8 vote on the second. Harrison's (1983) Red-footed Booby text and figure captions for wingspan are incorrect. Murphy's (1936) wingspan data of 147–150 cm for males and 146–158 cm for females are more reasonable. Harrison's error (pointed out by Bailey) had caused several members to reject on the first round because of the report's drawn wingspan comparison to Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*). It was Garrett, however, whose persistent positive comments from March 1986 until August 1988 eventually caused the 9–1 vote. The omission from the drawings of the diagnostic underlying black carpal patch was partially responsible for some original negative votes, but this mark was later pointed out by three members to be sometimes indistinct or difficult to see. The black and white tail pattern, which had also caused problems for several members, was shown to be possible in this species by LACM specimen #18948 and is not typical of other booby species.

While reports of very rare birds (in this case, two previously accepted records) should be scrutinized carefully by records committees, I believe this episode serves as an excellent example of how valuable committee interaction can be. Having ten members on a committee usually ensures that several will have field experience with most rarities, that one or more work for museums or have easy access to collections, that some have excellent libraries or access to university libraries, that in any given group of records several members will have time to research difficult reports closely,

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and that at least one member will know or be able to learn about the person(s) submitting the report. One of the most useful functions of state records committees, not mentioned in Bevier's (1990) comments on Committee procedures, is to document the ability and integrity of our contemporaries for future researchers who may wish to evaluate the records themselves. Immaculate descriptions can easily be copied out of books by anyone, and we all know observers who are prone to report rarities that can seldom be refound for verification.

ANHINGA *Anhinga anhinga* (3). An adult male was at Lake Merced, SF, 2 Jun–16 Jul 1939 (not 2–29 Jun 1939 as in Grinnell and Miller 1944 and Roberson 1980) (GB; 2-1979). This record, submitted to the CBRC in 1978 by David DeSante, is based on Grinnell and Miller's (1944) references to Bolander's (1939) comments and brief description and to a comment in AFN (*Gull* 21:81) naming five observers who last saw the bird on 16 Jul 1939. The brief description by Bolander (1939) would probably not be accepted if submitted for a *modern* sighting, but the CBRC is usually more lenient with old records of easily identified species.

This record was originally rejected 2–8 (Binford 1985) at the end of its second round, primarily on the basis of questionable natural occurrence. Whether accepted or rejected, all records submitted to the CBRC are archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Los Angeles and can, by majority vote at any annual meeting, be recirculated again. Such was the case with this record, after two subsequent *Anhinga* records had been accepted from southern California (Roberson 1980, Bevier 1990). Some CBRC members prefer to wait for development of clear patterns of vagrancy between California and a bird's normal range before accepting first state records.

An *Anhinga* reported from Searsville Lake, SM, 28–30 May 1939, and cited in the *Gull* 21:70 as "undoubtedly" the same bird as seen on Lake Merced was not voted on by the Committee because no description accompanied the published report.



Figure 1. Three illustrations of the Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) with a Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) near Morro Rock, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California, 27 May 1986.

Sketch by John Schmitt

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REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (20). One immature was present at Seal Beach, ORA, 8 Nov 1980–16 Jan 1981 (SFB, HSt; 223-1986). This might possibly be the same as 9-1985 (Bevier 1990). A subadult was at the mouth of the Santa Margarita River, SD, 17 Apr–3 May 1981 (LSal; 23-1987). An adult at Gunpowder Point near the Sweetwater River mouth, Chula Vista, San Diego Bay, SD, 13 Oct 1986–31 Jan 1987 (BDP, GMcC; 437-1986), is the same individual (with a slightly deformed bill) returning here for its fifth winter (records 49-1984, 45-1984, Roberson 1986; 50-1985, Dunn 1988; and 69-1986, Bevier 1990). An immature was observed at the Tijuana River mouth, SD, 4 Sep 1986–7 Mar 1987 (JLD, GMcC; 441-1986).

Although the CBRC received descriptions to support only two Reddish Egrets in San Diego Bay in fall 1986, up to four were reported (AB 41:143). We encourage all observers to submit descriptions of Review List species seen in California.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (12). An adult was at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, La Jolla, SD, 9–25 Apr 1987 (GMcC; 186-1987).

This is considered to be the same bird originally found at nearby San Elijo Lagoon 25 Oct 1981 and irregularly present there and at La Jolla since that time (previously accepted 88-1981, Binford 1985; 81-1982 and 36-1983, Morlan 1985; 237-1984, Dunn 1988; and 18-1986, Bevier 1990). Roberson (1986) and Dunn (1988) mistakenly published the 1983 record as 37-1983.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (11). An adult with a green neck band was seen at Tule Lake NWR, SIS, 23 Dec 1984 (RE; 28-1985). Another adult without a neck band was present the same day at the opposite end of Tule Lake NWR, MOD (MRo; 196-1985). Two adults were at King Island in the San Joaquin River delta, SJ, 1 Feb 1986 (DGY; 340-1986). Two adults were seen in flight at Tule Lake NWR, SIS, 18 Jan 1987 (PR; 78-1987).

There appears to be some confusion in the birding community about the meaning of green neck collars on swans. In a letter to the CBRC in June 1986, Harold H. Burgess (president of the Trumpeter Swan Society) informed us that green collars indicate only that the swan was banded in the Pacific Flyway. Green collars with white markings have been placed on Trumpeter Swans as follows: 01AA-19AA at Malheur NWR, 01MA-58MA at Red Rock Lakes NWR, 01PA-13PA at Turnbull NWR, and, since 1983, 01-99 by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Humboldt State University has used green collars (series R001-25) for the Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) and, therefore, both species have been fitted with green collars.

Burgess also mentioned that a thousand Trumpeter Swans are being found in Washington and Oregon where only a hundred were being found prior to surveys begun in 1983. He challenges us to find the hundred or so he believes to be in California each winter. The CBRC urges utmost caution to those accepting this challenge, since to date such numbers have not been documented here.

Records of swans identified largely or solely on calls, including the first two listed above, have caused difficulties in Committee review. Observers looking at any individual bird at the same time often perceive and describe colors differently, and it should come as no surprise that individually we hear and describe calls differently. One must also be aware of the range in calls of the Tundra Swan. Regardless, typical Trumpeter Swan calls are diagnostic (Banko 1960), and, if clearly heard by an observer with much experience with the Tundra Swan, should support a claimed identification. Observers should take care to express their concept of heard calls accurately and also attempt to use differences in the shape and size of bill and body to support their identification. See Jordan (1988) for ways to distinguish these two species.

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The latter two records mentioned above passed (10-0) on the first round, owing mainly to excellent extended comparative descriptions in one case and to both call and size comparisons in the other.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Chen canagica* (39**). An immature was present at Tule Lake NWR, SIS, 1-28 Nov 1981 (RE†; 295-1986). An immature was south of the mouth of Tillas Slough in the Smith River estuary, DN, 9 Jan-19 Feb 1982 (RAE; 209-1986). One adult was at Prince Island, north of Crescent City, DN, 25 Feb 1984 (RST; 79-1987).

At least eight Emperor Geese (many actually taken by hunters) were in Del Norte and Humboldt counties during the first week of January 1982 (AB 36:326), with one remaining at the Smith River mouth through the end of February. The CBRC requests details from anyone who saw any of the other seven, for which we received no descriptions.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* (37). An adult male at Mallard Reservoir, north of Concord, CC, 27 Dec 1986-10 Jan 1987 (BRi; JG, JM; 48-1987), was the first for Contra Costa County. A female observed variously at Elk Glen Lake in Golden Gate Park and the nearby San Francisco Zoo, SF, 19 Dec 1986-20 Mar 1987 (ASH†, DM, DR, DLS, RSt; 22-1987 and PG; 80-1987), was considered to be the same as 161-1986 (Bevier 1990), returning for its second winter. An adult male at Garretton Point on the east side of San Leandro Bay, Oakland, ALA, 11-12 Jan 1987 (JM†; 49-1987), was possibly the same adult male seen at Lake Merritt, Oakland, ALA, 19 Mar-5 Apr 1987 (SEF, JML, PEL, MJL, BDP, DEQ; 92-1987). An adult male was observed on Richardson Bay, MRN, 19 Jan 1987 (DAH; GC; 155-1987). A majority of the Committee believes this individual was different from the one that wintered here for six years from 1976 to 1982 (see Luther 1980, Binford 1985, and Morlan 1985) as four winters had passed without any reports. A detailed discussion of these records with corrections will appear in our fourteenth report. An adult male photographed on a pond near Grenada, SIS, 15 Feb-13 Apr 1987 (RE†; 260-1987), was first found in each of the previous two years on the same pond but the record was circulated and accepted under two different numbers (93-1985 and 294-1986, Dunn 1988).

As discussed by Dunn (1988), individual Tufted Ducks often return in successive years, but because they sometimes move around either in the same or successive years, it is quite difficult to determine the exact number of individuals involved. Although not reported here, records from Point Reyes NS have been particularly troublesome and will be dealt with in our fourteenth report. Careful details on tuft length and other morphological characters, as well as dates, can be very helpful to Committee members and should be submitted by all observers.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* (22). A female was at the south end of Crescent City harbor, Crescent City, DN, 21 Nov-21 Dec 1986 (ADB, RE, WEH†, GSL, LPL, GMcC, JAR†; 46-1987).

STELLER'S EIDER *Polysticta stelleri* (2). An immature male was at the south spit of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 19 Nov 1983 (DB†; 292-1986). This bird was shot by Todd Pearl, later identified by him, and given to a friend who had Mike Reynolds, an amateur taxidermist, prepare the specimen. Photos taken by Reynolds' friend Don Brewer now constitute the documentation for this record, as the specimen is in private hands.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (18). A first-summer bird was at Furnace Creek, Death Valley NM, INY, 28-30 May 1983 (CC; JAJ; 226-1986). An immature was found at Oasis, MNO, 30 Aug 1986 (GMcC; 378-1986). The latter is only the fourth fall record for California.

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Clark and Wheeler (1987) and Dunne et al. (1988) discussed identification of kite species recorded north of Mexico. Although the Plumbeous Kite (*I. plumbea*) is unrecorded here, kites should be described well enough to eliminate this species.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus* (20). An immature flew over Lake Henshaw, SD, 25 Feb 1984 (BF; 71-1984). An adult was seen at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, SD, 3 Sep 1984 (MRR; 260-1986). A pair at Hot Springs Mountain, SD, 6-12 Jul 1986 (GMcC; 332-1986) fledged one young from a nest in July (AB 40:1255). This same pair returned to their nesting area 13 Jun-7 Jul 1987 (GMcC; MJL, CM; 162-1987) and again had young in the nest in July (AB 41:1487). An adult on the Plano Trabuco, ORA, 28 Nov-7 Dec 1986 (JLD; 442-1986), was considered to be the same bird present there in winter 1985-86 (17-1986, Bevier 1990).

Before finally being accepted on a 9-1 vote, the Lake Henshaw bird was subjected to five rounds of voting and to discussion at the January 1988 CBRC annual meeting. Much of the problem dealt with elimination of the Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis harlani*) as well as dark morphs of three other *Buteo* species, the Rough-legged (*B. lagopus*), Swainson's (*B. swainsoni*), and Short-tailed (*B. brachyurus*) hawks. Had they been published earlier, Clark and Wheeler (1987) and Dunne et al. (1988) might have been useful. The description of the tail pattern created problems, until compared with the juvenile on Plate II in Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps (1978). The observed dihedral wing character, similar to that of Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), was the deciding factor in helping the record to be accepted, along with a recently discovered nesting site on nearby Hot Springs Mountain. The Lake Henshaw bird was published (AB 38:357) as an adult, but details support its being in immature plumage. The Cuyamaca Rancho bird was published (AB 39:102) as an immature, but details support adult plumage.

YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (57). One adult at Alameda, San Leandro Bay, ALA, 12 Dec 1985 (DRi, MPe; 160-1986), represents the first northern California record since 1970. One was seen at Tomales Bay, MRN, 3 Dec 1986 (JE; 156-1987). An adult was found dead at the Salt River mouth, Eel River slough, HUM, 2 Jan 1987 (GSL†, HSU #1098; 89-1987).

The recent records for this very secretive species indicate that it may be present more often as a wintering species in coastal California marshes than previously thought. Birders going to these areas during very high tides in hopes of seeing Yellow and Black (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) rails should be aware that the presence of humans may make these small rails vulnerable to predation. Observers have seen Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), and Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) eat small rails that are forced out of their concealed areas by very high tides. It is possible that birders standing around marsh edges may sometimes discourage these rails from flying to safer shrubby edge-cover.

Before finally being accepted on its third round with a 9-1 vote, the Alameda bird created much interesting discussion concerning the dates by which Soras (*Porzana carolina*) have molted out of juvenal plumage. It appears, however, that most Soras have lost much or all of their Yellow Rail-like juvenal plumage by early December, and, therefore, misidentifying a juvenile Sora as a Yellow Rail after that time is much less likely than previously believed. CBRC members searching through four different museums were unable to find any Sora specimens collected after early November that still resembled Yellow Rails. One member, however, noted that Cramp et al. (1980) said first alternate plumage is gained Nov-Feb and thus some, even if few, Soras may be in juvenal plumage after December. The best field mark on a flying bird is the diagnostic rectangular white secondary wing patches.

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PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyryla martinica* (2). An immature (Figure 2) was at Lake Elizabeth, Fremont, ALA, 17-27 Oct 1986 (AH; HLC, JLD, RAE, HG, DGr, KeH, JML, PLa†, MJL, CM, GMcC, JM, BDP, DR†, RS†; 388-1986). In a reclamation project, the Fremont City Park Department recently destroyed the habitat where this bird was found.

The Purple Gallinule is famous for extralimital vagrancy, having occurred in 42 of the contiguous 48 states (DeSante and Pyle 1986, Johnson 1989), five Canadian provinces (Godfrey 1986), South Africa (Urban et al. 1986), the British Isles, and continental Europe (Cramp et al. 1980). See Remsen and Parker (1990) for additional comments on gallinule vagrancy.

MONGOLIAN PLOVER *Charadrius mongolus* (2). An adult in alternate plumage was at the Santa Clara River mouth, VEN, 12-17 Jul 1986 (JSR; JLD†, SEF, MJL, VK†; 300-1986). This bird was probably the same as one present at this location in 1982 (74-1982, Morlan 1985) and 1983 (65-1983, Roberson 1986). Because there was only one previous state record, a majority of the Committee suspected that this bird was more likely missed in 1984 and 1985 rather than a different individual.



Figure 2. California's second recorded Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*) at Lake Elizabeth, Fremont, Alameda County, 17-27 Oct 1986.

Photo by Peter La Tourrette

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Figure 3. California's first Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) recorded east of the Coast Ranges at Tule Lake Northwest Reserve, Siskiyou County, 28 Nov 1986–21 Feb 1987.

Photo by John R. Silliman



Figure 4. Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, California, 10–11 Oct 1986.

Photo by Oddvin Lund

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We also suspect that a successful vagrant is likely to repeat its migration stops in succeeding years.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* (2). A juvenile was at Point Reyes NS, MRN, 6-9 Sep 1986 (DAH, DDK; SFB†, Jc†, JLD, AG†, HG, MBG, KeH, RAH†, JML, PLat, MJL, GMcC, JM, BDP, DR†, JTr†; 365-1986).

LANGHAM, J. M.
9:50 AM → 2:45 PM
JANUARY 25, 1987

BROWN SHRIKE
LANIUS CRISTATUS

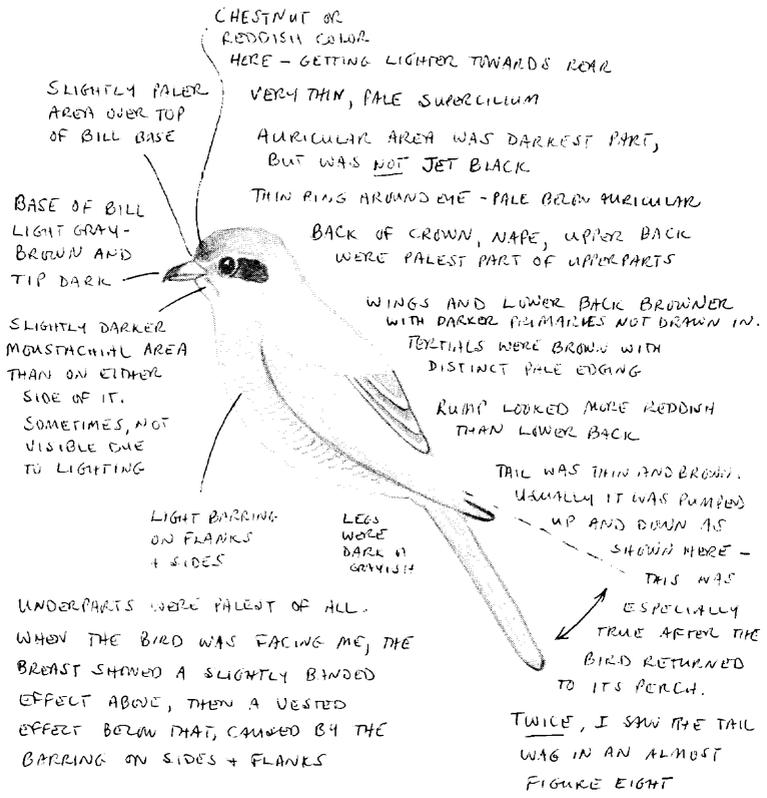


Figure 5. California's second recorded Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) at Whitehouse Pool near Point Reyes Station, Marin County, 28 Nov 1986-26 Apr 1987.

Sketch by Jeri M. Langham

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This exceptionally well-documented record is the second for California, the state's first Eurasian Dotterel having been photographed on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 12–20 Sep 1974 (Henderson 1979). Photographs of the Point Reyes bird were published in *Western Birds* 17:95, AB 41:42 and 139, and on the cover of *Birding* 18, no. 6. There are only two other west-coast records south of Alaska: Westport, Washington, 3 Sep 1934 (Brown 1935), and Ocean Shores, Washington, 8 Sep 1979 (Paulson 1979). All four of the above and one collected on Kure Atoll, Hawaiian Islands, 9 Sep 1964 (Clapp and Woodward 1968) occurred within the first two weeks of September and within the correct range of latitude for wintering of the Eurasian Dotterel (Cramp et al. 1983, Hayman et al. 1986, Urban et al. 1986). The species is considered rare but possibly a local summer breeder in Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* (5). One in alternate plumage was found at Vigo Street marsh, Eureka, HUM, 20–22 Jul 1984 (KVR†, JSt; RLeV†; 430-1986).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* (9). One in alternate plumage was at Stockton sewage ponds, SJ, 17 May 1986 (DGY; KFH; 341-1986). This is the only Central Valley record and also the earliest for California.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* (42). One was at Año Nuevo State Reserve, SM, 1–4 Sep 1978 (EB; 197-1986). One was at Arcata marsh, HUM, 25 Aug–2 Sep 1979 (RLeV; 325-1986). Up to five birds were at Arcata bottoms, HUM, 15–25 Sep 1982 (RAE; 165-1986). Two birds were at Salinas sewage ponds, MTY, 28 Aug–2 Sep 1986 (SFB, JC, MaD†, MDa†, SEF,



Figure 6. Female Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) at Butterbredt Springs, Kern County, California, 29–30 May 1987.

Photo by John Wilson

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Figure 7. First Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmintheros vermivorus*) recorded in the Central Valley at Merced National Wildlife Refuge, Merced County, California, 31 Oct 1978.

Sketch by Robby J. Bacon



Figure 8. One Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) and one Connecticut Warbler (*O. agilis*) on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, California, 12 Sep 1986.

Photo by Peter Pyle

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PJM, MCM, JM, DR, DLS; 362-1986). One was at Asilomar State Beach, Pacific Grove, MTY, 6-8 Sep 1986 (DR, BT†; 364-1986). One was in the Tijuana River valley, SD, 11 Oct 1986 (PEL, GMcC; 466-1986).

As expected, all appeared to be juveniles. The 11 Oct individual was rather late.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (31). An adult was at Arcata oxidation ponds, HUM, 11-13 Nov 1982 (KVR†; 477-1986). An immature was at Arcata oxidation ponds, HUM, 31 Jul-14 Sep 1986 (RAE, LPL; 334-1986). An adult at Stockton sewage ponds, SJ, 16 Oct 1986 - 22 Apr 1987 (SW†; GMcC, DGY; 77-1987), is considered the same one here each winter since Mar 1979 (previously accepted as 21-1979, Luther et al. 1983; 85-1983, 93-1983, 1-1984, 42-1984, Roberson 1986; 269-1984, Dunn 1988; and 165-1985 Bevier 1990). A first-year bird was at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 18 Apr-9 May 1987 (GMcC; PEL, MAP; 157-1987).

With the appearance of the Jul 1986 Arcata bird, there are now California records for every month of the year. According to David Yee (pers. comm.), the returning adult at Stockton sewage ponds (first reported 16 Oct 1986) was joined sometime in Mar 1987 by another adult that had been wintering at the Lodi sewage ponds since Dec 1986, and by a third adult from 1 to 13 Apr 1987. Two of the three were still present 17 Apr 1987, after which most Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) departed as well.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (4). An adult was at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 14 Sep-5 Oct 1986 (RH†; JLD†, GMcC, MAP; 379-1986). One was at Malibu Lagoon, LA, 19 Jan 1987 (TK†; 177-1987). The Salton Sea bird was only the third for California. The first was an adult photographed in Seaside, MTY, 14 Jan 1978 (Binford 1978), and the second was an adult at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 18 Dec 1984-5 Jan 1985 (Dunn 1988). By an 8-1 vote (one abstention), the individual (379-1986) seen at the north end of the Salton Sea was considered to be probably different from the individual (278-1984 Dunn 1988) seen the previous year at the south end.

The Los Angeles County bird (177-1987) was the first for the southern California coast. Unfortunately, it was seen only by its finder, but excellent photographs taken that day clearly show a near-adult Lesser Black-backed Gull with some black smudging through the red mark on the mandible. Bevier (pers. comm.) saw an adult on the east coast that kept a black mark next to the red one on the lower mandible for as many as three years. In their voting comments, Dunn and Lehman mentioned an adult also possessing this dark smudge that returned for many winters to a beach north of Corpus Christi, Texas. Interestingly, Grant (1986) did not mention that adults can still show this mark after their fourth winter. Because of two additional records of this species at the Salton Sea (thirteenth report), the Malibu Lagoon individual actually represented California's sixth record.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* (1). An adult returned to the Elegant Tern (*S. elegans*) breeding colony in the saltworks at the south end of San Diego Bay, SD, 18 Apr-16 May 1987 (JML, GMcC; 137-1987). This is considered to be the same individual first seen here in May 1980 (Schaffner 1981 and previously accepted as 80-1980, Luther et al. 1983). It returned in 1982 (58-1982, Morlan 1985) and again in 1985 (9-1986, Bevier 1990) and is the only record for the west coast of North America north of Mexico.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (9). An immature was at Mono Lake County Park, MNO, 29 Aug 1986 (DS; 440-1986). An immature was at Big Sur River mouth, MTY, 2-4 Oct 1986 (DEG; SEF, MJL, CM, DR; 381-1986).

Zimmer (1985) pointed out that juvenile Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*C. americanus*) may lack the yellow lower mandible base and instead have a dusky mandible. Other

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field marks that clearly separate the species should be noted. The Mono County bird represents the second accepted inland record for California, the first being one at Brock Ranch, IMP, 12–13 Sep 1981 (Binford 1985).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (3). One was 2 miles north-northwest of Seeley, IMP, 25 Oct 1986 (PU; RH; 40-1987).

*BARRED OWL *Strix varia* (5). One heard along Horse Linto Road near Willow Creek, HUM, 16 Apr 1985 (JSt; 435-1986), is the same bird first discovered 30 Apr 1983 (48-1983, Morlan 1985) and now a resident here. One (Figure 3 and AB 41:325) found at Tule Lake NWR, SIS, 28 Nov 1986–21 Feb 1987 (RE†, RAE, JRS†, SS†; 85-1987), was the first found in California east of the Coast Ranges.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW *Caprimulgus carolinensis* (1). One found injured at Half Moon Bay, SM, 16 Oct 1986, was taken to the Peninsula Humane Society, where it subsequently died on 20 Oct 1986 (CAS #83955; 3-1987).

Full details with photographs were published by Bailey (1989). The only other record for the far West involved a specimen picked up on the road leading into Corn Springs on the Desert Wildlife Range of southwestern Nevada, 12 Jun 1984 (AB 38:1046).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris* (28). One was at Año Nuevo State Reserve, SM, 19 Oct 1986 (MCM; 424-1986). This bird was published (AB 41:140) as an adult, but the five Committee members who commented on its age all agreed that the description indicated an immature male.

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (20). One was at Earp, SBE, 22 Dec 1983 (JSt; 90-1986). One at Montecito, SBA, 28 Dec 1985 (JEL; 189-1986), is considered to be the same bird present there the previous winter (265-1984, Dunn 1988).



Figure 9. Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*) on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, California, 22 Sep 1986.

Photo by Peter Pyle

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SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus* (45). A male was near Clovis, FRE, 8 Jul 1978 (KFH; 320-1986). One was in the Tijuana River valley, SD, 27 Oct 1978 (JEM; 230-1986). One was at Tecopa, INY, 31 Aug–7 Sep 1981 (KSt; 299-1986). One was at Point Loma, SD, 1 Oct 1984 (REW; 243-1984). One was at the Mad River mouth, HUM, 30 Oct–1 Nov 1985 (JSt†; 391-1986). One on San Clemente Island, LA, 2 Jun 1986 (DW; 328-1986), is not previously published. One was at Goleta, SBA, 10 Jul 1986 (HPR; 467-986). One was photographed (AB 41:211) at Point Reyes NS, MRN, 30 Jan–21 Feb 1987 (PEL, GMcC, JM†, BDP, RSt; 74-1987).

The Point Reyes NS bird is noteworthy in that there is only one other accepted California record for January and February (6 Jan–3 Feb 1980, Bevier 1990), one for February and April (22 Feb–early April, Bevier 1990), and none for December.

SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus platensis* (3). One was at Fort Funston, San Francisco, SF, 23–24 Oct 1986 (DDK; SFB†, JLD, DAH, JM; 443-1986). This represents only the third record for the state and is supported by excellent documentation, including the published (AB 41:140) photo.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus* (9). One was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 26 Sep 1986 (PP; SH; 10-1987). One at Point Loma, SD, 1 Oct 1986 (REW; 38-1987), is the first record for southern California.

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (7). One found at Furnace Creek, Death Valley NM, INY, 15 Nov 1986 (GMcC; DRW†; 24-1987), established California's first inland record.

GRAY CATBIRD *Dumetella carolinensis* (32). One was at Deep Springs, INY, 6 Oct 1975 (PRS; 254-1986). Another was at Scotty's Castle, INY, 9 Sept 1981 (JSt;



Figure 10. Juvenile Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, California, 11–12 Sep 1986.

Photo by Peter Pyle

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428-1986). One was at Baker, SBE, 12-14 Oct 1984 (BED; JLD†; 298-1986). One was photographed at China Ranch near Tecopa, INY, 3-8 Oct 1986 (JTa†; 39-1987). One was at Point Loma, SD, 16-23 Oct 1986 (PEL, GMcC, BDP; 438-1986). One at Oasis, MNO, 24 May 1987 (PJM; 239-1987), was considered only possibly the same bird as a singing male there 30 May 1987 (CM; JML, MJL, GMcC; 147-1987). One was at Mojave, KER, 5 Jun 1987 (RSa†; JW†; 168-1987).

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* (41). One was at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, HUM, 10 Oct 1982 (GJS; 200-1986). One was heard but not visually singled out of the American Pipit (*A. rubescens*) flock flying overhead at Goleta, SBA, 6 Nov 1982 (PEL; 238-1986). One was photographed on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 24-27 Sep 1986 (PP†; 55-1987). One was west of Santa Maria, SBA, 5-6 Oct 1986 (PEL; 469-1986). One bird at Point Reyes NS, MRN, 6 Oct, was joined by a second on 7 Oct with one still present until 11 Oct 1986 (DDK; RAE, DAH; 19-1987). One heard at Bolinas, MRN, 7 Oct 1986 (PP; 8-1987), and previously unpublished is considered only possibly the same as the second bird from record 19-1987. One was at Moss Landing, MTY, 12-18 Oct 1986 (MDa; DR; 385-1987). Up to three birds were seen in the Tijuana River valley, SD, 14 Oct-2 Nov 1986 (PEL, GMcC; 470-1986), with three reported on 19 Oct and two still present 23 Oct. One was at Goleta, SBA, 14-15 Oct 1986 (JLD, PEL; 445-1986). Another one at Goleta, SBA, 4-15 Nov 1986 (PEL; JLD, CM; 444-1986), established California's latest record for this species.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii* (17). One (Figure 4) was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 10-11 Oct 1986 (KFH; OL†; 57-1987). Up to five were along Old River Road north of Needles, SBE, 2 Nov, with three still present 27 Nov 1986 (PEL, GMcC; 468-1986). One was seen and heard calling in flight over Brawley, IMP, 29 Nov 1986 (RH, GMcC; 25-1987).

Prior to the fall of 1974, Sprague's Pipit was unrecorded in California, but now it appears to be a rare fall vagrant and winter visitor, especially along the southeastern border of the state. The Brawley bird is the first for the Imperial Valley, although it should be expected there in the many alfalfa fields, as suggested by other southeastern California records.

BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus* (2). An immature (Figure 5) was at Whitehouse Pool near Point Reyes Station, MRN, 28 Nov 1986-26 April 1987 (MDe, MM†; LA, SFB, BBa, DC, Jc†, JLD, AG†, CHK, THK, JML, PEL, TM, GMcC, CM, JM†, BDP, DR†, RS; 20-1987).

California's second Brown Shrike was found and identified by Oregonians Merrylynn Messinger (first to spot the bird) and Mike Denny while birding near Point Reyes Station. On the 29th, they had better looks and returned to Oregon on the 30th knowing it was a shrike but not which one. A positive identification was made 20 Dec 1986 when Mike checked Armstrong (1983). He then wrote to Peter Pyle and to the American Birding Association to inform them of the sighting, and both forwarded the information to the CBRC secretary. In the meantime, the bird was seen and misidentified by several observers as a Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) until Kevin Hintsä correctly identified it on 14 Jan 1987. Although we have written documentation from many birders and at least four good sketches, no close photos are included with the record. If anyone has good photos, please send them to the CBRC secretary for inclusion in a possible upcoming publication in *Western Birds* of details of this individual.

From the documentation and the excellent research work done by several current or former Committee members, all similar species have been adequately eliminated. Medway (1970), however, believed that immature Brown Shrikes are not identifiable to race even in the hand; the Point Reyes bird was described only before it molted into adult plumage, and so the Committee did not feel it could be assigned to a

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specific race, although several members believed it to be of the nominate race (*L. c. cristatus*). The brief description of the adult-plumaged bird (AB 41:325) as having a bright rufous crown and a relatively indistinct supercilium and some distant photos added to the record after circulation suggest the nominate race, discussed by Dean (1982).

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (12). One at Deep Springs, INY, 21 May 1987 (CDB; PEL; 131-1987) is the first for Inyo County.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons* (25). One was at Elk Head, Trinidad State Beach, HUM, 28 Apr 1983 (GSL; SWH; 421-1986). One was at Huntington Beach, ORA, 23 Oct-1 Nov 1986 (DRW; SFB†, JLD†, RAE, PEL, CM, GMcC; 446-1986). One was at Goleta, SBA, 30 Apr 1987 (CDB; JLD, PEL; 130-1987).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus* (58). One was in the Tijuana River valley, SD, 12-14 Oct 1979 (CGE; GMcC; 370-1986). One was banded and photographed on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 26 Sep 1983 (KFH†, PP; 319-1986). One was at California City, KER, 22 Oct 1983 (MH; 333-1986). One was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 12-15 Sep 1986 (PP†; 60-1987). One was at Fairhaven, HUM, 13-14 Sep 1986 (JSt, LPL; 433-1986). Another on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 19-22 Sep 1986 (PP†; 61-1987), was found weakened and died on the later date (CAS #84371). One at Carpinteria, SBA, 1 Oct 1986 (TEW; JLD, PEL; 447-1986), is the first for Santa Barbara County.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (16). One was at Goleta, SBA, 11-12 Oct 1982 (PEL; 302-1986). One was at Fairhaven, HUM, 9-10 Oct 1984 (JSt; 347-1986). One was near Little Sur River mouth, MTY, 3 Oct 1986 (JML; EG, LKL; 475-1986).

This species was split from the Red-eyed Vireo in the AOU's 36th supplement (AOU 1987). The finder of the Goleta bird actually reported seeing two birds together (AB 37:225). However, he did not send in descriptions of either bird, and thus the Committee had no choice but to accept only the individual described by one of the six other birders who were there. We cannot stress enough the importance of *all* observers seeing a bird on the Review List sending in reports. Several of the accepted records listed thus far would have been rejected had there not been multiple descriptions to clinch the identification.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (7). A male was at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 9 May 1987 (MOC; JW; 167-1987). A female (Figure 6 and AB 41:380) was at the same location 29-30 May 1987 (JLD; NBB, MOC, JML, PEL, MJL, CM, GMcC, DR, LSant†, JW†; 146-1987).

There are now three records of this very rare species for Kern County, but a male and female less than three weeks apart at the tiny Butterbredt Springs oasis is remarkable.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (28). A male was at Oasis, MNO, 23 May 1987 (SFB†, JML, PEL, MJL, GMcC, MAP, DR†; 139-1987). A male photographed (AB 41:489) at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 29-30 May 1987 (JW†; NBB, MOC, JLD, JML, PEL, MJL, CM, GMcC, DR, LSant†; 145-1987), was sometimes seen foraging with the female Blue-winged Warbler (146-1987) that was present at the same time.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (50). One was in the Santa Ynez Mountains, SBA, 10 May 1981 (LRB; 323-1986). A singing male was tape-recorded at Hawkins Bar, TRI, 14 Jun 1982 (MRa; 248-1986). A male was singing at Fairhaven, HUM, 25 May 1985 (GSL; BRo; 422-1986). One was at Montaña de Oro State Park, SLO, 7-8 Sep 1986 (TME; CM, GPS; 16-1987). One

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was at Torrey Pines State Park, SD, 8–9 Oct 1986 (JO'B; GMcC; 33-1987). One was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 21 Oct 1986 (SH; 9-1987). One was photographed (AB 41:489) at California City, KER, 14 May 1987 (NBB; 136-1987).

All of the above records were of the expected white-lored race (*D. d. albilora*) except possibly of the bird whose song was taped but whose plumage was not described. There are only two California records (both from mid to late fall) of individuals showing characteristics of the two yellow-lored races (*D. d. dominica* and *D. d. stoddardi*). The bird at Hawkins Bar may represent the first CBRC-accepted record based on a taped recording without any accompanying written description.

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae* (18). A male returned for its eighth winter to Montecito, SBA, 13 Oct 1986–19 Mar 1987 (PEL, DR; 451-1986). This bird has previously been accepted as 23-1980 (Binford 1983), 114-1984 (Roberson 1986), 3-1985 and 221-1984 (Dunn 1988), and 77-1986 (Bevier 1990). One thought to be a female returned for its third winter to another locality in Montecito, SBA, 19 Oct 1986–11 Jan 1987 (PEL; 69-1987). This bird has previously been accepted as 5-1985 (Dunn 1988) and 20-1986 (Bevier 1990). A male was at Irvine, ORA, 21 Feb–27 Mar 1987 (BED, JLD; 169-1987). An adult returned for its third winter to Ventura, VEN, 28 Dec 1986–25 Mar 1987 (CDB, JSR; 175-1987). This bird has previously been accepted as 6-1985 (Dunn 1988) and 22-1986 (Bevier 1990). A second wintering individual was at Ventura, VEN, 14 Mar–4 Apr 1987 (RJM; 181-1987), only about 1 mile away from the other wintering bird.

The Irvine bird was published (AB 41:331) as having been at Newport Beach, but Irvine is the correct location. It is identified as a male because it was singing. If the list of singing female birds in Ritchison (1983) is complete, no female paruline warblers are known to sing.

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (22). One was in the Tijuana River valley, SD, 15 Oct 1986 (GMcC; 32-1987). An immature female was at Montaña de Oro State Park, SLO, 26–27 Oct 1986 (TME; JH, KAH, GPS; 27-1987). An immature male was at Gaviota State Beach, SBA, 30 Oct 1986 (PEL; 472-1986). An immature female was at Gaviota State Beach, SBA, 1 Nov 1986 (TEW; 473-1986). An immature female in the Tijuana River valley, SD, 8 Nov 1986 (GMcC; 237-1987), was accompanied by an immature male (GMcC; 30-1987). One was at Point Dume, LA, 21 Dec 1986 (KLG; 4-1987). A singing male was at Torrey Pines State Park, SD, 5–6 Jun 1987 (GMcC; 188-1987).

The six Pine Warblers found in southern California in fall 1986 were unprecedented, as this species had formerly been very rare. Even more unusual were the immature male and female found together in the Tijuana River valley. The Torrey Pines individual is only the third found in California in spring.

*PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Protonotaria citrea* (65). One was at Point Loma, SD, 10 Oct 1979 (CGE; 369-1986). One was at Samoa, HUM, 18–19 Sep 1982 (RAE; 167-1986). One was at San Diego, SD, 9 Oct 1982 (VPJ; 267-1986). One was in the Loleta bottoms, HUM, 24 Nov 1982–6 Mar 1983 (JSt; 427-1986). One was at Lanphere Dunes, west of Arcata, HUM, 23 Sep 1983 (RR†; 476-1986). One was at Point Fermin, LA, 19 Sep 1984 (BED; 297-1986). One was at McKinleyville, HUM, 11–14 Sep 1986 (JSt; 434-1986). One was at Pacific Grove, MTY, 13–20 Sep 1986 (JML, GMcC, DR; 367-1986). One was at Point Reyes NS, MRN, 18–21 Sep 1986 (BDP; MW†; 380-1986). One was near San Pedro, LA, 16–25 Oct 1986 (JLD, ALH†, PEL, CM, GMcC; 439-1986). A male was at Ocean Campground, Pismo State Beach, SLO, 17–22 Oct 1986 (KJZ; JLD, CM, RER; 423-1986). A male was at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 10 May 1987 (SEF, PEL; 135-1987). A female was at California City, KER, 28 May 1987 (NBB, JLD, JW; 144-

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1987). A male was at Oceano Campground, Pismo State Beach, SLO, 28 May 1987 (CM; 161-1987).

The bird at Loleta bottoms established the second California winter record for the Prothonotary Warbler.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermicivorus* (37). One was at Merced NWR, MER, 31 Oct 1978 (RJB; 350-1986). One was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 30 May–1 Jun 1986 (PP†; 383-1986). One photographed on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 12–13 Oct 1986 (KFH†; fide PP; 205-1987), has not been previously published. One was at Morongo Valley, SBE, 30 Apr 1987 (NBB; 132-1987). One was at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 10 May 1987 (PEL; SEF, JW†; 133-1987). One was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 13 Jun 1987 (PP; SFB†; 149-1987).

The Merced bird (Figure 7) established the single record for the Central Valley.

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus* (36). A male was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 10 Jun 1986 (PP†; 384-1987). A female was at La Crescenta, LA, 11 Sep–18 Oct 1986 (JLD†, KLG, CM, 448-1986). A male was at Los Osos, SLO, 7 Dec 1986–1 Feb 1987 (ELB; JLD†, PEL, CM, JEM, GPS†; 13-1987). One was at Point Loma, SD, 5–7 May 1987 (GMcC; 187-1987). A female on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 9 May 1987 (PP†; 206-1987), furnished the earliest spring record for this locale. A male was at Mojave, KER, 10 May 1987 (SEF, PEL; 134-1987). A male was at Galileo Park, KER, 15 May 1987 (JW; CM; 160-1987). A singing male was at Kern River Preserve, KER, 16 May 1987 (WCH; 166-1987). A singing male at Morongo Valley, SBE, 17 May 1987 (DRW; 183-1987), was judged to probably be the same one still there 24 May 1987 (DGo; 184-1987); in AB 41:490, however, these were considered separate individuals. A bird at Oasis, MNO, 25 May 1987 (BL; SFB, MAP; 141-1987) was judged to be the same as one there 27 May (JML; 256-1987), although they were previously published (AB 41:490) as separate individuals. A male was at Deep Springs, INY, 25–27 May 1987 (MJL; SFB, JML; 142-1987). A male was at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 27-29 May 1987 (JSR; JLD, JW; 165-1987). A male was at Furnace Creek, Death Valley NM, INY, 30 May 1987 (MAP; 182-1987).

This normally very rare vagrant to California had an unprecedented invasion in spring 1987 with 11 individuals being reported for the state (one still under review). Vagrant eastern warblers that visit our state appear to have definite wave years, which I believe may correlate with exceptionally successful breeding and/or wintering seasons. Several Committee members mentioned the difficulty in sexing first-year male and female Kentucky Warblers. The 25–27 May 1987 Oasis bird illustrates this problem. For additional information see Pyle et al. (1987).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (31). Two were on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 12 Sep 1986 (both PP†; 62-1987 and 63-1987). One of these birds (62-1987) died when a Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) was found trying to pull it from a mist net. It is now CAS #84370.

Hand-held Connecticut (62-1987) and Mourning (64-1987) warblers are shown together in Figure 8.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (40). A male was at California City, KER, 16 May 1986 (JW; TME; 331-1986). An amazing five were on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, in fall 1986: one 3 Sep (PP†, 66-1987), one 10 Sep (PP†; 67-1987), two 12 Sep (both PP†; 64-1987 and 65-1987), and one 20 Oct (PP†; 6-1987). One at Carmel River mouth, MTY, 4 Nov 1986 (DR; 436-1986), established the latest fall record by two weeks. A male was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 7 Jun 1987 (SFB; PP†; 148-1987).

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Six Mourning Warblers in 1986 accounted for northern California's best fall ever, although there were five in fall 1974. Two Connecticut and two Mourning warblers on Southeast Farallon Island 12 Sep 1986 were certainly noteworthy.

Variations in characters distinguishing spring male Mourning and MacGillivray's (*O. tolmiei*) warblers were discussed by Lanyon and Bull (1967), Hall (1979), and Pitocchelli (1990). Although four adult male Mourning Warbler specimens examined by Hall had eye-arcs when examined with a magnifying glass, lack of eye-arcs seems quite reliable for Mourning Warblers seen well in the field. He considered the black lore to be of no value and the black apron to be of little value for distinguishing the two species. Pitocchelli found that MacGillivray's Warblers all have eye-arcs and dark lores but that plumage of Mourning Warblers is more variable with some having eye-arcs and others having dark lores. Although Cox (1973) questioned the specific status of these two species, Pitocchelli believed they should remain separate.

In his comments on one of the fall records, Bevier mentioned examining some fall adult female Mourning Warbler specimens from the Isle of Shoals, Maine, that have creamy-whitish eye-arcs, no supra-loral line, and whitish-buff throats. All, however, have Mourning Warbler measurements! For an excellent discussion of female and immature *Oporornis* warblers see Pyle and Henderson (1990).

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (48). A female was at Morro Bay, SLO, 11 Nov 1984 (KLG; 459-1986). A male was at San Juan Capistrano, ORA, 5 Jun 1986 (MPtr; 330-1986). A singing male was at Lopez Lake, SLO, 14 Jun 1986 (CM; 269-1986). An immature male was at Thousand Palms Oasis, RIV, 3 Oct 1986 (JLD; 449-1986). An immature male was at Palos Verdes, LA, 30 Oct–2 Nov 1986 (BED; RAE, DRW; 41-1987). A female at Coronado, SD, 7 May 1987 (EC; 176-1987), represents the earliest date for a California spring vagrant by almost two weeks. A singing male was at Fairhaven, HUM, 7 Jun 1987 (GSL; LPL; 219-1987). See Kaufman (1988) for a discussion of female tanager identification and representative photographs.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (16). An immature was at Gaviota State Beach, SBA, 1–2 Sep 1986 (CDB; GSL, HPR; 474-1986). A first-year female was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 23 Sep 1986 (PP†; 58-1987). An adult male at Scotty's Castle, INY, 22 May 1987 (PEL; JLD, SEF, JML, MJL; 138-1987), represents only the second accepted spring record for southern California.

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Aimophila cassinii* (16). One (Figure 9) was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 22 Sep 1986 (PP†; 59-1987). For separating Cassin's from Botteri's Sparrow, see Kaufman's (1990) excellent text, which includes the chapter that appeared earlier in *Birding* (Kaufman 1989).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (10). A juvenile was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 11–12 Sep 1986 (PP†; 54-1987). Another on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 11–12 Oct 1986 (KFH†, fide PP; 212-1987), had already molted into first basic (winter) plumage.

The September 1986 bird (Figures 10 and 11) was remarkable because of its early date and even more impressive because it was apparently in juvenal plumage. There are, however, two additional September records (thirteenth report). Bevier (in voting comments) mentioned that Le Conte's Sparrows typically do not leave their breeding grounds until September, with 5 and 14 September being the earliest dates for Iowa (Dinsmore et al. 1984) and 8 October being the earliest for Texas (Oberholser 1974). Pyle (in voting comments) suggested that Le Conte's Sparrows may have a supplemental (pre-first basic) plumage as do Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*) (Rohwer 1986), Cassin's (*Aimophila cassinii*) and Bachman's (*A. aestivalis*) sparrows (Willoughby 1986), and some other passerine species.

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*SHARP-TAILED SPARROW *Ammodramus caudacutus* (34). An immature at Arcata marsh, HUM, 22 Oct 1986–27 Jan 1987 (LPL, DR, JSt; 431-1986), established the first record for that county. One was at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 28 Nov 1986 (BDP; 452-1986). One at Morro Bay State Park, SLO, 2 Nov 1986 (KAH, CM, GPS†;14-1987), is previously unpublished. Three were at Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, 4 Nov 1986–29 Jan 1987 (SEF; WGB, GH, JM, DLS; 21-1987).

This is the last CBRC report that will include records of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow because the species has been off the Review List since the tenth report (Dunn 1988). Therefore, a few closing comments seem appropriate for Bolinas Lagoon and Palo Alto Baylands, where it has been difficult to determine which records represent returning individuals.

With the exception of the winter periods 1979–80 and 1981–82, for which the Committee received no written reports, Bolinas Lagoon has had as many as three wintering Sharp-tailed Sparrows since Feb 1977 (14-1977, Luther 1980; 222-1980, Binford 1985; 38-1982 and 120-1982, Morlan 1985; 121-1983, Roberson 1986; 255-1984, Dunn 1988; 160-1985, Bevier, 1990; and 452-1986 reported above). AB 33:804 reported four in winter 1978–79. The banded bird in winter 1980–81 (222-1980, Binford 1985) was not reported again.

Records previously reported and accepted from Palo Alto Baylands begin with one bird 8 Feb 1978 (79-1978, Luther et al. 1983) and end with the three reported above for winter 1986–87. At this location, there were several winters (1979–80, 1981–82, 1984–85, and 1985–86) for which the Committee received no reports but AB sometimes did. Morlan (1985) discussed these in more detail. Any additional information about birds seen during these years would be welcome.



Figure 11. Juvenile Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, California, 11–12 Sep 1986.

Photo by Peter Pyle

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SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (24). One was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 10 Nov 1986 (PP†; 7-1987). One was at Bodega Head, SON, 30 Nov 1986 (JC†; 75-1987). One was at King Salmon, HUM, 6-8 Dec 1986 (LPL, JM†, DR†; 453-1986).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (14). One was at Furnace Creek, Death Valley NM, INY, 23 May 1983 (JSt; 429-1986).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. One in Monterey Harbor, MTY, in early Nov 1980 (162-1986). One at Point Lobos State Reserve, MTY, 29 Dec 1986 (17-1987).

Both reports received 0-10 first-round votes. For identification tips, see references listed under accepted records.

TOWNSEND'S SHEARWATER *Puffinus auricularis*. One west of the Cordell Bank, MRN, 16 Jun 1985 (69-1985).

Although this report was published (AB 39:957), it was a very difficult one for CBRC members, beginning with its first round in Dec 1985 and ending in Mar 1988 with a fourth round, prior to which it was discussed at the Jan 1987 annual CBRC meeting. Of the fifteen Committee members who eventually voted on this report, only three (who were able to vote more than once) kept their "accept" vote throughout and only three kept their "unaccept" vote throughout. This very controversial report finally received a 5-5 vote.

Had it not represented the first record for the state as well as for North America north of Mexico, this report might have been accepted. Most members who did not accept it commented that they believed the observers were capable of identifying *Puffinus auricularis* and may have seen one. A few members thought that Townsend's Shearwater proper (*P. a. auricularis*), which breeds on the Revillagigedo Islands off western Mexico, had not been definitively separated from Newell's Shearwater (*P. a. newelli*), which breeds on the Hawaiian Islands. The three observers who submitted this report are experienced seabird observers. However, they rarely have to describe the birds they census with the thoroughness and detail that is required to document first state records. I believe that if one or more records of Townsend's Shearwater are accepted for the state, this report will be reviewed again and accepted. A 28 Oct 1990 sighting from Cordell Bank is currently under review. It is important to restate that all CBRC reports that are not accepted can be reevaluated if new and substantial information concerning that species or that sighting surfaces. All researchers have access to unaccepted as well as accepted reports.

Many interesting comments on field marks for this difficult seabird group are part of the 62-page record. Jehl's (1982) paper on Townsend's Shearwater is certainly worth reading, as is Stallcup's (1990) book on ocean birds, Harrison's (1983) text, and Dunn's (1988) discussion of the unaccepted 27 Aug 1977 Manx Shearwater (*P. puffinus*) report.

TRISTRAM'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma tristrami*. One described but poorly photographed on Monterey Bay, MTY, 9 Oct 1977 (411-1986). One west of Santa Cruz, SCZ, 11 Oct 1986 (412-1986).

Both of these reports were not accepted (0-10) on their first round. The October 1977 bird was not accepted even by two Committee members who saw it. These reports serve primarily to alert Pacific-coast birders to study the literature on Tristram's (called Sooty Storm-Petrel in AOU 1983 but changed in AOU 1989),

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable (Cont.)

Markham's (*O. markhami*), and Matsudaira's (*O. matsudairae*) storm-petrels. Pratt et al. (1987) noted that Tristram's has a paler rump than the other three species. This feature shows up nicely in one of the photos in Harrison (1987), which also shows a bluish-gray sheen to the rump. Pratt et al. (1987) suggested that the white bases of the primary shafts of Matsudaira's Storm-Petrel is often difficult to see at any distance, but both photos in Harrison (1987) show it clearly. However, Dunn (pers. comm.) has seen white at the base of Black Storm-Petrel (*O. melania*) primaries when the birds were extremely close, so caution with this field mark is recommended. Brown (1980) said that shallow wing beats and much gliding are the best way to separate Markham's from Black Storm-Petrel. From recent experience, Roberson (pers. comm.) says gliding is just one of several good characters, which include differences in tail length, shape, and carpal bar prominence.

CHINESE POND HERON *Ardeola bacchus*. One at Brawley, IMP, 21 Jan 1987 (87-1987). In comments on the 0-10 vote, most of the seven members who questioned the identification mentioned that even if it had been properly identified they would have questioned its natural occurrence. Some thought that a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) in alternate plumage was not eliminated.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. Two at Border Field State Park, SD, 24 May 1986 (36-1987), received a 2-8 vote. Although this report was published (AB 40:523), it was suggested that these birds were probably escapees. Most CBRC members who questioned the identification indicated also they would not accept because of a questionable origin. So far the CBRC has not accepted any coastal reports of this species, but all coastal sightings should be submitted to the Committee as numbers of this species are increasing in Arizona and it is a casual visitor to the Salton Sea. A sighting from there in 1912 has not been submitted to the CBRC for review. The earliest accepted record dates back to June 1951 at Calipatria.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator*. One at Lower Klamath NWR, SIS, 4 Feb 1979 (195-1986). Twenty birds near Clear Lake NWR, MOD, 6 Jan 1984 (68-1987). One at Diaz Lake, near Lone Pine, INY, 15 Dec 1984 (29-1985).

The main problem with the Lower Klamath report was the very brief description from only one of the six observers. The Clear Lake report was of 20 birds identified from a plane. Although the reporter has considerable experience identifying swans from plane surveys in Alaska, the race of the Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) with which these were observed for size comparison was not determined, and the birds were never relocated and studied from the ground.

The Lone Pine bird was published (AB 39:785), but not accepted (4-6) on its third circulation. Those supporting this report believe the calls were properly identified because the observer had considerable experience with Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) wintering in the Sacramento Valley. Most of those not accepting the report believe that Trumpeter and Tundra swan voices are so variable that voice alone cannot be used to separate these species. See comments under accepted records of Trumpeter Swan for various problems faced by sightings of this species reported in California.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. A female at Lopez Lake, SLO, 27 Jan 1986 (204-1986). Two males also reported from here in early 1986 were previously accepted (Bevier 1990). The change from the 6-4 first-round to the 2-8 final-round vote reflects the Committee's increased caution with females of this species in which all the appropriate field marks are not seen. In this case, not only was the bird never refound, but the wing pattern was not observed as the bird did not fly or flap its wings, the described bill pattern did not seem correct, and there was only the hint of a tuft.

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UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable (Cont.)

The increased number of male *Aythya* hybrids found in the state in recent years has made many aware of the possibility of female hybrids and increased the need for more caution with reports of this species. Interesting comments on hybrids by Gillham et al. (1966), Gillham (1988), and Harris et al. (1989) should be examined by those who report this species.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis*. One at Pigeon Point, SM, 5 Apr 1984 (211-1986). One at Sepulveda Basin, Encino, LA, 14 Jan 1987 (44-1987).

Votes on the Pigeon Point report went from 7-3 in the first round (based on the description) to 4-6 in the second round. Concern arose over the very early date, the observer's distance from the bird, and the angle of the sun. In the second round some members mentioned interesting early dates apparently unknown to others who did not accept primarily because of the 5 Apr date. Bevier's first-round comments mentioned dates ranging from 26 Dec to 17 Feb (Oberholser 1974), a 15 Mar record from northern Texas (AB 37: 886), and a flock of 250 birds on 23 Mar at Santa Ana NWR in Texas (AB 38:932). In second-round comments, Roberson mentioned a 9 Apr record from Cape May (Leck 1984) and a 12 Apr record from Iowa (Dinsmore et al. 1984).

The 0-10 vote on the Jan 1987 Encino report reflects the report's winter date as well as an unconvincing description.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*. One seen without binoculars at Torrance, LA, 20 Oct 1984 (24-1985), was not accepted (6-4) after four rounds of voting and discussion at an annual CBRC meeting.

WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia*. Five at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 31 Aug 1986 (88-1987). At a time of year when the Salton Sea area is so heavily birded, five adults by a single observer who was unaware of the species' status in California (three records) expectedly received a 1-9 vote. However, the species has nested once at the Salton Sea (Garrett and Dunn 1981), a report currently under review.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*. One at Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, SD, 19 Dec 1982 (168-1986) was not accepted (3-7) after two circulations. Although the report submitted ran to just over three single-spaced typed pages and most of what was described fit the Bar-tailed Godwit, there were several problems. Most CBRC members were concerned that the observation took place "five to fifteen minutes after sunset" and that several key field marks such as underwings, rump, uppertail coverts, and tail patterns and colors were not described. Several members supporting the report felt the marks seen were enough to eliminate similar species.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*. One at the Salinas River mouth, MTY, 6 Nov 1980 (164-1986). One at Wilbur, KIN, 18 Sep 1984 (286-1986). One at the Salinas sewage ponds, MTY, 2 Oct 1986 (386-1987).

Two of the descriptions were far too brief for a bird so rare. In at least one case, a Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) was suspected to account for the report. Any of the three would have represented only the third fall record for this species. Extremely good documentation is thus required for such a sighting to be accepted.

THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia*. One at Crescent City harbor, HUM, 20 Jun 1987 (220-1987). While most records of this species are from late summer through early winter, a June occurrence would certainly fit in with other California records of alcids such as the Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) and Least Auklet (*Aethia pusilla*), which have similar northern breeding ranges. The incompleteness of the description, however, contributed heavily to the 3-7 vote.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable (Cont.)

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris*. A female present at a hummingbird feeder in Santa Cruz, SCZ, 5 Oct–8 Nov 1985 and again 15 Jun–27 Aug 1986 (360-1986) was joined by an immature on 18 Aug 1986 (361-1986).

Both of these reports were previously published (AB 41:140). A very detailed description of these birds was sent in by an observer who saw both on 18 Aug 1986. Two photographs of the female taken by the homeowner in early Oct 1985 and a color slide taken 8 Nov by a visitor were both submitted with the written description. Many of the Committee's comments centered around anomalies visible in the photographs or mentioned in the written description that suggested the female might be a hybrid. In particular, the bill color and pattern were wrong, and the green flecking seen on the throat should not occur. Females of this species have dusky-gray throats. Several CBRC members thought one of the parents in each case was probably a Broad-billed Hummingbird, but there was no consensus concerning the other parent. The immature was observed for only about 30 seconds, but comparison of its description with specimens at both the MVZ and CAS suggested that it too might be a hybrid. The dates as well as the improbability of two individuals of this species at the same feeder so far north also contributed to first-round votes of 4–6 (female) and 2–8 (immature).

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum*. One on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 4 Sep 1985 (187-1985), would have been California's first record.

This report was published (AB 40:331) but with the disclaimer that the bird was identified by comparison with measurements from Stein (1963). It did not mention that the identification was also based on papers by Phillips (1948) and Aldrich (1951) plus examination of 150+ skins (from a wide range of geographic populations) at MVZ and CAS. Stein's (1963) data have been questioned because differences among sex and age categories were studied only superficially, and geographic sampling of breeding populations was incomplete (letters from consultants N. K. Johnson, J. V. Remsen, Jr., and T. S. Schulenberg). Phillips et al. (1966, 1970) said these species are too similar for banders to try to distinguish and thus all should be listed as Traill's Flycatchers. Several of the measurements fell outside the range known for the Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*), and neither call notes nor song was heard from the Southeast Farallon Island bird. Descriptions and/or sonograms of the call or song are necessary to identify Alder and Willow flycatchers conclusively (Zink and Fall 1981, Whitney and Kaufman 1986).

As pointed out by several consultants and Committee members, the carefully collected measurements of the bird do not rule out the Willow Flycatcher. Even if the bird had been collected, at present many specimens of these two species can not be identified. Comments about a prominent loreal spot on the Southeast Farallon Island bird can also not be considered (at present) useful since specimens of both species can exhibit this loreal spot, as can be seen in photographs of both species (Whitney and Kaufman 1986, Farrand 1983). In the end, the report received a 1–9 vote.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus*. One at Lafayette, CC, 3 May 1981 (354-1986). Although this report was published (AB 35:860), it was not accepted (1–9) by the Committee because the description and observation were both too brief.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre*. One at Fort Piute, SBE, 16 May 1987 (180-1987), was published as possibly that species but more likely the similar Bendire's Thrasher (*T. bendirei*), which breeds at this location (AB 41:489). The report received a 0–10 vote primarily because of the unusual date, the brevity of the view, and the lack of a description of the underparts, which therefore did not eliminate Bendire's Thrasher.

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UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable (Cont.)

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*. One at Westley, STA, 6 Nov 1980 (166-1986). One at Tennessee Valley Cove, MRN, 17 Apr 1987 (128-1987).

The Westley bird would have represented the first Central Valley record. The Tennessee Valley Cove bird would have constituted the first spring record for California.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus*. One at Big Sycamore Canyon, VEN, 14 Oct 1978 (36-1981). One at Point Reyes NS, MRN, 21-27 Sep 1986 (50-1987).

The Big Sycamore Canyon report was published (Garrett and Dunn 1981 and AB 33:216). This report was very difficult for the Committee (6-4 after four circulations and discussion at an annual meeting) because most members believe the bird was correctly identified. The observer is one of the best in North America and certainly well qualified to identify this species, but the description (not written for the CBRC and not submitted to it by the observer) was considered inadequate to separate this species from similar ones. The observer, although believing the sighting was correct, asked for the report to be withdrawn after its second circulation. However, CBRC rules do not permit a report to be withdrawn after it has begun circulation, and a few members later voted against it because of this request.

The Point Reyes sighting was published (AB 41:140-141), but only with the latter date. The extremely brief description and the fact that only this observer reported the bird (on both weekends) from an area so heavily birded in fall contributed to the 2-8 vote.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus*. One at Lafayette, CC, 29 Sep 1984 (44-1985) was published (AB 39:100).

BLUE-WINGED × GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* × *chrysoptera*. One at Moss Landing, MTY, 27 Nov 1986 (463-1986). "Lawrence's" Warbler (the hybrid form described) is the rarest of the hybrids produced by these two species (Parkes 1951). Moreover, the bird's flying up to a telephone wire and sitting with blackbirds and House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) seemed behavior very unusual for a *Vermivora* warbler. The sighting was brief, by a single observer, and there were problems with the description, so the record was not accepted (1-9). There are only two accepted California records for hybrids of these two species (Winter and McCaskie 1975, Dunn 1988).

CERULEAN WARBLER *Dendroica cerulea*. One at Tapia Park, Malibu Canyon, LA, 17 Nov 1986 (464-1986). After publication by Lehman (1987) of an article on problems associated with immature Blackburnian and Cerulean warblers, and because of the presence of a dull Blackburnian 15-23 Nov 1986 foraging high in the same trees, the initial finder requested this report be withdrawn. As mentioned previously, however, once a report begins circulation, it cannot be withdrawn. The report was not accepted (2-8) because of the very poor viewing conditions (overcast and drizzly), the presence of a dull female Blackburnian Warbler in the same trees, and there being only nine Cerulean Warbler records for California.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis*. One at Carpinteria Creek, SBA, 25 Sep 1983 (133-1983), was published (AB 38:248). One at Point Reyes NS, MRN, 20 Sep 1984 (212-1984), was also published (AB 39:100).

Both of these reports generated much lively and informative discussion on *Oporornis* identification. The Carpinteria bird received a 5-5 vote after four circulations and discussion at an annual CBRC meeting. Five expert consultants reviewed the report and hundreds of specimens were checked in seven museum collections. It seems clear that the Connecticut Warbler has a distinctive walk similar to the

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UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable (Cont.)

Ovenbird's (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), whereas the Mourning Warbler hops (Lehman 1984, Pyle and Henderson 1990). However, one Committee member and one consultant have seen a Mourning Warbler walk briefly, but not at such length and as deliberately as the Connecticut Warbler and Ovenbird. Because plumage can be so variable, several members place much emphasis on walking by the Connecticut Warbler. According to Clark (1975), most bird species move either asynchronously (by walking) or synchronously (by hopping). The birds involved in both of these unaccepted reports were observed to walk repeatedly, and this was the main reason for the votes to accept the sightings. Several other Connecticut Warbler traits were exhibited by the Carpinteria individual. In the end, however, the reports were not accepted primarily because both birds were described as having distinctly yellow throats and no one could find a Connecticut Warbler specimen showing distinct yellow on the throat or even a small break in the breast band that creates the hooded effect in this species. There is a photograph of a Connecticut Warbler with a yellow throat in Pyle and Henderson's (1990) article on separating female and immature *Oporornis* warblers in fall.

For both reports, the idea of a hybrid was dismissed for lack of any known hybrids involving a Connecticut Warbler (Cockrum 1952). The lack of hybridization with Mourning Warbler is especially interesting since there is about a 90% overlap in the breeding ranges of these two species (Godfrey 1986).

The Point Reyes bird also was subjected to four circulations and discussion at one annual CBRC meeting. There is a published sighting (AB 39:100) of a Mourning Warbler on the same date (21 Sep 1984) from the same Point Reyes location that remains unreviewed by the CBRC and may have contributed some confusion for both the observers and Committee members.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia*. One at Furnace Creek, Death Valley NM, INY, 25 May 1987 (179-1987), was published (AB 41:490). The CBRC did not accept this report primarily because of the extremely brief description and an inappropriate statement about the entire head, neck, and bib being black. See Pitocchelli (1990) and Pyle and Henderson (1990) for the most recent discussion of field marks used to identify difficult Mourning Warbler plumages.

***SHARP-TAILED SPARROW *Ammodramus caudacutus*.** One at Limantour Estero, Point Reyes NS, MRN, 21 Dec 1984 (396-1986).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*. One near Los Baños, MER, 4 Aug 1980 (335-1986).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, natural occurrence questionable (identification accepted)

KITTLITZ'S SANDPLOVER *Charadrius pecuarius*. One photographed at San Diego River mouth, SD, 26 Dec 1970 (363-1986) had been banded. The bird clearly was identified correctly. Although widely distributed in Africa (Urban et al. 1986), this species is primarily sedentary, with a May 1913 record for southern Norway being the farthest one away from the African breeding grounds (Hayman et al. 1986). For unknown reasons this Norway record was not cited by Cramp et al. (1983) or Urban et al. (1986). However, Dunn and Morlan (pers. comm.) saw Israel's second and third records of this species in November 1986, suggesting that there is more movement away from Africa than implied by these publications.

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CORRIGENDA TO ELEVENTH REPORT (Bevier 1990)

Under Accepted Records: The final date of record 38-1985 (Yellow-billed Loon) is 26 Jan 1969, not 25 Jan 1969. The location for record 239-1986 (Scissor-tailed Flycatcher) is Prado Regional Park, SBE, not Prado Basin near Corona, RIV. The year for record 231-1986 (Blue-winged Warbler) is 1984, not 1986.

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