

SEVENTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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This report of the Western Field Ornithologists' California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) contains 197 records of 78 species, divided as follows: 174 records (of 65 species) accepted; 18 (17) unaccepted, identification questionable; and 5 (5) unaccepted, origin questionable (i.e., possible escapees). A few of the accepted records involve returning birds or the reevaluation of records previously treated by the Committee. These figures represent a rejection rate of only 11.7%, which is similar to the rates in four of the six previous reports and to the overall average of 15.7%. This average is based on 1140 records treated, of which 179 were judged unacceptable (see Table 1). By way of comparison, the British Rarities Committee had an overall rejection rate of 22% during its first 10 years, with the lowest annual rate being 18% during the tenth year (Wallace 1970).

State list. Jones et al. (1981) included 541 species on the California state list. They anticipated and included all species added in the Committee's fifth report (Luther et al. 1983). The sixth report (Binford 1983) noted the addition of Gray-tailed Tattler (*Heteroscelus brevipes*) and Least Auklet (*Aethia pusilla*) and the deletion of Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) and White Wagtail (*M. alba*). At its meeting of 18 February 1984, the Committee removed Acadian Flycatcher and Cook's Petrel; see Cook's/Mas Atierra Petrel under Accepted Records and Acadian Flycatcher in Unaccepted Records. The present report officially adds four species to the state list: Smew, Kittlitz's Murrelet, Barred Owl and Black-backed Wagtail. The California state list thus stands at 543 species.

Number of records. The number of records submitted over the years (Table 1) shows a fairly steady but not dramatic rise that I believe combines the effects of increases in the numbers of (1) active birders (plus improved awareness as to where and when to find rarities and how to identify them) and (2) people reporting to the Committee, especially subsequent to the first two reports when observers became aware of the Committee and its functions. That the number of rarities present in the state also has increased is suggested by DeSante (1983). Note that the great increase from 93 records treated in the second report to 253 in the third is at least partly a result of the 4-year time lag in publication dates and a concerted effort on the part of the Committee to obtain and validate old records.

Given these effects, an even more dramatic increase in the number of records reported might have been expected. That such is not the case appears to be a function of changes in the review list. The total number of species has changed little, from 131 in 1972, 105 in 1973, 107 in 1975, 109 in 1979, 110 in 1980, 116 in 1981, and 117 in 1983 to 122 in the present report. The net decrease of only nine species should have little effect on the number of reports. However, the *species composition* of the list has changed considerably. Forty-nine forms on the 1972 review list are not to be found on the current list. Many of these are birds that are now recorded regularly, such as Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) and Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*).

38 Table 1. The number of reporters, number of bird records and their fate, and the rejection rate in each of the first seven reports of the California Bird Records Committee.

Report No.	Reporters	Species and Subspecies	Records Treated	Records Accepted	Records Unaccepted, Identification Questionable	Records Unaccepted, Origin Questionable	Rejection Rate (%)
1 ¹	25	54	99	83	16	0	16.2
2	21	54	93	90	3	0	3.2
3	110	108	253	213	32	8	15.8
4	102	66	159	135	23	1	15.1
5	113	83	174	128	45	1	26.4
6	63	62	165	138	26 ²	1	16.4
7	99	78	197	174	18	5	11.7
Totals:		190 ³	1140 ⁴	961 ⁴	163 ⁴	16 ⁴	15.7 ⁴

¹ Citations for reports are, respectively: Winter (1973); Winter and McCaskie (1975); Luther et al. (1979); Luther et al. (1980); Luther et al. (1983); Binford (1983); and present paper.

² Includes one record published as "unresolved."

³ Includes 29 species and 4 additional subspecies not currently on the state list of species.

⁴ Figures approximate because of a very small amount of duplication.

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These have been replaced by 40 ultra-rarities, all of which are very infrequently seen and over half of which have been encountered only once in the state, such as Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) and Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*). Thus increases in the numbers of birders and reporters have been counteracted by a decrease in the number of reportable sightings.

Committee decisions. At its meetings of 19 February 1983 and 18 February 1984, the Committee reached four decisions that affect reporters. (1) A record of a bird returning to the same locality in successive years (or after any lengthy absence) should be submitted as if it were a separate individual (e.g., the Eurasian Skylark at Point Reyes, Marin Co.; see Accepted Records). The observer should include his opinion as to whether the same or a different individual is involved, but the final decision is up to the Committee.

(2) The "unresolved category" of the California state list (see definition in Jones et al. 1981) was abolished and the bylaws amended accordingly. Records of some of the species relegated to that category are reevaluated in the present report: Cape Petrel (54-1976), Anhinga (2-1979), American Black Duck (149-1980) and Kittlitz's Murrelet (83-1978). Another, the Black Vulture (35-1978), was published as unacceptable, origin questionable, in the sixth report (Binford 1983). The remaining unresolved records will be reexamined in the near future.

(3) A record not submitted as a single identified species (e.g., *Pterodroma* spp.) normally will not be judged by the Committee but will be placed in a "suspense file" until the Secretary feels that a specific name can be applied to it. The Secretary will so inform the reporters, who may then retract the record, submit it under a single specific name, or leave it in the suspense file. Exceptions to this rule are those species pairs added to the review list. Currently these are Cook's/Mas Atierra Petrel and White/Black-backed Wagtail. Records of these two pairs may be submitted for review and will be evaluated accordingly.

(4) A record submitted by the observer(s) involved may not be retracted after circulation has begun. The observer(s) may submit new opinions or additional data that totally or in part negate the record, and the Committee will reconsider the record accordingly.

Review List. In addition to any species unrecorded in California, the Committee requests documentation for sightings or specimens of the 122 forms on the following list. Nomenclature and sequence follow the AOU (1983). At its 1984 meeting the Committee added those forms marked with an asterisk (*) and deleted Laysan Albatross, Cook's Petrel and Painted Redstart.

Yellow-billed Loon, Least Grebe, Wandering and Short-tailed albatrosses, Mottled Petrel, *Cook's/Mas Atierra Petrel, Stejneger's Petrel, Streaked and Greater shearwaters, Wilson's, Band-rumped and Wedge-rumped storm-petrels, White-tailed and Red-tailed tropicbirds, Masked, Brown and Red-footed boobies, Olivaceous Cormorant, *Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Trumpeter Swan, *Emperor Goose, Baikal Teal, Gargany, Tufted Duck, King Eider, Smew, Mississippi Kite, Harris' and Zone-tailed hawks, Gyrfalcon, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Yellow Rail, Purple Gallinule, Mongolian, Wilson's and Piping plovers, Eurasian Dotterel, American Oystercatcher, Gray-tailed Tattler,

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Upland Sandpiper, Hudsonian and Bar-tailed godwits, Rufous-necked Stint, White-rumped, Curlew and Buff-breasted sandpipers, Jack Snipe, Little, Common Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed gulls, Sandwich Tern, Thick-billed Murre, Kittlitz's Murrelet, Parakeet, Least and Crested auklets, Black-billed Cuckoo, Groove-billed Ani, Snowy and Barred owls, Broad-billed, Violet-crowned and Blue-throated hummingbirds, Red-headed Woodpecker, Greater Pewee, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied, Dusky-capped, Great Crested and Sulphur-bellied flycatchers, Thick-billed Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Eurasian Skylark, Blue Jay, Sedge Wren, Dusky Warbler, Northern Wheatear, Veery, Gray-cheeked and Wood thrushes, Rufous-backed Robin, Gray Catbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Black-backed Wagtail, *White/Black-backed Wagtail, Red-throated and Sprague's pipits, White-eyed, Yellow-throated and Philadelphia vireos, Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Golden-cheeked, Yellow-throated, Grace's, Pine, Cerulean, Prothonotary and Worm-eating warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, Connecticut, Mourning and Red-faced warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Varied and Painted buntings, Cassin's, Field, Baird's, Le Conte's and Sharp-tailed sparrows, *Snow Bunting, Common Grackle, Streak-backed Oriole, White-winged Crossbill and Common Redpoll.

Submission of records. An unfortunate and unnecessary number of probably legitimate records are rejected by the Committee because they lack sufficient details. Some rejections could be avoided if *everyone* who sees a rarity would take notes or photographs and submit them. All too often, observers assume that others will submit documentation, and all too often either they do not or their descriptions are inadequate. Different observers see and record different details, and all are useful in making Committee decisions. Photographs often sit unused in personal files while the Committee has only written documentation with which to deliberate. Please support the work of the Committee by submitting new or old, sight or specimen records to Secretary B.D. (Mike) Parmeter, 2500 Emerson Street, Napa, CA 94558. Original photographs will be duplicated and returned upon request.

Voting. The following Committee members voted on some or all of the records in this report. *Laurence C. Binford (Vice-Secretary), David DeSante, *Jon L. Dunn, *Richard A. Erickson, *Kimball L. Garrett, H. Lee Jones, *Paul Lehman, John S. Luther, *Guy McCaskie, *Joseph Morlan, *B.D. Parmeter (Secretary), Arnold Small, Richard Stallcup, *Richard E. Webster and Philip Unitt. Those marked with an asterisk (*), as well as Don Roberson, were Committee members after the meeting of 18 February 1984.

Format. I have followed the same format and techniques detailed in the Committee's sixth report (Binford 1983), to which the reader is referred, except that I here employ the taxonomy and nomenclature of the AOU (1983) and the more usual definitions of "juvenile" and "juvinal"; shorebirds in their first fall are termed "juveniles" and are assumed to be in mostly juvenal plumage. Briefly, all records are sight records unless otherwise noted. Species marked with an asterisk (*) are no longer being reviewed. All dates are inclusive and were gleaned not only from Committee files but also from other available sources, including *American Birds*. I list the initials of only those people who submitted written or photographic documentation (see list

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of Contributors). All annotations are mine, although they are largely a distillation of information in the Committee files, and a draft of this report has been reviewed by each member of the Committee.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*). One immature (177-1980) first seen 1 Dec and found dead of *Aspergillosis* (study skin 65867, California Academy of Sciences) 11 Dec 1967 (not 12 Dec as published by Chandik and Baldrige 1968; see Remsen and Binford 1975), Inverness, Marin Co. (GMcC, JSL); photos of specimen on file; this was the first record for the state. One adult (96-1981) 18-21 Dec 1981, 3 miles northwest of Marshall, Marin Co. (LCB). One (17-1982) 17 Jan-10 Feb 1982, Berkeley, Alameda Co. (JLD, AG, JM, GMcC); photos on file.

***LAYSAN ALBATROSS** (*Diomedea immutabilis*). Two (21-1981) 24 Oct 1971, one 13 and another 18 miles off Eureka, Humboldt Co. (Rj, RL); photos on file. Two (24-1981) 15 Apr 1973, 87 miles off Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RL); photos on file. One (22-1981) 18 May 1974, 5 miles west of Cypress Point and probably the same individual again 10 miles southwest of Santa Cruz (town in Santa Cruz Co.), both sightings in Monterey Co. (AB, GMcC). One (180-1980) 5 May 1976, near Desert Hot Springs, Riverside Co. (JLD, PU); this was the first inland record for North America; see Dunn and Unitt (1977) for further details. One (232-1980) 21 Mar 1978, Cordelle Banks off Marin Co. (AS); photo on file. One to three (three sightings; 168-1980) 8 Mar 1980, vicinity of Davidson Seamount (35°44'N, 122°43'W), ca. 65 miles southwest of Pt. Sur, Monterey Co. (GMcC); McCaskie (1980) and Garrett and Dunn (1981) accepted these sightings as representing three different individuals, but the Committee did not. One (169-1980) 27 Jul 1980, 25 miles southwest of Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co. (GMcC).

COOK'S/MAS ATIERRA PETREL (*Pterodroma cookii*/*P. defilippiana*). One (71-1979, bird #7) 17 Nov 1979, vicinity of Davidson Seamount (35°44'N, 122°43'W), ca. 65 miles southwest of Pt. Sur, Monterey Co. (JLD, RAE, GMcC, DR, RS). This was one of seven *Pterodroma* petrels reported on this pelagic trip. The Committee previously accepted bird #4 as a Stejneger's Petrel (*P. longirostris*) and birds #1 and #6 as *P. cookii* (Luther et al. 1983). Birds #2, #3 and #5 were judged unidentified (Binford 1983). Garrett and Dunn (1981) accepted four of the seven individuals as *cookii*. At its meeting of 18 February 1984, the Committee decided that all records previously accepted as *cookii* shall be treated as *cookii/defilippiana*, because *defilippiana* is now considered a full species by the AOU (1983) and could not be eliminated by the submitted descriptions. These records are 71-1979, 17 Nov 1979, birds #1, #6 and #7; 71-1979, 24 Nov 1979, two birds; 71-1979, 1 Dec 1979, one bird; and 122-1980, 3 Oct 1977, one bird. Birds #2, #3 and #5 on 17 Nov 1979 could not be allocated even to this species pair. Cook's Petrel (*P. cookii*) is thus deleted from the California state list; species pairs are not added to the state list.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*). One (223-1980) 11-12 Oct 1980, Monterey Bay, Monterey Co. (GMcC, DR). One (55-1981) 27 Sep, three (79-1981) 3 and 12 Oct, and one or two (also 79-1981) 17 Oct 1981, Monterey Bay off Moss Landing, Monterey Co. (JLD, GMcC, JM, JO); photos on file. These records are here treated as one record with two numbers because they probably involve the same birds. The additional published dates for this locality, 16 Sep and 19 Oct 1980 (Evens and LeValley 1981) and 6 Sep and 18 Oct 1981 (Evens et al. 1982), while probably correct, were never submitted to the Committee.

BROWN BOOBY (*Sula leucogaster*). One adult (130-1980) 24 Aug-2 Sep 1974, Whitewater River mouth, north end of Salton Sea, Riverside Co. (JLD, GMcC).

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OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*). One (72-1981) 7 Sep-7 Oct 1981, near Imperial Dam, Imperial Co. (RAE, GMcC, DR); photos on file. This is only the second bird to be found in California (Garrett and Dunn 1981).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax violaceus*). One (11-1982) 30 Apr-3 May 1981, Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. (PL). One subadult (80-1981) 12 Sep-17 Oct 1981, Año Nuevo State Reserve, San Mateo Co. (MD, JM, BDP, DR, GMcC); photos on file. One adult (88-1981) 25 Oct 1981-3 Jan 1982, San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. (JLD, GMcC).

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*). One adult (179-1980) 13-22 Jan 1973, Ramer Lake, San Luis Obispo Co. (BS). See Schram (1973) for photo and further details.

EMPEROR GOOSE (*Chen canagica*). One (48-1980) 1 Jan-20 Feb 1978, Point Mugu, Ventura Co. (KLG, PL, GMcC).

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*). One (35-1981) 9-11 Nov 1978, Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. (RW). One adult male (49-1980) 4 Dec 1978-26 Feb 1979 and 10 Nov 1979-8 Jan 1980, Quail Lake, Los Angeles Co. (JLD, GMcC). One adult male (71-1980) 10 Feb-23 Mar 1980, Mill Valley, Marin Co. (DR, GMcC); the date of 15 Apr 1980 given by Laymon and Shuford (1980b) may pertain to this bird. Two adult males, one on 3 Oct (237-1980; KHa, RHa), 11 Nov (Evens and LeValley 1981) and 27 Dec (44-1981; FFP) and two on 9 Nov (Evens and LeValley 1981), 28 Nov (237-1980; GMcC) and 12 Dec 1980 (LeValley and Evens 1981), Limantour Estero, Marin Co.; the sightings on 28 Nov and 27 Dec inadvertently received separate treatment by the Committee. One adult male (1-1982) 1-9 Jan 1982 (not 2-9 Jan as in LeValley and Evens 1982), Lake Hennessey, Napa Co. (BDP, JP).

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*). One immature male (228-1980) 13-28 Nov 1980 (not 13-23 Nov as in Evens and LeValley 1981), Abbott's Lagoon, Marin Co. (GMcC, DN, BDP, DS, RS); photos on file.

SMEW (*Mergellus albellus*). One male (95-1981) 19 Dec 1981-18 Feb 1982 and again 1 Dec 1982-13 Feb 1983, Foster City, San Mateo Co. (LCB, JLD, JE, RAE, AG, PG, KHi, RH, GMcC, JM); photo on file. This is the first record for California and the only record for the west coast of North America south of Alaska except for two (possibly three) in the Vancouver area, British Columbia (Weber and Campbell 1978), and one (two males) at San Juan Island, Washington (Mattocks and Hunn 1981).

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). One adult (65-1981) 24-25 May 1981, Furnace Creek Ranch, Inyo Co. (GMcC).

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*). One (40-1979) 13 Jan 1979, Whalen Lake, San Diego Co. (MT). Two adults building nest 13 Jun 1981 (69-1981) and one adult present 19 Jun-17 Jul 1982 (McCaskie 1982b), Santa Rosa Mountain, Riverside Co. (GMcC); this is believed to be the same pair present at this locality since 7 Jul 1979 and previously accepted in the Committee's sixth report (Binford 1983) under number 33-1980. One immature (77-1981) 17-19 Sep 1981, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (GMcC, RW); photo on file.

GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*). One immature (16-1982) 17 Jan-8 Feb 1982, ca. 10 miles east-southeast of Dixon, Yolo Co. (CEA, LCB, SB, JLD, RAE, AG, EG, GMcC, JM, BDP, TP, JW, RW); photos on file. This is the second record for the state, the first being one collected near Tule Lake, Siskiyou Co., 23 Oct 1948 (McCaskie et al. 1979).

PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodus*). One (221-1980) 1 Oct-15 Dec 1980, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co. (JLD, JL, PL, GMcC, BDP); photos on file. This is the third record for California; all are from the south coast.

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BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*). One juvenile (91-1981) 4-27 Nov 1981, Coronado, San Diego Co. (JLD, KH, GMcC, JO, RW, PU); photos on file. This is the second record for southern California.

*SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*). One (98-1978) 5 Aug 1978 (not 5 Sep as published by Winter and Laymon 1979), Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. (BDP). One (171-1980) 26 Apr 1980, Salton City, Imperial Co. (GMcC). The following is a summary of birds, all juveniles, seen in 1980 near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co. (all JLD): one (see 204-1980) 3-9 Aug; two, both new arrivals (203-1980) 15 Aug; one, new (204-1980) 17 Aug; three, two new (206-1980) 21 Aug; two, lingering (see 206-1980) 24 Aug; one, lingering (see 206-1980) 27 Aug; five, four new (209-1980) 30 Aug; photos (LS) on file; these represent a total of at least 10 different individuals treated under four records. Five juveniles (205-1980) 18 Aug 1980, Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. (JLD); according to JLD (in report 205-1980 and in litt.) this species had been present here since 2 Aug, and seven were seen by RW on 17 Aug; according to McCaskie (1981a) eight were seen here by RW on 19 Aug. One (185-1980) 23-25 Aug 1980, Abbott's Lagoon, Marin Co. (JRG); photo on file. One juvenile (208-1980) 25 Aug 1980, Santa Maria River mouth, Santa Barbara Co. (JLD). Three juveniles (207-1980) 25 Aug 1980, near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co. (JLD).

The Committee urges observers to become familiar with plumage tracts (especially back proper, inner and outer scapulars, tertials, and lesser, median and greater upper secondary coverts) and variation in plumages (juvinal, adult basic and adult alternate) before attempting identification of the difficult species of peeps. The reader is referred to Roberson (1980) for a discussion of aging peeps and for separating Semipalmated from Western Sandpiper (*C. mauri*). One point not mentioned by Roberson is that the Semipalmated usually (always?) stands slightly lower than the Western, the difference apparently being in the length of the tibia, as the tarsi are similar.

RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT (*Calidris ruficollis*). One adult in alternate plumage (42-1981) 12-17 Jul 1981, Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. (JLD, JMG, KLG, GMcC, JO, DR, RW); photos on file.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*). One adult (202-1980) 15-22 Aug 1980, near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co. (JLD, GMcC, JO, LS); photos on file; this is the first fall record for the state. One (47-1981) 6 Jun 1981, Mono Lake, Mono Co. (GP, LSt, CS).

*SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). One juvenile (181-1980) 13-21 Sep 1969, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (JLA, RW); see Atwood (1970) for further details. Two juveniles (80-1979) 5-6 Nov 1979, east end of Dumbarton Bridge, Palo Alto, San Mateo Co. (TC, CS).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*). One adult in partial alternate plumage (18-1981) 5 Sep 1971, Upper Newport Bay, Orange Co. (HB, DP). One adult in alternate plumage (40-1981) 4 Jul 1981, San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. (JLD, GMcC, JO); photo on file. One adult in partial alternate plumage (25-1981) 1 Aug 1981, Año Nuevo State Reserve, San Mateo Co. (JR, DES); photos on file. One juvenile (52-1981) 28-29 Aug 1981, near Fort Dick, Del Norte Co. (RAE, GSL). One adult in partial alternate plumage (74-1981) 31 Oct-1 Nov 1981, near Fernbridge, Humboldt Co. (RAE, RPK).

Record 18-1981 produced useful discussion. One of the two observers was not sure of the identification, a circumstance that some Committee members feel is possible grounds for rejection. In this case, however, the qualms were interpreted as commendable caution. Three important points concerning identification emerged. (1) Unlike many calidrids, the Curlew Sandpiper can retain a conspicuous amount of alternate plumage well into fall, often into September and at least occasionally to early

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November (as evidenced by record 74-1981). (2) The contrast between rump and tail is often much less than indicated by most field guides. The white of the rump can be finely barred, thus rendering it slightly dusky, and the tail can be pale grayish-brown. (3) The undertail coverts and flanks need not, as usually depicted, be pure white in alternate plumage but may be sparsely to liberally spotted with dusky. The statement by Balch (1981) that the Curlew Sandpiper "is always white" under the tail is incorrect, as evidenced by specimens and by descriptions in both the literature and CBRC files.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*). One (161-1980) 9 Oct 1979, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (GMcC); because of plumage differences, this bird was believed not to be one of the two listed under record 160-1980. One 12-22 Oct and another 16-22 Oct 1979 (160-1980; birds together on latter dates), Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (GMcC). One (50-1981) 25 Sep 1981, Lake Talawa, Del Norte Co. (RAE, GSL).

***RUFF** (*Philomachus pugnax*). One, probably a male (167-1980) 19 Jan-23 or 30 Mar 1980, Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. (JLD, GMcC); because two presumed males and one female were present at this locality this winter, with one male last seen 23 Mar (REW) and the other male 30 Mar (REW), the last date for male 167-1980 is uncertain. One juvenile (1-1981) 14-22 Sep 1980, Limantour Estero, Marin Co. (RS); photo on file. One adult (2-1981) 27-30 Sep 1980, Salinas River mouth, Monterey Co. (RS). One juvenile (3-1981) 28 Sep 1980, Watsonville, Santa Cruz Co. (RS); only one bird was present at this locality, contra the typographical error in Evens and LeValley (1981). One juvenile (210-1980) 21-26 Oct 1980, near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co. (JLD). One (211-1980) 26 Oct 1980-21 Feb 1981, near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co. (JLD, PL, GMcC). One (212-1980) 31 Oct 1980-16 Feb 1981, near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co. (JLD, PL, GMcC); photo on file.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). One adult (239-1980) 22 Nov-21 Dec 1980, Huntington Beach, Orange Co. (GMcC). One in first basic plumage (58-1981) 24 Jan 1981, Huntington Beach, Orange Co. (GMcC, JO); photos on file. One in juvenal plumage (51-1981) 15 Aug 1981, Crescent City, Del Norte Co. (GSL, JM_a); this may be the only record for a juvenile in western North America; the plumage and date suggest that this species may breed closer to California than suspected.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*). One adult (219-1980 and 59-1981; separate reports inadvertently given different numbers) 21 Nov 1980-25 Feb 1981, Huntington Beach, Orange Co. (HB_a, GMcC, PU, RW). One (218-1980) 2 Dec 1980 (not 12 Dec as in LeValley and Evens 1981), Crescent City, Del Norte Co. (RAE). One (29-1982) 6 Dec 1980, Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. (GG); one (also 29-1982) 13-18 Dec 1980, Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. (RW), photos on file; and one (57-1981) 1 Jan-20 Apr 1981, King Harbor, Redondo Beach, Los Angeles Co. (JLD, KLG, GMcC, JO), photos on file; because of similarities in tail pattern, the Committee felt that these three sightings of first-winter birds likely pertained to the same individual.

THICK-BILLED MURRE (*Uria lomvia*). One (56-1981) 4 Oct 1981, ca. 5-6 miles west-northwest of Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co. (SCW); photos on file.

KITTLITZ'S MURRELET (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*). One juvenile (83-1978) found 16 Aug, died 17 Aug 1969, La Jolla, San Diego Co. (LCB, PD); photos of specimen (study skin 37215, San Diego Natural History Museum) on file. This specimen was originally identified as a Marbled Murrelet (*B. marmoratus*) and so published by McCaskie (1970c). It was later reidentified and published by Devillers (1972) as the first described example of the juvenal plumage of Kittlitz's Murrelet known to science. When first submitted to the Committee (as *brevirostris*) it was judged unacceptable, origin questionable (Luther et al. 1979). Later it was relegated

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to the now defunct "unresolved category" of the state list (Jones et al. 1981) upon a new vote of the Committee. After submission of new information, it was recirculated and accepted (9-1), thus adding the species to the state list.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). One (235-1980) 24 Sep 1974, Pt. Mugu State Park, Ventura Co. (LJ); this was the first record for southern California. One immature (174-1980) 8-14 Sep 1980, Point Reyes, Marin Co. (LCB, JLD, RAE, JL, JSL, GMcC, DR); photos on file. One immature (76-1981) 12-13 Sep 1981, Brock Ranch, Imperial Co. (GMcC, JO); photos on file.

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*). One (26-1982) 12 Mar 1982 to at least 5 Mar 1983, 3 miles east of Crescent City, Del Norte Co. (RAE, GSL, GMcC, JM, DR). This is the first record for California, extending the range of this largely sedentary but expanding species southward from Oregon.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Cyananthus latirostris*). One adult male, 30 Nov 1980-14 Jan 1981 (240-1980) and 13 Dec 1980 plus 20-21 Nov 1981 (241-1980) and 18 Dec 1982-5 Jan 1983, Balboa Park, San Diego, San Diego Co. (GMcC); the Committee agreed that the above sightings, as well as those 28 Nov 1979-29 Feb 1980 (accepted under number 43-1980 in the Committee's sixth report, Binford 1983), pertain to the same individual; numbers 240-1980 and 241-1980 were published by McCaskie (1981b) as two separate individuals, the latter with the incorrect discovery date of 14 Dec 1980 instead of 13 Dec 1980. One adult male (7-1982) 4 Oct 1981-13 Feb 1982, Blythe, Riverside Co. (JLD, RW); photo on file. One female (82-1981) 8-9 Oct 1981, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (LJ, GMcC).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). One adult (11-1981) 17 Jul-22 Aug 1971, near Niland, Imperial Co. (EAC, SC, ATD, GMcC); photos on file. This is the only acceptable record for the state; see Cardiff and Driscoll (1972) for further details.

***LEAST FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax minimus*). One (134-1980) 28 Oct 1974, Furnace Creek Ranch, Inyo Co. (JLD, GMcC). One (135-1980) 28 Oct-24 Nov 1974, Emigrant Ranger Station, Inyo Co. (JLD, GMcC).

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*). One (190-1980) 7 Dec 1980-24 Jan 1981, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co. (LCB, TB, RAE, AG, DJ, AM, EM, DR); photos on file.

A total lack of rufous in the tail is often said to be a character of this species. That this is not always the case is well illustrated by this bird, in which the outer webs of all the rectrices except the outermost pair (edged whitish) were narrowly but conspicuously edged with rusty above.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*). One (89-1981) 30 Oct-1 Nov 1981, Long Beach, Los Angeles Co. (BED, KLG, GMcC, JO, RW); photos on file. This is the latest record for the state; all California records are for fall.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*). One (17-1981) 27 Jul 1980, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. (LCB, BDP).

EURASIAN SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*). One (93-1981) 20 Dec 1981 (and see below), Point Reyes, Marin Co. (GMcC). The Committee believes this to be the same individual present at this locality each winter since 16 Dec 1978 and previously accepted in the Committee's fourth report (Luther 1980) under number 4-1979. Dates published in Committee reports and *American Birds* are as follows: 16 Dec 1978-19 Feb 1979; 27 Oct-1 Nov 1979; 25 Oct 1980-21 Feb 1981; 3 Nov 1981-3 Jan 1982; 31 Oct 1982-29 Jan 1983. See Morlan and Erickson (1983) for details.

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BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*). One (182-1980) 30 Oct 1963 (not 31 Oct as in McCaskie and Pugh 1964)-20 Apr 1964, Igos (not Iglos as in Roberson 1980), San Bernardino Co. (GMcC). This was the second record for the state; see McCaskie (1970b) for further details.

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*). One (86-1981) 24 Oct-6 Nov 1981 (not 5 Nov as in McCaskie 1982a), Point Loma, San Diego Co. (JLD, GMcC); photo on file.

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*). One (192-1980) 5-6 Oct 1979, Point Reyes, Marin Co. (CH, LH); photo on file.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER (*Toxostoma curvirostre*). One (166-1980) 20 Dec 1979-4 Feb 1980, near New River mouth, south end of Salton Sea, Imperial Co. (GMcC).

BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla lugens*). One adult female (55-1979) 7 Aug-22 Sep 1979 and 20 Jul-21 Sep 1980, Watsonville, Santa Cruz Co. (also seen across river in Monterey Co.) (SA, JLD, RAE, CF, AG, KLG, GMcC, JM, BDP, DR); photos on file. One adult male (70-1980) 22 May 1980, Tiburon, Marin Co. (WHL, SS); photo on file.

Record 55-1979, as well as the three records listed below under White/Black-backed Wagtail, were accepted in previous Committee reports (130-1978 and 55-1979, Luther et al. 1983; 104-1972, Winter 1973; 169-1977, Luther 1980) as "White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*." Reevaluation by the Committee was occasioned by the recent separation (AOU 1983) of that form into two distinct species, the White Wagtail (*M. alba*) and the Black-backed Wagtail (*M. lugens*). The Committee voted to accept the conclusions of Morlan (1981) that records 55-1979 and 70-1980 definitely pertain to *M. lugens*, while the other three could not be allocated to species, partly because field marks for immatures have not yet been worked out. All three unidentified birds were accepted as White/Black-backed Wagtails. Thus the Black-backed Wagtail (*M. lugens*) should be added to the California state list and the White Wagtail (*M. alba*) deleted.

WHITE/BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*/*M. lugens*). One (104-1972) 18-20 Oct 1972 (not 18-29 Oct as in Roberson 1980), Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. (RD, REP, VP). One immature (169-1977) 10 Oct 1974, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (PH); photos on file. One immature (130-1978) 9-11 Oct 1978, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (LRBe, JLD, KLG, PL, GMcC, DR); photo on file; published by McCaskie (1979) as "apparently *M. a. ocularis*." See discussion under Black-backed Wagtail above.

RED-THROATED PIPIT (*Anthus cervinus*). One (111-1980) 12 Oct 1978, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (LRBe, PL). One (112-1980) 17 Oct 1978, near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co. (RW). One (114-1980) 11 Oct 1979, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PL). One (215-1980) 24 Sep 1980, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PL). Two (216-1980) 18-31 Oct 1980, near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co. (PL); the observer now prefers to count only two birds rather than "up to three" as reported to and published by McCaskie (1981a). One adult (3-1982) 9-11 Sep 1981, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (JLD, PL, JHM). Two (84-1980) 10-25 Oct 1981, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (GMcC). One (87-1981) 25-28 Oct 1981, Point Loma, San Diego Co. (JLD, GMcC, JO, RW); photos on file; see Figure 1. One (9-1982) 1 Nov 1981, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PL).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (*Anthus spragueii*). Two (140-1980) 19 Dec 1975, Mission Bay, San Diego Co. (JLD). One (33-1981) 27 Oct 1978, Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. (RW). One (193-1980) 1-2 Oct 1979, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (PH, PW); this is the first record for northern California. Up to five (8-1982) 22 Nov 1981-7 Mar 1982, near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co. (JLD, RAE, GMcC,

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KLG, RW); photos on file; this is the first wintering record for California. One (6-1982) 27 Nov 1981, near Needles, San Bernardino Co. (JLD, KLG).

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*). One banded (178-1980) 4-5 Jun 1969, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (HR); photos on file; this was the first record for California. One (20-1981) 9 May 1981, Whitewater Canyon, near Cabazon, Riverside Co. (LJ). One (39-1981) 24-27 May 1981, Malibu Lagoon, Los Angeles Co. (JLD, KLG).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*). One (41-1981 and 19-1982; accidentally circulated twice) 16-17 May 1981, Long Beach, Los Angeles Co. (JLD, KLG). One (61-1981) 22 May 1981, Deep Springs College, Inyo Co. (GMcC, DR).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*). One (194-1980) 24 Sep 1979, Moss Beach, San Mateo Co. (PJM). One (224-1980) 14 Sep 1980, Watsonville, Santa Cruz Co. (JLD, RAE). One (4-1981) 18 Sep 1980, Point Reyes, Marin Co. (RS). One (201-1980) 19-25 Oct 1980, Deep Springs College, Inyo Co. (JLD, GMcC). One (226-1980) 26 Oct 1980, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. (DR). One (227-1980) 28 Oct 1980, Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. (DS, RS); photo on file. One (62-1981) 23-26 May 1981, Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC). One (63-1981) 25-26 May 1981, Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC). One (68-1981) 29-30 May 1981, Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC).

*RED-EYED (YELLOW-GREEN) VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus flavoviridis*). One (116-1980) 8 Sep 1979, Gaviota State Beach, Santa Barbara Co. (LRB). One banded (5-1981) 30 Oct 1980, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (BB); photos on file; this is the second record of this race for northern California and first for the island.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). One male (196-1980) 8-15 Oct 1979, Fairhaven, near Arcata, Humboldt Co. (RL). One (26-1981) 10-11 Sep 1980, Moss Beach, San Mateo Co. (AG, JM); photos on file. One male (64-1981) 25-26 May 1981, Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC). One (85-1981) 24 Oct 1981, Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. (GMcC, RW).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*). One (60-1981) 25-26 Apr 1981, Point Loma, San Diego Co. (GMcC). One (37-1981) 11 May-20 Sep 1981, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Co. (JLD, PL). One male (20-1982) 27 May 1981, Zuma Canyon, west of Malibu, Los Angeles Co. (KLG). One (70-1981) 5-8 Sep 1981, Oasis, Mono Co. (JHM, GMcC); photos on file. One (78-1981) 24 Sep 1981, Point Loma, San Diego Co. (GMcC).

Number 37-1981 "... was believed to be a female ... and carried on the now famous 'association' with a male Northern Parula [*Parula americana*] which summered at the same location and with which it cavorted. Although the Parula would seemingly display to the Yellow-throated on repeated occasions during the late spring and early summer, no evidence of nesting was ever found. Alas, no Sutton's Warblers were produced" (PL in CBRC files).

GRACE'S WARBLER (*Dendroica graciae*). One (183-1980) 16-17 Sep 1980, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (GMcC). One (83-1981) 10 Oct 1981, Point Loma, San Diego Co. (GMcC).

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*). One (120-1980) 15 Oct 1979, Gaviota State Beach, Santa Barbara Co. (LRBe, PL).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*). One immature male specimen (12-1981) captured and banded on 5 Sep, recaptured and held on 6 Sep and died 7 Sep 1970, Deep Springs College, Inyo Co. (MSM); photo on file; study skin 37621 in San Diego Natural History Museum; see San Miguel (1971) for further details. One (195-1980) 3 Nov 1979, Año Nuevo State Reserve, San Mateo Co. (PJO). One

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(184-1980) 16-21 Sep 1980, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (JLD, GMcC). One (27-1981) 17-21 Sep 1980 (not 18-19 Sep as in Evens and LeValley 1981), Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. (JE, AG, JM); photo on file; see Figure 2. One (28-1981) 20-23 Oct 1980, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco Co. (AG, JM); photo on file. One (67-1981) 28-29 May 1981, Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC, JO); photo on file.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorus*). One (14-1982) 20 Sep 1981, Topanga, Los Angeles Co. (KLG, LJ). One (81-1981) 4 Oct 1981, Point Loma, San Diego Co. (GMcC). One (5-1982) 5 Nov 1981 (not 6 Nov as in McCaskie 1982a)-21 Mar 1982 and 1-5 Nov 1982, Whaley Park, Long Beach, Los Angeles Co. (BED, JLD, GMcC); this is the second wintering record for southern California and third for the state.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Oporornis formosus*). One female killed against window (217-1980) 14 Oct 1980, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PL); photo of specimen (Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History) on file. One singing male (38-1981) 17-21 May 1981, Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. (JLD, GMcC, JO, RW); photos on file.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*). One (186-1980) 19 Sep 1974 (not 29 Sep as in Roberson 1980), Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (GMcC). One (9-1981) 19 Sep 1980, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (BP); photo on file. Up to two (213-1980) 4-12 Oct 1980, Point Loma, San Diego Co. (JLD, GMcC, JO); photo on file.

MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*). One (26-1980) 2 Sep 1979, Point Mugu, Ventura Co. (RW). One banded (198-1980) 23 Sep 1979, Southeast Farallon



Figure 1. Red-throated Pipit, 25 Oct 1981, Point Loma, San Diego Co., CA. See record 87-1981 under Accepted Records.

Photo by Richard E. Webster

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Island, San Francisco Co. (PH, DS); photos on file. One female (199-1980) 30 Jun (banded)-1 Jul 1980, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (BBo). One (214-1980) 20-23 Sep 1980, Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co. (LRBe, JLD, PL). One (54-1981) 29-31 Aug 1981, Carmel River mouth, Monterey Co. (RLB, JAG, JM, DR); photos on file. One (71-1981) 6-7 Sep 1981, Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co. (JLD, GMcC, RW). One (49-1981) 7-12 Sep 1981, Point Reyes, Marin Co. (LCB, EM, JM, BDP, BY, CY). One (12-1982) 17 Sep 1981, Refugio State Beach, Santa Barbara Co. (PL). One (18-1982) 26 Dec 1981-28 Jan 1982, Harbor Lake, Long Beach, Los Angeles Co. (JLD, GMcC, RW); this is the first winter record for California.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*). One (121-1976) 2 Nov 1975, Panamint Springs, Inyo Co. (BB, HB, HC). One male (173-1980) 29-30 Jun 1980, Arcata, Humboldt Co. (PFS). One male (243-1980) 22 Sep 1980, Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co. (LRBe). One male (29-1981) 25 May 1981, Deep Springs College, Inyo Co. (BB). One male (90-1981) 7-8 Nov 1981, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (GMcC). One female (4-1982) 17-18 Nov 1981, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (JLD, PL).

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*). One banded (200-1980) 28 Sep 1979, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (PH, DS).

CASSIN'S SPARROW (*Aimophila cassinii*). One (69-1980) 2 May 1978, Whitewater River mouth, north end of Salton Sea, Riverside Co. (JLD).

BAIRD'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus bairdii*). One (53-1981) 5-10 Oct 1981, Point Loma, San Diego Co. (JLD, RAE, GMcC, JO, DR, RW); photo on file. This is the second record for the state and first for southern California.



Figure 2. Prothonotary Warbler, 18 Sep 1980, Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co., CA. See record 27-1981 under Accepted Records.

Photo by Albert Giorso

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

LE CONTE'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus leconteii*). One (66-1981) 24-25 May 1981, Furnace Creek Ranch, Inyo Co. (GMcC).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). One on 10 Oct, two on 25 Oct, three on 5-20 Nov 1980 (one banded on latter date), with two remaining to 20 Jan 1981 (222-1980), Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. (GMcC, RS); photos on file. Three (242-1980) 22 Nov 1980-7 Jan 1981, Tijuana River mouth, San Diego Co. (GMcC).

COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*). One (187-1980) 7-8 Nov 1980, near Fort Dick, Del Norte Co. (GSL, RT).

* (BLACK) ROSY FINCH (*Leucosticte arctoa atrata*). One (170-1980) 31 Mar 1980, Conway Summit, Mono Co. (GMcC).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

* LAYSAN ALBATROSS (*Diomedea immutabilis*). One (23-1981) 29 Nov 1973, seen from shore off Point Joe, Monterey Co.

CAPE PETREL (*Daption capense*). One (54-1976) 9 Sep 1962, Monterey Bay off Monterey, Monterey Co. (see McCaskie 1970a for details).

This record, in Committee since 1 February 1977 and circulated numerous times, was judged unacceptable by a final vote of 5-5 (9 affirmative needed to pass). The complete file numbers 81 pages! All recent published references to the occurrence of this species in California (e.g., McCaskie et al. 1979) are based on this record. Some authors question the origin of all Northern Hemisphere records (AOU 1983).

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*). One (30-1979) 7 Sep 1972, La Mesa, San Diego Co.

WILSON'S PLOVER (*Charadrius wilsonia*). One (7-1981) 21-23 Jan 1981, Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co.

PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodus*). One (15-1982) 9 Oct 1981, Moss Landing, Monterey Co.

* RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). One (79-1979) 21 Sep-8 Oct 1979, Arcata, Humboldt Co. This record was accepted by Laymon and Shuford (1980a).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*). One (175-1980) 11 Aug 1977, Upper Newport Bay, Orange Co.

This record was supported by only a color print (Figure 3), without written information other than date, locality and observer. The picture was scrutinized by the Committee and by several gull experts from the United States and England. Most said that single photographs, especially prints (as opposed to transparencies) are very difficult to evaluate—one cannot be sure that what is rendered in the photo is really the way the bird looked. Although at first glance this bird seems large and black-backed, the apparent size may be an artifact of posture (stretched neck, standing on tip toes), angle, and juxtaposition to nearby gulls. The dark back may be accentuated by the end-on view of the feathers and the film type and exposure. Dissenters pointed out the slenderness of the bill (very long but shallow, without a strong gonydeal angle), the nature of the black at the bill tip (large and solid rather than variegated with pale), the apparent slenderness of the body (despite its seeming height), and the inability to determine the pattern of white in the primaries. Some analysts felt that Slaty-backed Gull (*L. schistisagus*) and Yellow-legged Gull (*L. livens*) were not eliminated, and two thought the bird to be the southern race of Western Gull (*L. occidentalis wymani*). In any event, the case for the only West Coast record of Great Black-backed Gull was not proven, and the record was finally judged unacceptable, 1-9.

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

Observers should note that a photo often is not enough; it should be supported by a detailed description, one that includes a discussion of which parts of the photo were as depicted and which were not. This record was published by Roberson (1980) and Garrett and Dunn (1981).

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (*Picoides tridactylus*). One (234-1980) 29 Apr 1979, Castle Lake, near Mount Shasta, Siskiyou Co. This record was published by Roberson (1980).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax virescens*). One (233-1980) 27 Sep 1980, Point Loma, San Diego Co.

This record was originally accepted by the Committee and formed the sole basis for inclusion of *E. virescens* on the California state list (Jones et al. 1981). It was published as a possible Acadian by McCaskie (1981a) and Roberson (1980). However, after receiving new information on Acadian identification from J. Van Remsen, the observers retracted the record. At its meeting of 18 February 1984, the Committee decided that records could not be retracted during circulation (see introduction) and voted unanimously to reject this record, thus deleting the species from the state list.

Remsen (in litt. to GMCC) notes that contrary to the submitted descriptions, Acadians collected from August through October, regardless of age, have buffy-ochraceous,



Figure 3. Unknown species of gull (far left), 11 Aug 1977, Upper Newport Bay, Orange Co., CA. See Great Black-backed Gull (record 175-1980) in Unaccepted Records, identification questionable.

Photo by Oliver Tostain

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

not white wingbars (56 of 56 specimens); yellow or yellowish-white, not white eyerings (52 of 54 specimens); a dingy grayish or yellow-tinged throat (43 of 56 specimens); and a totally pale lower mandible.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*). One (13-1982) 20 Oct 1981, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co.

The Committee agreed (1-9) that Ash-throated Flycatcher (*M. cinerascens*) could not be eliminated. The Goleta bird was said to have the "belly and flanks *bright yellow*, shading abruptly to a *strong gray* at midbreast and above to throat and sides of face." While this sounds good, it is necessary to state clearly exactly how dark the gray was and how rich the yellow, comparing these terms to some other species or to specific color names; an Ash-throated in fresh fall plumage can be quite "bright" yellow and "strong" gray depending on one's interpretation of these terms. The observer did describe the heavier bill and the longer and more robust body. Committee members noted that the late evening light might have accentuated the belly and breast colors and that size is difficult for anyone to judge without direct comparison. Owing to the poor light and the uncooperativeness of the bird, two marks critical to the identification of this species could not be seen: the orangish base to the lower mandible and the olive-green (not brownish or grayish) back and crown.

VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*). One (19-1981) 10 May 1981, Hwy. 104, Placerville to Lone, just south of Meiss Road.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER (*Toxostoma curvirostre*). One (32-1980) 5 Oct 1979, Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (*Anthus spragueii*). One (6-1981) 14 Dec 1980, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Glenn Co.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*). One (48-1981) 30 Aug 1981, near Auburn, Placer Co. One (50-1979) 14 May 1978, Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co.; published by McCaskie (1978), Roberson (1980) and Garrett and Dunn (1981).

Committee members pointed out that the dark loreal line of the Philadelphia is not always as prominent as usually depicted in field guides. This line is not black but dark gray and sometimes is incomplete, while some Warbling Vireos (*V. gilvus*) give at least an impression of darkish lores. Possibly useful are the clean-cut look of the loreal line (as contrasted with the smudgy appearance in darker-lore Warblings) and the darker post-ocular stripe, but these need further study. Warbling Vireos can have much brighter and more extensive yellow on the underparts than depicted in many field guides, especially in fall. For this reason, several Committee members believe that the color of the throat proper must be seen and described, the Philadelphia always having a yellowish throat (sometimes pale yellow; the chin may be whitish) and the Warbling a white throat (sometimes off-white).

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorus*). One (10-1982) 1 Nov 1981, near Figueroa Mt., Santa Barbara Co.; accepted by McCaskie (1982a).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*). One (12-1980) 31 May 1974, Santa Barbara Island.

This record was accepted by McCaskie (1974), Roberson (1980) and Garrett and Dunn (1981). However, the reporter rejected his own record after learning more about *Oporornis* identification. He and most members felt that Mourning Warbler was not eliminated and in fact was indicated. Connecticut rarely hop; they walk, rather deliberately. Compared to Mourning, the tail appears shorter because of the bulkier body and longer undertail coverts. The eyering probably is never widely broken (but see the narrow break in the eyering in the photo in Luther 1980).

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

OLIVE WARBLER (*Peucedramus taeniatus*). One (92-1981) 16 Oct 1979, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco Co.

This record was originally submitted as a Pine Warbler and was published as such by Laymon and Shuford (1980a). However, before it could receive final Committee validation, it was retracted and resubmitted as an Olive Warbler, a species unrecorded in California. The Committee was confident that it was not an Olive Warbler, voting 0-10 on the first round. Members pointed out that contrary to the description, an Olive Warbler has yellowish extending broadly above (as well as behind and below) the dark cheek patch; has a mellow whistled "kew" call, not a "chip"; lacks streaks on the sides of the breast and flanks, a faint malar stripe, and an incomplete white eyering; and (fide KLG) flicks its wings kinglet-like.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, origin questionable (identification accepted)

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*). One (2-1979) 2 Jun-16 Jul 1939 (not 2-29 Jun as in Roberson 1980), Lake Merced, San Francisco Co.; see Bolander (1939) for further details. Note: the identity of a bird at Searsville Lake, San Mateo Co., 28 and 30 May 1939, reported as an Anhinga and said to be "undoubtedly the same bird" as at Lake Merced, has been questioned by Sibley (1952); the Committee did not deal with this sighting.

This species, as well as the Ruddy Ground-Dove, Gray Silky-flycatcher and White-collared Seedeater (see beyond), are not on the California state list. They are not known to occur regularly any closer to the state than Sinaloa, Mexico, although the last three have been recorded as presumed escapees at intervening localities, and there is one apparently valid record of the Anhinga for Arizona (Phillips and Monson 1981). The wandering habits of the Anhinga and Gray Silky-flycatcher perhaps make them candidates for vagrancy; the latter, however, is known to be a cage bird in at least southern Mexico (LCB, pers. obs.) The western races of the ground-dove and seedeater are thought to be largely sedentary.

California records of Mexican species are difficult to assess because we do not know how many such birds are imported illegally, released by returning American tourists or immigrant Mexicans, or lost from U.S. zoos or from pet shops, especially those near the border in Mexico (e.g., Tijuana). In such cases the Committee prefers to await the development of a clear pattern of vagrancy in regions between California and the normal range. Rejected records remain in the CBRC files and may be resubmitted should a pattern be detected. Observers should report to the Committee all possible escapees—if they are also possible wild birds. Only then can a pattern be discerned.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK (*Anas rubripes*). One (149-1980) 11 Nov 1978, Niland Fish Hatchery, Imperial Co.

No California record for this species has yet been accepted by the CBRC. Because of the presumed frequency of escapes and releases, addition of this species to the state list may require the recovery of a wild bird banded in its normal range.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*). One (31-1981) 24-26 Nov 1978, near Fillmore, Ventura Co. See comments under Anhinga.

GRAY SILKY-FLYCATCHER (*Ptilogonys cinereus*). One (115-1980) 9 Apr 1976, Ventura Co. See comments under Anhinga.

WHITE-COLLARED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila torqueola*). One adult male (34-1981) 19 Sep 1977, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. This bird was clearly from one of the west Mexican populations (*S.t. torqueola* or *S.t. atriceps*). See comments under Anhinga.

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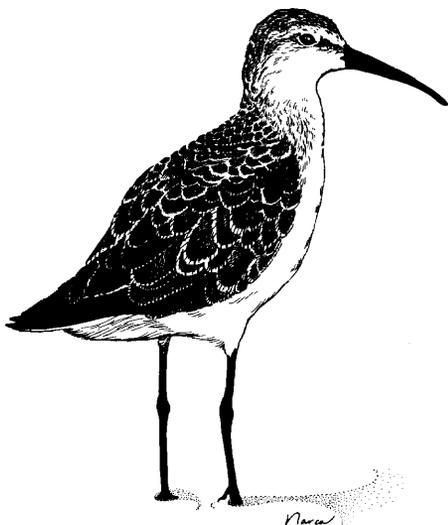
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Juvenile Curlew Sandpiper

Sketch by Narca Moore-Craig