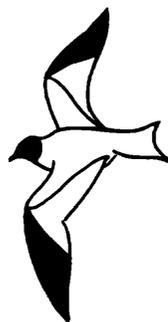


WESTERN BIRDS



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NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1993 RECORDS

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This report covers 180 records of 69 species submitted by 174 observers and evaluated by the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the Committee or CBRC). Of these, 145 records were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 81%. Records from 1979 to 1994 are included, but the great majority are from 1993. Top honors among the counties go to San Diego with 15 accepted records, followed closely by San Francisco (14, all from SE Farallon I.), Santa Barbara (14), Monterey (13), Inyo (13), Orange (12), Los Angeles (12), and Marin (11).

One species, the Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*), is added to the California state list, and one species, the Greater Shearwater (*P. gravis*), is removed following reconsideration of a previously accepted record. The list of native species thus stands at 582 (following AOU 1995); an additional eight nonnative species with well-established populations are also included on the California list maintained by the Committee. Other highlights from 1993 include two Red-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon rubricauda*) in winter, one Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), one Little Curlew (*Numenius minutus*), one Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*), three Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*), one Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*), one Rustic Bunting (*Emberiza rustica*), far northern records of the Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) and Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*), a wintering Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*), and record numbers of Zone-tailed Hawks (*Buteo albonotatus*; 11), and Philadelphia Vireos (*Vireo philadelphicus*; 10). Potential first state records of the Dark-rumped Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*), Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), Bridled/Gray-

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backed Tern (*Sterna anaethetus/lunata*), and Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) were not accepted.

Committee News. A new bylaw was adopted at the January 1996 meeting in Camarillo. Records not accepted by the Committee that were formerly categorized as "identification questionable" will now be labeled "identification not established." This more accurately states the Committee's position on most of these records, where the identification may well have been correct, but the documentation was insufficient to substantiate the record. This situation unfortunately occurs more often than it should. Detailed notes and drawings made at the time of observation, supplemented by photos, video, or tape recordings greatly enhance the documentation of a record. Taking detailed notes is a great exercise in and of itself, and it enhances details of the observation for the observer and increases the learning curve. Readers should refer to Dittmann and Lasley (1992) for a more complete discussion of this issue.

At recent meetings, many Committee members have expressed their desire to evaluate records of taxa below the species level that are generally considered identifiable in the field. Some of these taxa will likely be considered species in the future. Recognizing the many complications of such an endeavor, the Committee will move deliberately. At this time, we wish to announce our interest in the matter and to solicit documentation of taxa below the species level that meet the Committee's general "rarity guideline" for species (i.e., an average of four or fewer records per year). Evaluation and publication of such records may follow a different path than species-level records, with interested Committee members, or others, taking the lead on any particular taxon. For starters, we request descriptions and/or photographs of any of the following taxa seen in California, now or in the past; reports of all have been "published" in one form or another.

Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*)
American Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*)
Eurasian Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus phaeopus/variegatus*)
Siberian Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo longipennis*)
Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyrhamphus marmoratus perdix*)
Eastern Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes hiemalis/pullus*)
Eastern Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus faxonii*)
"Japanese" Pipit (*Anthus rubescens japonicus*)
Eastern Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii belli/medius*)
Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo s. solitarius/alticola*)
Yellow Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*)
White-winged Junco (*Junco hyemalis aikenii*)
Eastern Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*)

At the 1995 and 1996 meetings, plans were discussed for a book to summarize all of the Committee's deliberations since its inception in 1970. Preparation is now underway, and a publication date within about a year has been targeted. Also, it was decided to initiate a numbering system for publications prepared by the Committee or based primarily upon the Committee's archives. The numbering will be retroactive, to include all

previous publications. This report, therefore, is CBRC Contribution 37; previous publications will be listed in the Committee's book.

Records currently under review by the Committee include potential first state records of the Light-mantled Albatross (*Phoebastria palpebrata*) off Marin Co., Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*) at the Salton Sea, Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) from Butte and Humboldt counties, Crested Caracaras (*Caracara plancus*) from Imperial and San Diego counties, Red-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa brevirostris*) from Orange Co., Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrurus furcatus*) off San Francisco Co., Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) from Orange Co., Lanceolated Warbler (*Locustella lanceolata*) from SE Farallon I., and Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*) from Monterey Co. Also under review are recent records of Harris' Hawks (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) from southern California, with the welcome potential of removing the "extirpated" symbol that currently follows the species' name on the state list (Binford 1986, CBRC 1991). Recent taxonomic decisions by the AOU (1995) still have not rescued the CBRC from its Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) dilemma (see Heindel and Garrett 1995). Note also that there are no documented claims in California of Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*), Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), or Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*), newly recognized as species.

The Committee's membership at the close of the 1996 meeting was Michael A. Patten (Secretary), Matthew T. Heindel (Vice-Secretary), Kimball L. Garrett, Steve N. G. Howell, Guy McCaskie, Joseph Morlan, Peter Pyle, Mike San Miguel, Daniel S. Singer, and Terrill.

CBRC Functions. All records reviewed by the CBRC are archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA 93012. All written documentation, photographs, voice recordings, and videotapes are housed there, catalogued, organized by CBRC record number, and are available for public review. The CBRC solicits information on all occurrences in California of species on its Review List (see Roberson 1993a), as well as species unrecorded in California, and requests that documentation be sent to Michael A. Patten, CBRC Secretary, P. O. Box 51959, Riverside, CA 92517-2959. Documentation concerning the potential establishment of exotic species not currently on the state list is also sought. Heindel and Garrett (1995) and Patten et al. (1995) provided further details on the Committee's functions.

Format and Abbreviations: The format of these reports is now largely standardized. In general, records are listed either geographically, from north to south, or chronologically by first date of occurrence. Included with each record is the location, county abbreviation (see below), and date span. The date span generally follows that published in *American Birds/National Audubon Society Field Notes (NASFN)*. If the CBRC accepts a date span that differs from that in a published source, the differing dates are italicized. Initials of the observer(s) responsible for the record, if known, are followed by a semicolon, then the initials of additional observers submitting documentation, then the CBRC record number. All records are sight records unless otherwise noted. Initials followed by a dagger (†) indicate the observer supplied an identifiable photograph. Similarly, (‡) is used to designate videotape, and (§) for voice recording. The symbol "#" indicates a specimen

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record, and is followed by the acronym (see below) of the institution housing the specimen and the specimen number.

An asterisk (*) prior to a species name indicates that it is no longer on the Review List. The number in parentheses following the species' name is the number of records accepted by the CBRC through this reporting period. Two asterisks (**) after this number indicate that the number of accepted records is limited to a restricted review period or includes records accepted for statistical purposes only (see Roberson 1986 for more information).

When an individual bird returns to a locality after an absence (for example, in consecutive winters), or is continuously present for multiple years, each subsequent occurrence, or presence in a new calendar year, is reviewed as a new record. The Committee judges, by a majority vote, whether or not the same individual is involved. If a majority of the Committee considers it to be the same bird, that information is included in the comments, and the total number of records remains unchanged.

Although the Committee does not formally resolve identification issues below the species level, comments on age, sex, or subspecies are often included. The authors of this report assume responsibility for all such comments, although they are usually based on input provided by Committee members during circulation of the record and the draft Committee report.

The Committee uses the following codes for California counties: ALA, Alameda; ALP, Alpine; AMA, Amador; BUT, Butte; CLV, Calaveras; COL, Colusa; CC, Contra Costa; DN, Del Norte; ED, El Dorado; FRE, Fresno; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; KIN, Kings; LAK, Lake; LAS, Lassen; LA, Los Angeles; MAD, Madera; MRN, Marin; MRP, Mariposa; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MOD, Modoc; MNO, Mono; MTY, Monterey; NAP, Napa; NEV, Nevada; ORA, Orange; PLA, Placer; PLU, Plumas; RIV, Riverside; SAC, Sacramento; SBT, San Benito; SBE, San Bernardino; SD, San Diego; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SBA, Santa Barbara; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SHA, Shasta; SIE, Sierra; SIS, Siskiyou; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; STA, Stanislaus; SUT, Sutter; TEH, Tehama; TRI, Trinity; TUL, Tulare; TUO, Tuolumne; VEN, Ventura; YOL, Yolo; YUB, Yuba.

Museums that have allowed Committee members access to specimens or that have provided information or house specimens cited herein are as follows: MVZ, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley; SBCM, San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands. Other museums used regularly by Committee members include the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Other abbreviations used are AFB, Air Force Base; I., island; L., lake; Mt., mountain; NP, National Park; n. miles, nautical miles; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; Pt., point; Reg., Regional; R., river; SB, State Beach; and SP, State Park.

Seabirds. With the addition and deletion to the state list mentioned above, and with several other records of extreme rarities discussed in both the "Accepted" and "Not Accepted" sections below, this group of birds is well represented in this report. Therefore, a few general comments are warranted.

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Because of the difficulty of access to much of offshore California, especially very deep waters, a large percentage of seabird observations are from research vessels. Given the often difficult conditions at sea, the quality of seabird observations is sometimes marginal. In addition, individuals are often busy collecting data, which can reduce opportunities to document a rare bird. As a result, seabird records are probably accepted at a lower rate than in other groups of birds. Exacerbating this problem may be the fact that identification criteria are still rudimentary in some groups. Finally, some observations may not be submitted because of a lack of understanding of the 200-nautical-mile U.S. fishery limit that the Committee follows (Roberson 1993b). This boundary extends well into waters west of northern Mexico (Figure 1). Communication between the CBRC and researchers has been somewhat lacking and, thus, record submittal and documentation of rare seabirds has been rather erratic. We are currently taking steps to increase communication with seabird researchers, and hope this effort will be productive for California ornithology.

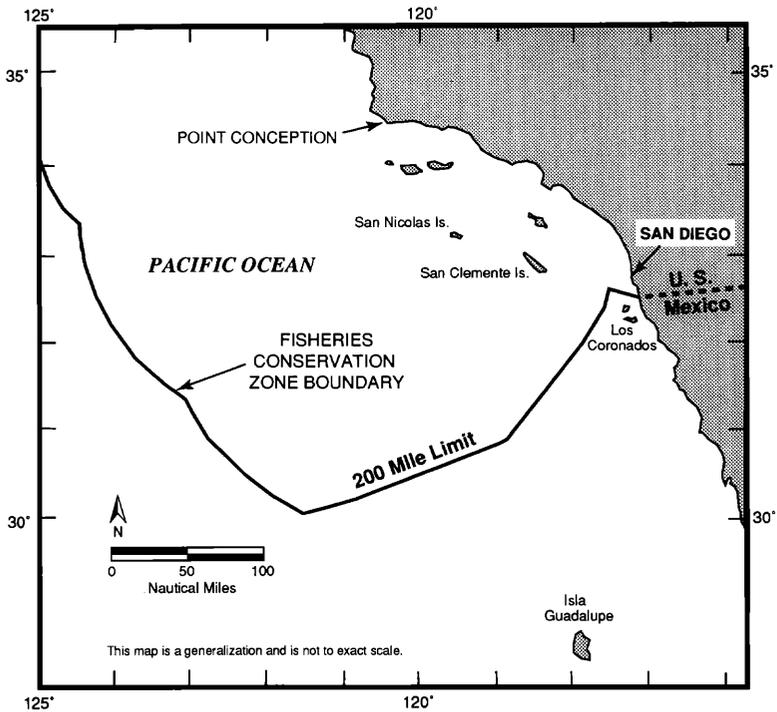


Figure 1. The 200-nautical-mile U.S. fisheries conservation zone and CBRC coverage area off southern California.

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MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* (4). This Atlantic seabird was added to the California list on the basis of multiple accepted reports in 1993; even more individuals were seen in 1994 (NASFN 49:96, 100; CBRC unpubl. data). In the Monterey Bay area, MTY, single birds were on Monterey Bay 25 July 1993 (JMD†; 81-1994; photo in Roberson 1996), 2 miles W of Pt. Joe 29 Aug 1993 (Figures 2 and 3; JMD†, JLT, RNT; 132-1993; color photo in *Am. Birds* 48:161, additional photos in Roberson 1996), 8 miles W of Moss Landing 5 Sep 1993 (LL†; 16-1994), and 1.5 miles W of Cypress Pt. 22 Sep 1993 (JLD, DJA, RAB; 15-1994). At SE Farallon I., SF, a single bird was seen on 31 Aug 1993 (PP, SNGH; 138-1993). Another record from Monterey Bay was not accepted (see Records Not Accepted, Identification Not Established), and several additional reports (*Am. Birds* 48:147) have not been submitted. The actual number of birds involved in this relatively small area is unknown, but the Committee considers the accepted records to represent at least four birds: one at SE Farallon I., and three in Monterey Bay. The state of molt assisted in the evaluation of the birds photographed off Monterey. The extent of black spotting on the longest axillars in the photographs and videotapes suggests that first-year or possibly second-year birds were involved (Baker 1993; Pyle in comments); the August Monterey bird was molting remiges, indicating it was at least a year old.

Reports of small white-vented shearwaters off California have accumulated since at least 1970 (*Am. Birds* 25:100, Garrett and Dunn 1981), and the debate over such birds has often been contentious. Roberson (1996) summarized recent records of known and probable Manx Shearwaters in the Pacific Ocean suggesting a significant range expansion. The majority of the 1993 birds were first identified as other shearwaters (Black-vented, *P. opisthomelas*, Townsend's, *P. a. auricularis*, or Newell's, *P. a. newelli*), however, demonstrating the rapid evolution of identification criteria for small dark-and-white shearwaters in the North Pacific; compare also comments by Roberson (1980, 1985, 1986), Dunn (1988), Langham (1991), Yee et al. (1994), and Heindel and Garrett (1995) on previous records of this and similar species not accepted by the Committee. Prepublication drafts of recent identification articles by Howell et al. (1994) and Roberson (1996) circulated with these records, helping to ease the minds of reluctant Committee members. Nevertheless, several members expressed nagging concerns that California birds are not completely typical of Atlantic Manx Shearwaters and might even represent some unknown taxon (skeptics should consider the recent description of *P. atrodorsalis* by Shirihai et al. 1995). In particular, California birds were initially perceived as having too extensive white flank patches, a notion discussed and dismissed by Roberson (1996) and others (CBRC members in comments). Figures 2 and 3, of the same bird, clearly show that the extent of these patches is subject to feather placement; a fuller understanding of this issue is desired.

Critical for the review of this species were a number of exceptional photographs, first examined and correctly identified by Roberson, Morlan, and others. Mike Danzenbaker especially is to be commended. He has returned to sea time and time again to amass an important series of photographs of many species.

A problem associated with these records also needs mentioning. Of the first three Monterey records, none included a written description. That two boat-loads of birders could fail to submit a single description of a species not even on the state list (the first bird was actually passed over as a Black-vented Shearwater and the subsequent birds were initially identified as Townsend's Shearwaters) is a disappointment to the Committee (see also comments by Yee et al. 1994). Boat trip participants, regardless of their level of experience, are strongly encouraged to document any rarities encountered on organized boat trips. The documentation submitted by an individual may be all that is received on a given sighting.

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Figure 2. Manx Shearwater off Monterey, 29 August 1993 (132-1993). The species was added to the state list in 1993.

Photo by J. Michael Danzenbaker



Figure 3. Manx Shearwater off Monterey, 29 August 1993 (132-1993). Note the change in flank pattern on this individual depending upon its position.

Photo by J. Michael Danzenbaker

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WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma tethys* (6). One was approximately 52 n. miles SSW of San Miguel I., SBA (ca. 33° 26' N, 121° 22' W), on 5 Oct 1992 (RRV; 29-1994). Accepted records are now evenly divided between the Monterey Bay area and waters off the Channel Islands. Except for the first, of a storm-driven waif picked up in Carmel, MTY, 21 Jan 1969 (Yadon 1970, Luther 1980), all records are from 23 Jul to 9 Oct.

RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon rubricauda* (10). A subadult was approximately 130 n. miles SW of San Nicolas I., VEN (ca. 31° 18' N, 120° 40' W), on 14 Jan 1993 (PP; 30-1993; photos included generally not considered adequate to document the record), and an adult was approximately 161 n. miles WSW of San Nicolas I., VEN (ca. 31° 28' N, 122° 06' W) on 16 Jan 1993 (PPT; 31-1993). These represent the first winter records for California, although the maps by Gould et al. (1974) have long suggested the possibility of such occurrences. All previous records were in the three-month period from 3 Jul to 8 Oct.

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii* (74**). One was at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 25 July 1993 (RLM; 139-1993). Nearly all previous incursions at the Salton Sea have been of multiple birds (McCaskie 1970, Garrett and Dunn 1981). To the east, however, one was found in northern Arizona near Cameron on 27 Jul 1993 (*Am. Birds* 47:1133).

The crumbling of California booby dogma, noted by Patten and Campbell (1992), has continued. In the early 1970s, the Masked (*S. dactylatra*) and Red-footed (*S. sula*) boobies remained unrecorded in the state, and the Blue-footed Booby was not even on the CBRC review list. In contrast, accepted records since 1985 total Brown 17, Red-footed 8, Blue-footed 6, and Masked 4. Additional Masked Boobies were observed off northern Baja California at Islas Los Coronados 23 April 1988 (Everett and Teresa 1988) and at Isla Guadalupe 20 Jan-9 Apr 1994 (Pyle et al. 1994, Guillén-H. et al. 1995).

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (42). An adult was at Santa Cruz, SCZ, 26 Sep 1991 (IA, EF; 177-1991), a juvenile was ca. 3 miles S of Pt. Vicente, LA, 18 Oct 1992 (KLG†; 14-1993), and an adult female seen intermittently at SE Farallon I., SF, 16 Aug-18 Oct 1993 (PPT; 203-1993) had been present at the same location 25 May-24 Nov 1992, when still an immature of unknown sex (162-1992; Heindel and Patten 1996). See comments concerning the changing status of this and other boobies under the Blue-footed Booby, above.

The first two records were controversial and required multiple circulations. Given age and geographic variation, and the fact that at least some of these tropical species may breed at almost any time of year (thus, all age classes and plumages are possible at any time of year), booby identification is often not as straightforward as the standard references suggest. Several Committee members called for the preparation of a detailed identification treatise on the group.

Descriptions of the Santa Cruz bird were contradictory, with one observer describing a "white throat." This was sufficient cause for some to believe that the possibility of the bird being a juvenile Masked Booby was too high. In the end, most members were willing to overlook details in the one description and rely primarily upon the other description, more thorough and deliberate.

The Los Angeles record generated a truer debate of identification criteria, as there was no question of what the bird actually looked like in the field. Concerns revolved primarily around the lack of an obvious breast/belly contrast and the possibility that the bird was actually a Red-footed Booby. Through three circulations it became well established that juvenile Brown Boobies can appear essentially uniform brown below for the first few months of life. On such birds, other characters of use in distinguishing them from the Red-footed Booby include heavier bill, yellowish legs and feet, white on

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the flanks and underwing coverts and axillars, and, of less importance, the deeper intensity of brown above and larger size.

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (11**). On the coast, an adult at the Tijuana R. estuary, SD, 22 Jan–5 Feb 1993 (GMcC; 74-1993) was followed by an immature at the same location 18 Dec 1993–19 Feb 1994 (GLR, MBSt; GMcC, PEL, SBT†; 49-1994), and what was judged to be the same immature on 23 May 1994 (MBSt; 112-1994). At the Salton Sea, immatures were south of the Salton Sea NWR headquarters, IMP, 15 Aug 1993 (AME; 127-1993) and at the Whitewater R. mouth, RIV, 1 Oct 1993 (RWH; 21-1994). These four birds represent the highest annual total since the species was added to the review list in 1990.

REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (63). A returning adult with a deformed bill at the south end of San Diego Bay, SD, 10 Sep–27 Oct 1993 (GMcC; 32-1994) has been featured in almost every Committee report since its debut a decade ago (Roberson 1986; covering the bird's initial visit Dec 1982–Mar 1983). The Committee appreciates the persistence of observers documenting this bird year after year. This bird was an adult when first seen in 1982 (*Am. Birds* 37:337). Thus, when seen in the fall of 1993, it approximated the maximum known age of 12 years, 3 months reported for this species (Clapp et al. 1982).

An immature near Oasis Station, north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 19 Dec 1993–20 Mar 1994 (PEL, CAM†, GMcC, MAP; 46-1994) makes only the fifth accepted record from the Salton Sea.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (16). Another Committee staple: the adult in the night-heron rookery at La Jolla, SD, 26 Dec 1992–23 Jan 1993 (PEL, GMcC; 28-1993) and later at San Elijo Lagoon, SD, 14 May 1993 (*NASFN* 47:453) has been seen annually since it was first reported as an adult in October 1981 (Binford 1985). The maximum known age for this species reported by Klimkiewicz and Futcher (1989) is only 6 years, 3 months, but the similar Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) is known to have reached 21 years, 1 month (Clapp et al. 1982).

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (21). Two adults were in the Siskiyou County portion of Tule Lake NWR 27 Nov 1993 (Figure 4; RE; 3-1994). The locations of accepted records are generally well scattered, but this is the seventh record from the Klamath Basin since 1984, representing more records than from any other location. It seems likely that some records involve returning individuals, but the possibility has not yet been seriously considered by the Committee.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* (33). A female at Año Nuevo State Reserve, SM, 28 Mar–4 Apr 1993 (RST†; 96-1993) fit the unusual pattern of distribution of this largely arctic species. The majority of records (20) are from central California (here defined as Sonoma through Monterey counties), and there are more records from southern California (7) than from northern (6).

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus* (44). This species is currently increasing in California; 1993 produced more sightings than ever with 11 records accepted: an adult at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 11 Apr 1993 (DW; 106-1993); one in Santa Barbara, SBA, 28 Dec 1993–10 Jan 1994 (SEF†, PEL; 10-1994); an adult male at Ojai, VEN, 6 Sep 1993 (BS; 194-1993), considered the same as one there 28 Feb–8 Mar 1994 (BS†, BES; 71-1994; photo in *NASFN* 48:247); an adult at Malibu Creek SP, LA, 25 Apr 1993 (KFC, JN; 72-1993); an adult at Irvine Reg. Park, ORA, 26 Nov 1993 (BED; 182-1993), where one had been reported but not accepted the previous winter (122-1993; Heindel and Patten 1996); an adult in Lake Forest, ORA, 13 Nov–19 Dec 1993 (JEP; CB, BED, VL; 35-1994); an adult male in Mission Viejo, ORA, 18 Dec 1993–13 Mar 1994 (KPL; RAE, RAH, CAM,

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GMcC; 8-1994); an adult female in Laguna Beach, ORA, 15 Aug 1993–mid January 1994 (Figure 5; GS†; AAS; 135-1993), considered probably not the same as one in Laguna Beach 22–30 Oct 1988 (70-1989; Pyle and McCaskie 1992); an adult over Pines Park, Dana Point, ORA, 11 Jan 1993 (JEP; 39-1993); a returning adult at Hot Springs Mt., SD, 26 Jun 1993 (GMcC, TC; 143-1993); and a returning adult at Santee Lakes Reg. Park, SD, 6 Nov 1993–9 Feb 1994 (WEH; 33-1994). The Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles county records are the first to be accepted for the coastal slope north of Orange County.

In previous years, an adult in the vicinity of Whelan L., Oceanside, SD, 22 Dec 1990 (GMcC; 2-1991) was considered probably different from previous records in the area, an adult was at Santee Lakes Reg. Park, SD, 2–3 Nov 1991 (TC; GD; 34A-1992), and an immature was at the same location 15 Jan–3 Feb 1992 (TC; GMcC, JR; 34B-1992).

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus* (7). A gray-morph immature in the Smith R. bottoms near Fort Dick, DN, 23 Dec 1993–20 Feb 1994 (RAE, SEF, DF, GSL†; 62-

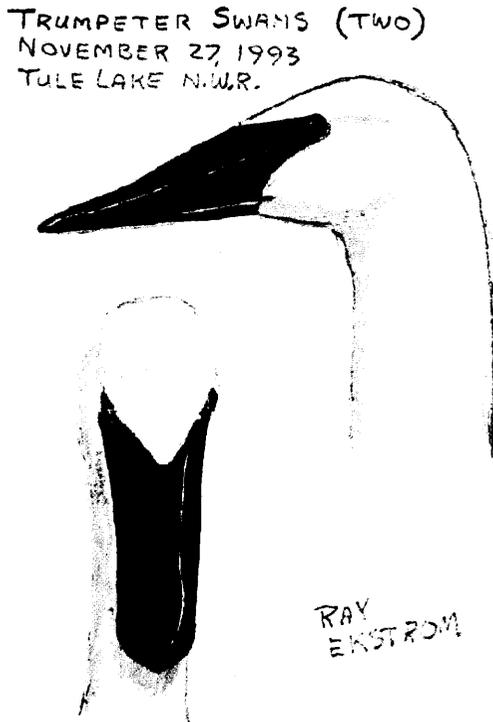


Figure 4. Trumpeter Swans at Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, 27 November 1993 (3-1994).

Sketch by Ray Ekstrom

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1994) is believed to be the same as one seen at nearby L. Earl, DN, 31 Oct–1 Nov 1993 (in documentation; *NASFN* 48:245). Gyrfalcons have been recorded on the Oregon coast south to Curry County (Schmidt 1989, Gilligan et al. 1994), but all previous California records have been for the interior, including four for the Klamath Basin.

YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (66**). Like most recently recorded Yellow Rails, one at Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, 12 Dec 1993 (SFB, DEQ; 6-1994) was seen during an extreme high tide.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus* (12). An adult and a juvenile were at Middle Anacapa I., VEN, 4 Sep 1993 (KLG†, MH, KGL†; 36-1994). These birds appeared typical of the west Mexican subspecies *frazari* but were never scored using Jehl's (1985) system (Table 1); see the discussion below under Records Not Accepted, Identification Not Established. Observers are encouraged to use this system as much as possible in describing potential American Oystercatchers.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* (13). One at Independence, INY, 13 Jun 1993 (AK†; 109-1993) was the fifth to be found in that county; all five have been in spring. Previous accepted records were nearly evenly divided between spring (five records 15–28 May, all but one inland) and fall (seven records 22 Aug–21 Sep, all but one coastal).

LITTLE CURLEW *Numenius minutus* (3). An adult at the Santa Maria R. estuary, SBA/SLO, and the ocean beach up to 2 miles south, 4–20 Aug 1993 (Figure 6; BH†; SEF†, MH†, PEL, MM, MSM, MMT†, SBT; 125-1993; color photo in *Am.*



Figure 5. Adult female Zone-tailed Hawk in Laguna Beach, 29 August 1993 (135-1993), one of a record 11 individuals documented in California in 1993.

Photo by Greg Stewart

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Table 1 System for Assessing the Intermediacy of Black and American Oystercatchers^a

Character state	Score
Upper tail coverts	
Black, as in <i>bachmani</i>	0
Black, a few white mottlings	1
Nearly equally black and white	2
White, a few black mottlings	3
White, as in <i>palliatu</i> s	4
Tail	
Black, as in <i>bachmani</i>	0
Mainly black, trace of white at base of vanes	1
Basal quarter of rectrices white	2
Basal third of rectrices white	3
Basal half of rectrices white, as in <i>palliatu</i> s	4
Chest	
Black, with black chest band extending smoothly onto midbelly, as in <i>bachmani</i>	0
Black chest band extending onto upper third of belly	1
Black chest band extending onto upper quarter of belly	2
Black chest band bordered by ragged edge on upper breast	3
Black chest band sharply delimited from white of upper chest, as in <i>palliatu</i> s	4
Belly	
Blackish, as in <i>bachmani</i>	0
Blackish, with traces of white on a few feathers	1
Blackish, white area around crissum	2
Three quarters black, one quarter white	3
Nearly equally black and white	4
Three quarters white, one quarter black	5
Entirely white, as in <i>palliatu</i> s	6
Under tail coverts	
Entirely black, as in <i>bachmani</i>	0
Mainly black with slight white mottling	1
Nearly equally black and white	2
Mainly white	3
Entirely white, as in <i>palliatu</i> s	4
Thighs	
Entirely black, as in <i>bachmani</i>	0
Black with grayish underdown, not noticeable externally	1
Puffs of grayish down noticeable	2
Mainly white	3
Entirely white, as in <i>palliatu</i> s	4
Greater secondary coverts (width of white edging in folded wing)	
White lacking, as in <i>bachmani</i>	0
Less than 2 mm	1
2-5 mm	2
6-15 mm	3
More than 15 mm	4
Extent of white wing stripe	
Lacking, as in <i>bachmani</i>	0
White markings confined to inner half of secondaries	1
White markings extend to outer secondaries but not to primaries	2
White present on some or all of inner five primaries	3
White present on at least one of primaries 6-10	4

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Table 1 (Cont.)

Underwing coverts	
Entirely black, as in <i>bachmani</i>	0
Mainly black, some white mottling	1
Nearly equally black and white	2
Mainly white	3
White, as in <i>palliatius</i>	4
Axillars	
Black, as in <i>bachmani</i>	0
Mainly black, some white mottling	1
Nearly equally black and white	2
Mainly white	3
White, as in <i>palliatius</i>	4

^aFrom Jehl (1985, Table 1). Jehl considered birds with total scores (all characters added together) from 0 to 9 to be Black Oystercatchers, from 10 to 29 to be hybrids, and from 30 to 38 to be American Oystercatchers.

Birds 48:159) was considered only possibly the same individual as was seen in agricultural fields upstream in the lower Santa Maria Valley 16 Sep–14 Oct 1984 (Lehman and Dunn 1985, Roberson 1986) and 23–24 Sep 1988 (Patten and Erickson 1994); Lehman (1994) also summarized all these records. The only other well-established New World record of this species is of one collected on St. Lawrence I., Alaska, 7–8 Jun 1989 (Gibson and Kessel 1992).



Figure 6. Adult Little Curlew with a Long-billed Curlew at the Santa Maria River mouth, 10 August 1993 (125-1993).

Photo by Monte M. Taylor

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HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (12). A juvenile near Drake's Estero, Pt. Reyes, MRN, 8-9 Aug 1993 (RS†; PP†; 131-1993) was the first for that popular birding county. It just preceded the date span of the seven previous fall records, 9 Aug-3 Oct. Four spring records range from 9 to 22 May.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (15). A juvenile at the Mad R. estuary, HUM, 5-6 Sep 1993 (TE†; DF; 202-1993) was possibly the same bird seen in Crescent City, DN, 28 Aug 1993 (*Am. Birds* 48:149; unreviewed by CBRC). Northern California's records of this species now outnumber southern California's 4:1. All of the records are of fall migrants (11 Jul-30 Nov) except for one at Culver City, LA, 11 Feb-2 Mar 1976 (Luther et al. 1979) and one at Crescent City 3-5 Jun 1984 (Dunn 1988).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (49). Three first-winter birds were all in the interior: near Gustine, MER, 20 Nov 1993 (RJR; 7-1994); Piute Ponds, Edwards AFB, LA, 28 Nov 1993 (JHa†, GSH; 193-1993); and near Oasis Station, north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 14 Dec 1993 (possibly late November)-8 Jan 1994 (GMcC, MMo, MAP†, HY; 200-1993). Most previous records have been coastal, but the Salton Sea continues to generate sightings. There are now eight records there, including the state's first near Mecca, RIV, 16-21 Nov 1968 (Dunn 1988). The Gustine Little Gull was the first for Merced County.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* (17). A first-winter bird at Arcata, HUM, 24 Jan-7 Feb 1993 (BBA, BEDe, TWL†, JM; 52-1993) was seen later at the Mad R. estuary, HUM, 12 Mar-5 Apr 1993 (Lester, in comments), and an adult at Alviso, SCL, 15 Nov 1993 (SCR; 181-1993) was seen later at Sunnyvale, SCL, 23 Jan-9 Feb 1994 (JL†, MM, JM, BDP, MMR†, SCR; 50-1994). A second-winter bird on the beach at Santa Barbara, SBA, 29 Nov 1993-5 Feb 1994 (SEF†, PEL, GMcC, SBT†; 192-1993) had been present at the same location as a first-year bird 21 Nov-21 Dec 1992 (Heindel and Patten 1996); in addition to behaving like the previous winter's bird, it showed the relatively dull leg color indicative of some second-year birds (Grant 1986). Three in one calendar year is the highest total since four were seen in 1980 and three were seen in 1981 (Binford 1985, Morlan 1985).

THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia* (30). Single individuals were off Cannery Row, Monterey, MTY, 19-28 Sep 1993 (JMa†; RC, HG, GH, JL†, DR†, DSS†; 150-1993), 1.8 miles W of Cypress Pt., MTY, 22 Sep 1993 (JLD†; 19-1994), and 3-4 miles off Pt. Bonita, MRN, 24 Oct 1993 (SBT; 213-1993). The last was only the third California record away from Monterey Bay.

PARAKEET AUKLET *Cyclorhynchus psittacula* (65). There were two record-setting reports in 1993, of one approximately 158 n. miles SW of San Nicolas I., VEN (ca. 31° 03' N, 121° 12' W) on 14 Jan 1993 (PP†; 32-1993) and 18 (in groups of 1-3; plus 7 probables) 61-72 n. miles W of Pt. Arguello, SBA, on 25 Jan 1993 (PP†; 33-1993). The first bird was farther south than the previous record of three birds found dead on the beach north of La Jolla, SD, 28 Jan 1937 (Kenyon 1937, Roberson 1993a); the species remains unrecorded in Mexican waters (Howell and Webb 1995). The second record (actually considered as 18 of the 65 total accepted records) involved more individuals than any other; 12 collected on Monterey Bay, MTY, 13 Jan 1908 (Beck 1910, Roberson 1986) constitute the only other report in double digits.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti* (59). Five were found at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, in 1993: a female 4-24 Oct 1993 (TH; GMcC, KLG†; 156-1993); a male 10-24 Oct 1993 (MAP, KFC; KLG†; 149-1993); a male (adult?) 24 Oct 1993 (KLG; 166-1993); and two females 17 Nov 1993 (TH; 199-1993). Elsewhere, a singing male was on the Colorado R. 14 miles N of Blythe, RIV,

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25–31 May 1993 (RJ; 108-1993), a female was at Deep Springs, INY, 12 Oct 1993 (TH; 189-1993), and a female was along San Juan Cr., Dana Point, ORA, 4–5 Nov 1993 (BED; 183-1993). The last bird is the first to be accepted from Orange County.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (9). One in Goleta, SBA, 13 Apr–8 June 1993 (Figure 7; KL, RM; SEF†, DD†, PEL, GMcC; 85-1993) may have arrived the previous fall during a record influx of four anis into the state (Heindel and Patten 1996). Previous state records have all been from fall (13 Sep–30 Dec).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris* (43). An immature male was in Los Angeles, LA, on 3 Jan 1993 (KLG; 75-1993). An influx of this species in fall 1993 resulted in five birds being found along the southern California coast, one in northern California. An immature male was in Goleta, SBA, 6–22 Sep 1993 (SEF†; PEL, GMcC; 159-1993). An adult male at a feeder in Camarillo, VEN, 12 Nov–19 Dec 1993 (JW†, HW; EMcC†; 197-1993) was joined by a female 23 Nov–19 Dec 1993 (JW†; 198-1993). Another male (KLG, MK, CAM; 54A-1994) and female (KLG, MH†, MK, CAM, SBT†; 54B-1994) were at the South Coast Botanic Garden, Rolling Hills Estates, LA, from 2 Dec 1993 and 24 Oct 1993, respectively, through February 1994. An immature male at Fairhaven, HUM, 8–14 Oct 1993 (SH; GSL,



Figure 7. Groove-billed Ani in Goleta, 28 May 1993 (85-1993).

Photo by Don Desjardins

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TWL†: 63-1994; photo in *Am. Birds* 48:149.) furnished the northernmost record on the Pacific Coast (Yee et al. 1994).

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (30). One at Trinidad, HUM, 9–11 Nov 1993 (GSc, KS; GSL†; 64-1994) represents the northernmost record for this species in California (there is now a record for Oregon—*Oregon Birds* 22:21). Another was at Gazos Creek, SM, 20–21 Nov 1993 (MF; AME, RST; 195-1993). After a banner year in 1992, when a record eight individuals were found in late fall and winter (Heindel and Patten 1996), two Dusky-capped Flycatchers is more typical. This species has occurred in the state on nearly an annual basis since 1980 (missing only 1982 and 1986) after only a single record in the 1960s (first recorded in California on 23 Nov 1968; Suffel 1970, Roberson 1986) and two records during the 1970s (both in the winter of 1975–76; Luther et al. 1979).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (38). One was at Gaviota SP, SBA, on 3 Oct 1993 (BH†; 191-1993). Photos, one of which was published in *Am. Birds* 48:152, clearly show a dark gray breast and the whitish fringe on the innermost tertial tapering toward a point at the tip of the feather, features that rule out the Brown-crested Flycatcher (*M. tyrannulus*). See Heindel and Patten (1996) for a recent discussion of the identification of these two species.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris* (11). One was at Baywood Park, SLO, 20 Oct 1993 (VPJ, RAP; 39-1994). Remarkable were two in Marin County within ten days of each other: one at Pt. Reyes 25 Sep 1993 (Figure 8; WSK†, KLs†, JM, DSS†; 169-1993) and one at Bolinas 6–10 Oct 1993 (Figure 9; KH†; GHF, EDG†, MM, JM, BDP, DEQ†, SBT†; 155-1993; photo in *Am. Birds* 48:149).

Differences between the Marin birds included (JM in description) the Pt. Reyes bird's having more pink on the bill, a solidly rufous tail, white spotting on the inner webs of the coverts forming conspicuous wingbars, and no noticeable yellow on the crown, and the Bolinas bird's having more dark on the bill, coverts narrowly tipped with white forming inconspicuous wingbars, and conspicuous yellow on the crown. These characteristics may indicate that the Bolinas bird was an adult and the Pt. Reyes bird was an immature (Pyle, in comments).

Perhaps generally underestimated is the difficulty in separating this species from the similar Streaked Flycatcher (*M. maculatus*), which has a mostly whitish chin, thin malar stripes, and a pale yellowish supercilium and moustachial stripe, in contrast to the more extensive blacker malar stripe and chin and whitish supercilium and moustachial stripe of the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (Howell and Webb 1995). Like the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, the Streaked Flycatcher is migratory, but its breeding distribution is restricted to eastern Mexico, whereas the Sulphur-bellied extends into southeastern Arizona. Although much less likely to occur in California, the Streaked Flycatcher is a possible vagrant and should be eliminated when reports of the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher are evaluated.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (12). A bird first noted in Pomona, LA, 3–8 Mar 1993 returned on 19 Oct 1993 and stayed until at least 4 Mar 1994 (CMB§; MAP; 57-1994). It made only the second record for Los Angeles County. Another individual was near Rickey L., about 7 miles E of Chula Vista, SD, on 3 Nov 1993 (ERL; 40-1994). All but one record of this species have come from southern California, the exception being a bird in San Francisco, SF, 27 Oct–19 Dec 1974 (Luther et al. 1979).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficata* (88). One at Solana Beach, SD, 27–28 Mar 1993 (BM; PAG; 112-1993) was judged to be the same as one seen nearby on 4 Dec 1992 (Heindel and Patten 1996). An adult was on San Nicolas I., VEN, on 9 Jun 1993 (GM; 145-1993), and individuals were photographed near

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Figure 8. Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (apparently an immature) on Pt. Reyes, 25 September 1993 (169-1993), the first record for northern California.

Photo by William S. Kossack



Figure 9. Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (possibly an adult) in Bolinas, 10 October 1993 (155-1993).

Photo by David E. Quady

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Norco, RIV, 11–30 Mar 1993 (HEC; GMcC, MAPt; 59-1993), at Panamint Springs, INY, 30 May 1993 (LST†, SBT; GMcC; 92-1993), at Owens L., INY, 8 Jun 1993 (JH†, TH; 113-1993), and near Nicasio, MRN, 25 Sep–24 Oct 1993 (JM; JLD, EDG†, MM, BDP, SBT†; 154-1993; photo in *Am. Birds* 48:150).

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (4). One was in Goleta, SBA, 22–23 Oct 1993 (SEF; PEL, BSc; 160-1993). The discoverer was familiar with the distinctive call, a flat note similar to that of a junco (*Junco* sp.) or Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*), often given loudly and repeatedly by the Dusky Warbler. The description and field sketch were quite detailed, and the record passed unanimously on the first round. This bird was on private land with limited access, so rather few observers were able to see it.

The Dusky Warbler represents the only accepted species of *Phylloscopus* in California, although an Arctic Warbler (*P. borealis*) banded and photographed in the hand at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, in fall 1995 is currently being reviewed by the Committee. There are now four records for the state (with a fifth from fall 1995 currently under review) and two records for Baja California (Erickson et al. in press), a remarkable total considering the North American status of this species (five records for Alaska are the only records outside California or Baja California).

Several species of *Phylloscopus* breed in eastern Asia, are long-distance migrants, and are prone to vagrancy. Therefore, while some species are much more likely to occur than others, members of this genus found in California should not be assumed to be a "likely" species (i.e., the Arctic or Dusky warblers) on the basis of range or previous records. In fact, as the Europeans have learned, each individual must be documented meticulously in order to rule out conclusively the many similar-looking contenders that may stray well out of range. Unlike the Dusky Warbler, most *Phylloscopus* are distinctly greenish above and show at least one wingbar. Highly migratory species that breed in Siberia, lack wingbars, and may approach the appearance of the Dusky Warbler include Radde's Warbler (*P. schwarzi*), Chiffchaff (*P. collybita*), and Willow Warbler (*P. trochilus*). Another similar-looking species, the Yellow-streaked Warbler (*P. armandii*), breeds in northeastern and central China, winters in Laos, Burma, and Thailand, and thus seems unlikely to occur as a vagrant in North America, although it has been considered a possible vagrant to the western Palearctic (Parmenter and Byers 1991). Of the more likely candidates, Radde's resembles the Dusky most closely (e.g., see Lewington et al. 1991, Parmenter and Byers 1991) and offers the most difficulty in identification.

Radde's Warbler, like the Dusky, breeds in Siberia (although not as far east) and migrates long distances to southern China and southeast Asia; both species occur as vagrants to western Europe. Identification criteria for these two species, as outlined by Lewington et al. (1991), Jonsson (1993), Leader (1995), and others, include leg color (flesh colored in the Dusky, pale yellowish or grayish pink in Radde's), bill shape (relatively short and thick in Radde's, thinner in the Dusky); supercilium coloration (whiter behind the eye than in front in Radde's, evenly white or whiter in front of the eye than behind it in the Dusky) and shape (tapered to a point in front of the eye in the Dusky, more even in thickness in front of the eye in Radde's), and call (a short *chek* in the Dusky, a lower pitched *tuk* or *tuk-tch* in Radde's). A description and sketch of the Goleta bird indicated that the lores were dark and the supraorbital region was whitish and tapered anteriorly. In addition, Finnegan recognized the call almost immediately, from two recent trips to China during which she had seen both the Dusky (numerous) and Radde's warblers.

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (11). A singing bird in Wilmington, LA, 18 Jun 1993 (MSM; 95-1993) represents the third accepted spring record for the state and the first for southern California. This species remains remarkably rare in California.

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*RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* (104). Three on SE Farallon I., SF, 5 Oct 1991 (PP; 156-1991) occurred during a record-breaking year for this species (Patten et al. 1995).

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (30). Following a record ten birds reported in spring and summer 1992, during an unprecedented year for southeastern vagrants, four White-eyed Vireos during the same period in 1993 is still well above average [0.6 birds per year from April to July over the previous ten years; see Terrill et al. (1992), Heindel and Patten (1996), Patten and Marantz (in press)]. Singing males were at Huntington Beach, ORA, 8 May 1993 (PS; BED, RAE, DRW; 82-1993), Indian Wells Canyon, KER, 23 May 1993 (HBS; PB; 93-1993), Huntington Beach, ORA, 31 May 1993 (BED; 94-1993), and Goleta, SBA, 6 June 1993 (PEL; SEF 87-1993).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons* (53). One was at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 17-19 May 1993 (RS; JM; 90-1993), and singing males were at Huntington Beach, ORA, 23 May 1993 (JEP; 136-1993) and Goleta, SBA, 1 Jun 1993 (PEL; 86-1993).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus* (95). An unprecedented 10 individuals were recorded in September and October 1993 (the vast majority of California records are from this two-month period). Single individuals were at the following coastal locations: Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 18-21 Sep 1993 (Figure 10; NL; JND† 151-1993); Pescadero, SM, 30 Sep-17 Oct 1993 (RST; NL, JM; 174-1993); SE Farallon I., SF, 6 Oct 1993 (PP†; 204-1993); Bolinas, MRN, 7-16 Oct 1993 (KH; JM, SBT; 179-1993); Carmel R. mouth, MTY, 7-14 Oct 1993 (DEG; RC, DR; 164-1993); Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 9 Oct 1993 (CHo; 201-1993); Huntington Beach, ORA, 11-14 Oct 1993 (SMI; BED, RAE; 172-1993); Los Osos, SLO, 10-15 Oct 1993 (JSR; 41-1994); and SE Farallon I., SF, 9 Nov 1993 (PP†; 205-1993). One was in the eastern desert at Stovepipe Wells, Death Valley NP, INY, on 14 Oct 1993 (JH, TH†; 187-1993).

Deletion of this species from the Review List was most recently discussed at the 1996 annual meeting. However, owing to a history of identification problems, the Committee felt that the species should be retained.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (36). One was at Bolinas, MRN, 16-22 Oct 1993 (JK, KH; GHF, MMcC†, JM; 177-1993), one was on SE Farallon I., SF, 26 Oct 1993 (PP; 206-1993), and one was at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 28 Oct 1993 (RS; 185-1993).

The Yellow-green and Red-eyed (*V. olivaceus*) vireos vary a fair amount individually and can resemble each other more closely than may be widely appreciated. Red-eyed Vireos can show relatively indistinct dark borders to the supercilium, bright yellow on the undertail coverts, sides, and flanks, and their upperparts can be virtually identical in color to those of the Yellow-green Vireo. Diagnostic for the Yellow-green is the extension of yellow up past the shoulder onto the sides of the head behind the auriculars and the edgings to the remiges and rectrices, which are yellow rather than olive or greenish-gray in the Red-eyed (Terrill and Terrill 1981).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (18). This species remains one of the rarest of eastern wood warblers in California. However, three individuals were found each year in 1992 and 1993. Records in 1993 are of a wintering bird at Ferndale, HUM, 2 Jan-7 Mar 1993 (Figure 11; DF; RAE, SWH, SMcA†, JM, DR†, DSS; 27-1993), and two fall vagrants: 14 Sep 1993 at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY (JND†; RC, DR; 152-1993), and 27-28 Sep 1993 at the Carmel R. mouth, MTY (RS; SFB, DR; 153-1993). Although until recently this species has been generally more numerous in spring (Heindel and Patten 1996), records are now evenly divided between spring and fall. Fall records span a relatively narrow period (13 Sep-2 Oct).

This species and the Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*) are closely related. Although there were only two California records of each before 1970, there are now



Figure 10. Philadelphia Vireo at the Big Sur River mouth, 21 September 1993 (151-1993). A record ten individuals were documented in California in 1993.

Photo by Jeff N. Davis

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Figure 11. Blue-winged Warbler in Ferndale, 23 January 1993 (27-1993), first winter record for California.

Photo by Sean McAlister



Figure 12. Rustic Bunting near Cantil, 9 November 1993 (162-1993), southernmost record in the New World.

Photo by Matthew T. Heindel

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nearly 50 records of the Golden-winged compared to 18 of the Blue-winged. Average annual numbers of the Blue-winged have increased in the late 1980s and early 1990s and now approach those of the Golden-winged. This increase parallels evidence that Blue-winged Warbler populations are rapidly increasing and expanding (e.g., McCracken 1994), replacing the Golden-winged Warbler in some areas.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (73). A singing male was along Gazos Creek, SM, 19 May 1993 (RST; 97-1993), and a second-spring bird was at Torrance, LA, 6 June 1993 (KGL†; 116-1993). The single 1993 fall record was from Santa Barbara, SBA, on 24 Oct 1993 (GG, RG; 1990-1993).

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae* (29). One at Pismo SB, SLO, 3-6 Oct 1993 (KR; 77-1994) represents the northernmost record of this species on the coast.

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (50). Two occurred on the same date, 24 Oct 1993: one at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY (REM, RFT; RC, DR; 165-1993), and one at Pt. Loma, SD (GMcC; 157-1993). This species is much rarer in northern California than in southern; this represents the first record for Monterey County. The Pt. Loma bird was believed by some observers to have been the same as an individual that wintered at the same location 6 Jan-12 Apr 1992 and a bird seen there 25 Oct-10 Nov 1992 (Heindel and Patten 1996). However, the bird was accepted as a new individual, as a majority of Committee members were swayed by the lack of observations after early November 1992 and the fact that the bird under discussion was seen only on 24 Oct 1993. In addition, one member raised the issue of difficulty in ageing males at this time of year and believed that the description fit an adult or an immature male equally well.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helminthos vermivorus* (70). One was at L. Palmdale, LA, 21 Aug 1993 (KLG, JA; 128-1993), and another was at Carpinteria, SBA, 16 Aug 1993 (BHn; 129-1993).

***KENTUCKY WARBLER** *Oporornis formosus* (105). After a record-breaking 40 Kentucky Warblers were recorded in the state in 1992 (Terrill et al. 1992, Heindel and Patten 1996, Patten and Marantz in press), seven individuals in 1993 was closer to the average. In contrast to spring/summer 1992, when 10 times the mean number of Kentucky Warblers occurred, there were only two spring/summer records in 1993. This rapid return to normal supports the hypothesis that the 1992 invasion of this and other southeastern vagrants was probably due to a persistent unusual weather pattern over the Gulf of Mexico in spring 1992 (Terrill et al. 1992).

The following 1993 Kentucky Warbler records were accepted: Green Valley, Encinitas, SD, 30 Jun-2 Jul 1993 (BED; TC, GMcC; 147-1993); Wyman Canyon, INY, 16-18 Jul 1993 (TH, JH; 148-1993); Goleta, SBA, 12 Sep 1993 (DPH; SEF, PEL; 161-1993); SE Farallon I., SF, 13 Sep 1993 (JK; 207-1993); Pt. Loma, SD, 21 Sept 1993 (DWA; 42-1994); Galileo Hill Park, KER, 10 Oct 1993 (HB, PB; 173-1993); and Arcadia, LA, 18-19 Dec 1993 (HBo, BC, CHa; JF, KGL†; 79-1994).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (72). All four records were for fall: SE Farallon I., SF, where the majority of California's Connecticut Warblers have occurred, 15 Sep 1993 (JK†; 208-1993) and 4-6 Oct 1993 (PP†; 209-1993); Carmel R. mouth, MTY, 27 Sep 1993 (JCS; RFT; 163-1993); and Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 2 Oct 1993 (CHo†, JND; 171-1993).

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (87). Three out of four 1993 birds were on SE Farallon I., SF, where over half of the state's records have been: 1 Oct 1993 (RAE, PP†; 210-1993), 4-5 Oct 1993 (PP†; 211-1993), and 6-7 Oct 1993 (PP†; 212-1993). The remaining record was from nearby Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, 2 Oct 1993 (JM; 180-1993).

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SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (86). An immature male was at Granada Hills, LA, 17 Oct 1993 (TEW; 44-1994); another, probably an immature female, was near Imperial Beach, SD, 21 Oct 1993 (DWA; TC, GMcC; 158-1993); and a third, initially identified as a male, but thought to have been a female when the Committee viewed the videotape, was at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 23 Oct 1993 (JM; EDG†, LL‡; 178-1993).

Scarlet Tanagers have occurred annually since 1967. Three records is about average for a given year. This species occurs about three times as frequently in the fall as in spring/summer.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (43). One was at Huntington Beach, ORA, 18 Sep 1993 (SM; BED; 184-1993), and a first-year bird was at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 11 Sept 1993 (MAP†; 134-1993).

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Aimophila cassinii* (36). Up to three (contra *Am. Birds* 47:455) singing males were in the Lanfair Valley, SBE, 8-30 May 1993 (REWS; GMcC, MAP, SBT†; #54313 SBCM; 77-1993). A first fall record for the interior was one at Death Valley Junction, INY, 14-16 Aug 1993 (REW; JH, TH; 188-1993).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (25). One at Upper Newport Bay, ORA, 14 Dec 1993-11 Jan 1994 (JEP, JSB, KAC; MTH†, CAM, GMcC; 9-1994) was the third to have wintered in the state.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* (3). The third for California and the first for southern California and the interior was near Cantil, KER, 7-10 Nov 1993 (Figure 12; MTH†; KFC, MOC, GMcC, MAP; 162-1993). This record is the southernmost for North America.

This bird, photographed and described in detail, was probably a first-year male; however, Svensson (1992) cautioned against ageing and sexing this species in autumn. The Rustic Bunting is a regular straggler to western Alaska and is accidental in British Columbia (two records), Washington (one record), and Oregon (one record). In addition, one or two Rustic Buntings wintered at Hoopa, HUM, in 1995-96 (under CBRC review).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (55). One was at SE Farallon I., SF, 22 Oct 1991 (SA‡; 10-1992), one was at Crescent City harbor, DN, 27 Dec 1993-16 Jan 1994 (SEF†, GSL†; 65-1994), and one was in the interior at Sierra Valley, PLU, 15 Jan 1993 (LJ; 167-1993).

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established

Note that several of the seabird records discussed below may have been from beyond the CBRC's 200-nautical-mile review area. All of these records received full consideration, however; none gained Committee acceptance with respect to identification.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. One was reported at Rodeo Beach, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, MRN, 24 Feb 1993 (66-1993; *Am. Birds* 47:296). An increase in the number of reports of this species across the continent suggests an increased understanding of loon identification, but in California Yellow-billed Loon reports have received a rather low acceptance rate of approximately 58%.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Diomedea albatrus*. An adult was reported approximately 212 n. miles SW of San Nicolas I., VEN (ca. 32° 02' N, 123° 57' W), on 4 Oct 1992 (22-1994), and an immature was reported approximately 47 n. miles NW of Pt. Arguello, SBA (ca. 34° 45' N, 121° 33' W), on 9 Oct 1992 (23-1994). There remain only four accepted records of this species in California this century.

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RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established, Cont.

DARK-RUMPED PETREL *Pterodroma phaeopygia*. One reported near 31° 59' N, 124° 01' W on 8 Apr 1993 (24-1994) was probably just over 200 n. miles SW of San Miguel I., SBA. Pyle et al. (1993) recently reported two observations of this species at similar distances off the coasts of Oregon and California, but one reported SW of Pt. Reyes, MRN, 3 May 1992 (under review) and one photographed off Monterey Co. 26 June 1994 (to be published as accepted in the next Committee report) are the first reports within "California waters."

GREATER SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*. One reported by five participants on an organized boat trip on Monterey Bay, MTY, 24 Feb 1979 (17-1979) was previously accepted by the Committee (Luther et al. 1983) and thus has been widely treated in the ornithological literature as the sole record of this species in the North Pacific (e.g., AOU 1983, Harrison 1983, Marchant and Higgins 1990). A few individuals had always questioned this record, and the number of doubters gradually grew until reaching critical mass early this decade. The Committee's decision in 1993 to reevaluate the record on the basis of "new and substantial information," however, was so contentious that this former requirement for reconsideration was dropped a year later. Now, any record can be reconsidered if a majority votes to do so at an annual meeting. To overturn a formerly accepted record, a majority of the Committee must vote against the record. This record went through three full circulations for all viewpoints to be considered carefully and received the necessary majority vote to overturn on each round.

The record still has its supporters (there were four accept votes in the final circulation) and thus continues to be controversial. Two highly qualified observers, long-serving members of this Committee and current members of the ABA Checklist Committee, were the primary observers involved and neither has ever wavered in his support of the record. One has since seen the most similar-looking gadfly petrel, the Juan Fernandez Petrel (*Pterodroma externa*), and insists the bird was not that species. Obviously, many believe the descriptions best fit the Greater Shearwater.

Members voting against the record emphasized the uniqueness of the sighting: not only was this the first record for the North Pacific, but it was also most unexpected in the Northern Hemisphere in winter. Accordingly, these members insisted on unassailable documentation, no matter the observers. For them, it was not enough to ask what the bird could have been if not a Greater Shearwater. The bird was well seen, but note these shortcomings of the documentation: the obvious scaled pattern of the upperparts of Greater Shearwater was not noted by anyone—indeed, one observer described a *Pterodroma*-like "M" pattern across the mantle; a dark belly patch (although often difficult to see) was not seen by anyone, and the bird was consistently described as immaculate white below; no dark markings were seen on the underwings; the high arching flight of the bird was so distinctive (compared to other shearwaters seen that day) that the bird was considered to have been a *Pterodroma* until the boat was back in port; no whitish collar was seen, although some Greater Shearwaters lack this mark; forehead and bare-part colors were poorly noted; the bird was not consistently described as large as expected; the sighting was made at a time when only one *Pterodroma*, the Mottled Petrel (*P. inexpectata*), had been recorded in California (and never alive at sea) and almost none of the observers had seen a gadfly petrel or fully understood the potential for members of the genus to reach California; and although the Greater Shearwater was considered during the observation, the final identification was not made until later, when critical marks could not be rechecked.

Ironically, near the end of this record's second round through the Committee, a Greater Shearwater was much better documented on Monterey Bay 1-2 Oct 1994 (NASFN 49:95; CBRC unpubl. data). None of those global reference works will have

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RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established, Cont.

to be reprinted after all! Details of the CBRC review of the 1994 record will appear in the next Committee report.

WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER *Puffinus pacificus*. Organized boat trips generated reports of one ca. 7 n. miles W of the Pajaro R. mouth, MTY/SCZ, 24 Oct 1992 (3-1993; photo in *Am. Birds* 47:144) and two approximately 40 n. miles SW of Pt. Arguello, SBA, on 17 Apr 1993: one dark morph (120-1993) and one light morph (121-1993).

The 1992 Monterey report is especially interesting. It received minority support, based only on the published photograph, on its first circulation. All support collapsed in subsequent rounds as additional photographs submitted appear to depict only a Sooty Shearwater (*P. griseus*). Rumors continue to circulate that two birds were actually involved and that important additional photographs exist. The Committee encourages the submission of any additional documentation and will certainly reconsider the record as needed.

Despite its distinctive shape—small head, broad-based wings, and long tail—and plumage (Harrison 1983, 1987; Stallcup et al. 1988), this species has been over-reported in California. One light morph on Monterey Bay, MTY, 31 Aug 1986 (Stallcup et al. 1988, Bevier 1990) and one dark morph at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 31 Jul 1988 (McCaskie and Webster 1990, Pyle and McCaskie 1992) remain the only accepted records, yet eight reports have now failed to gain Committee approval.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*. A bird seen on Monterey Bay, MTY, in early September 1985 (168-1994) and one reported 8–10 miles W of Moss Landing, MTY, on 24 Oct 1993 (67-1994; *Am. Birds* 48:147) showed several characters typical of this species but were judged insufficiently documented. See Records Accepted for a discussion of the first accepted records of this species in California.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma castro*. Eight were reported by seabird researchers in 1993: four approximately 212–225 n. miles SW of San Miguel I., SBA, 20 Aug 1993 (26-1994); two approximately 140–145 n. miles SSW of San Nicolas I., VEN, 10 Oct 1993 (27-1994); and two somewhere between 175 and 245 n. miles SW of San Nicolas I., VEN, 13 Oct 1993 (28-1994).

The 1989 records reported by Small (1994) were not accepted by the Committee (Heindel and Garrett 1995); Heindel and Patten (1996) discussed additional recent records not accepted by the Committee. The only record ever accepted for California (one off San Diego 12 Sep 1970; Luther et al. 1983, McCaskie 1990) is currently being reconsidered by the Committee. There remains no specimen or photographic record of this warm-water species in the northeastern Pacific.

RED-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula sula*. One was reported at La Jolla, SD, 13 Aug 1993 (31-1994; *Am. Birds* 48:151).

REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens*. One reported in "mottled" plumage at Seal Beach NWR, ORA, 2 Jan 1993 (123-1993) was described as having "whitish immature feathers remaining." Birds in northwestern Mexico (*E. r. dickeyi*, presumably responsible for all California records) are dark in all plumages, so the description was not well received. An immature Reddish Egret was known to be present in the area at the time (see Corrigenda below), however, so some members felt this was merely a poor description of a known bird.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*. One reported in San Rafael, MRN, 16 Jan 1993 (54-1993; *Am. Birds* 47:297) was seen by many and described by three observers. Most Committee members agreed that this was likely a Garganey but that the

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RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established, Cont.

documentation was insufficient to confirm a record of so rare a species outside of the expected migratory periods. Incomplete descriptions of the wing pattern were of particular concern.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*. Single individuals were reported at Butterbredt Spring, KRN, 8 May 1993 (17-1994) and Fort Piute, SBE, 16 May 1993 (107-1993; *Am. Birds* 47:451).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus*. One on Pt. Loma, SD, 11 Mar–7 May 1992 (Figure 13; 120-1992; *Am. Birds* 46:480) was considered an American × Black (*H. bachmani*) Oystercatcher hybrid, whereas the identity of 12+ reported at Sausalito, MRN, 18 Feb 1993 (89-1993) was not established.

The hybrid determination of the Pt. Loma bird was based on the character-scoring system devised by Jehl (1985; reproduced in Table 1). Committee members Patten and McCaskie each evaluated the bird, generating total scores of 22–27 and 24–31, respectively. To complicate matters, a specimen from Santa Barbara I., SBA (2 Jun 1863, MVZ# 4489), scored at 26–29 by Jehl and two others, was accepted by the Committee, largely on the recommendation of Jehl himself (Roberson 1993a). The scores for some of the other accepted records likely also fall below 30, the threshold specified by Jehl for an unhybridized American Oystercatcher. Clearly the Committee has an unresolved issue on its hands; it is inappropriate that similar-looking birds be found among accepted and not accepted records. For the sake of consistency, a reanalysis of all records is planned, with one goal to determine how best to evaluate intermediate birds.



Figure 13. Oystercatcher on Pt. Loma, 28 March 1992, judged to be a hybrid American × Black (120-1992). Note the dark uppertail coverts.

Photo by Michael A. Patten

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COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. A bird at the Chico oxidation ponds, BUT, 1 Dec 1993 (4-1995) was described as like a Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleuca*) but with "yellow-greenish legs" and "a white wedge 1/2 to 2/3 of the way up its back." The description was interesting, but the shape of the bird (especially the bill) did not match this species, and this potential first state record received no support.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*. One was reported at Alameda, ALA, 8 Mar 1993 (88-1993).

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*. One reported at the San Diego R. estuary, SD, 12 Aug 1993 (37-1994) was rather superficially described (for a "peep") by the single observer. The Committee has struggled over well-photographed birds (as have other committees, e.g., Round 1996), so records of all but the most obvious alternate-plumaged stints require meticulous documentation.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. A juvenile was reported near Stratford, KIN, 28 Aug 1993 (170-1993). As with the previous record, this single-observer description lacked the detail needed for adequate documentation. There are now as many rejected records of this species in California as accepted ones, at five apiece.

BRIDLED/GRAY-BACKED TERN *Sterna anaethetus/lunata*. An adult tern seen for several minutes near the massive tern colony at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 12 Jun 1993 (144-1993) was documented by all three observers. It was described as having a black cap, whitish nape, gray back, and dark wings and tail except for the outermost rectrix, which was "thinly edged with white near the tip." Other relevant features noted included a white forehead patch that narrowed on either side and extended back to end in a point above and behind each eye and a narrow black eyeline that boldly separated the white supercilium from the whitish face. The underparts were entirely white.

The bird was submitted as a Bridled or Gray-backed tern, two species of the tropical Pacific still unrecorded in California. Committee members were allowed to vote for either species, and the response was quite mixed: one voted to accept as the Bridled, one voted to accept as the Gray-backed, four felt the bird was "almost certainly" one or the other, and four were unwilling to endorse the record in any specific way, some believing the possibility of confusion with the Sooty Tern (*S. fuscata*) was too great. After the one-day reports of a Sooty/Bridled Tern 5 Aug 1990 (Heindel and Garrett 1995), this record, and a Sooty Tern 30 July 1994 (NASFN 48:989; CBRC unpubl. data)—all at Bolsa Chica—frustrated birders were gladdened by the appearance of a long-staying Sooty Tern there in 1995 (NASFN 49:980; under CBRC review).

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti*. One reported at Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, Norco, RIV, 29 May 1993 (110-1993) would have been the first spring record for the coastal slope of California.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum*. Two birds together were reported from Butterbredt Spring, KER, 28 May 1993 (111-1993). At this time, there are only two accepted records for this species in California. The first (185-1991) was of a singing bird tape-recorded at the South Fork of the Kern R., KER, on 11 Jul 1991. Sonograms were analyzed by experts on the species, and the identification was confirmed (Patten et al. 1995). The second record involved a bird repeatedly heard calling and singing, described in great detail, also at Butterbredt Spring on 30 May 1992 (149-1992; Heindel and Patten 1996).

The identification of Alder and Willow (*E. traillii*) flycatchers is difficult. Willow Flycatchers can give a trisyllabic song (Kaufman 1990), and the identification of these

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birds rested primarily on a trisyllabic song described as *fee-bee-o*. Short of a tape recording, critical to adequate documentation of this species is a detailed description of the quality of the vocalizations (duration, pitch, etc.). Several members noted that *fee-bee-o* is not an appropriate description of an Alder Flycatcher song and that the Willow Flycatcher can sound like this [*fitz-bew-wick* to one Committee member, or *fritz-be-yew* as described by Kaufman (1990)]. It was also noted that vocalizations of Willow Flycatchers are more variable than is widely known. Finally, there was concern that neither the *wee-bee* nor the sharp *pip* call, probably diagnostic for distinguishing the Alder from the Willow Flycatcher, was heard.

Descriptions of the birds as having more greenish olive-green backs, as opposed to the more brownish olive-green backs of the nearby Willows, is appropriate for the Alder Flycatcher, which tends to be greener on the upperparts in fresh plumage (Kaufman 1990), but these species may not be consistently distinguishable, even in the hand, by plumage (Pyle et al. 1987, Kaufman 1990).

As more information concerning identification criteria of these two species is collected, we may find that the Alder Flycatcher is more regular in the state than is currently known. In particular, if the sharp *pip* note of Alder (relative to the liquid *whip* note of Willow Flycatchers) turns out to be diagnostic, records of accepted birds may increase (see also Heindel and Patten 1996).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*). A calling bird was reported from Gardena, LA, 16 Sep 1993 (38-1994) by a single observer. Although much of the description was correct for this species, the Committee remains conservative on eastern *Empidonax* flycatchers that are not photographed or tape-recorded because of plumage variability and the difficulty involved in identification of extralimital members of this genus.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer*. One reported from Montana de Oro SP, SLO, on 7 Nov 1992 (19-1993) was on the early side; although there are a number of November records, most are for late November, and there is only one accepted record earlier than this report (4-6 Nov 1992; Patten et al. 1995). The bird was silent, and several key characters were not noted. In particular, the rectrices were not seen from below, and the inner webs were evidently not seen from above. The closed tail was described as being uniform brown without rusty on the upperside. Most if not all previous California Dusky-capped Flycatchers have shown thin rufous edgings on the outer webs of the rectrices. A number of Committee members also believed that the pattern on the secondaries, another key point, was not adequately described (the Dusky-capped is the only *Myiarchus* with rufous edgings to the secondaries). Finally, several members pointed out that a bright freshly molted Ash-throated Flycatcher (*M. cinerascens*) was not eliminated by the description, and that California observers seldom see this plumage (by the time the birds return to the state in spring, they are somewhat paler because of feather wear). Members that believed the record adequately documented a Dusky-capped Flycatcher were impressed by the description of the size as not much larger than a Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) but smaller than an Ash-throated Flycatcher and by the coloration of the underparts, including a bright yellow belly brighter than an Ash-throated's, a gray breast lighter than a Great Crested Flycatcher's, and a throat darker than an Ash-throated Flycatcher's.

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens*. A bird thought to be this species was seen briefly at Butterbredt Spring, KRN, 28 May 1993 (114-1993). Although the description of the bird superficially fit the Veery, the description was not detailed enough to confirm this extremely rare (in California) species, which represents a notoriously difficult identification problem (only 8 of 20 individuals submitted have been accepted).

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RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established, Cont.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*. A male was reported from Modoc NWR, MOD, 22 Aug-7 Sept 1993, and a female was reported from the same location on 22 Aug 1993 (130-1993). The Committee felt that the descriptions better fit male (immature) and female Great-tailed Grackles (*Q. mexicanus*). In particular, the female was described as having a light brown breast that gradually blended with the darker body color, a description incorrect for the Common Grackle but appropriate for the Great-tailed. The male was evidently all glossy iridescent black and lacked the two-toned appearance of a male Common Grackle created by the bronze tones on the back, wings, and underparts. Another report from the same location (31 May 1986; 86-1994) lacked detail and did not eliminate the Great-tailed Grackle.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. A bird reported from Baker, SBE, on 10 April 1993 (117-1993) would have been very far south on a late date. Therefore, the majority of the Committee felt that the description should have been more detailed. In addition, the bird was described as being in winter plumage. Several members felt that the bird should have been in transitional or breeding plumage by this date.

A bird seen in November 1983 at Cape Mendocino, HUM (208-1992), was recalled 9 years later. The Committee felt that the report did indeed pertain to a Snow Bunting but that the documentation was insufficient to substantiate it.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, natural occurrence questionable

COMMON CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. One was well documented at a feeder in San Jose, SCL, 9-11 Oct 1993 (MM, MMRT; 168-1993). The Committee unanimously considered this bird an escape, although there was considerable disagreement about whether the bird represented one of the migratory or sedentary races. This species has been recorded seven times in the maritime provinces, is currently on the Canadian list (Kaufman 1994), and has been accepted by the ABA Checklist Committee (Dunn and Garrett in comments). However, all Committee members felt that the likelihood of a vagrant chaffinch reaching California is extremely remote.

CORRIGENDA TO THE EIGHTEENTH COMMITTEE REPORT (Heindel and Patten 1996)

Under Records Accepted of Yellow-billed Loons, p. 3: the bird on San Francisco Bay was actually in Alameda County and was present from 20 Dec 1992 to 14 Jan 1993 (*Am. Birds* 47:296, 945). Under Records Accepted of Reddish Egrets, pp. 5-6: the adult at Anaheim Bay (Seal Beach NWR), ORA, 12-14 Apr 1992 remained until 9 May 1992 (*Am. Birds* 46:479), and the immature at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 18 Oct 1992-3 Jan 1993 actually began to commute between Bolsa Chica and Seal Beach NWR and remained to 20 Mar 1993 (Hamilton and Willick in press). Under Records Accepted of Zone-tailed Hawks, p. 7: the L. Murray/Santee bird (records 78-1993 and 79-1993) was judged to be a returnee, but not of record 107-1991/180-1992, which was at L. San Marcos, SD. Either record 34A-1992 or 34B-1992, in Records Accepted above, should be considered the initial visit to Santee.

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CORRIGENDUM TO THE FOURTEENTH COMMITTEE REPORT (Roberson 1993a)

Under Populations Accepted, pp. 138-139, it was suggested that Sonora Pass, ALP/TUO/MNO might be a barrier to northward dispersal of White-tailed Ptarmigans (*Lagopus leucurus*). In fact, ptarmigans were then present north of the pass. Paul L. Noble has observed and shot birds near Sonora Peak, ALP/MNO (3493 m elevation), during hunting season, and states that the California Department of Fish and Game has confirmed ptarmigan as far north as Ebbett's Pass, ALP.

CONTRIBUTORS

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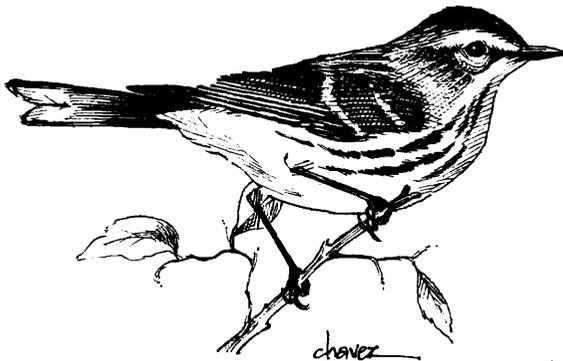
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Palm Warbler

Sketch by Jamie M. Chavez