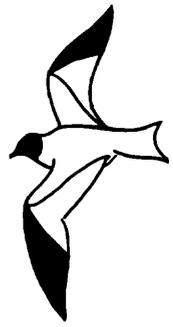


WESTERN BIRDS



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FIFTEENTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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This article reports the results of the recent review of 232 records of 91 species by the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the Committee or CBRC). Of these records, 171 were accepted, representing an acceptance rate of 73.7%. This report contains records from 1943 through 1990, although the vast majority are from 1989 through spring of 1990. As in the CBRC's 13th report (Pyle and McCaskie 1992), San Francisco was the best-represented county, with 23 accepted records, 20 of which were from Southeast Farallon Island. Other well-represented counties were San Diego (19), Marin (12), Monterey (12), Orange (11), and Kern (11).

Four species accepted in this report are new for California: the Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Cave Swallow (*Hirundo fulva*), Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*), and Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*). Details of the state's first Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) in 1962 are also included. Including the recent addition of the Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*; McCaskie 1993), the California state list now stands at 580. Also treated in this report are potential California firsts of Townsend's Shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis*), Caribbean Coot (*Fulica caribaea*), Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*), and Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), none of which were accepted by the Committee. At the 1992 annual meeting, the CBRC established a Supplemental List to the California State List to include species of uncertain natural occurrence. The Oriental Greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*), California records of which are detailed in this report, is the first addition to the Supplemental List.

All records reviewed by the CBRC are archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, California 93010. All written documentation, photographs, voice recordings, and videotapes are housed there and are organized by CBRC record number. They are available to anyone interested in reviewing record documentation and the CBRC's assessment. Aside from recent additions to California's

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avifauna, the CBRC Review List has not changed since published by Langham (1991) and updated by Pyle and McCaskie (1992) and Roberson (1993). In addition to reviewing each submitted record, the Committee reviews all records of Review List species published as occurring in California. The Committee solicits information on all occurrences of species on its Review List, published or not, and encourages observers to support the Committee review process by submitting written reports, photographs, tape recordings, and other documentation to Michael A. Patten, CBRC Secretary, at the address above. See Pyle and McCaskie (1992) for more information about the Committee's review process.

Format. The format of this report is similar to those of recent Committee reports (Langham 1991, Pyle and McCaskie 1992, Roberson 1993). Records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence except when an alternate arrangement provides a clearer presentation of the CBRC's decisions. Each record includes the locality, a standard abbreviation for the county (see below), and a full date span. In general, the date span follows the dates published in the seasonal reports of *American Birds* or other sources. If the Committee has information indicating that a published date span is incorrect, the CBRC-accepted date is listed in italics. Initials of the observers who submitted documentation to the Committee are listed alphabetically (by surname) in parentheses. The CBRC record number is included at the end of this list. If the observer(s) originally finding/identifying the bird submitted documentation, their name(s) are listed first, followed by a semicolon. All records are sight records, unless otherwise noted. See Table 1 for a summary of the symbols used in this report.

When birds return to a locality after a lengthy absence (e.g., for consecutive winters) or remain for a number of years, each subsequent occurrence, or occurrence in a new calendar year, is reviewed as if new (i.e., a new record number is assigned) and the Committee suggests, by simple majority vote, whether or not the same individual is involved. The Committee does not formally decide the age, sex, or subspecies of a given bird. Thus all the following annotations are our own, although our opinions are usually based at least in part on the comments of Committee members, who often remark on age, sex, and subspecies issues when reviewing a record. Some of the designations we have included reflect the collective opinion of the Committee.

Abbreviations. The Committee has adopted the following standard abbreviations for counties (only those included in this report are listed): ALA, Alameda; BUT, Butte; CC, Contra Costa; DN, Del Norte; ED, El Dorado; FRE, Fresno; GLE, Glenn; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; LA, Los Angeles; MEN, Mendocino; MNO, Mono; MOD, Modoc; MRN, Marin; MTY, Monterey; NAP, Napa; ORA, Orange; PLU, Plumas; RIV, Riverside; SBA, Santa Barbara; SBE, San Bernardino; SBT, San Benito; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SD, San Diego; SF, San Francisco; SIS, Siskiyou; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SON, Sonoma; TRI, Trinity; TUL, Tulare; TUO, Tuolumne; VEN, Ventura. See Langham (1991) for a complete list of the 58 standard county abbreviations.

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Table 1 Symbols Used in the Species Accounts

Symbol	Meaning
* before a species' name	The species is no longer on the CBRC Review List.
Number in parentheses following a species	The number of CBRC-accepted records through this report. For species no longer on the Review List, this number indicates only those accepted while records of the species were being reviewed by the Committee.
** following the number in parentheses	The number of accepted records includes only records within a restricted review period or the number includes records statistically accepted. See Roberson (1986) for more information.
† after an observer's name	The observer supplied a photograph supporting acceptance of the record.
# followed by a code and a number	A specimen record. The code is a standard abbreviation for the housing institution (see text) and the number is the catalogue number in that institution.

Abbreviations for museums cited in this report are CAS, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; CSULB, California State University, Long Beach; LACM, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles; MLZ, Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Los Angeles; SBCM, San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands; SBMNH, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara; SDNHM, San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego; WFFVZ, Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology. Other abbreviations are AFB, air force base; Co., county; I., island; L., lake; mi., miles; mtn., mountain; nmi., nautical miles; NS, national seashore; NWR, national wildlife refuge; ph., photograph; pt., point; SB, state beach; SP, state park.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (50). One, probably a first-winter bird, was observed at Monterey, MTY, 30 Jan 1982 (TCh; 65-1990). A juvenile was on L. Havasu, SBE, from 24 Dec 1989 to 14 Mar 1990 (JLD†, GMcC, MAP; 10-1990); a photograph of it appeared in *Am. Birds* 44:302. One, probably a first-winter bird, was in Trinidad Harbor, HUM, 14 Mar–15 Apr 1990 (RAE, LPL; 73-1990).

The L. Havasu bird was originally discovered on the Arizona side of the lake but was seen regularly on both sides. Dates above include its entire stay, although it apparently arrived several days before it was first detected in California. In addition to being Arizona's second record, this is only the second inland record for California,

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the first being of a first-winter bird seen and photographed at L. Perris, RIV, 20 Dec 1983-4 May 1984 (Roberson 1986).

The description of the Trinidad bird mentions white shafts to the outer primaries, a characteristic of the Yellow-billed Loon (Binford and Remsen 1974, Phillips 1990).

MOTTLED PETREL *Pterodroma inexpectata* (22). One was at 32°44' N, 122°33' W, 123 nmi. SW of San Miguel I., SBA, 15 Nov 1989 (PP; 161-1989) and another was at 33°57' N, 121°39' W, 61 nmi. west of San Miguel I., 17 Nov 1989 (PP; 162-1989). Increased pelagic work beyond the continental shelf in recent years is showing this species to be regular there from November through February.

***MURPHY'S PETREL** *Pterodroma ultima* (113). Four were between 33°30' N and 33°45' N, 121°30' W and 122° W, about 70-90 nmi. SW of Pt. Conception SBA, 11 May 1987, and three were between 33°20' N and 33°40' N, 123°50' W and 124°10' W, about 150-180 nmi. WSW of Pt. Conception, SBA, 12 May 1987 (RRV; 191-1987). This species has proved to be regular in the deep water far off California, particularly from April through June (Bailey et al. 1989b, Roberson 1993).

***WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanites oceanicus* (127). One was about 5 mi. SW of the Angel's Gate entrance to Los Angeles Harbor, LA, 7 Aug 1983 (KLG; 6-1990). One off Cordell Bank, MRN, on 13 Jul 1986 (Langham 1991) is the only earlier report for our "fall," although there are two spring records for California: Monterey Bay, MTY, 1 May 1978 (Roberson 1986) and 21 nmi. WSW of Pt. Reyes, MRN, 10 Jun 1989 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992).

Up to four were with the Monterey Bay, MTY, storm-petrel rafts 21 Aug-16 Oct 1988 (DGY, KH; SFB, JLD, GMcC, DLS, RFT; 185-1988); the species is a regular fall visitor to Monterey Bay. One about 30 nmi. west of San Diego, SD, 10 Sep 1988 (JLD; 240-1988) was accepted as probably the same bird present in the same area 28 Aug 1988 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992). Ten were at Cordell Bank, 25-28 nmi. WNW of Pt. Reyes, MRN, 13 Aug 1989 (RS; 171-1989).

WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma tethys* (5). One was at 32°08' N, 120°37' W, 83 nmi. SW of San Nicolas I., VEN, 23 Jul 1989 (PP†; 108-1989); a photograph of it was published (upside-down) in *Am. Birds* 43:1367. The five records for California are of single birds in July, August, September, October, and January.

MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra* (2). A first-year bird 2 mi. west of Pt. Lobos State Reserve, MTY, 5 Apr 1990 (Figure 1; DL†; 52-1990) was the first of its species photographed in California. Additional information regarding this bird, found and photographed by a long-time skipper of pelagic birding trips, was supplied by Alan Baldrige and Don Roberson, the latter correcting the understandable misidentification of this bird as a Brown Booby. The only previous record for California was one observed SW of San Clemente I., LA, 10 Jan 1977 (Lewis and Tyler 1978, Luther et al. 1979).

There are two distinct populations of Masked Boobies in the Pacific Ocean. Adults can be differentiated by bill color, which is yellowish or greenish-yellow in *S. d. personata* from the central Pacific and *S. d. californica* from off western Mexico, and pale pinkish-orange in *S. d. granti* from the Galapagos Islands south to Chile. Small numbers of orange-billed birds, presumably *S. d. granti*, breed sympatrically with large numbers of *S. d. californica* on Clipperton and San Benedicto islands off of west Mexico (Robert L. Pitman, *vide* K. L. Garrett).

Upon acceptance, this record was sent to Pitman for subspecific identification. Pitman (*in litt.*) replied that while bill coloration can be used to separate adults, "quite a few subadults, and even juveniles," determination "requires good light and may then not always be possible." Nevertheless, Don Roberson (*in litt.*) indicated that the

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plumage of immatures from yellow-billed populations is generally "deep chocolate brown," whereas immatures from orange-billed populations are "decidedly gray." Roberson further stated that the Pt. Lobos bird appeared to be of a yellow-billed population.

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii* (70**). Up to four were at various locations around the Salton Sea, IMP/RIV, 12 Jul–30 Sep 1990 (JLD†; SFB, NBB, GMcC, MJL†, MAP†; 100-1990); a photograph of one appeared in *Am. Birds* 44:1185. An adult male was found dying along an irrigation canal 4½ mi. SW of Seeley, IMP, 2 Sep 1990 (#SDNHM 46903; 47-1992). These Blue-footed Boobies were the first to "invade" the Salton Sea since 1980 (Roberson 1993). See McCaskie (1970) for more information about these invasions.

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (28). An injured adult male of the subspecies *brewsteri* was picked up at Imperial Beach, SD, 2 Apr 1990, then was transported to a rehabilitation center, where it died on 9 Apr 1990 (#SDNHM 46566; 48-1992). The date of this bird was a surprise, as all previous California Brown Boobies have occurred between mid-June and late November, except for one bird, part of the influx of eight into the Salton Sea in the fall of 1969, that remained into the following April (Dunn 1988).

REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (51). An adult at the south end of San Diego Bay, SD, 13 Sep 1989–23 Jan 1990 (GMcC, DP; 190-1989) was the same bird with a deformed bill that has wintered in the vicinity (it has also been seen at Chula Vista and at the Tijuana R. mouth) every year since 1982/1983. The previous dates of occurrence are 18 Dec 1982–26 Mar 1983 (Roberson 1986), 18 Jan–15 Mar



Figure 1. First-year Masked Booby (52-1990) 2 mi. west of Pt. Lobos State Reserve, Monterey County, 5 April 1990, the second Masked Booby for California and the first photographed. The inverted "V" of white extending up the breast distinguishes the first-year Masked from the adult Brown Booby.

Photo by David Lemon

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1984, 12 Dec 1984–9 Mar 1985 (ph.; Dunn 1988), 9 Nov 1985–26 Jan 1986 (Bevier 1990); 13 Oct 1986–31 Jan 1987 (Langham 1991), 25 Sep 1987–12 Mar 1988, and 11 Sep 1988–7 Feb 1989 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992).

Seven adults at the south end of San Diego Bay, SD, 6 May 1990 (GMcC; 91-1990) constituted the largest flock ever recorded in California. An adult at the same location on 23 Mar 1990 (LuS; 190-1990) and three adults together at the San Diego R. mouth, SD, 26 Apr 1990 (CGE; 214-1990) were considered part of this same group; thus, up to seven were accepted from the area for the period 23 Mar–6 May 1990. An adult at Pt. Mugu, VEN, 17–19 Apr 1990 (BBA; 81-1990) and an adult photographed at Ballona Lagoon, LA, 27 Apr 1990 also may have been part of this group.

An immature well seen in flight at the Whitewater R. mouth, north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, on 28 Jul 1990 (GMcC; MAP; 111-1990) is only the sixth accepted for the interior of California and the fourth for the Salton Sea. An immature at Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing, MTY, 28 Dec 1989–25 Jan 1990 (CR; JLD, KLG, GMcC, RN, DR†; 206-1989) was only the second for the northern half of the state. The bird was found dead on the latter date; the complete skeleton is preserved as CAS 84409.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (12). An adult at La Jolla, SD, 3–24 Mar 1990 and at Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, SD, 1 Dec 1990 (GMcC; 63-1990) was considered the same bird that has been continually present between La Jolla and San Elijo Lagoon, SD, since 1981. Previous dates were 25 Oct 1981–3 Jan 1982 (Binford 1985), 30 May–19 Jul 1982 (ph.), 20 Feb–29 Aug 1983 (Morlan 1985), 19 Aug–9 Oct 1984 (Dunn 1988), 19–31 Mar 1985, 5 Dec 1985–25 Jan 1986 (Bevier 1990), 9–25 Apr 1987 (Langham 1992), 16 Jan–28 Feb 1988, and 4 May–27 Jul 1989 (ph.; Pyle and McCaskie 1992).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (9). Nine together at Finney Lake, IMP, 20 Apr 1990 (DEQ†; 104-1990) constituted the largest flock ever reported in California. The previous high count was of three birds photographed at the Wister Unit of the Imperial Wildlife Area, IMP, 15 Oct–4 Nov 1973 (Luther et al. 1979). The previous early date was 29 May, when two were photographed near Obsidian Butte at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, in 1985 (Bevier 1990). Prior records probably represent dispersing post-breeding birds. By contrast, the 1990 flock was likely a spring overshoot, since this species migrates north into southeastern Arizona to breed (Monson and Phillips 1981), though it has also begun to winter in the Phoenix area in fairly large numbers (e.g., 40+ in 1991/1992; *Am. Birds* 46:296).

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (18). One seen with a flock of Tundra Swans (*C. columbianus*) at Nelson, BUT, 10 Feb 1989 (JHS; 52-1989) was identified solely by its wearing a red neck collar with a white alphanumeric code. According to information maintained by the Trumpeter Swan Society, graciously supplied by Bruce E. Deuel, the only swans marked with red collars are Trumpeters and the white coding indicated that the bird was collared in the southern Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories, Canada.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* (9). Single birds were shot by hunters at an unknown location in Solano Co., 23 Oct 1977 (#CAS 84149; 67-1990) and at an unknown location in Kern Co., 10 Dec 1978 (#CAS 84150; 68-1990). Only the wings of these birds have been preserved. Bruce E. Deuel provided the Committee with a description of a wing of a bird taken by Bruce Thomas at Mendota Wildlife Area, FRE, 3 Dec 1989 (BEDe, WM†; 56-1990) and also provided photographs of the wing that were taken by Woody Martin of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland, where the wing apparently remains.

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A male, probably an adult, was near Guadalupe and at the Santa Maria R. mouth, SBA/SLO, 15 Oct–4 Nov 1989 (SEF†, JLD, PEL†, GMcC, MO, MAP, RST; 117-1989); a photograph of it appeared in *Am. Birds* 44:161 and in *Birding* 24:216. The discovery of this individual came on the heels of one at Nehalem, Oregon, 17–20 Sep 1988 (Johnson and Lethaby 1991), the first fall Garganey detected by birders in western North America south of Alaska. There are at least three fall records of birds taken by hunters: the two discussed above and one of a female taken 12 Oct 1980 at Pt. Alberni, Vancouver I., British Columbia (Spear et al. 1988).

A male at the Bolinas sewage ponds, MRN, 27 Mar 1990 molted from first basic to first alternate plumage before disappearing 30 Apr 1990 (KH†, SFB†, EDG†, JM, DR†, RFT†; 51-1990). A sketch of this bird was published in *Am. Birds* 44:386 and a photograph appeared in *Am. Birds* 44:492. Determining the age and sex of Garganeys in the field can be tenuous; Jackson (1992) provided a good summary and discussion of the useful features.

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina* (1). A male at Silver Lakes, SBE, 11–17 Feb 1989 (CB, GMcC, MAP, DR†, AS†, RCS, BBS, DGY; 30-1989) was the first to be recorded in California and in continental North America outside of Alaska. Patten (1993) published a full account of this record, including a photograph. A color photograph of this bird appeared in *Am. Birds* 43:230. As do many reports of vagrant waterfowl in California, this record engendered debate about the bird's natural occurrence. The record passed 9–1 on the second round, with the lone dissenter questioning the natural occurrence.

*TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* (60). A female at Arcata, HUM, 29 Apr–4 May 1983 (SWH; 113-1992) was probably a northbound spring migrant, although birds known to be wintering have stayed as late as mid-April. The date range is that given in *Am. Birds* 37:908; Harris (1991) listed the final date as 3 May. A female was at Warm Springs, Fremont, ALA, 17 Nov 1989–4 Apr 1990 (LRF; 135-1989). Another female was observed at the Bolinas sewage ponds, MRN, 30 Dec 1989 (PP; 5-1990). A male at Mallard Reservoir in Concord, CC, 30 Dec 1989 (RJR; 54-1990) was considered the same male observed there 27 Dec 1986–10 Jan 1987 (Langham 1991) and again on 31 Dec 1988 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992). A male was at L. Hennessey, NAP, 1 Jan 1990 (JEP; BDP; 2-1990). A male visited various locations in San Francisco, SF, 9 Jan–26 Apr 1990 (AAR†, JLD, EE†, KLG, MJL, JM, GMcC; 7-1990/45-1990), including the Sutro Baths, Elk Glen L., Stowe L., and L. Merced; a photograph of it was published in *Am. Birds* 44:323. This bird was thought to be a returning individual, with the previous winter's occurrence being 19 Nov 1988–27 Mar 1989 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992). A female was at San Leandro Reg. Shoreline, ALA, 22 Jan 1990 (DeH, DaH; 53-1990). A female at Satcoy, VEN, 4 Feb–5 Mar 1989 (GMcC, MAP; 40-1989) and 21 Dec 1989–10 Mar 1990 (DD†, JLD, PEL†; 1-1990) was considered a returning individual, with the previous dates being 17 Feb–3 Mar 1985 (Dunn 1988) and 20 Feb 1986 (Bevier 1990); a photograph of it appeared in *Am. Birds* 44:328. A male at Castaic L., LA, 28 Jan 1990 (JLD, KLG; 87-1990) and again 28 Dec 1990–28 Jan 1991 (KLG; 100-1992) was considered the same as one there 4 Dec 1988 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992). A male at Pyramid Lake, LA, 28 Jan 1990 (JLD; KLG†; 88-1990) was apparently present "through February" (*Am. Birds* 44:328).

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* (28). An immature male at Pt. Reyes NS ("fish docks"), MRN, 30 Aug 1989 molted into adult plumage before it was last seen on 21 Apr 1990 (GHF; JLD, KLG, EDG†, MJL, GMcC, JM, SWM, BDP, MAP, DR; 133-1989). Photographs of this bird appeared in *Am. Birds* 44:156 and 44:323.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus* (29). An adult was over the Oak Hill Cemetery in Escondido, SD, 30 Dec 1989 (EJM; 84-1990). An adult at Hot Springs

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Mtn., SD, 20 May 1990 (GMcC; 92-1990) was considered to be one of the pair that has nested here at least from 1986 to 1988, although the Committee has not received details for the 1989 sighting reported in *Am. Birds* 43:1367-1368. Previous accepted dates for the pair are 6-12 Jul 1986, 13 Jun-7 Jul 1987 (Langham 1991), and 4 Jul 1988 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992). The Hot Springs Mtn. birds, along with a pair that nested 1979-1982 on Santa Rosa Mtn., RIV (Binford 1983, 1985, Roberson 1986), suggest that Zone-tailed Hawks may be expanding their regular breeding range into California, although four coastal San Diego Co. specimens taken between 1862 and 1932 (Unitt 1984, Roberson 1993) suggest that a small population has persisted for quite some time. We believe that the recent spate of winter records in the vicinity of Escondido may represent offspring from the Hot Springs Mtn. nesting efforts.

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus* (5). An immature was at Tule L. NWR, SIS/MOD, 9-25 Nov 1989 (Figure 2; BEDe; RE, JO†, RS†, ST; 125-1989). One observed just north of the Oregon border on 31 Dec 1989 presumably was the same individual, so details of it are attached to the record.

MONGOLIAN PLOVER *Charadrius mongolus* (4). One in first basic or worn juvenal plumage was at Pt. Reyes NS (near the RCA Station), MRN, 22-25 Sep 1989 (RS; AG†, MJL, JM, BDP; 132-1989). Identification of a bird in basic plumage sparked some concern about conclusively eliminating the very similar Greater Sand Plover (*C. leschenaultii*), especially since even alternate-plumaged birds have caused field identification problems (Shaw and Webb 1991). Taylor (1987) discussed a suite of features useful for separating these species in basic plumage. The Pt. Reyes bird had a small bill (about the size of that of a Snowy Plover, *C. alexandrinus*), perhaps

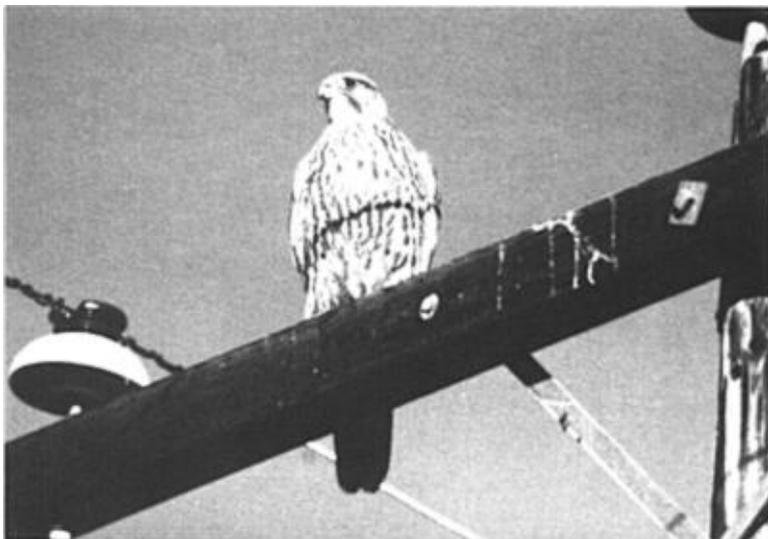


Figure 2. Immature Gyr Falcon (125-1989) at Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Siskiyou County, 14 November 1989.

Photo by Rich Stallcup

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the feature most useful in separating the Greater Sand Plover. Subspecies of *C. leschenaultii* in the eastern portion of its range (nominate birds and *C. l. crassirostris*), presumably the most likely to occur in California, have bills proportionately much larger than those of any race of *C. mongolus*. Leg coloration and leg length are also useful distinctions, as the Mongolian Plover has shorter, blacker legs, the Greater Sand Plover, longer, more greenish or yellowish legs.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* (4). A juvenile was on SE Farallon I., SF, 15 Sep 1989 (TS†; 166-1989); a color photograph of it was published in *Am. Birds* 44:30. All four California dotterels have occurred between 6 Sep (1986; Langham 1991) and 20 Sep (1974; Henderson 1979, Luther et al. 1979) on either SE Farallon I. or nearby Pt. Reyes, MRN.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* (11). A juvenile frequented the lawns of an industrial park in Ventura, VEN, 28 Aug 1989 (JLD, SE†, PEL†, MAP; 111-1989); a color photograph of it was published in *Am. Birds* 44:30. There is now a nearly even split between spring and fall records for California, with spring ones extending from 15 to 29 May, fall ones from 22 August to 13 September.

A dried carcass, estimated at about four weeks old, was found on SE Farallon I., SF, 21 Sep 1989 (PP†, #CAS 84874; 167-1989). Thus a possible Upland Sandpiper reported on SE Farallon I. 27 Aug 1989 (Oriane Williams, *vide* Peter Pyle) may well have been the same bird.

LITTLE CURLEW *Numenius minutus* (2). One was observed with a flock of Long-billed Curlews (*N. americanus*) and a few Whimbrels (*N. phaeopus*) in agricultural fields in the Santa Maria R. valley, near Guadalupe, SBA, 23-24 Sep 1988 (JML, MJL; SFB, JLD, GMcC, MAP; 179-1988). The bird was seen fairly briefly each day, and its age was not determined. The bird was treated as likely different from the juvenile photographed and seen by many observers a few miles to the east from 16 Sep to 14 Oct 1984 (Lehman and Dunn 1985, Roberson 1986). The 1984 record was the only previous one for North America, although there is now a specimen for St. Lawrence I., Alaska, 7-8 Jun 1989 (Gibson and Kessel 1992).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (8). A male in alternate plumage at Red Hill, south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 22 May 1990 (JMa†; 93-1990) and a juvenile at the Sunnyvale sewage ponds, SCL, 1-24 Sep 1990 (WGB, MJL, JM, SWM, DEQ†, RST; 121-1990) were both county firsts.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (11). An alternate-plumaged male was at Pt. Mugu, VEN, 30 Aug 1990 (BE; NBB, AS; 118-1990). A juvenile at MacKerrick SP, MEN, 26 Aug-6 Oct 1990 (DT, GM; BK, OJK, MJL†, SBT†; 122-1990) appeared typical of the Siberian subspecies *L. l. baueri*; a photograph of it appeared in *Am. Birds* 45:147. By contrast, the Pt. Mugu bird had a white rump with "few spots or streaks," a white V extending up the back, and white underwing coverts that showed "faint buffy spotting or barring." These features suggest that the bird may have been nominate *lapponica* of the western Palearctic or possibly the intermediate *menzbieri* from central Russia (Partenko 1936), a race that is not recognized by many authorities (e.g., Vaurie 1965). The described small size also pointed toward *lapponica*, although all godwit species show substantial sexual dimorphism in size, with males being much smaller than females, so size is not a useful character unless the sex of the bird is known. There are no previous records of nominate *lapponica* in western North America, although this subspecies has been recorded on the Atlantic coast from Newfoundland south to Florida (AOU 1983).

RUFOUS-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* (6). An alternate-plumaged adult was photographed at the Santa Maria R. mouth, SBA/SLO, 15 Jul 1990 (Figure 3; SE†, PEL†, BS†; 106-1990); another photograph appeared in *Am. Birds*

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44:1187. All accepted California records of this species have been of alternate-plumaged birds.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (16). Juveniles were photographed at Lake Merced, SF, 17–20 Sep 1989 (JLD†, GHF, PL†, JM, SWM, MAP, RST, FT; 112-1989) and at Pt. Mugu, VEN, 26 Sep–9 Oct 1989 (BEDE; NBB, JLD, MHet, GMcC, RJM; 144-1989). A photograph of the Lake Merced bird was published in *Am. Birds* 44:157.

***BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPER** *Tryngites subruficollis* (71). One juvenile was at Natural Bridges SP, SCZ, 28–30 Aug 1989 (DEG, CK, BoM; 138-1989). One juvenile was at Edwards AFB, KER, 16 Sep 1989 (BD†; MTH, GMcC; 188-1989), and an alternate-plumaged bird was there 3–9 Jun 1990 (MTH†; 98-1990); a color photograph of the latter appeared in *Am. Birds* 44:380. Single juveniles were at Bolinas, MRN, 15–18 Aug 1990 (SFB, BDP; 115-1990), at Abbotts Lagoon, MRN, 19 Aug 1990 (MW; 113-1990), and at Zmudowski SB, MTY, 23 Aug 1990 (DEG; 172-1990). One juvenile was distantly photographed at Moss Landing, MTY, 24 Aug–3 Sep 1990 (DEG; MJL, DR†, RST; 117-1990). Three juveniles were at Hayward Reg. Shoreline, ALA, 25 Aug 1990 (RJR; GHF, SG; 114-1990). Single juveniles were at Morro Bay, SLO, 1 Sep 1990 (EVJ; BS†; 127-1990) and at the Salinas R. mouth, MTY, 5–15 Sep 1990 (DEG; MJL†, BFM, DR†; 119-1990). A photograph of the former was published in *Am. Birds* 45:151.

With the exception of the spring bird at Edwards AFB, all of the reported individuals were juveniles. The birds at Edwards AFB were only the seventh and eighth recorded inland in California. The June bird represented only the second spring record for the state, following one for Arcata, HUM, 3–4 May 1980 (Roberson 1986, Harris 1991).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (41). Adult or second-winter birds were at Horseshoe Pond and Drakes Beach, Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 20 Aug–25 Oct 1989 (MJL, SMI, JM, BDP; 126-1989) and near the Santa Clara R. estuary, VEN, 23–26 Nov 1989 (SEF†, BH†, PEL, GMcC, MAP; 122-1989). Adults frequented the Carpinteria Creek mouth in Carpinteria, SBA, 8–9 Jan 1990 (AB†, JLD, PEL; 43-1990) and Coyote Hills Regional Park, ALA, 3 Mar 1990 (CJ; 49-1990). A first-summer bird was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, SBA, 7 May–14 Jun 90 (AA†, SEF, BH†, PEL, CAM; 82-1990). Photographs of the Santa Barbara Co. individuals were published in *Am. Birds* 44:329 and 44:497, respectively.

The Pt. Reyes and Santa Clara R. estuary birds sparked a debate about determination of the age of certain individuals of this species. Both birds were described as typical adults, except their underwings showed some whitish mottling on the coverts, although the remiges were slaty black. Grant (1986) suggested that Little Gulls with white on the underwing coverts but otherwise appearing to be adults are probably in second-winter plumage. Nevertheless, the primaries of both of these birds lacked dark tips, which second-winter individuals are believed generally to show.

THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia* (25). Six were in the Monterey and Pacific Grove area, MTY, 8 Sep 1989–9 Apr 1990 (RLB†, JLD†, SEF†, MJL, GMcC, SWM, MAP, DR, MMT†, FT, BJW; 113-1989). More precisely, one bird was present 8 Sep, the count peaked at six on 19 Sep, three were present until at least 15 Oct, two stayed until 11 Feb, and one lingered until 9 Apr. In *Am. Birds* 44:157 (which includes a photograph of one of these birds) a maximum of only five was reported. A basic-plumaged bird frequented Moss Landing Harbor, MTY, 1–26 Jan 1990 (BS; JLD, KLG, GMcC; 3-1990). This influx of seven Thick-billed Murres into Monterey Bay was the largest on record, barely surpassing the five found there 11 Aug 1974–22 Feb 1975 (Luther et al. 1979, Roberson 1985, 1993). All but one of the 25 accepted California records have come from Monterey Bay and vicinity.

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PARAKEET AUKLET *Cyclorhynchus psittacula* (33). One was found dead 1 mi. south of the Santa Ynez R. mouth, SBA, 4 Jul 1988 (RPH; 152-1988). The carcass was photographed then prepared as skin and skeleton (#SBMNH 5423).

Beach-washed corpses have long caused problems for students of bird distribution (see Grinnell 1938). Paul W. Collins and Mark A. Holmgren, who examined and prepared the specimen, opined that the carcass, still in fairly good condition when it was recovered, had floated at sea for approximately seven to ten days prior to washing ashore. Nine Committee members agreed that this individual most likely died within California waters, though such issues are impossible to resolve with certainty.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti* (17). One "male" in the Tijuana R. valley (Myers Ranch), SD, 12–20 Oct 1988 (GMcC; 220-1988B), a male there 14–31 Oct 1989 (GMcC, MAP; 152-1989), and a female there 18–31 Oct 1989 (GMcC; 153-1989) are the first to be accepted from coastal California, the natural occurrence of one 24–26 Nov 1978 at Fillmore, VEN, having been questioned (Binford 1985). Even current coastal reports caused concern among some Committee members, who cited Goodwin (1983), Clinton-Eitniear (1989), and other sources indicating that the species is kept commonly in captivity. They noted that the Ruddy Ground-Dove had not then occurred in Baja California (but see below), decreasing the chances of the species appearing in south-coastal California.

Nevertheless, aviculturalist Jack Clinton-Eitniear stated (*in litt.*) that "it is very doubtful that sightings of the Ruddy Ground-Dove [are] due to cagebirds escaped from aviculturists." Furthermore, Luis Santaella (*in litt.*) could not find this species in a check of *mercados* in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, in March 1991. There are two recent reports of Ruddy Ground-Doves in Baja California Sur, of one observed southeast of San Antonio, 23 Nov 1990 (John O'Brien, *vide* Kurt Radamaker) and a male seen at San José del Cabo, 11 Jun 1991 (Howell and Webb 1992). The species has been recorded with increasing frequency in interior California and Arizona, and, to a lesser extent, New Mexico and Texas. The Committee therefore felt that the balance of evidence suggested that even the birds in coastal San Diego Co. were likely of natural occurrence, especially because the timing of the records coincided with that of records for southeastern California.

A male frequented Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 17 Oct 1989–7 Apr 1990 (NBB, HB, DFD, JLD†, GMcC, MAP, BP; 118-1990), then was joined by a second male from 29 Oct 1989 to 1 Apr 1990 (HB; GMcC, MAP, BP; 150-1990). A female was at Furnace Creek Ranch 21–29 Oct 1989 (MAP; HB, JLD, GMcC; 119-1989). Two males at Bard, IMP, 25 Nov–2 Dec 1989 (GMcC; 191/192-1990) were the first to be recorded in that county, although one reported on the Martinez Lake–Yuma, Arizona, Christmas Bird Count on 17 Dec 1988 (*Am. Birds* 43:1098) is rumored to have been in Bard. The Committee has not reviewed that record.

Despite the excellent identification treatise by Dunn and Garrett (1990), sexing Ruddy Ground-Doves in the field has proved at times to be quite difficult. At MLZ, Patten examined a series of 29 skins of *C. t. eluta* (the subspecies from west Mexico that presumably accounts for all California records). Birds showing obvious ruddy or chestnut proved to be males, whereas birds that were wholly or mostly gray were females. Seven skins, however, were intermediate between these extremes, two of which were labeled female and five of which were labeled male. One of the females (MLZ 43344), collected in Guerrero on 10 Jun 1944, was brighter than four of the males in the collection. Examination by Patten of an additional 39 skins at WFVZ showed a similar pattern of intersexual plumage overlap. One female with gonad data on the tag (WFVZ 22894), collected 17 Jul 1972 in Costa Rica and thus likely *C. t. rufipennis*, was distinctly brighter than many males collected in the same area. Thus observers may not be able to sex all Ruddy Ground Doves in the field. The

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coloration of the tips of the outermost rectrices may prove useful. In fresh plumage, the tips are white on females, buff on males (Dunn and Garrett 1990). Unfortunately, this difference is extremely difficult to distinguish in the field, where the tips of all fresh rectrices look basically "white" or "pale."

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (13). An immature was in Huntington Beach, ORA, 4–6 Oct 1989 (JEP; JLD†, LRH†, GMcC, MAP; 146-1990). This record was only the third for the southern half of the state, following single birds observed at Big Sycamore Canyon SP, VEN, on 24 Sep 1974 (Binford 1985) and photographed at the Brock Research Center, IMP, 12–13 Sep 1981 (Binford 1985).

***BARRED OWL** *Strix varia* (6). One at Tule Lake NWR, SIS, 15 Dec 1987–23 Jan 1988 (RE; 126-1990) was judged to be the same individual photographed at the same location 28 Nov 1986–21 Feb 1987 (Langham 1991).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (4). One found dead on the road on what is now the border between the cities of La Puente and West Covina, LA, 20 May 1962 (#CSULB 2955; 79-1990) represents the first California record. The possibility that this bird did not arrive naturally in California was first considered by Marqua (1963) in his original note. This notion was amplified by McCaskie et al. (1970) when they omitted the species from the state list. The record has generally been considered questionable ever since (Roberson 1980, Garrett and Dunn 1981, 1989). But examination of the specimen by Stephen F. Bailey, further analysis of particulars of the record by Kimball L. Garrett, and three subsequent Red-headed Woodpecker records for California (Pyle and McCaskie 1992) prompted unanimous support on the second circulation.

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (24). One was in Malibu, LA, 10–16 Dec 1989 (KLG†; 8-1990). One on the grounds of the San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park, San Diego, SD, 16 Dec 1989–1 Mar 1990 (DH; GMcC; 12-1990) was back for its third winter at that locality. Previous dates were 20 Feb–30 Mar 1988 and 6 Dec 1988–15 Feb 1989 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992). These records fit the recent pattern of Greater Pewees wintering along the coast. The Malibu bird may have been a tardy fall migrant, however, as it could not be found subsequently.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris* (6). One at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 27 Sep–1 Oct 1989 (JLD†; NBB, MOC, NeH†, MTH†, PEL†, GMcC, MAP, LaS†, JCW; 114-1989) was widely seen, and heard, furnishing only the second mainland record for California; a color photograph was printed in *Am. Birds* 44:30. An immature banded and measured at SE Farallon I., SF, 8–9 Sep 1989 (PP†; 168-1989) was more representative of previous records.

Characters used to identify the Galileo bird included the shortish bill and tail, rounded head, circular yellowish-white eye rings, blackish wings with yellowish-white wingbars, extensive yellow onto the throat, the absence of brownish tones, and, most importantly, a call like that of the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*). See also comments under Records Not Accepted. DeSante et al. (1985) and Pyle and McCaskie (1992) discussed the identification of previous California Yellow-bellied Flycatchers.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (16). One was at Pine Lake Park, San Francisco, SF, 28 Dec 1989–20 May 1990 (DPM, DSi; JLD, KLG, MJL, GMcC, JM, SWM; 4-1990). The final date matches the record late date for this species, established by a wintering bird in Los Osos, SLO, in 1984 (Roberson 1986).

Any *Myiarchus* found in California in winter should be carefully identified, as the number of Ash-throated Flycatcher (*M. cinerascens*) records in many areas are comparable to those of the Dusky-capped. Although not the only difference, tail

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Figure 3. Alternate-plumaged Rufous-necked Stint (106-1990) at the mouth of the Santa Maria River, Santa Barbara County, 15 July 1990. Gray fringes to the tertials and greater coverts, the unstreaked rufous face, the rufous throat, and the band of streaks below the rufous breast distinguish the Rufous-necked from the Little Stint.

Photo by Shawneen E. Finnegan



Figure 4. California's first Cave Swallow (30-1990) near Calipatria, Imperial County, 8 August 1987. See the text for a discussion of the identification of this bird.

Photo by John O'Brien

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pattern is probably the visual character most easily used in distinguishing these species. Typical Dusky-capped Flycatchers in California show rufous edges on the outer webs of the rectrices, especially toward the base, so that rufous is visible from above, even with the tail tightly closed. No rufous is visible on the underside of the tail. In contrast, the rectrices of adult Ash-throated Flycatchers (and other North American congeners) are extensively rufous on the inner webs, so that the tail appears primarily rufous from below. The outer webs of the rectrices are dark, however, so the tail shows no rufous from above, unless the tail is spread. Beware of juveniles of these species, however, which have rufous edges on the outer, as well as the inner, webs of the rectrices.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (33). An immature female was collected at Harper Dry Lake, SBE, 4 Sep 1988 (CMcG; #SBCM 52075; 208-1990), one was at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 23-27 Sep 1989 (JCW, MTH†; JLD, MAP; 115-1989), and an immature (probably male) was banded and measured on SE Farallon I., SF, 27 Sep 1989 (PP†; 169-1989).

Previous California records, one third from SE Farallon I., are all from coastal areas in the period 5 September-1 November. Thus the Farallon bird is typical, but the others are the first accepted inland records, and the specimen represents the earliest record ever. Its skull was already 100% ossified, despite the young age of the bird, clearly established by the bilobed bursa of Fabricius. Pyle et al. (1987) suggested 15 September as an early date for complete ossification, even in southern populations, with 15 October being more typical.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (8). One in Peters Canyon, Tustin, ORA, 24 Nov 1989-6 Apr 1990 (PE, BHu, MJL, DR, JW; 204-1989) is considered the same wintering individual recorded annually since its initial discovery 19 Dec 1982. Previous accepted dates of occurrence are 19 Dec 1982-9 Apr 1983 (Morlan 1985), 26 Nov 1983-3 Jan 1984, 26 Oct 1985-9 Mar 1986 (Bevier 1990), 4 Nov 1987-5 Mar 1988, and 29 Nov 1988-5 Mar 1989 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992). The winter visits of 1984-1985 (8 Nov-6 Apr; *Am. Birds* 39:103 and 39:350) and 1986-1987 (9 Nov-1 Mar; *Am. Birds* 41:331) have not been reviewed by the Committee.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus* (64). Single birds were found at the following locations: 10 mi. east of Gasquet, DN, 27 May 1988 (RLM; 112-1990); Gualala Pt. Co. Park, SON, 4-6 Jun 1989 (BPet†; 72-1990); Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 28 May-10 Jun 1989 (LS; ALE; 34-1990); Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove, MTY, 8 May 1990 (RRR; DR†; 64-1990); and Crystal Cove SP, ORA, 6-7 Aug 1989 (LAS; 103-1990). There are now 28 accepted records for the months of May and June, the peak period of occurrence for this species in California.

CAVE SWALLOW *Hirundo fulva* (1). A previously unpublished report of one west of Calipatria, IMP, 8 Aug 1987 (Figure 4; JO'B†; 30-1990) is California's first record. The initial response to this report in 1987 was cool. Other observers were unable to relocate the bird later in the day among thousands of migrant Tree (*Tachycineta bicolor*) and Cliff (*H. pyrrhonota*) swallows, and O'Brien was apparently convinced by others that the bird might merely have been a juvenile Cliff Swallow. Thus it came as a surprise when O'Brien submitted photographs of the bird to the Committee in March 1990, after he had studied and photographed Cave Swallows in Texas and regained confidence in his original identification. The record received some resistance in its first circulation concerning basic identification criteria and the "sudden" appearance of photographs nearly three years after the fact. The record received unanimous support on its second round.

Because Cliff Swallows breeding in southeastern Arizona and much of Mexico, variously referred to as *minima* (AOU 1957), *melanogaster* (Phillips et al. 1964), or

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swainsoni (Phillips 1986), have chestnut foreheads like the Cave Swallow, some Committee members expressed concern that some light-throated immatures of this subspecies of the Cliff Swallow might match the Cave Swallow. On the basis of correspondence from Greg W. Lasley and an examination of a series of specimens at LACM by Kimball L. Garrett and Jon L. Dunn, however, it appears that young Cliff Swallows show neither the clear cinnamon-buff throat, upper breast, and face nor the blackish eye patch exhibited by the *Calipatria* bird, and typical of Cave Swallows.

This species was anticipated in California. Cave Swallows have been expanding their range in the southwestern United States in recent years and nested as close as Tucson from 1983 to 1985 (Huels 1984, *Am. Birds* 39:948).

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus* (1). An immature banded and measured on SE Farallon I., SF, 1 Nov 1989 (Figure 5; DBet, SDE†; 172-1989) was California's first, and further evidence that we have only begun to tap the pool of Asiatic landbirds that will appear in the coming years. A color photograph was printed in *Am. Birds* 44:29. All previous North American records have come from the islands of western Alaska in spring: single birds on Attu on 5 Jun 1982 and St. Paul on 10 Jun 1987, and up to four on Attu from 22 May to 6 Jun 1988 (Gibson and Kessel 1992). The identification of this species is straightforward and well covered in the Old World literature (e.g., Lewington et al. 1991).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus* (13). One was at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 14-18 Sep 1989 (JB; MOC, JLD, MTH†, GMcC, JCW; 136-1989); a



Figure 5. Immature Red-flanked Bluetail (172-1989) on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, 1 November 1989; a California first. A color photograph of this bird was published in *American Birds* 44:29. The distinctive throat pattern is not shared by any North American passerine, but it is typical of several small Old World thrushes.

Photo by David Beadle

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photograph was published in *Am. Birds* 44:163. All previous records have come from three well-covered coastal locations: SE Farallon I., SF (8), Pt. Reyes NS, MRN (2), and Pt. Loma, SD (2).

RUFIOUS-BACKED ROBIN *Turdus rufopalliatus* (6). One at Desert Center, RIV, 24–26 Nov 1989 (GMcC; SEF†, PEL, MAP; 120-1989) was the first to be found in California in six years. A photograph was published in *Am. Birds* 44:163. All California records have been for late fall and winter, fitting the pattern of most records in Arizona (Monson and Phillips 1981).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre* (13). One was in Brawley, IMP, 21 Jan–3 Mar 1990 (JLD, MJL, CAM†, GMcC, MAP; 28-1990). The geographic distribution of previous California records (*all* from Imperial Co.) is as consistent as the historic pattern is not: five records from 1916 to 1925 and seven records from 1973 to 1980. The “same/returning bird theory” cannot be applied because the first five were all collected and the recent birds were dispersed over five localities.

*RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* (66). Two were in Goleta, SBA, 17–25 Oct, with one remaining to 27 Oct, 1988 (JLD; 244-1988), and single birds were on SE Farallon I., SF, 27 Sep 1989 (PP, TS; 170-1989) and 14 Oct 1989 (DBe, PPT; 171-1989). All previously accepted California records fall between 9 September and 15 November (Langham 1991, *contra* Pyle and McCaskie 1992), with the vast majority being coastal.



Figure 6. Cassin's Sparrow (54-1989) in Miguelito Canyon, near Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, 9 May 1987. The dark flank streaks and graduated tail, with whitish tips and outer webs to the outer rectrices, identified this bird.

Photo by Alex Abela

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SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii* (21). One near Lakeview, RIV, 3 Nov 1987–10 Jan 1988 (CAM, GMcC, MAP; #SBCM 52557; 301-1987) and another at Plano Trabuco, ORA, 2 Dec 1989–19 Feb 1990 (BED; JLD, MTH†, GMcC, MAP; 123-1989) are the fourth and fifth winter records for California. McCaskie's (1988) implication that a second bird was near Lakeview the Committee judged a probable error. The Plano Trabuco bird was the first to be found in Orange Co..

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons* (37). One was on lower Gazos Creek, SM, 3 Jun 1990 (RST; 109-1990), and a singing male was near Gypsum Canyon, Anaheim, ORA, 17 May 1990 (RAE; 76-1990). The former was a first county record, the latter, a sixth.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus* (76). Single birds were at Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 7–8 Oct 1988 (DAH, KH; 261-1988), on SE Farallon I., SF, 6 Jun 1989 (GEW†; 173-1989) and 25 Oct 1989 (PPT†; 174-1989), near Oxnard, VEN, 3–10 Oct 1989 (MHe†; JLD, PEL; 203-1989), and in Huntington Central Park, Huntington Beach, ORA, 15–16 Oct 1989 (DRW; JLD, LRH†; 147-1989). The June Farallon bird is only the tenth to be recorded in California in spring; the others fit well within the established fall pattern, as 84% of California's Philadelphia Vireos have occurred between 14 September and 9 November.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (27). One was collected at Harper Dry Lake, SBE, 2 Oct 1988 (#SBCM 52625; 209-1990), and an immature was banded and measured at the marina in Morro Bay SP, SLO, 14 Oct 1989 (GPS†; 16-1990). The former is the first inland record accepted by the Committee. California's



Figure 7. California's first Smith's Longspur (120-1990) at the Moonglow Dairy, Moss Landing, Monterey County, 15 September 1990.

Photo by Kurt Rademaker

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first Yellow-Green Vireo was collected near Riverside, RIV, 29 Sep 1887 (Price 1888, Ridgway 1904), but the specimen has apparently been lost (Roberson 1993).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (11). One was at Trinidad SB, HUM, 27 Jun 1989 (GSL; 58-1990), and one was in Morongo Valley, SBE, 1 Oct 1989 (MAP; 116-1989). Spring and fall records for the state remain about evenly divided. The only Blue-winged Warbler previously accepted for northern California was at Bridgeport Reservoir, MNO, 18 Jun 1984 (Dunn 1988).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (37). One was found dead in Claremont, LA, 18 Dec 1972 (uncataloged specimen at Pomona College; 206-1990). This record was the fifth for California and the first December record accepted by the Committee. Two November records are also from Los Angeles Co., a December record from San Diego Co. was recently accepted, and a February-March record from Orange Co. is currently under review. Other winter records for this species at relatively high latitudes come from Arizona (*Am. Birds* 44:304) and England (Doherty 1992).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (59). One showing characters of the western race *albilora* was at Leoni Meadows Camp, near Grizzly Flats, ED, 28 Oct-25 Nov 1989 (HMR; 137-1989). This record is exceptional for the high elevation (ca. 1250 m; first for the Sierra Nevada) and the long and late date span (only four previous November records, plus three winter records).

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae* (23). One on Pt. Loma, SD, 23-24 Sep 1989 (CGE; GMcC, MAP; 189-1989) was quickly followed by another there 27-29 Sep 1989 (DWA, DP; CGE; 194-1989). In fall, there are now nine records for San Diego Co. and only two for the rest of the state.

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (37). A male at Yorba Regional Park, Anaheim, ORA, 14 Jan-2 Apr 1989 (MTH; JLD, GMcC, MAP, JCW†; 27-1989) was the seventh clearly overwintering bird in California (two additional December records); it was the first recorded in Orange Co. The recent surge in sightings (there were only eight records for the state prior to 1983) is apparently no coincidence. Böhning-Gaese et al. (1993) demonstrated a significant recent population increase in this species.

*PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Protonotaria citrea* (93). One was collected at Harper Dry Lake, SBE, 9 Oct 1987 (#SBCM 51702; 207-1990), and seven were documented in fall 1989: La Jolla, SD, 1 Sep (#SDNHM 46026; 99-1992); Mojave, KER, 12-16 Sep (GMcC; 187-1989); Carpinteria, SBA, 15-27 Sep (SEF†; MOC; 158-1989); Westminster, ORA, 27-29 Sep (DRW; JLD; 40-1990); 3 mi. south of Half Moon Bay, SM, 29-30 Sep (PJM; SEF, RST; 159-1989); Oceano, SLO, 30 Sep-4 Oct (SEF, GMcC; 160-1989); and SE Farallon I., SF, 23 Oct (PP†; 175-1989). Records of this species more than tripled in the 1980s, with about 75% being for fall migration.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorus* (57). One was in Coronado, SD, 22 Sep 1988 (EC; 196-1989), one was at Pescadero, SM, 2-14 Jan 1989 (JM, RST; 34-1989), one was at Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 4 Nov 1989 (JM; 131-1989), and a singing male was at Mojave, KER, 25 May 1990 (JCW; JLD, SEF, MTH†, PEL; 83-1990). There have been only seven previous winter records (excluding possible late-fall migrants recorded in December) and 12 previous spring records, plus two potentially summering birds: Fort Piute, SBE, 23 Jun-10 Jul 1977 (Luther 1980), and Tilden Regional Park, CC, 11-21 Jul 1978 (Luther et al. 1983).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH *Seiurus motacilla* (4). One was in La Jolla, SD, 9 Feb-21 Mar 1990 (JO'B; MTH, MJL, GMcC, AM†, MAP, DR; 29-1990), and a

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singing male was in Mojave, KER, 21 May 1990 (CAM; NBB, MOC, JLD†, MTH†, MAP, JCW; 85-1990). Photographs of these birds appeared in *Am. Birds* 44:221 (color) and 44:498, respectively. With only two August records from the California deserts, two individuals within several months was exceptional. Given the species' winter status in western Mexico (regular) and southeastern Arizona (nearly annual), many had predicted a winter record for California.

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus* (53). One was in Mojave, KER, 9 Jun 1990 (MTH; 110-1990). The locals have not dubbed this species the "Kerntucky" Warbler for nothing; six of the last 17 California records (nine total through 1990, plus eight records since) have come from Kern Co..

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (55). Single birds were at Lanphere Dunes, west of Arcata, HUM, 9-16 Sep 1988 (JCS; ADB†, GSL; 265-1988), Fairhaven, HUM, 13 Sep 1989 (JCS; RAE; 37-1990), and the Mad River mouth, HUM, 27-28 Sep 1989 (JCS; SWH; 38-1990). Four were found on SE Farallon I., SF, as follows: 13 Sep 1989 (TS; 181-1989), 28-29 Sep 1989 (banded and measured, DBE, PP†; 182-1989), 11 Oct 1989 (banded and measured, PP†; 183-1989), and 16 Jun 1990 (SDE, PP; 90-1990). The last is California's fifth June record; all other records are from September and, to a lesser degree, October.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (68). One lingered in Huntington Central Park, Huntington Beach, ORA, 5-20 Sep 1988 (DRW; MTH, MAP; 255-1988), one was at Montaña de Oro SP, SLO, 23-27 Sep 1989 (MH†; TME, SEF, KAH; 19-1990), a male was in Mojave, KER, 20 May 1990 (MAP; RAE; 77-1990), and five were documented on SE Farallon I., SF, in fall 1989: adult male banded and measured 6-9 Sep (PP†; 176-1989), immature, probably female, banded and measured 6-8 Sep (PP†; 177-1989), immature, probably male, 8 Sep (PP; 178-1989), immature, probably female, 9 Sep (PP; 179-1989), and an immature male banded and measured 20 Sep (PP†; 180-1989). The adult male was the first for California in fall. As for the preceding species, September is *the* month for the Mourning Warbler in California; nearly 60% of all accepted birds have been seen in that month. Pyle and Henderson's (1990) identification summary is especially helpful for identifying such fall birds.

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons* (8). One in Carruthers Canyon, New York Mountains, SBE, 13 May 1990 (ES; 96-1990) was the first found in California since 1982. This species of montane fir, pine, and oak (AOU 1983) was in an area where it could breed, as Carruthers Canyon harbors a grove of Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*).

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (72). One was in Huntington Central Park, Huntington Beach, ORA, 10 Nov 1989 (DRW; 41-1990), and a male was at Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 19 Jun 1990 (HD; 94-1990). There are more records for November (25) than for any other month.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (32). Single birds were at Montaña de Oro SP, SLO, 29 Sep 1988 (GH, NH†; 32-1989), Carpinteria, SBA, 15 Sep 1989 (SEF; 156-1989), and Los Osos, SLO, 18-25 Nov 1989 (MC; PP†; 186-1989). Santa Barbara (7) and San Diego (10) counties are responsible for more than half of all accepted records.

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Aimophila cassinii* (34). One in Miguelito Canyon, near Lompoc, SBA, 9 May 1987 (Figure 6; AA†; 54-1989) represents the first record for that county and is previously unpublished. The bird was originally identified as a Brewer's Sparrow, in part because of its "varied, 'bubbling'" song, unlike the typical Cassin's song. Kaufman (1990) described an alternate Cassin's Sparrow song, which Paul E. Lehman (*in litt.*) heard from a number of birds in Colorado in June 1990.

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Lehman and Jon L. Dunn were the first to identify the photograph as this species and forward the details to the CBRC. The Committee unanimously concurred with the identification.

FIELD SPARROW *Spizella pusilla* (2). One at Irvine Regional Park, ORA, 25 Nov 1989–6 Jan 1990 (JKA†, JLD, KLG, EDG†, PEL, MJL, GMcC, MAP, DR; 121-1989) could not be found between 11 Dec and 4 Jan, despite much searching. The bird showed relatively little warm coloration on the face and underparts, suggesting the expected western race *arenacea*. The only previous accepted record is of one banded on SE Farallon I., SF, 17 Jun–9 Jul 1969 (Robert 1971, Roberson 1986).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (18). Four were documented in the fall of 1989. A juvenile was banded and measured on SE Farallon I., SF, 7 Oct (PPT; 184-1989), one was at China Lake Naval Weapons Center, KER, 5 Nov (DVB; 22-1990), and two were at Furnace Creek, Death Valley NM, INY, one 17–18 Oct (NBB, JLD†; 145-1989) and a juvenile 18 Oct (JLD†; NBB; 213-1989), the first California record of this plumage away from SE Farallon I. A color photograph of the Furnace Creek juvenile was published by Pyle and Sibley (1992), who discussed in detail the juvenal plumage of this and other *Ammodramus* sparrows. This was the best annual showing since 1974, when four of California's first five Le Conte's Sparrows were noted within one month.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius pictus* (1). An immature male at Moonglow Dairy, Moss Landing, MTY, 13–18 Sep 1990 (Figure 7; DEG; JA, JLD, PEL†, MJL,



Figure 8. California's controversial Oriental Greenfinch (450-1986) at Arcata, Humboldt County, winter 1986/1987.

Photo by J. Mark Higley

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

JM, GMcC, JO'B†, BDP, MAP, KR†, DR†, BJW; 120-1990) was the long-anticipated first for California. The bird was especially welcome for the many observers who saw the Pt. Reyes Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) during its initial misidentification as this species (see Morlan and Erickson 1983). From the amount of white on its lesser and median secondary coverts, supercilium, and underwing coverts the bird was a male; from its tapered rectrices, lack of black in the face, and relatively drab overall coloration it was an immature (see Pyle et al. 1987). A small photograph of it was published in *Am. Birds* 45:149.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (40). Five were reported in fall 1989 (*Am. Birds* 44:159). Three coastal records are detailed here; two inland ones are still under review. Single birds were at Arcata Marsh, HUM, 29 Oct-1 Nov (immature female; JMH†; 46-1990), SE Farallon I., SF, 15 Nov (SA; 185-1989), and the Tunitas Creek mouth, SM, 3-4 Nov (immature male; RST†; 9-1990). The last bird was the first for San Mateo Co..

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (22). One at Indian Ranch, Panamint Valley, INY, 12 Nov 1989 (HB; 151-1989) furnished the *ninth* record for Inyo Co. but only the sixth for the state in fall.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. One at Ballena Bay, Alameda, ALA, 3-5 Dec 1971 (254-1987) was published, with a rudimentary description, in *The Gull* (newsletter of the Golden Gate Audubon Society) 54:12. The identification rested on a "large straw-colored bill with upturned lower mandible and straight upper mandible." A majority of the Committee felt that this description was enough, but the record failed 7-3 on the fourth (and final) circulation, despite the bird's being seen by a long-standing CBRC member. This record was accepted by Remsen and Binford (1975). Identification of this species should not rely solely on bill coloration; see Binford and Remsen (1974) and Phillips (1990) for more information.

Details were judged to be insufficient for one reported at Shelter Cove, HUM, 21 Oct 1988 (266-1988), which would have been the second-earliest Yellow-billed Loon to reach California in fall, although at least two have "summered" in the state.

SOLANDER'S PETREL *Pterodroma solandri*. "On the order of 100" reported offshore from Pt. Reyes, MRN, to Pt. Pinos, MTY, 10-21 Apr 1987 (98-1987) lacked detail sufficient to rule out Murphy's Petrel (*P. ultima*), which has proved to be the dark *Pterodroma* off California, especially in spring. The description did not clearly indicate Murphy's Petrel, although the Committee unanimously agreed that one of these two species, probably Murphy's, was involved in this sighting. Solander's Petrel is yet unproven from California waters, although the species is apparently regular off Japan May-August (Nakamura and Tanaka 1977, Wahl 1978). One collected in the North Pacific Ocean within 1400 mi. of California at 40°N, 150°W on 10 Jul 1985 (#LACM 102806) and various sight reports nearer the state (Bailey et al. 1989b) suggest that this species may reach California waters.

WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER *Puffinus pacificus*. Descriptions of dark shearwaters seen at 33°57' N, 118°48' W, 61 nmi. west of Pt. Dume, LA, 12 Nov 1989 (163-1989) and at 34°42' N, 121°35' W, 48 nmi. west of Pt. Arguello, SBA, 19 Nov 1989 (164-1989), reported as possibly this species, lacked detail sufficient to eliminate the Flesh-footed Shearwater (*P. carneipes*).

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

TOWNSEND'S SHEARWATER *Puffinus auricularis*. The Committee felt that a bird briefly seen on Monterey Bay, MTY, 6 Oct 1990 (147-1990) was more likely a Black-vented Shearwater (*P. opisthomelas*), a species whose range of variation is not appreciated by many observers. Occasional Black-vented Shearwaters can have white wrapping up onto the sides of the rump, as on Townsend's Shearwater (*P. Pyle in litt.*).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma castro*. One reported at 30°52' N, 121°33' W, 177 nmi. SSW of San Nicolas I., VEN, 8 Nov 1989 (165-1989) lacked documentation adequate to support a record of this difficult-to-identify species.

WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma tethys*. A report of one roughly 200 nmi. SSW of San Nicolas I., VEN, 13 Aug 1988 (209-1989) was supported by inconclusive details.

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster*. The description of one reported off Pyramid Pt., San Clemente I., LA, 13 May 1989 (195-1989) includes several features, such as "pale brown streaking on [a] white background . . . confined to the breast area," suggesting a first-year Masked Booby (*S. dactylatra*). The Brown Booby shows a brown breast concolor with the upperparts. The Masked can show a somewhat similar pattern (see Figure 1), but white is suffused or intrudes into the brown, the brown does not extend as far down the breast as on a Brown Booby, and the division between the brown and the white is less clean-cut. The Committee unanimously agreed that the sighting involved a booby.

ANHINGA *Anhinga anhinga*. One was reported at Laguna Dam, IMP, 14 Nov 1981 (159-1988).

REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens*. A white-morph bird was reported at Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing, MTY, 8 Oct 1989 (193-1989). The account indicates that the bird was "dancing" like a Reddish Egret, but aside from the "thicker bill," which was all black, the Committee felt that not enough detail was presented for what would be the first record for California or Baja California of a white-morph bird (*contra* Cogswell 1977).

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator*. Immatures observed at L. Almanor, PLU, 29 Dec 1988 (200-1989) and photographed 5 mi. south of Talmage, MEN, 23 Dec 1989 (60-1990) were identified as this species. The former record was published in *Am. Birds* 43:362. Details suggested that both birds were in fact immature Tundra Swans, or at least that species could not be eliminated. The initial identification of each individual was based in part on the flat profile (culmen and forehead) of the birds, a feature often associated with the Trumpeter Swan. Bailey (1991), however, indicated that immatures of both species have a flat culmen and that this feature cannot be used to separate immature Trumpeter and Tundra swans in the field.

*TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. A report of a male at Cape Mendocino, HUM, 23 Feb 1980 (326-1986) was published in *Am. Birds* 34:303 and by Harris (1991). The record was not accepted on the fourth and final circulation because a minority of the Committee (two members) felt that the details were not complete enough even for this now annual vagrant. A male at San Pablo Reservoir, CC, 15 Jan 1990 (55-1990) lacked a complete description; this bird was one of six that were said to have wintered in the greater San Francisco Bay area in 1989/1990 (*Am. Birds* 44:323).

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus*. One was reported at Border Field SP in the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 3 Oct 1989 (11-1990). The brief description did not rule out an immature Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) or a dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). There is still but one accepted California record of this species (Roberson 1986, Daniels et al. 1989).

YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. A sight record of one flushed at the north spit of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 10 Oct 1978 (114-1992) was considered "satisfactory" by Harris (1991). Nevertheless, upon review of the meager documentation, the Committee disagreed.

CARIBBEAN COOT *Fulica caribaea*. A brief description of one at Buena Vista Lagoon, SD, 12 Mar 1987 (129-1991) was published by Komito (1990). This prospective first record for California was unanimously rejected on the first round. American Coots (*F. americana*) with extensive white shields have been previously reported in California many times (Roberson and Baptista 1988), hindering the identifying of a Caribbean Coot in the field. Indeed, identification difficulties recently prompted the American Birding Association to remove the Caribbean Coot from its checklist of North American birds (DeBenedictis et al. 1992), and the taxonomic distinctness of the species has been questioned (AOU 1983, Sibley and Monroe 1990).

PIPING PLOVER *Charadrius melodus*. An intriguing plover with "orangey-yellow legs" was briefly seen at Abbotts Lagoon, Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 5 Aug 1989 (128-1989). Several members noted that juvenile Snowy Plovers (*C. alexandrinus*) can have yellow legs, so leg color alone was not conclusive. The details contained no information regarding the bill shape.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus*. An oystercatcher on Santa Cruz I., SBA, 23 Mar 1988 (144-1988) was reported as a hybrid by the observer. After two circulations, the Committee unanimously agreed. American Oystercatchers in western Mexico and Baja California (*H. p. frazari*) are darker on the rump (particularly in the center), have a reduced wingstripe, and generally show black smudging below the dark breast. Consequently, they do not resemble the more clean-cut nominate birds pictured in standard field guides and are sometimes misidentified as hybrids. True hybrids are more intermediate, however, generally showing little white on the rump and having black intermixed extensively with the white on the underparts and wing linings. Jehl (1985) discussed the identification and status of hybrid American × Black Oystercatchers (*H. bachmani*).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica*. A flock of ten reported at Red Hill, south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 3 May 1990 (30-1991) lacked adequate documentation. All previous California records have involved lone birds, although a flock of sixteen was photographed on 17 Aug 1980 at Bayocean Spit, Oregon (Schmidt 1989).

RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*. A juvenile *Calidris* on SE Farallon I., SF, 15-16 Aug 1987 (245-1987) caused considerable debate among Committee members. A report of an alternate-plumaged bird at Mountain View, SCL, 13 Apr 1990 (66-1990) did not conclusively rule out the Sanderling (*C. alba*).

The Farallon bird was initially identified as a Rufous-necked Stint by its bright upperparts and the considerable primary projection beyond the longest tertial. After three circulations and a discussion at the 1992 annual meeting, the Committee left the identification of this bird unresolved, since most of its characters overlapped with those of a Semipalmated Sandpiper (*C. pusilla*). Furthermore, it was apparent that

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

the Farallon bird was missing its longest tertial, thus exaggerating the apparent primary projection.

Alström and Olsson (1989) discussed the useful characters and warned of the pitfalls involved in field separation of juvenile Rufous-necked Stints and Semipalmated Sandpipers. They stressed the contrast between the center and sides of the crown as the best plumage feature. Many other characters are equivocal, and determining exact bill shape or lack of vestigial webs is notoriously difficult under field conditions. Indeed, there is no documented record of a juvenile Rufous-necked Stint in North America south of Alaska, and the number of Alaska occurrences was reduced when two juvenile "Rufous-necked Stint" specimens were reidentified as Little Stints (Gibson and Kessel 1992).

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. The report of a juvenile at Pescadero Marsh, SM, 26 Aug 1989 (42-1990) lacked details sufficient to eliminate other small *Calidris*. Of particular concern was the described size, since the bird was said to be "much smaller than Western Sandpiper and smaller than Least Sandpiper." The latter species is in fact the world's smallest *Calidris*.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*. A flock of 24 at Sacramento NWR, GLE, 16 Oct 1989 (129-1989) was not documented well enough for such an unprecedented report.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*. The Committee expressed concern that the description of a reported first-winter bird at Malibu Lagoon, LA, 31 Oct 1988 (227-1988) did not rule out a Bonaparte's Gull (*L. philadelphia*) known to be present that still retained some juvenal plumage.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. A first-winter bird reported at Pt. Loma, SD, 23 Jan 1990 (61-1990) was published in *Am. Birds* 44:329. After two circulations, a majority of the Committee felt that the description was not sufficiently detailed to establish the southernmost record for western North America, as the bill was described as grayish yellow and the bird was not seen in flight. The bill color of first-winter Common Black-headed Gulls varies to some extent but typically between dull flesh and bright reddish pink (Grant 1986, Matt T. Heindel pers. comm.).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. An incomplete description and concern about the exact age of the bird led the Committee to be cautious with a "second-spring" individual reported at Red Hill, south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 9 May 1987 (178-1987; *Am. Birds* 41:488). Consequently, the record went four full rounds, after which voting was evenly split. Concerns over the age of a "first-summer" bird reported at Upper Newport Bay, ORA, 17 Sep 1989 (148-1989) and a lack of alleged corroborating photographs led to a near-unanimous decision that this record was not acceptable. All six of the accepted records for California fall between mid-September and late February, with four of these records for the Salton Sea, and all have been of basic-plumaged adults.

THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia*. The details of one reported with Common Murres (*U. aalge*) at Cronkite Beach, MRN, 23 Aug 1989 (127-1989) did not eliminate a juvenile Common Murre.

PARAKEET AUKLET *Cyclorhynchus psittacula*. Information about a beached corpse at Samoa, HUM, 31 Jul 1943 (115-1992) was published by Harris (1991). The CBRC was nearly unanimous in its rejection of this report, since no documentation to support the claim exists and the whereabouts of the specimen, if extant, is unknown.

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti*. One was reported at Baker, SBE, 1 Oct 1989 (149-1989). This bird was seen at a distance and was said to be a calling male. Given the date, a majority of the Committee (eight members) felt that it was quite unlikely that a Ruddy Ground-Dove would be calling, and, given the distant views, felt that other species of *Columbina* could not be eliminated.

SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca*. Reports of one "in the hills approximately 4 mi. southeast of Arcata," HUM, 18 Feb 1967, one on Table Bluff, south Humboldt Bay, HUM, 24 Apr 1967, one "one-half mile north of Wilson Valley," MOD, 14 Apr 1967, and three "on state-line road at Klamath National Wildlife Refuge," SIS, 17 Apr 1967 were published by Harris and Yocum (1968) and combined for circulation through the Committee as record number 230A-1988. Although 1967 was an invasion year (four accepted records for Humboldt Co. 31 Jan-26 Mar plus one found dying in the Yolo Bypass, YOL, 4 Jan; Bevier 1990, Roberson 1993), there are no descriptions of any of these birds beyond "white" or "barred." Moreover, all fall outside the pattern established by the vast majority of records of this species in California: birds on open land at sea level on the immediate coast from late October through March. The only exceptions among accepted records are of one at "Upper Mattole," HUM, 17 Nov 1916 (Roberson 1986), one in Gridley, BUT, 17 or 18 Nov 1916 (Roberson 1986), and the Yolo Co. bird mentioned previously.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cyanthus latirostris*. A male reported in Santa Barbara, SBA, 20 Sep 1978 (223-1987) was published in *Am. Birds* 33:214 and by Webster et al. (1980). Although a majority voted to accept the record on each of four circulations, it had the required number of detractors on every round. The record consisted of a recounting by one Committee member of a brief verbal description of a bird seen well and repeatedly (on one day only).

GREEN KINGFISHER *Chloroceryle americana*. One reported near Mecca, RIV, 26 Jan 1991 (28-1991) would have been California's first. The identification was insufficiently documented to meet the Committee's requirements for a first state record; it received but one accept vote on its only circulation. Five Committee members felt that this species is likely to be found in California, four did not volunteer their thoughts, and one thought the species unlikely to occur, despite reports for the lower Colorado River (Rosenberg et al. 1991).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris*. An *Empidonax* at Pt. Saint George, DN, 13 Sep 1988 (78-1989) was published tentatively as this species in *Am. Birds* 43:164 and by Harris (1991). Most members expressed their opinion that the identification was probably correct. The single observer is excellent and experienced. Much of the description suggested a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: rich green-olive upperparts, yellowish-white wingbars, short bill with entirely yellow-gold mandible, round yellow eye ring, bright yellow underparts with olive vest and sides, and short tail. Not mentioned were tertial pattern, blackish wings, and head shape, and the call was not heard. Through two circulations, a majority of members was unwilling to accept a single-observer sighting with anything less than exhaustive details. *Empidonax* identification remains one of the most difficult tasks facing North American birders, despite the efforts of Zimmer (1985), Whitney and Kaufman (1985a,b, 1986a,b, 1987), Kaufman (1990), and others to clarify the situation. See also comments under Records Accepted.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus*. One reported at Creighton Ranch Preserve, TUL, 7-11 Oct 1988 was published in *Am. Birds* 43:164. This inland record received some support but was judged very cautiously; several members suggested the bird may have been a Brown-crested Flycatcher (*M. tyrannulus*).

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris*. One was reported in San Diego, SD, on an unknown date in October 1989 (14-1990).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus*. Single birds were reported in the Arcata Bottoms, HUM, 10 Oct 1976 (117-1992; Harris 1991), in Torrance, LA, 7 Jun 1989 (35-1991), and at Mono Lake, MNO, 28 Jun 1989 (71-1990; *Am. Birds* 43:1364-1365).

BLUE JAY *Cyanocitta cristata*. One reported at Trinity Village, near Hawkins Bar, TRI, 9 or 10 Feb 1990 (69-1990) was published by Harris (1991) and tentatively in *Am. Birds* 44:325

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. One reported on Bear Ridge, west of Rio Dell, HUM, 23 Sep 1975 (118-1992) was published tentatively by Harris (1991).

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens*. Single birds were reported on SE Farallon I., SF, 28 May 1981 (101-1987) and San Nicolas I., VEN, 15 Sep 1988 (3-1989). The former was published in *Am. Birds* 35:860 and by Pyle and Henderson (1991). Of 15 Veery reports reviewed by the Committee, only seven have been accepted. In noting this, one member wrote, "clearly this species is misidentified often." Actually, a majority of members acknowledged that both of these birds may have been correctly identified. What is clear is that reports of this species continue to be judged cautiously. Pyle and McCaskie (1992) mentioned most of the characters used in the Committee's analysis of reports of this species.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus*. A report of one on SE Farallon I., SF, 3 Oct 1970 (20-1989) has long been considered valid (McCaskie et al. 1979, DeSante and Ainley 1980, Roberson 1980, Pyle and Henderson 1991). The bird was one of two Gray-cheeked Thrushes reported that day (the other was collected and represents California's first record; DeSante and Ainley 1980, Dunn 1988), but no description was written until over 18 years later. A majority of Committee members was unwilling to validate such a record, considering it undocumented and thus "not accepted" (see Roberson 1993).

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. A report of one reported at Pacific Grove, MTY, 28 Dec 1989 (24-1990) would have been California's first record, but the details were such that it failed to receive any support.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre*. Single birds were reported at Imperial Dam, IMP, 29 Dec 1987-1 Jan 1988 (38-1988) and Hole-in-the-Wall Campground, East Mojave Scenic Area, SBE, 4 Apr 1990 (95-1990).

The former record, published in *Am. Birds* 42:323, circulated three times with substantial support, was discussed at an annual meeting, and finally was rejected soundly on a fourth and final circulation. The Committee would be interested in reviewing any additional documentation should it currently exist.

The latter record was a difficult one for many reviewers as well, but was rejected on a single circulation. "We have a good observer who is knowledgeable about thrasher status and distribution, and a reasonable description," wrote one Committee member. Nevertheless, as a whole, the Committee was sufficiently concerned about the date and location (perfect for the similar Bendire's Thrasher, although none were noted), the long interval between the sighting and the write-up, and certain weaknesses in the description (lacking mention of bill color, and relying on several questionable field marks: eye color, buffy underparts, and white tail spots), so treated the record cautiously. Clearly the Committee considers the identification of Curve-billed and Bendire's thrashers difficult and was unwilling to break the pattern of

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

primarily winter records from more heavily vegetated areas in Imperial Co. to embrace this report. Zimmet (1985), Kaufman (1990), and Kaufman and Bowers (1990) most recently discussed the identification of these two species.

GRAY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*. One at Dog Lake near Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite NP, TUO, 23 May 1990 (107-1990) was published tentatively in *Am. Birds* 44:493.

*RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*. Two reported at Lanphere Dunes, west of Arcata, HUM, 27 Nov 1988 (269-1988; Harris 1991) were not considered adequately documented to establish the latest record for California by nearly two weeks. There is, however, an acceptable record for Delta, British Columbia, 23-24 Dec 1990 (Siddle 1991).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus*. Single birds were reported at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 17 Oct 1988 (9-1989), San Leandro Reservoir, San Leandro, ALA, 8 Jun 1975 (97-1989), Pt. Loma, SD, 14 Oct 1989 (15-1990), and Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, SF, 19 Oct 1980 (75-1990). Only the Pt. Loma record was previously published (*Am. Birds* 44:164). The rejection rate of Philadelphia Vireo records remains high (nearly one in four), countering efforts by some to remove the species from the Review List. All too often, documentation submitted for this species is incomplete. Claims of the Philadelphia Vireo should include details of the extent and distribution of yellow on the underparts, pattern of the lores, and upperpart coloration. See Terrill and Terrill (1981), Zimmer (1985), and Kaufman (1990) for more about field identification criteria for this species.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis*. One was reported at Batiquitos Lagoon, SD, 29 Oct 1989 (201-1989).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica*. One was reported at Legg Lake, LA, 3 Feb 1985 (88-1986).

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus*. A bird banded and photographed at Modoc NWR, MOD, 19 Sep 1989 (36-1990) was unanimously identified by the Committee as a Blackpoll Warbler (*D. striata*), a significant, previously unpublished record nevertheless, one of the few for the interior of northern California. Bay-breasted and Blackpoll warblers are still routinely misidentified as Pine Warblers by the unwary. September reports are especially suspect, as the Pine Warbler is a late migrant with few California records before mid-October. The writings of Whitney (1983), Kaufman (1990), and Patten and McCaskie (1992) may help observers avoid identification pitfalls.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis*. One was reported at Mojave, KER, 20 May 1990 (70-1990). With no accepted California records for May, the Committee was unwilling to support a briefly seen bird at this well-worked locality.

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea*. One was reported on Pt. Loma, SD, 6 Nov 1989 (20-1990).

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris*. One reported at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 7 Oct 1989 (21-1990) was seen too briefly for even the reporter, a CBRC member, to vote "accept."

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii*. One was reported at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 25 Nov 1989 (212-1989).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*. One reported feeding a fledgling west of Fresno, FRE, 12 Jun 1989 (74-1990) was discussed by Bailey et al. (1989a), who suggested the bird may have been a Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*).

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

ORIENTAL GREENFINCH *Carduelis sinica*. A bird briefly seen and heard in Arcata, HUM, 17 Apr 1988 (119-1988) was published in *Am. Birds* 42:480 and tentatively by Harris (1991). Although the observer had experience with this species from the previous winter (see next account), the Committee was unwilling to accept such a brief observation of an extreme rarity.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, Natural Occurrence Questionable

ORIENTAL GREENFINCH *Carduelis sinica*. A female or immature male generally associating with House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) in south Arcata, HUM, 4 Dec 1986–3 Apr 1987 (Figure 8; SFB, BB, JLD, KH†, JM†, JML, CAM, GMcC, JM, DR; 450-1986) was seen by probably hundreds of observers from across the continent. The bird's occurrence was discussed previously by Morlan et al. (1987).

In four circulations of this record through the Committee there were few strong convictions expressed, though the file is now approximately 150 pages long. Five or six members supported natural occurrence on each round, but nine of the 16 members to vote on the record never took that position. The species was considered for the incipient Supplemental List of the birds of California (see the introduction to this paper) at the January 1993 CBRC meeting, where it easily received the simple majority vote needed for acceptance. The Supplemental List owes its existence to controversial records such as this one.

There was general agreement among Committee members that the Arcata bird was from the northeast portion of the species' range where it is most highly migratory, a requisite for consideration as a genuine vagrant. Nevertheless, it was noted that this species has established no pattern of long-distance vagrancy in the Old World; American records are all from the outer Aleutian Islands, not far from the breeding range. Stephen F. Bailey and Louis R. Bevier examined specimens at the American Museum of Natural History, finding that the combination of large size, large bill, face pattern (dusky lores, broad dusky malar region with lighter coloration on the chin and lower cheek highlighting the dark malars, and indistinct broad pale supercilia running posterior from the top middle of the eyes), and overall brownish tone of the Arcata bird suggest the race *kawahariba*. This is the northernmost form, breeding on Kamchatka, the Kuriles, Sakhalin, and Hokkaido and wintering from Hokkaido south through Japan to Taiwan. Mainland races are smaller and essentially nonmigratory.

Oriental Greenfinches are rare but not unknown in captivity in the United States. In Taiwan, wintering birds are apparently captured for use as cage birds (Yen 1984). Most Committee members felt the odds of the Arcata greenfinch being an escapee from captivity were small, but few were willing to rule out the possibility and fully support the bird's natural occurrence.

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA TO THE THIRTEENTH COMMITTEE REPORT (Pyle and McCaskie 1992)

Under Records Accepted, p. 121: the Snow Bunting in Humboldt Co. was near Rio Dell, not Del Rio. Under Records Not Accepted, p. 122: the Trumpeter Swan (208-1988) died in captivity. Photographs of the unprepared skin are now on file with the record. The skeleton, but not the skin, was preserved as SBMNH 4059. The bird was a Tundra Swan.

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