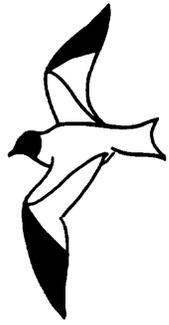


# WESTERN BIRDS



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## SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1991 RECORDS

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A concise overview of the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter "CBRC" or "the Committee") has not been published in many years, save for a brief sketch by Patten (1991). Therefore, this report begins with a bit of history and background, if only to inform the newest generation of field ornithologists who may not be entirely familiar with the Committee's functions and goals.

Following concerted effort by C. J. Ralph and others, the CBRC was established in 1970, the first records committee in North America. Originally it was called the "Rare Bird Committee" of the California Field Ornithologists, and its initial intent, as stated by Alan M. Craig (1970), was to "ascertain which of the multitudinous observations [made in California] are acceptable beyond any reasonable doubt." Some 4000 records later, this goal still stands, but rather than limiting itself to the review of sight records, the CBRC now reviews all records of vagrant birds reported in California, be they sight, sound, photographic, or specimen records. In general, records are reviewed only for species that average four or fewer occurrences per year in California and have been recorded fewer than 100 times. The Committee solicits information on all reports of species on its Review List, and any species potentially new to California, and encourages observers to support the Committee's review process by submitting written reports, photographs, tape recordings, and other documentation to the CBRC's secretary. With the exception of the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*), post-1994 records of which are no longer reviewed by the CBRC, the current Review List remains unchanged since the 16th report (Heindel and Garrett 1995). Copies of the Review List, the current state list, and the CBRC's by-laws are available from the secretary, Patten, at the address above.

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The CBRC consists of ten voting members, one of whom acts as secretary. The secretary is responsible for cataloging all the documentation received, for ensuring that each record is circulated through the Committee, and for compiling the final record once it has completed circulation. Records are circulated by mail to all members of the Committee, each of whom reviews documentation constituting a given record. Each member is responsible for assessing whether or not the information provided is sufficient to support the identification of the reported species. For this reason, it is important for observers to include as many details as possible, no matter how trivial they may seem. The majority of records not accepted by the CBRC receive this verdict because documentation was not thorough enough to support the identification, not because the identification was necessarily incorrect. In some instances the more tenuous question of natural occurrence is the issue. In these instances each member reviews available information and judges whether a bird has more likely arrived under its own power or with deliberate aid from humans. Records span the continuum bounded by these scenarios, and individual philosophy of Committee members plays a substantial role in the decision-making process. Records for which information is insufficient to the extent that natural occurrence is uncertain may be placed on the Supplemental List. See Heindel and Garrett (1995) for a discussion of the natural-occurrence issue.

All information reviewed by the CBRC, including written documentation, photographs, videotapes, voice recordings, and comments of its members, is placed in a permanent archive at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, California 93012-8506). In this way the CBRC serves a valuable function to researchers, many of whom would otherwise presumably have a difficult time tracking down information about particular reports of vagrant birds. Records at the Western Foundation are catalogued by record number and are available to anyone interested in receiving information beyond what is published in the Committee's regular reports.

Other important functions of the CBRC are to maintain a checklist of California birds and to publish regular reports, such as this one, listing recent decisions. With regard to the state list, the first accepted records for California of the Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*), Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*), and Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*) are included in this report. In addition, historical firsts (predating all other currently accepted records) for the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) and Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) are included. This report also covers prospective first records of Townsend's Shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis*), Canyon Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*), and McKay's Bunting (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*), none of which was considered acceptable by the Committee. With the additions listed above, and with recently accepted records of the Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) and Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*), both of which will be treated in the 18th CBRC report, the California state list currently stands at 586.

*Format.* This report contains records extending from December 1916 to June 1992, although the vast majority of the records are from 1991. Of the 232 records included, the Committee accepted 75.4%, a rate consistent

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with the most recent two reports (Patten and Erickson 1994, Heindel and Garrett 1995). As is typical, the majority of accepted records were from coastal areas ( $\pm 70\%$ ), with 15% of the coastal records from Southeast Farallon Island.

The format of CBRC reports is now standard. Species are listed in the same order as in the most recent *American Ornithologists' Union Checklist* (A.O.U. 1983) and supplements. Species names are followed, in parentheses, by the number of accepted records for California through the period covered by this report. Records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence, except when an alternate arrangement allows for a clearer presentation. Each record includes the locality (including a standard abbreviation for the county; see below), a full date span (in general following that listed in *American Birds* or other published source), a list of observers who submitted documentation, and the CBRC record number. If the Committee has evidence that a published date span is incorrect, the CBRC-accepted date(s) are listed in italics. Observers are listed alphabetically (by surname), except those who found and/or identified the bird; these observers are listed first, followed by a semicolon.

Birds returning for subsequent winters or after other lengthy absences are reviewed under separate record numbers, and the Committee judges (by simple majority) whether the subsequent record(s) involve(s) the same bird(s). The Committee does not decide issues of subspecies, sex, or age, although members often express their views on these issues in comments. Annotations in this report regarding subspecies, sex, and age are ours, although many are based upon the collective opinions of the Committee.

*Abbreviations and Symbols.* The Committee uses standard abbreviations for counties. Those appearing in this report are ALA, Alameda; BUT, Butte; CC, Contra Costa; COL, Colusa; DN, Del Norte; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; LA, Los Angeles; MNO, Mono; MOD, Modoc; MRN, Marin; MTY, Monterey; ORA, Orange; 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; SJ, San Joaquin; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SON, Sonoma; VEN, Ventura.

Abbreviations for museums cited in this report are CAS, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; CSUC, California State University, Chico; HSU, Humboldt State University, Arcata; LACM, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles; SBCM, San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands; SDNHM, San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego. Other abbreviations are AFB, air force base; Co., county; I., island; L., lake; mi., miles; mtn., mountain; nmi., nautical miles; NM, national monument; NP, national park; NS, national seashore; NWC, naval weapons center; NWR, national wildlife refuge; pt., point; SB, state beach; SP, state park.

Symbols used in this report are as follows: an asterisk (\*) preceding a species name indicates that species is no longer on the CBRC Review List. Symbols following an observer's initials signify that the observer submitted a photograph (†), a videotape (‡), or a voice recording (§). These symbols are

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used only if the documentation submitted supported the identification of the bird(s) in question. See Patten and Erickson (1994) for a more complete explanation of abbreviations and symbols used in CBRC reports.

### RECORDS ACCEPTED

**ARCTIC LOON** *Gavia arctica* (2). One at Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 2-17 Nov 1991 (SNGH, DLR; SFB, JLD, GHF, FG, HG, BH†, CHK, THK, LL‡, MJL, GMcC, JM, MAP, MMR, DR†, RS, MMT†, SBT, JT†, BY; 182-1991) was the first of its species to be found in California. On the heels of this bird was one at Morro Bay, SLO, 7-23 Dec 1991 (Figure 1; TME; SEF†, KAH, JTH, PEL; 83-1992).

These records were the first of confirmed Arctic Loons in North America outside of Alaska, although there is a tentative sight report from Massachusetts (Evered 1985) and another recent report from that state (*Bird Observer* 22:206); two British Columbia specimens alleged to be this species proved to be Pacific Loons (*G. pacifica*; Campbell et al. 1990). Reinking and Howell (1993) published a full account of the Pt. Reyes bird, with additional taxonomic and identification information on distinguishing the Arctic from the Pacific Loon. An excellent videotape of the first bird, and photographs of both, helped the Committee in its identification assessment of this difficult, recently split (A.O.U. 1985) species pair. See also Walsh (1988), Roberson (1989), and Schulenberg (1989) regarding the field identification of basic-plumaged Arctic Loons; notes by McCaskie et al. (1990) and Dunn and Rose (1992) cover alternate-plumaged birds.



Figure 1. First-winter Arctic Loon (83-1992) at Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co., 8 December 1991.

Photo by Shawneen E. Finnegan

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MOTTLED PETREL *Pterodroma inexpectata* (52). Seventeen were between 37°10.45' N, 124°07.35' W and 37°00.67' N, 124°27.84' W, 66–90 nmi. SW of Pt. Reyes, MRN, 16 Nov 1991 (SFB†, JLD, JM, MMT†, SBT†; 186-1991). Photographs of two of these birds appeared in *Am. Birds* 46:143 and 46:169. Three were 80–84 nmi. SW of Pt. Reyes, MRN, 14 Dec 1991 (SFB, JMD†, RAE; 234-1991) as follows: 36°58.95' N, 124°03.86' W, 79.8 nmi. SW of Pt. Reyes; 36°57.63' N, 124°07.06' W, 82.6 nmi. SW of Pt. Reyes; and 36°56.74' N, 124°07.79' W, 83.6 nmi. SW of Pt. Reyes.

STEJNEGER'S PETREL *Pterodroma longirostris* (4). One was at 32°35.85' N, 122°46.36' W, about 152 nmi. SW of San Miguel I., SBA, 14 Nov 1990 (JLD; 103-1991). All four Stejneger's Petrel records accepted by the CBRC fall in the narrow window of 14 to 17 November. See Luther et al. (1983), DeBenedictis (1991), Kaufman (1991), McCaskie and Roberson (1992), and Heindel and Garrett (1995) for information about previous records for California waters.

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (38). An adult was 1 mile north of Santa Barbara I., SBA, 8 Aug 1991 (PP; 17-1992), and an adult considered to be the same bird was at the east side of Santa Barbara I., SBA, 2 Jun 1992 (DLJ; 233-1992). An immature was 2 miles west of the entrance to San Diego Bay, SD, 14 Dec 1991 (DP; 124-1992). Roughly one-fourth of California records are from the coast, where their occurrence appears more random than the marked invasions into the interior (mainly the Salton Sea).

RED-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula sula* (9). An immature female found ill at Redondo Beach, LA, 18 Aug 1991 was moved by animal control officials to King Harbor, LA, where it was documented (JAJ, DLM†; 33-1992). The bird was recaptured, but died in a rehabilitation center; unfortunately, the specimen was not saved.

REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (58). An immature was in the Tijuana R. Valley and estuary, SD, 22 Nov–15 Dec 1990 (GMcC; 4-1991); unfortunately, additional documentation from two observers (JO and RLR) was lost in the mail. An adult with a deformed bill returned for its tenth winter to the south end of San Diego Bay, SD, 13 Oct 1991–10 Jan 1992 (GMcC; 169-1991). An immature was at Del Mar, SD, 16–19 Oct 1991 (JO; RAE; 192-1991), and another immature was at the south end of San Diego Bay, SD, 11 Nov 1991–29 Mar 1992 (GMcC; CAM, SBT†; 1-1992). This distribution of records in this report is typical of the species in California: the Reddish Egret is a rare but regular fall and winter visitor to southwestern San Diego Co., but extremely rare elsewhere in the state.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (16). Two were together in the Tijuana R. Valley, SD, 13 Oct 1991–25 Jan 1992, with one remaining through 31 Mar 1992 (GMcC; RCa, JLD, DR; 170-1991, 171-1991). One (170-1991) was treated as having returned for its second winter (same as 153-1990; Heindel and Garrett 1995), whereas the other (171-1991), a subadult that molted into adult plumage, had been present since 16 Jun 1991 (same as 88-1991; Heindel and Garrett 1995). An adult remained along the Los Angeles R., Glendale, LA, 13 Sep–30 Nov 1991 (KLG; JLD, MH†, SJ; 219-1991), the third acceptable county record. This species is scarcer in California than the other "southern herons," the Reddish Egret, Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*), and Little Blue Heron (*E. caerulea*).

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* (14). Males in alternate plumage were at Woodland, YOL, 19 Jun 1988 (MCT†, GE; 131-1988) and in Watsonville, SCZ, 2 Apr 1991 (KK; 61-1992). A female or immature male was at Arroyo Laguna, SLO, 2–13 Oct 1991 (TME†; GPS†; 230-1991).

The male at Woodland stimulated a lively debate regarding its natural occurrence, as it was nearly two months later than any previous spring record for California. The

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date span for prior spring records is 10 March (1985; a male photographed at Modoc NWR, MOD; Dunn 1988) to 30 April (1990; a male present since 27 March 1990 at Bolinas, MRN; Patten and Erickson 1994). Though records are few, their peak appears to be late March. Given the several June records for British Columbia and Alberta (Spear et al. 1988), the species' supposed rarity in captivity in North America (Todd 1979, but cf. Knapton 1994), and its breeding or summering in the Old World as far south as the Iberian Peninsula (Cramp and Simmons 1977), the majority of the Committee felt that this bird was more likely of natural occurrence.

\*TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* (70). A female at Mare I., Vallejo, SOL, 2 Feb 1991 (DA; 27-1991) was considered to be the same as one at L. Dalwigh, SOL, 21 Mar 1991 (MBG; 74-1991). An adult male returned for its fourth winter to the San Francisco, SF, and Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, area from 23 Oct 1991 to 7 Mar 1992 (SFB, LL, JM, MMR, DS†, RS, SBT; 216-1991). This bird moved among L. Merced, SF, Rodeo Lagoon, and several lakes in Golden Gate Park, SF, during its stay. Previous occurrences of this bird were 19 Nov 1988–27 Mar 1989 (257-1988), 9 Jan–26 Apr 1990 (7-1990/45-1990), 18 Jan–3 Mar 1991 (48-1991), and 29 Dec 1990 (56-1991). An adult male at L. Isabella, KER, 17–19 Jan 1992 (GH; MOC, JLD, MTH, GMcC, MAP; 52-1992) was Kern County's second; *Am. Birds* 46:315 erroneously listed the date span as 17–18 Jan 1992. A male returned to Quail L., LA, 1 Feb–8 Mar 1991 (KLG; 103-1992) and 11–17 Nov 1991 (KLG; 19-1992); see Roberson (1993) for a summary of previous dates for this bird, which was in eclipse plumage in November 1991. The second for San Diego Co., and the first widely observed, was a male at Miramar Reservoir, SD, 13 Jan–9 Feb 1992 (PAG; TC, JLD, SEF, PEL, GMcC, MAP; 19-1992). Riverside County's third record was of an adult male in San Timoteo Canyon, RIV, 27 Feb–15 Mar 1992 (GMcC, MAP†; 71-1992).

As the Tufted Duck has proved to be a regular part of California's winter avifauna, albeit a very rare one, the Committee has ceased reviewing records after the winter of 1991/1992. Roughly 80% of the records are from the coastal slope of California from Los Angeles Co. northward.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* (31). A female was seen in flight at Pt. Reyes NS (Drakes Beach), MRN, 18 Oct 1991 (JM; 215-1991). An immature male at Seal Beach Pier, ORA, 13–31 Dec 1991 later moved one-half mile north to Belmont Shores, LA, where it stayed 7–19 Jan 1992 (CTC, BED, JRG†, KLG, GMcC, CAM, MAP†; 213-1991). A photograph of the Seal Beach bird appeared in *Am. Birds* 46:315.

STELLER'S EIDER *Polysticta stelleri* (3). California's third was at Bodega Bay, SON, 27 Oct 1991–2 May 1992 (Figure 2; SBT†; JA, SFB, SC, JLD, GHF, SEF†, EDG†, FG, HG, MBG, KHa, LL, MJL†, EM, JM, TM, GMcC, SWM, DWN†, MAP†, DR, MMR, RS; 181-1991); a photograph was published in *Am. Birds* 46:144. Despite initial confusion about this bird's age and sex (most observers commenting on this issue initially felt that it was a first-winter male), its plumage changed only in becoming browner during its stay. Thus, it appears to have been a female, perhaps even an adult.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus* (32). An adult was in San Diego, SD, 20–21 Dec 1916 (Grey 1917); it was collected on the latter date and is now an uncatalogued life mount (#SDNHM; 55-1993). This record was only the third for California. An adult at L. San Marcos, SD, 21–24 Dec 1991 (JOZ; 180-1992) was considered a returning bird (same as 107-1991; Heindel and Garrett 1995).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (11). A juvenile was at Crescent City, DN, 29 Aug 1991 (ADB; GSL, BS†; 132-1991); a photograph of it appeared in *Am. Birds* 46:145. Another juvenile first seen in flight at Arcata Bottoms, HUM,

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6 Sep 1991, subsequently settled in at Mad R. Co. Park, HUM, 9–20 Sep 1991 (BBA; FJB, GSL, MHM; 188-1991).

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica* (12). An adult female showing the characters of the Siberian subspecies *L. l. baueri* was along the San Francisco Bay shoreline in Albany, ALA, 11 Aug–22 Sep 1991 (CC; SFB, JLD, GHF, SEF†, FG, HG, DGJ, GDJ, JM, SWM, SBT; 112-1991); a photograph was published in *Am. Birds* 46:145. This record is the first for Alameda Co.

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta* (4). An adult in alternate plumage was at the Wister Unit of the Imperial Wildlife Area, south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 18 May 1991 (REW†; 72-1991). As of 1991, California records formed no clear pattern, with two juveniles in September on the central coast (Morlan 1985, Dunn 1988), a November specimen in basic plumage inland (Patten and Erickson 1994), and this May bird in alternate plumage in the interior.

**\*BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *Tryngites subruficollis* (81). Up to three of unknown age were in San Jose, SCL, 25 Aug–14 Sep 1991 (PJM; 36-1991). Up to two juveniles were at Pt. Reyes NS (Spaletta Plateau), MRN, 26 Aug–12 Sep 1991 (JM, SBT, AWI; 147-1991). A bird critically scrutinized in the Tijuana R. Valley, SD, 26 Aug–7 Sep 1991 (JLD, GMcC; 122-1991) provided California with its only definite record of a fall adult. Two juveniles joined this adult 2–3 Sep 1991 (GMcC; 123-1991), and another juvenile was at Batiquitos Lagoon, SD, 8 Sep 1991 (GMcC; 124-1991).

Age determination of fall Buff-breasted Sandpipers can be difficult, although adults should have worn flight feathers. A whitish belly is a good character for juveniles, but some can show a nearly uniform buff belly and thus resemble an adult (P. Pyle in litt.). The best feature is the scapular and wing covert pattern: these feathers on fresh-plumaged juveniles have brown centers with black subterminal borders and white



Figure 2. The Steller's Eider (181-1991), apparently an adult female, that wintered at Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co., in 1991/1992. This photograph was taken 21 January 1992.

*Photo by Ed Greaves*

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fringes, whereas adults have the centers more triangular and uniform dark brown with wider buff fringes.

**JACK SNIBE** *Lymnocyptes mimimus* (2). The second record for California, and only the fifth for the Americas, was of a bird shot at Colusa NWR, COL, 2 Dec 1990 (Figure 3; RBM; #HSU; 213-1990); the specimen is now a life mount. The finder immediately recognized it was not a Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*). All other North American records are of specimens: St. Paul I., Alaska, spring 1919 (Hanna 1920); Makkovik Bay, Labrador, 24 Dec 1927 (Austin 1929); Gray Lodge, BUT, 20 Nov 1938 (McLean 1939, Roberson 1986); and Barbados, 12 Nov 1960 (Bond 1962).

**SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sanduicensis* (3). An alternate-plumaged adult was at Malibu Lagoon, LA, 20 May 1991 (BPE; 84-1991), and another in basic plumage was at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 29 Jun–12 Jul 1991 (JLD, GMcC, CAM, MAP; 85-1991). Before, 1991, California had only one record, of a bird that frequented the Elegant Tern (*S. elegans*) colony at south San Diego Bay, SD, and was occasionally seen elsewhere on the bay and at the nearby San Diego R. mouth, 11–20 May 1980 (Schaffner 1981, Luther et al. 1983), 15 May–13 Jun 1982 (Morlan 1985), 12–14 Jun 1985 (Bevier 1990), and 18 Apr–16 May 1987 (Langham 1991). The Bolsa Chica bird, which also associated with an Elegant Tern colony, might have been thought the same as at San Diego. In any event, from differences in plumage, the Malibu and Bolsa Chica birds were evidently different individuals; that consideration, combined with the time since a Sandwich Tern last occurred, led to the 1991 individuals being considered different from that sporadically recorded from 1980 to 1987.

**PARAKEET AUKLET** *Cyclorhynchus psittacula* (40). One was at 36°52.21' N, 123°53.86' W, 74 nmi. WSW of Pigeon Pt., SM, 14 Dec 1991 (SFB; JMD†, RAE, EDG†; 235-1991); photographs were published in *Am. Birds* 46:312 and 46:333. This species was formerly a regular winter visitor to California waters (Grinnell and Miller 1944); although records since the 1940s are scant, increased offshore coverage between late November and February may reveal that the species' status has changed little since that time.

**RUDDY GROUND-DOVE** *Columbina talpacoti* (38). Males were in Fremont Valley, KER, 21 Sep 1991 (BED; MTH; 199-1991) and 17–18 Oct 1991 (MTH†; 200-1991), at Baker, SBE, 25 Oct 1991 (RMcK; 58-1992), and at Iron Mountain Pumping Plant, SBE, 28 Oct 1991 (RAE; 193-1991). A female was at Stovepipe Wells, Death Valley NP, INY, 26 Oct 1991 (JLD†; 66-1992), and one of undetermined sex (see Patten and Erickson 1994) was with Inca Doves (*C. inca*) at the Bermuda Palms Trailer Park near Earp, SBE, 9 Dec 1991–10 Feb 1992 (Figure 4; JCS; GMcC, MH†, MJL, MAP, MMT†; 212-1991). Up to six were at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 29 Sep 1991–10 Jan 1992 (JLD†, GMcC, MAP; 128-1991); a photograph of four together was published in *Am. Birds* 46:150. The northernmost coastal record involved a female coming to a Goleta, SBA, feeder 5 Oct 1991–30 Jan 1992 (SEF†; JLD, PEL; 67-1992); it was first identified as a Ruddy on 30 December.

**SNOWY OWL** *Nyctea scandiaca* (69). A female taken at Walker Pt., Eureka, HUM, 1 Jan 1917 is now a life mount in the Sequoia Park gift shop in Eureka (GSL†; 175-1993). The winter of 1916/1917 saw a major incursion of this species into northwestern California (Grinnell and Miller 1944, Roberson 1986, Harris 1991).

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Figure 3. California's second Jack Snipe (213-1990), collected at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, Colusa Co., 2 December 1990.

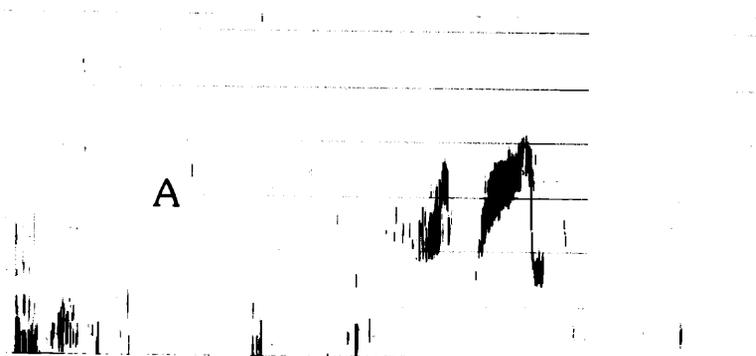
*Photo by Stanley W. Harris*



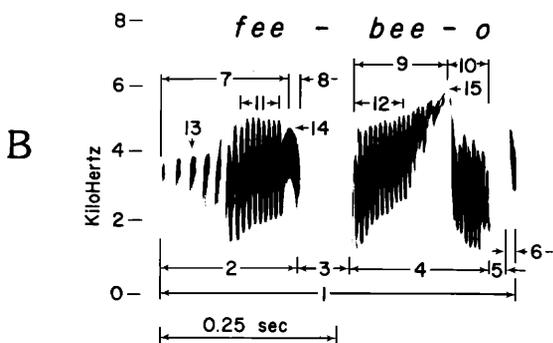
Figure 4. Ruddy Ground-Dove (212-1991), age/sex unknown, at the Bermuda Palms Trailer Park near Earp, San Bernardino Co., 21 December 1991.

*Photo by Monte M. Taylor*

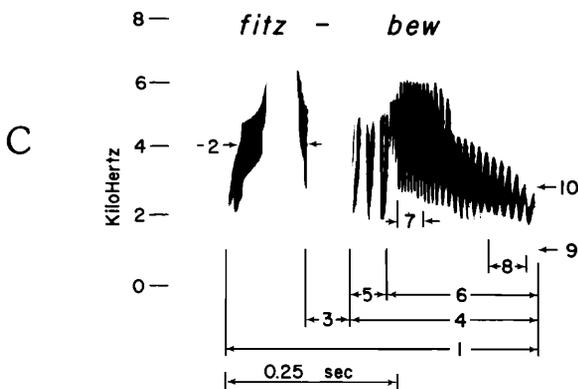
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A



B



C

Figure 5. (A) Sonogram of California's first Alder Flycatcher (185-1991), recorded on the South Fork Kern River Preserve, Kern Co., 11 July 1991. Prepared by Marlene Zuk from a recording by Mary Whitfield. (B) Sonogram of an Alder Flycatcher from Kroodsmma (1984). (C) Sonogram of a Willow Flycatcher from Kroodsmma (1984).

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GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (28). Single individuals in Huntington Beach, ORA, 11 Sep 1991 (BED; 201-1991) and at Newport Beach, ORA, 14 Sep 1991 (BED; DRW; 202-1991) arrived earlier than any previous fall record of this species, as none had been found earlier than 26 September (1982; Montaña de Oro SP, SLO; Morlan 1985). One returned for its fifth winter to the San Diego Zoo, SD, 7 Nov 1991–29 Mar 1992 (DH, GMcC; 63-1992); this bird was accepted as the same one present here 20 Feb–30 Mar 1988, 6 Dec 1988–15 Feb 1989 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992), and 16 Dec 1989–1 Mar 1990 (Patten and Erickson 1994). A different bird was nearby in Balboa Park, SD, 14 Dec 1991 through "the end of February" 1992 (GMcC; 107-1992).

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* (1). A singing male at the South Fork Kern River Preserve, KER, 11 Jul 1991 (Figure 5; SAL, MW§; 185-1991) provided the first acceptable record for California; this bird may have been present since 9 July. Sonograms prepared from the tape recording matched well published Alder Flycatcher sonograms appearing in Stein (1963), Zink and Fall (1981), and especially Kroodsma (1984), and differed from sonograms of various Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*) song types included in those same papers. Given the extreme difficulty in morphological separation of Alder and Willow flycatchers (Stein 1963, Hussell 1990, Seutin 1991), some members expressed reservations about the acceptability of this record. Indeed, the subspecies of the Willow Flycatcher are morphologically more different from one another than the Willow is from the Alder (Browning 1993); nevertheless, the tape-recorded song, typical-looking sonograms, and endorsement of the record by Donald E. Kroodsma led to the addition of this species to the California list.



Figure 6. Immature Sprague's Pipit (39-1992) in the Sepulveda Basin, Los Angeles Co., 20 October 1991.

Photo by Lawrence Sansone

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Figure 7. Yellow-throated Vireo (209-1991) netted at Mojave Narrows Regional Park, San Bernardino Co., 22 September 1991.

*Photo by Stephen J. Myers*



Figure 8. California's first, and North America's fourth, Little Bunting (145-1991), photographed on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., 23 October 1991.

*Photo by Sue Yee*

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Alder Flycatchers apparently west of their normal migratory routes have been recorded about ten times in Colorado (Andrews and Righter 1992) and once (28 May 1972 at Bowdoin NWR) in Montana (Skaar et al. 1985). Despite Larrison's (1981) claims, this species is not a regular migrant along the Washington/Idaho border, as it is unrecorded in either state (DeSante and Pyle 1986). Farther west, a singing Alder Flycatcher was reported in southwestern British Columbia 17 June 1984, and another was reported from the Vancouver area in 1981 (*Am. Birds* 38:1055). There are at least two reports of singing birds at Malheur NWR, Oregon, that have been accepted as Alder Flycatchers by the Oregon Bird Records Committee (Schmidt 1989), although controversy surrounds these reports (Gilligan et al. 1994, Summers 1994) and the Alder Flycatcher will likely be deleted from the Oregon state list (Crabtree 1995). There is a tentative report of this species from the Springerville area of east-central Arizona 19 May 1984 (*Am. Birds* 38:943). The California record represents the southwesternmost record of a species that, given its breeding range and other extralimital records, may be a scarce but regular vagrant to the state. Until identification criteria are better understood, determining the true status of the Alder Flycatcher in California remains a significant challenge.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (18). A silent individual was at Natural Bridges SP, SCZ, 1–4 Dec 1990 (SA; 60-1992). Calling birds were in El Granada, SM, 25–26 Nov 1991 (BSa; CDB§, RST; 22-1992) and Santa Ana, ORA, 12 Dec 1991–4 Apr 1992 (BED, JLD, MTH†, CAM†, GMcC, MAP, SBT†; 3-1992). These three records fit the well-established late fall/winter pattern of vagrancy shown in past records: all Dusky-capped Flycatchers have occurred between early November and early March, with a few wintering individuals staying as late as mid-May.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (35). One at Mojave Narrows Regional Park, SBE, 6–7 Oct 1991 (SJM; BED, MAP†; 137-1991) provided only the third acceptable inland record for the state, following a specimen from Harper Dry L., SBE, 4 Sep 1988 and one photographed at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 23–27 Sep 1989 (Patten and Erickson 1994).

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris* (8). One at Huntington Beach, ORA, 13 Sep 1991 (BED; 203-1991) was a county first, and one in San Pedro, LA, 20 Oct 1991 (EM; 187-1991) was the second for that county. All California records are from the immediate coast in September and October, with these two records establishing the early and late dates.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (10). An adult was in Seal Beach, ORA, 29 Oct 1991–14 Mar 1992 (TLW; BED, JLD†, JRG†, KLG, CAM†, GMcC, JEP, DRW; 204-1991). One near Peters Canyon, Tustin, ORA, 8 Dec 1991–25 Jan 1992 returned for its 10th winter (BED, JLD, BHu, GMcC, JW, MW; 68-1992). A first-winter male at Lone Pine, INY, 24 Dec 1991–1 Apr 1992 (MS; JHe†, TH, GMcC, MAP; 92-1992) survived night-time temperatures to  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $18^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), apparently by eating bees and roosting near an orchid greenhouse. A photograph of this hardy bird, a county first, was published in *Am. Birds* 46:316.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus* (72). One was near the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, RIV, 7 Jul 1991 (CB, SGM; 72-1992). A probable immature male was at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 21–22 Sep 1991 (MAP; KAR; 116-1991), and probable adult males were at San Joaquin Marsh, ORA, 14 Oct–12 Nov 1991 (BED, JRG†, SGM, DRW; 205-1991) and in Salinas, MTY, 25 Oct–2 Nov 1991 (MMR, DR, LT, SBT†, BJW†; 179-1991).

BLUE JAY *Cyanocitta cristata* (9). One collected on the campus of California State University, Chico, BUT, 24 Apr 1950 (#CSUC 921; 78-1990) was the first for

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California (McCaskie 1970). This record met with some resistance because of the poor condition of the specimen (interpreted initially as potential evidence of captivity), the date (most accepted California records fall between mid-October and early March), and the record's well pre-dating the late-1970s "invasion" of Blue Jays into the Pacific Northwest. Members Bailey and Garrett assured the Committee that the specimen's condition was consistent with shot and post-mortem insect damage. Furthermore, a Blue Jay that wintered in Mill Creek Canyon in 1963/1964 remained until 20 April, so the 24 April date was not considered unreasonable. In the end, the bird's preceding the "invasion," which involved relatively few individuals (Roberson 1980), was not enough to sway the majority of the Committee to question this bird's natural occurrence. Following circulation, Kenneth C. Parkes examined this specimen to determine the subspecies. It proved to be a first-winter *C. c. bromia*, the race occurring in northwestern and north-central North America, and the expected race in California, lending credence to the conclusion that this bird occurred in California naturally.

SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus platensis* (4). The first for southern California was in Huntington Beach, ORA, 15–17 Oct 1991 (JEP; NBB, RCa, BED, RAE, KLG, MTH, GMcC, BO, MAP, DRW; 143-1991). Three of the four records fall between mid-October and early November; the other was of a bird singing on territory in July.

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens* (8). One at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 19–24 Sep 1991 (RAE; MOC, RCa, BED, JLD†, SEF†, MTH†, GMcC, MAP, DR; 118-1991) was the fourth for southern California; a photograph was published in *Am. Birds* 46:150. After stunning itself on a window 19 September, the bird was briefly held by Erickson and Daniels but escaped, losing some of its rectrices (#LACM 108378). Most Committee members felt the bird resembled the duller western subspecies *C. f. salicicolus*; Phillips (1991) recognized five subspecies, not just *salicicolus* and nominate *fuscescens*.

GRAY CATBIRD *Dumetella carolinensis* (61). One in Lodi, SJ, 1–9 Jan 1954 (VRJ; 108-1990), mentioned by Johnson (1964), is the earliest the Committee has accepted for California, although an 1884 specimen (Townsend 1885) from SE Farallon I. is currently under review. One was banded and measured on SE Farallon I., SF, 23 Jun 1991 (JR; 150-1991), a pile of Gray Catbird feathers [off of which a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) was flushed] was found there 1 Oct 1991 (PP, #CAS 84896; 151-1991), and an immature, probably a male, was banded and measured there 22 Oct–2 Nov 1991 (DAS†; PP; 9-1992). Single birds were at Malibu Lagoon, LA, 5–8 Oct 1991 (JLB, NBB, MH†; 194-1991), Pt. Reyes NS (Mendoza), MRN, 17 Oct 1991 (DGY; 80-1992), Nipton, SBE, 18 Oct 1991 (RLM; 57-1992), and Scotty's Castle, Death Valley NP, INY, 3 Nov 1991 (RFC; 176-1991). One found dead at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 17 Nov 1991 (#SDNHM 47870; 2-1992) struck a window at the visitor center. The skeleton and certain diagnostic rectrices, primaries, crissum, and crown feathers were preserved from the partially decomposed corpse, which was recovered 23 Nov 1991 after being left for six days lying at the base of the window!

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* (9). An immature was seen and heard on SE Farallon I., SF, 21 Sep 1991 (PP; 152-1991). All previous California records are for between 4 and 19 September, so this record only slightly expands that window.

\*RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* (102). The fall of 1991 provided the most spectacular numbers of this species in recorded history, as perhaps hundreds of individuals passed through the State. In part as a result of this incursion, the CBRC removed this species from the Review List, reviewing records only through 1991.

Many records involve small flocks, but only eight individuals have been found inland, with six of these occurring during the flight of 1991: Kern County's first were

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at China L. NWC, KER, 20 Sep 1991 (MTH; 206-1991) and California City, KER, 22 Sep 1991 (MTH; MOC, GMcC; 125-1991). Single birds at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 21 Sep 1991 (MAP; KAR; 115-1991), 4-5 Oct 1991 (JLD†, GMcC, MAP†; 133-1991), and 11-24 Oct 1991 (MAP; TH†, GMcC; 140-1991), and at nearby Cow Creek, Death Valley NP, INY, 23 Sep 1991 (JLD†; GMcC; 127-1991), rounded out the inland records. Single Red-throated Pipits at Furnace Creek Ranch 5 Oct 1985 (Roberson 1993) and 19-20 Sep 1987 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992) were the only ones previously found inland.

Single individuals were at Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 20 Sep 1991 (JLD; 69-1992) and 3 Oct 1991 (JM; 221-1991). Also on Pt. Reyes, up to eight were seen between 6 and 14 Oct at "Drake's Corner" (SFB, CDB§, BDP, JM, SWM, RS, SBT; 144-1991). Six were at Bolinas, MRN, 29-30 Sep 1991 (RA, GHF, KHa, JM; 222-1991). One bird was found on SE Farallon I., SF, 21-22 Sep 1991 (PP†; 153A-1991); a second bird joined it on 22 Sep (PP; 153B-1991). Singles were there 26 Sep 1991 (PP; 154-1991) and 30 Sep 1991 (PP; 155-1991), up to two were there 10-12 Oct 1991 (JCS; DAS; 7-1992), two were there 17 Oct 1991 (DAS; 11-1992), and up to two were there 21-22 Oct 1991 (DAS; 12-1992). Two at Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, 22-24 Sep 1991 (RJR; JM; 220-1991) provided a first county record, as did single birds at Coyote Creek Riparian Station, SCL, 16-18 Oct 1991 (SBT; 148-1991) and at Pigeon Pt., SM, 29 Sep-3 Oct 1991 (RST; BS; 21-1992) was a county first. Up to four were at Moss Landing, MTY, 4-20 Oct 1991 (PJM, DR, SBT; 178-1991); *Am. Birds* 46:146 stated that up to eight birds were present, but the Committee agreed that the documentation did not support acceptance of more than four. One was at the Salinas Sewage Ponds, MTY, 7 Oct 1991 (BHG; 25-1992).

One was near Santa Maria, SBA, 20-26 Oct 1991 (KH; 223-1991). One in Goleta, SBA, 6 Oct 1991 (CDB; 233-1991) was followed by another there 27-28 Oct 1991 (RJ, PEL; 224-1991). One was near Oxnard, VEN, 26 Oct 1991 (FH; 226-1991). An immature was in Harbor City, LA, 28 Sep 1991 (MH†; 37-1992); a color photograph of this bird appeared in *Am. Birds* 46:166. Two were together at Sepulveda Basin, LA, 16-20 Oct 1991 (RB, BED; 207-1991). Relatively large numbers were in the Tijuana R. Valley, SD, with a minimum of 12 near Hollister Ave. 6-16 Oct 1991 (JLD, GMcC; 173A-1991) and a minimum of 15 at the Dairy Mart Road sod fields 18 Oct-11 Nov 1991 (JLD, GMcC; 173B-1991). These flocks are the largest recorded in California, barely surpassing the flocks of 10-12 located in this same valley during the falls of 1964, 1966, and 1967 (McCaskie 1966, Dunn 1988).

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** *Anthus spragueii* (22). An immature was in the Sepulveda Basin, LA, 20 Oct 1991 (Figure 6; LS†; 39-1992). Slightly over half of the California records are of coastal vagrants, such as this one, between late September and mid-November.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** *Vireo flavifrons* (40). One was banded and measured at Mojave Narrows Regional Park, SBE, 22 Sep 1991 (Figure 7; SJM†; 209-1991), giving California only its third inland fall record; the others were at Mono L., MNO, 26 Aug 1987 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992) and at Panamint Springs, INY, 13-14 Oct 1990 (Heindel and Garrett 1995).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO** *Vireo philadelphicus* (83). Single birds at Stinson Beach, MRN, 9 Oct 1991 (KHa; 61-1993) and at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 25-27 Nov 1991 (DLR; 191-1991) fit within the established pattern of fall vagrancy in coastal California (76% of accepted records).

**YELLOW-GREEN VIREO** *Vireo flavoviridis* (31). One was in Costa Mesa, ORA, 18 Oct 1990 (JEP; JRG; 40-1991), one was seen briefly on Pt. Loma, SD, 29 Sep

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1991 (REW; 41-1992), and one was banded and measured at Palomarin, MRN, 11 Oct 1991 (DLR†); a photograph of the last appeared in *Am. Birds* 46:146. All but one of the accepted state records have been from the immediate coast from 8 September to 30 October; the exception was of one collected at Harper Dry L., SBE, 2 Oct 1988 (Patten and Erickson 1994).

**GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** *Vermivora chrysoptera* (44). A male was in Sunset Heights Park, SF, 21 Sep 1991 (SFB; HG, JM, SWM, SBT; 121-1991). Fall records for California slightly exceed those for spring.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** *Dendroica dominica* (63). One showing the characters of the nominate subspecies remained at Pt. Reyes NS (Mendoza), MRN, 10-16 Sep 1991 (FGB; GHF, LL, JMcC†, JM, SWM, BDP, RS, LT, SBT; 119-1991). Although we have now had several reports (e.g., Craig 1972), there are still no California specimens of yellow-lored, large-billed birds, so the weakly differentiated (and unlikely to occur), *D. d. stoddardi* cannot be eliminated. More expected was one apparent *D. d. albilora* at California City, KER, 22-24 Sep 1991 (JLD, MTH†, GMcC; 126-1991); almost all well-studied Yellow-throated Warblers in California are white-lored.

**GRACE'S WARBLER** *Dendroica graciae* (27). A probable first-year female was on Pt. Loma, SD, 14 Sep 1991 (DWA; REW; 42-1992). A male returned for its second winter in Montecito, SBA, 6 Oct 1991-17 Feb 1992 (HR; PEL, CAM; 227-1991); it was present the previous winter from 23 Sep 1990 to 25 Feb 1991 (Heindel and Garrett 1995).

**PINE WARBLER** *Dendroica pinus* (44). Roger Higson collected a first-year female in his yard 1.5 mi. west of Westmorland, IMP, 13 Oct 1991 (#SDNHM 47864; 50-1992); this record is only the third for interior California. An immature male was on Pt. Loma, SD, 19-20 Oct 1991 (RAE; SGM; 195-1991). An immature female wintered at Laguna Beach, ORA, 24 Nov 1991-15 Mar 1992 (RAE; BED, JLD†, MTH†, TH†, CAM, GMcC, MAP, SBT†; 196-1991), and another immature female was in Santa Barbara, SBA, 12-16 Dec 1991 (PEL; 88-1992). An apparent immature male was in Goleta, SBA, 26 Dec 1991-16 Feb 1992 (SEF; DD†, JAJ, PEL, CAM; 89-1992). As noted by Patten and Erickson (1994), the rate of California records continues to rise.

**\*PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** *Protonotaria citrea* (94). One was on Pt. Loma, SD, 10 Oct 1980 (DPa; 232-1988). Records of this species after 1989 are no longer reviewed by the CBRC.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** *Helmitheros vermivorus* (60). Single individuals were in Redondo Beach, LA, 28 Sep-10 Oct 1991 (MH†, DLM; 45-1992) and on Pt. Loma, SD, 11 Oct 1991 (PAG; 44-1992).

**\*KENTUCKY WARBLER** *Oporornis formosus* (62). One of unknown sex was in Lee Vining, MNO, 27-28 May 1991 (MF; 94-1992), a male was in Morongo Valley, SBE, 25 Aug-2 Sep 1991 (MAP; DLD, GMcC; 113-1991), and a female was on SE Farallon I., SF, 15 Sep 1991 (PP; 158-1991). Records of the species after 1994 are no longer reviewed by the CBRC.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** *Oporornis agilis* (65). SE Farallon I., SF, is the site for this species in California, with 52% of the accepted state records. Three more were there in September 1991: an immature male 7 Sep (PP†; 159-1991), a probable immature female 14-15 Sep (PP; 160-1991), and one of unknown age and sex 14 Sep 1991 (PP; 161-1991). The first of these was measured and banded. One banded, measured, and photographed at Coyote Creek Riparian Station, SCL, 25 Sep 1991 (RCo, MR†; SBT; 236-1991) was the only one found on the mainland this same year.

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An immature at Pt. Reyes NS (fish docks), MRN, 26 Sep 1983 (SNGH; 80-1993) was considered the same as an immature at the nearby lighthouse that same day (74-1983; Roberson 1986). Given that numerous distinctively plumaged vagrants over the years have been seen at the point then later at the fish docks (R. Stallcup, *vide* P. Pyle), the Committee felt it most prudent to treat these birds as the same.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (80). Single birds were at Palomarin, MRN, 10 Sep 1991 (†DLR; 82-1992), in Goleta, SBA, 13 Sep 1991 (SEF; PEL; 228-1991), and at Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 14-16 Sep 1991 (DS; JM, SWM, BDP, RS; 120-1991); the first of these, an immature female, was banded, measured, and photographed in hand. Four were on SE Farallon I., SF, during fall 1991: an immature, apparently a male, 7 Sep (PP; 162-1991), an immature female banded and measured 15-16 Sep (PP†; 163-1991), an immature, probably a female, 20-21 Sep (PP; 164-1991), and an immature banded and measured 6 Oct (JCSt; 6-1992).

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (81). A singing male was in Hayward, ALA, 30 Jun 1991 (D&DH†; 167-1991). A first-year male was at Stovepipe Wells, INY, 11 Oct 1991 (BED; GMcC, MAP†; 141-1991). Two females were on Pt. Loma, SD: one remained from 20 to 26 Oct 1991 (SGM; JLD, GMcC, BJR†; 172-1991), and the second, a probable immature, was seen on 3 Nov 1991 (REW; 46-1992). A first-year male was banded and measured on SE Farallon I., SF, 22-24 Oct 1991 (DAS†; 16-1992), and another first-year male was along the Los Angeles R., Glendale, LA, 15 Nov 1991 (KLG; 18-1992). Nearly two-thirds of the accepted California records are from the coastal slope in fall, but there are only 15 records from northern California.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (38). A first-year female was banded and measured on SE Farallon I., SF, 15 Sep 1991 (PP†; 165-1991), and another first-year bird was at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 21 Sep 1991 (MAP; KAR; 117-1991). Given the recently described supplemental molt in this species, sexing fall vagrants can be a challenge, as immatures are similar regardless of sex (Thompson 1992). Nevertheless, both of these birds had gray heads, indicating immaturity.

BAIRD'S SPARROW *Ammodramus bairdii* (3). A juvenile was on SE Farallon I., SF, 7 Sep 1991 (PP†; 166-1991); although the photographs were not by themselves diagnostic, the excellent written details led to unanimous acceptance of this record. Previous records are from SE Farallon I. 28 Sep 1969 (Roberson 1986) and Pt. Loma, SD, 5-10 Oct 1981 (Binford 1985). See Pyle and Sibley (1992) for a brief account of the juvenal plumage of this species.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (22). An immature female was collected at Harper Dry L., SBE, 6 Jan 1991 (#SBCM 52796; 56-1992). Single birds were at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 5 Oct 1991 (JLD; GMcC, MAP; 134-1991) and 12-16 Oct 1991 (MAP†; BED, TH†, GMcC; 142-1991). Most *Ammodramus* sparrows migrate after completing their postjuvinal molt and thus look similar to adults during their first fall (Pyle and Sibley 1992). As a result, the ages of the Furnace Creek birds are unknown, although the second bird was considerably brighter than the first.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius pictus* (2). California's second was at Pt. Reyes NS (Drake's Corner), MRN, 6-8 Oct 1991 (GHR; GHF, JM, RS, SBT; 146-1991). This bright, strongly marked bird was apparently an adult male because immature males lack the bold face pattern described on this individual. An immature male at Moss Landing, MTY, 13-18 Sep 1990 is the only other recorded in California (Patten and Erickson 1994).

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Figure 9. Bronzed Common Grackle (8-1992) at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Park, Inyo Co., 17 October 1991.

*Photo by Gjon Hazard*



Figure 10. California's fifth Streak-backed Oriole, and the first to have its photograph published, at the Gene Pumping Plant near Parker Dam, San Bernardino Co., December 1991.

*Photo by B. J. Rose*

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LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* (1). The first of its species to be recorded in North America south of Alaska was on Pt. Loma, SD, 21–24 Oct 1991 (Figure 8; GMcC, REW†; RCa, BED, JLD, RAE, KLG, RAH, CAM, MAP, EEP, DR, BJR†, SY†; 145-1991). Excellent photographs (a color one appeared in *Am. Birds* 46:169) and descriptions documented one of the least expected species ever found in California. McCaskie (1993) provided an account and summarized other North American occurrences. See Wallace (1980), Harris et al. (1989), and Bradshaw (1991) for summaries of identification criteria.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (49). Five were on SE Farallon I., SF, in fall 1991: a first-year female 26–27 Oct (PP†, DAS; 13-1992), a second, brighter individual with a damaged wing 26–28 Oct (PP, DAS; 14-1992), and three more on 28 Oct (PP, DAS; 15-1992). A male was at Fort Funston, SF, 27–30 Oct 1991 (HG, LL, JM, SWM, MMR; 189-1991), and an immature male was on Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 6–12 Nov 1991 (WEH†, GMcC, JM, MAP†; 183-1991). Two of undetermined age and sex were at Crescent City, DN, 5–6 Nov 1991 (ADB†; 64-1993).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (27). Single individuals were at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 17 Oct 1991 (Figure 9; JCS; GH†; 8-1992) and 15 Nov 1991 (JHe, TH†; 214-1991). Both birds were well photographed, with a photo of the latter appearing in *Am. Birds* 46:152. As with all previous California Common Grackles identified to subspecies, these birds looked like the western subspecies *Q. q. versicolor*, the Bronzed Grackle.

STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE *Icterus pustulatus* (5). An immature male or adult female was at the Gene Pumping Plant near Parker Dam, SBE, 9–18 Dec 1991 (Figure 10; JCS; GMcC, MAP, BJR†; 211-1991). Previous accepted records are from L. Murray, SD, 1 May 1931 (Huey 1931, Dunn 1988), the Tijuana R. Valley, SD, 22 Sep 1962 (Roberson 1993), Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 6 Nov–21 Dec 1977 (Luther et al. 1979), and La Jolla, SD, 10 Dec 1984–29 Apr 1985 (Dunn 1988). This species is occurring with increasing frequency in southeastern Arizona and has recently bred along the San Pedro R. near Dudleyville (Corman and Monson 1995).

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* (5). One was at Ferndale Bottoms, HUM, 29 Dec 1991–28 Feb 1992 (FJB, TL; BBA, SWH, GKG, GSL, LPL, MHM, DLR, JR; 32-1992). All California records have been from late November to mid-March. Previous occurrences were at Crescent City, DN, 5 Feb–24 Mar 1984 (Roberson 1986), Arcata, HUM, 20 Nov 1985, Chico, BUT, 11–19 Feb 1986 (Bevier 1990), and Santa Cruz, SCZ, 15 Dec 1990–16 Feb 1991 (Heindel and Garrett 1995).

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* (5). One, probably a female, was at Tule L. NWR, SIS, 23–25 Nov 1991 (KTS; 190-1991). Aside from influxes to northeastern California during the winters of 1899/1900 (Willard 1902, Grinnell and Miller 1944, Roberson 1986) and 1985/1986 (Bevier 1990), the only other occurrence for California was of an unseasonal bird taken at Manila, HUM, 22 May 1969 (Roberson 1993).

## SUPPLEMENTAL LIST

As discussed by Patten and Erickson (1994), the Committee has adopted a Supplemental List for species supported by records for which natural occurrence is uncertain. This list was designed for species for which evidence for a determination regarding human-aided passage vs. natural occurrence is insufficient. Records of species not accepted as “natural

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occurrence questionable” but not yet on the main list of California birds are brought to an annual meeting for discussion; a simple majority vote will place the species on the Supplemental List. Placement of the Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrus furcatus*) and Oriental Greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*) on the Supplemental List was discussed by Heindel and Garrett (1995) and Patten and Erickson (1994), respectively. As reported by Small (1994), the Committee placed the Gray Silky-Flycatcher (*Ptilogonys cinereus*) on the Supplemental List in 1993 but removed it again in 1995 because the possibility of escaped birds was felt to be too high. Other recent Supplemental List additions, and the records that support those additions, follow.

**FALCATED TEAL** *Anas falcata*. A male was at Upper Newport Bay, ORA, 2 Jan–21 Feb 1969 (128-1986; Roberson 1993). Note that the male reported at San Francisco, SF, 5 Apr–21 May 1953 (458-1986; Roberson 1993) was not accepted because of questionable identification and is thus not eligible for the Supplemental List.

**CRESTED CARACARA** *Polyborus plancus*. An adult was photographed at Mono Lake, MNO, 13 Sep–16 Oct 1987 (267-1987; Roberson 1993). Additional records of the Crested Caracara in California, including those for the Shasta Valley, SHA, and Ft. Dick, DN, discussed by Roberson (1993), were not considered among those supporting the species' placement on the Supplemental List.

Additional species considered but not placed on the Supplemental List were the Jackass Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*), Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*), Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Spectacled Eider (*Somateria fischeri*), Kittlitz's Plover (*Charadrius pecuarius*), Purplish-backed Jay (*Cyanocorax beecheyi*), Yellow Grosbeak (*Phaeucticus chrysopheplus*), White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*), and Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*).

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable

**ARCTIC LOON** *Gavia arctica*. A loon distantly seen near the mouth of Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 28 May 1992 (143-1992) was identified solely by its white flank patches; most Committee members were unwilling to accept such a record without additional detail on structure, size, presence or absence of chin and vent straps, and nape coloration. See Records Accepted for more information about this species.

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** *Gavia adamsii*. One was reported at Pt. Richmond, CC, 23 or 24 Mar 1991 (217-1991); documentation was not sufficient to eliminate the Common Loon (*G. immer*).

**TOWNSEND'S SHEARWATER** *Puffinus auricularis*. One was reported 2–3 mi. offshore from Montaña de Oro SP, SLO, 11 Aug 1991 (114-1991). The Committee felt the sighting was too brief, and some marks were incorrect for Townsend's. Observers are cautioned to consider variation in the Black-vented Shearwater (*P. opisthomelas*), a small percentage of which show white flank patches (Howell et al. 1994). Furthermore, the CBRC is now reviewing a dozen records of putative Manx Shearwaters (*P. puffinus*), a species that also shows white flank patches (Howell et al. 1994); indeed, some of these apparent Manx Shearwaters were initially identified as Townsend's Shearwaters.

**BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** *Oceanodroma castro*. One was reported 160 nmi. SW of San Nicolas I., VEN (30° 59.8' N, 121° 16.9' W), 30 Sep 1991

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### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

(103-1993; *Am. Birds* 46:148). Although the observer is experienced with seabirds, the documentation was scant for so contentious an identification, as proposed field criteria for separating this species from the very similar Leach's Storm-Petrel (*O. leucorhoa*) remain poorly understood. There is only one accepted record for California (McCaskie 1990), but that record is currently being reassessed by the Committee (Heindel and Garrett 1995).

**BROWN BOOBY** *Sula leucogaster*. A booby observed from a boat returning to Los Angeles, LA, from Santa Barbara I., SBA, 15 Sep 1990 (1-1993) was not adequately described to be identified to species.

**TRICOLORED HERON** *Egretta tricolor*. An adult reported from Finney L., IMP, 26 May 1991 (98-1991) was said to have both a red eye and a yellow bill, an unlikely combination, as Tricolored Herons have red irides only when in heightened breeding condition, when their bills are deep blue.

**TRUMPETER SWAN** *Cygnus buccinator*. Adults were reported at Goose L., MOD, 28 Apr 1991 (20-1992) and Tule L. NWR, MOD, 24 Dec 1991 (218-1992). Field identification of swans, even the adult Trumpeter Swan versus Whistling Swan (*C. columbianus columbianus*), remains one of the most underrated and intractable problems in North America; see Patten and Heindel (1994) for a treatment of this issue.

**EMPEROR GOOSE** *Chen canagica*. A report of two at Limantour Estero, Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 12-29 Dec 1968 (94-1989) lacked enough documentation for a minority of the Committee. These birds were said to have been photographed; if anyone can supply photographs, the Committee would be eager to reconsider this record. An immature goose at Tule L., SIS, 21 Oct-11 Nov 1991 (198-1991) exhibited white undertail coverts, depicted in a drawing and in written field notes. This feature lies outside the known variation of the Emperor Goose (Palmer 1976).

**TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*. A male *Aythya* at the mouth of the San Luis Rey River, Oceanside, SD, 16 Feb—"end of period" (= 29 Feb; 129-1992; *Am. Birds* 46:314) 1992 had a finely barred mantle and a short tuft, so it was considered to be a hybrid Tufted Duck × scaup. A reported male at Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, 4 Jul-15 Aug 1990 (193-1990; *Am. Birds* 46:144) was more problematic. Much of the description of the bird suggested that the identification was correct, but the gray wash to the flanks, short wing stripe, and consistently short tuft during the bird's six-week stay led the majority of Committee members to question whether this bird was a pure Tufted Duck. See Sibley (1994) for more information about hybrid Tufted Ducks.

Documentation supporting the report of a male at Richardson's Bay, MRN, 6 Mar 1990 (217-1990) was only the secondhand comment that the observer "said it had a long tuft." This bird was considered acceptable by a minority of the Committee, who felt it to represent a returning individual; the CBRC had previously accepted a male at this locality 19 Jan 1987 (155-1987; Langham 1991).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** *Ictinia mississippiensis*. One was reported at Shoreline Park, Mt. View, SCL, 12 May 1991 (83-1991). Details were not sufficient to rule out the Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). A report of one at Pinnacles NM, SBT, 12 May 1991 (82-1991) was only narrowly rejected on its fourth circulation; concerns centered around the incomplete description of the tail and wing pattern. These records, both published in *Am. Birds* 45:492, raised additional concerns about the early date and, because of the season, the coastal locations (most accepted spring are from late May to early June from the interior).

## CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus*. One was reported at L. Evans, Buena Vista Recreation Area, KER, in "April or May" 1987 (67-1993). This report, the third in the past five years, highlights the need for thorough documentation supporting reports of this species and for a clear understanding of identification criteria. An adult at Thousand Palms Oasis, RIV, 13 April 1985 (Daniels et al. 1989) remains the only one accepted for California.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*. The description of a *Buteo* reported at Salton Sea NWR, IMP, 5 Nov 1991 (35-1992) did not eliminate other dark raptors. One reported by an excellent observer 11 km WSW of Brawley, IMP, 31 Dec 1991 (125-1992; *Am. Birds* 46:315) was acknowledged by all members to be likely correct but was not accepted because of ambiguous details (resulting from the distant observation) that did not clearly eliminate a dark-morph Ferruginous Hawk (*B. regalís*). There remain no accepted winter records for the interior.

YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. A rail flushed from a pond on the Samoa Peninsula, HUM, 10 Feb 1991 (57-1991) was described as pale yellow or sandy overall, too pale for a Yellow Rail. White patches were seen on the secondaries, but the observers themselves questioned whether light conditions could have contributed to this impression.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. One was tentatively identified as it flew over Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 14 Sep 1991 (131-1991). Field identification rested on the yellowlegs-like shape and plover-like call-note, but observed details were not sufficient for anyone on the Committee to accept so rare a species.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus*. An intriguing report of one along the Santa Ynez R. in Lompoc, SBA, 10 Oct 1991 (149-1991) was published in *Am. Birds* (46:149). Bobbing behavior and a long upturned bill were described, but the bird's size and plumage pattern were unclear. The bird's wading in a shallow pool rather than dashing about on bare ground led to further concerns. There remains but one record of this species for California, of an adult studied and photographed by many at Carmel SB, MTY, 28 Aug-23 Sep 1988 (Wilson and Harriman 1989).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*. A godwit at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 28 Aug 1991 (184-1991; *Am. Birds* 46:144) was felt to be too distant from the observer for a bleached Marbled Godwit (*L. fedoa*) to be eliminated.

RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*. A juvenile was reported at Princeton Marsh, SM, 23 Sep 1991 (130-1991). The documentation was not detailed enough to eliminate a short-billed juvenile male Western Sandpiper (*C. mauri*), a bright juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper (*C. pusilla*), or a juvenile Little Stint (*C. minuta*). Observers are urged to document potential Palearctic stints with extreme caution and exhaustive detail, and to be well versed in the variation possible in the Western and Semipalmated sandpipers and the extreme similarity of Rufous-necked and Little stints. See Jonsson and Grant (1984), Hayman et al. (1986), Veit and Jonsson (1987), and Paulson (1993) for more information.

LONG-TOED STINT *Calidris subminuta*. One reported near Palmdale, LA, 21-24 Sep 1991 (138-1991) proved to be a Least Sandpiper (*C. minutilla*) upon examination of a videotape and photographs. A juvenile at Salinas, MTY, 29 Aug-2 Sep 1988 remains the sole Long-toed Stint accepted for California (Patten and Daniels 1991).

THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia*. The description of a murre at Monterey, MTY, 24 Nov 1991 (218-1991) was felt by most Committee members to better fit a basic-plumaged Common Murre (*U. aalge*).

## CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

**RUDDY GROUND-DOVE** *Columbina talpacoti*. A female reported at the Wister Unit of the Imperial Wildlife Area, south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 20 Apr 1991 (95-1991) was at a location where the Common Ground-Dove (*C. passerina*) is common; furthermore, the bird was not convincingly described for such a date, as fall and winter records predominate.

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** *Cynanthus latirostris*. A male hummingbird near Imperial Beach, SD, 4 May 1991 (94-1991) was published as this species (*Am. Birds* 46:496). The description sounded interesting, but the lack of white undertail coverts eliminated the Broad-billed Hummingbird.

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** *Contopus virens*. One was reported in Rancho San Carlos, MTY, 5 May 1991 (116-1992). The Committee felt that the described calls did not eliminate the Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*). There are but two accepted California records, of one banded, measured, and photographed in hand on SE Farallon I., SF, 15 Jun 1975 (Luther 1980) and a singing male photographed and tape-recorded at San Joaquin City, SJ, 18 Aug-17 Sep 1983 (Morlan 1985).

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax alnorum*. In response to a plea from Pyle and McCaskie (1992), a number of records of potential Alder Flycatchers have been recently submitted to the Committee. Of the three reported here, one at Pt. Reyes NS (lighthouse), MRN, 16 Jun 1988 (99-1993) was heard once to sing an Alder-type song but was otherwise silent. As songs were not heard repeatedly, this record was unanimously rejected by the Committee, although most members acknowledged that the bird could have been an Alder Flycatcher. The other two reports were of "Traill's" Flycatchers giving calls normally attributed only to the Alder Flycatcher: one was among breeding Willow Flycatchers along the San Luis Rey R. near L. Henshaw, SD, 12 Jun 1988 (274-1992) and one was at Pt. Reyes NS (New Willows), MRN, 9 Sep 1988 (100-1993); the former record was published in *Am. Birds* 42:1341. Both of these birds were described as looking essentially like Willow Flycatchers (*E. traillii*), but each repeatedly gave *peep* call notes. Although these calls have been considered or suggested diagnostic of the Alder by a number of authors (LeGrand 1979, Lehman 1985, Whitney and Kaufman 1986, Kaufman 1990), call-note variation within each species awaits a thorough analysis. Until such a time, the Committee will likely accept Alder Flycatcher records only if the bird is in full song. Even so, the Committee urges continued submission of suspected Alders based on calls, as the June and late-August to mid-September pattern of "peeping Traill's" noted by Pyle and McCaskie (1992) is further supported by the records rejected above. See Pyle and McCaskie (1992) for a discussion of previously rejected records of "peeping" Traill's Flycatchers in California.

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus crinitus*. The described call of a *Myiarchus* in Santa Barbara, SBA, 22 Sep 1990 (184-1990; *Am. Birds* 45:152) was considered atypical for the Great Crested Flycatcher by some Committee members; the described rectrix pattern and mandible coloration led to further concerns.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** *Tyrannus forficatus*. Single birds reported in Goleta, SBA, 30 Jun 1985 (18-1991) and at Pt. Buchon, SLO, 10 Jun 1991 (93-1991) lacked sufficient documentation, though much of the Committee felt both records were probably valid.

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** *Catharus minimus*. A *Catharus* at Pt. Reyes NS (lighthouse), MRN, 15 Oct 1988 (23-1989) was published (*Am. Birds* 43:164) as this species. The details submitted indicated that the bird was seen briefly (uppertail

## CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

coloration was not noted, for example) and led to concerns over whether the Hermit Thrush (*C. guttatus*) was eliminated.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*. A pipit at Cape Mendocino, HUM, 28 Sep 1980 (213-1987) was described as having brown legs and a white wing patch. One reported at Arcata Bottoms, HUM, 1 Oct 1980 (104-1989) lacked sufficient documentation. Both of these records were accepted by Harris (1991) and were published in *Am. Birds* 35:223. A heard-only fly-over at Pt. Reyes NS, MRN, 22 Sep 1990 (216-1990) was not documented enough for a minority of the Committee. Single individuals were reported at Princeton Marsh, SM, 26 Sep 1991 (81-1992) and at Half Moon Bay, SM, 29 Oct 1991 (90-1992). One at Arroyo de la Cruz, SLO, 2 Oct 1991 (232-1991; *Am. Birds* 46:151) and roughly ten at Arroyo Laguna, SLO, 2 Oct 1991 (231-1991; *Am. Birds* 46:151) were all fly-over, heard-only birds; a majority of the Committee felt these identifications to be inadequately documented, representing a more conservative stance than in the past (cf. Pyle and McCaskie 1992). An adult reported near Palmdale, LA, 9 Nov 1991 (38-1992) was supported by details that perhaps better fit the Asian subspecies *japonicus* of the American Pipit (*A. rubescens*); in any case, the Committee unanimously agreed that details were insufficient to support a basic-plumaged adult Red-throated Pipit at this interior location.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis*. The description of a vireo reported in La Jolla, SD, 5 Oct 1991 (40-1992; *Am. Birds* 46:151) did not eliminate a first-year Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica*. One at the Carmel R. mouth, MTY, 21-28 Sep 1969 (93-1989) was accepted by all but two members; the minority was unwilling to accept the meager details provided for this record, which has long been considered correct (cf. Roberson 1985).

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus*. A warbler on Pt. Loma, SD, 11 Oct 1991 (43-1992; *Am. Birds* 46:151) was reported as an adult male of this species, a plumage unrecorded in the state in fall; the bird was not adequately described for most members to break precedent. Observers need to note structure in addition to plumage details, as the shape of the Pine Warbler is quite different from that of the Bay-breasted (*D. castanea*) and Blackpoll (*D. striata*) warblers (see Patten and Erickson 1994).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *Protonotaria citrea*. One reported on San Nicolas I., VEN, 18-30 Aug 1988 (260-1989; *Am. Birds* 43:170) was supported by marginal details.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia*. Single birds were reported at Montaña de Oro SP, SLO, 20 Sep 1989 (18-1990; *Am. Birds* 44:164), Oceano, SLO, 3 Oct 1990 (43-1991; *Am. Birds* 45:153), Huntington Beach, ORA, 8 Oct 1990 (44-1991; *Am. Birds* 45:153), and Pt. Loma, SD, 15 Sep 1991 (208-1991). The rejection rate for this species continues to be high, with 22% of the mainland reports being considered unacceptable. Numerous in-hand records from SE Farallon I. demonstrate that this species moves through California with regularity, but sight records need to be well documented to ensure that the very similar MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*) and even Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) are convincingly eliminated.

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea*. A briefly described male at Tilden Park, CC, 4 Jun 1991 (29-1992; *Am. Birds* 45:1159) was not adequately documented for most members. A briefly seen tanager in Huntington Beach, ORA, 11 Nov 1991 (5-

## CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

1992; *Am. Birds* 46:152) included mention of a large, pale bill, a feature typical of the Summer Tanager (*P. rubra*).

CANYON TOWHEE *Pipilo fuscus*. One reported from Anza-Borrego Desert SP, SD, 9 Feb 1992 (128-1992) would have been the first for California. This species has some potential to reach California, as it occurs west to the Mohave and Black mountains of Arizona (Monson and Phillips 1981), within 10 km of our eastern border. Zimmer (1988) prepared the source for identification of Canyon and California (*P. crissalis*) towhees; see Zink (1988) for information regarding systematic relationships in this towhee complex.

FIELD SPARROW *Spizella pusilla*. A sparrow at Hopland Field Station, MEN, 11 Oct 1991 (79-1992; *Am. Birds* 46:147) was reported as this species, but the fairly extensive breast streaking on this date should eliminate all *Spizellae* but the Chipping Sparrow (*S. passerina*).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. One seen briefly in flight at Año Nuevo State Reserve, SM, 26 Oct 1991 (23-1992; *Am. Birds* 46:147) was not adequately described.

MCKAY'S BUNTING *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*. A bird photographed coming to a feeder with House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) in Camarillo, VEN, 29 Dec 1991-1 Jan 1992 (223-1992) was felt by the entire Committee to be a leucistic House Sparrow.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*. A male grackle at Mono L. Co. Park, MNO, 10 May 1989 (84-1993) was published as a Great-tailed in *Am. Birds* 43:534. Although there was some speculation that it may actually have been a Common Grackle, the Committee unanimously agreed that available documentation was not conclusive and essentially did not dispute the published identification.

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, natural occurrence questionable (identification accepted)

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris*. Unseasonal adult male Painted Buntings in cismontane California continue to present the Committee with problems. Single birds banded in Camarillo, VEN, 3 Jan 1989 (HEM†; 199-1989) and coming to a feeder in Santa Barbara, SBA, 3-5 Nov 1991 (PW; 229-1991; *Am. Birds* 46:152) were not accepted primarily because the probability of escapees, especially adult males, was felt to be substantially higher in urban areas. Nevertheless, the Santa Barbara bird, at least, fell within the Painted Bunting's established pattern of fall vagrancy. There are no accepted winter records. The Committee has now questioned the natural occurrence of 12 records of adult males from coastal California. Whether these birds fit a "pattern" or represent a regular flow of escapees is unknowable, although, in contrast to accepted records, which are concentrated in fall, adult males on the coast span the seasons. Females as well as males are marketed in Mexico.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. One was seen briefly in San Pedro, LA, 4 Jul 1991 (KLG, WLP; 90-1991). Kautesk (1986) and Weber (1987) discussed recent records in Canada and suggested scenarios, respectively, of ship-assistance and escaping from local aviculturists. Recent reports from southwestern British Columbia (*Am. Birds* 43:161 and 44:321) suggest the potential establishment of a small population in that area, from which a bird could have wandered south to San Pedro. Given the location, however, ship-assisted travel may be the most likely

## CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, natural occurrence questionable (identification accepted), Cont.

explanation for this bird's arrival in San Pedro. In any event, the Committee unanimously agreed that this species is a most unlikely candidate for natural occurrence in California, although the CBRC encourages continued submission of these sorts of records.

## MISCELLANY

This new section will be an irregular feature of CBRC reports. Its purpose is to provide a forum of corrections and clarifications of published records of Review List species that were either not formally reviewed, usually because there was nothing to review (i.e., typographic errors), or were re-reviewed but the subsequent review did not alter previously published conclusions.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Chen canagica*. Because of a key-punch error, a Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) on the 16 December 1989 San Diego Christmas Bird Count was erroneously published as an Emperor Goose (*Am. Birds* 44:987).

YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. A previously accepted record of this species from Pacific Grove, MTY, 2-8 Oct 1970 (WR; RS; 230-1984; Dunn 1988) was re-reviewed to encompass a 1 Nov 1970 sighting claimed to be of this same bird (Roberson 1985). The Committee unanimously agreed to continue acceptance of only 2-8 Oct 1970, and Roberson (in comments) indicated that he now believes his acceptance of the 1 Nov date was in error.

GRAY CATBIRD *Dumetella carolinensis*. A Gray Catbird photograph appearing in *Birder's World* 8(1):74, February 1994, was accompanied by a caption indicating that it was taken near Los Angeles, LA. The photograph was in fact taken at the Dry Tortugas, Florida (Brian E. Small in litt.).

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris*. As with the Emperor Goose report mentioned above, a typographic error in Heindel and Patten (1994) led to the publication of a Painted Bunting record for coastal Orange Co. The Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*) was the species in question.

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