

THE 46TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2020 RECORDS

THOMAS A. BENSON, California State University San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, California 92407; secretary@californiabirds.org

DEBORAH J. HOUSE, 172 Summit Road, Bishop, California 93514; roadkill23@earthlink.net

GUY McCASKIE, 954 Grove Avenue, Imperial Beach, California 91932; guymcc@pacbell.net

ALEX M. RINKERT, 322 Seabright Avenue #1, Santa Cruz, California 95062; arinkert12@comcast.net

RYAN S. TERRILL, Occidental College, 1600 Campus Road, Los Angeles, California 90041; ornothoterrill@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: From its last report through 2020, the California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 206 records involving 195 individuals of 67 species and two species groups, endorsing 180 records of 169 individuals. Especially notable records detailed in this report include those of California's third Common Crane (*Grus grus*), third Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*), third Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatalis*), third Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), fourth Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*), and fourth Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*).

This 46th report of the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC), a committee of Western Field Ornithologists, summarizes evaluations of 206 records involving 195 individuals of 67 species and two species groups. The committee accepted 180 of the 206 records, involving 169 individuals of 59 species and two species groups, for an acceptance rate of 87.3%. A record is considered accepted if it receives no more than one "not accept" vote from the nine voting members on the grounds of questionable identification, or no more than two "not accept" votes on the grounds of questionable natural occurrence. We consider 24 records of 19 individuals to represent returning or continuing birds that were accepted previously. Twenty-four records, involving 24 individuals of 21 species, were not accepted because the identification was not considered to be substantiated. In two cases, involving two individuals of two species, we considered the species correctly identified but did not accept the records because we questioned the birds' natural occurrence. For review, reports of multiple individuals together are given the same record number; we report the total number of accepted individuals, which may be different from the number of accepted records. Most of the records in this report are of birds first documented in 2020, although a few are earlier.

Since the period covered by this report, the committee has accepted the first California record of the Mexican Duck (*Anas diazi*), the details of which will be published in the next (47th) report. This addition brings the California list to 677 species. The only changes to the review list were the removal of the Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) at the January 2021 annual meeting and the addition of the Mexican Duck following acceptance of the first state record. The committee is currently evaluating a record of the Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), representing a potential addition to the state list.

Species-account headings are organized with English and scientific names first, followed in parentheses by the total number of individuals accepted for California (this report included) and the number of new individuals accepted in this report. Accounts summarize records accepted (as applicable), followed by records not accepted because the identification was not established, the date or location was uncertain, or the natural occurrence was questionable (as applicable). A double asterisk (**) following the number of accepted individuals indicates that the species has been reviewed for a restricted period, so the number of accepted individuals does not represent the total number known for the state. When the observer(s) who originally discovered the bird provided documentation, their initials are listed first in italics, followed by the initials of subsequent observers supplying documentation. A symbol following an observer's initials indicates s/he submitted a photograph (†), sketch (\$), audio recording (§), and/or video (‡). The absence of a symbol following the observer's initials indicates the submission of written documentation only. Following the initials of the observer(s) is the identifying number assigned by the CBRC's secretary. A (#) precedes a specimen number; we cite the collections of the California Academy of Sciences (CAS), Humboldt State University (HSU), and San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) in this report.

As of the CBRC's 43rd report (Singer et al. 2020), age terminology follows that of Humphrey and Parkes (1959) as modified by Howell et al. (2003) and Howell and Pyle (2015). Age determinations largely follow the criteria of Pyle (1997, 2008). If, in the species accounts, we do not specify a bird's age or sex, those characteristics could not be assessed from the information available. Definitions of abbreviations and additional details regarding minutiae of formatting may be found in the CBRC's previous annual reports and in CBRC (2007), both available via the CBRC's website, www.californiabirds.org. Also available through this website are the California bird list, the review list, an online form for submitting documentation of review species, committee news, the CBRC's bylaws, and a form for querying the CBRC's database. Observers are encouraged to submit documentation for all species on the CBRC's review list to the secretary via e-mail (secretary@californiabirds.org) or the website. Documentation of all records is archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (www.wfvz.org) and is available for public review by appointment or by contacting the CBRC's secretary.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Anser canagicus* (99, 3). We consider two adults at San Gregorio State Beach, SM, 20 Mar–3 Apr 2020 (MDeF†, ChH†; 2020-022) to be the same individuals as two adults that spent much of the winter to the south at Point Piedras Blancas, SLO, 9 Jan–15 Mar 2020 (JAM†, BBo†, PCl†, RDe†, TME†, APa†, KP†, BKS†, AJS†, JSto†, JT†, ST†; 2020-007; see this issue's front cover). We consider an adult at Bodega Head, SON, 18 Mar 2020 (SC†; 2020-021) to have been a different bird.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* (0, 0). NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE: A male was at Carmel River State Beach, MTY, 4 Dec 2020 (EH†; 2020-189); this species is not likely to reach California as a natural vagrant (see Chesser et al. 2017, Pyle et al. 2017, Benson et al. 2020, Singer et al. 2020).

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* (30, 2). An adult male in West Sacramento, YOL, 3–31 Jan 2020 (ZP†, MJR†; 2020-002) was presumably the same bird that was at this

location the previous winter (2019-021; Benson et al. 2021). Different adult males were at the Border Tule Wildlife Habitat 12.5 km east-southeast of Arbuckle, COL, 26 Feb–13 Apr 2020 (BD, KCK†, LP†, MJR†, KRS†, BCS †; 2020-015) and at Staten Island, SJ, 19 Mar 2020 (BeS†; 2020-023). We considered an adult female associating with Blue-winged Teal (*A. discors*) at the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, RIV, 19 Oct 2020–10 Mar 2021 (TABe†, ALH†, RLM†; 2020-141) as the same bird there the previous winter (2019-174; Benson et al. 2021).

NORTHERN BOBWHITE *Colinus virginianus* (0, 0). **NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE:** The committee considered a male of the *virginianus* subspecies group in Escondido, SD, 4 Jun 2020 (JDa†; 2020-062) to be an obvious escapee.

RUDDY GROUND DOVE *Columbina talpacoti* (120**, 2). A male in formative plumage was at Bellevue Memorial Park in Ontario, SBE, 15 Oct 2020 (SS†, MAG†; 2020-133), and a female in formative plumage was at North Island Naval Air Station adjacent to Coronado, SD, 15 Oct 2020 (BCF†, EC†, GMcC, MSe†; 2020-134).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW *Antrostomus carolinensis* (4, 1). One in formative plumage near Bolinas, MRN, 7 Dec 2020 (MDet†, DSS†; 2020-200; Figure 1) represents the fourth record for California and the first for Marin County. All four California records are from coastal counties in the northern half of the state, with the dates of three falling between 2 December and 4 January. The three previous records are of sick or injured individuals: one found injured at Half Moon Bay, SM, 16 Oct 1986 (CAS #83955); one struck by a car near Loleta, HUM, 4 Jan 1989 (HSU #7749); and one found in poor health in Crescent City, DN, 2 Dec 2005, that was rehabilitated and released in February 2006 (CBRC 2007, Iliff et al. 2007).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris* (22, 1). A juvenile male (on the basis of its throat spotting and tail-fork length) was in Tomales, MRN, 5–10 Sep 2020 (CCo†, LC†, DLe†, RAR†, ANW†; 2020-085).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris* (122, 10). Males frequented hummingbird feeders near the Allied Gardens Recreation Center in San Diego, SD, 25–27 Sep 2020 (MRa†, AD†, NJD†, JTS†; 2020-102) and at Sea Ranch, SON, 2–6 Oct 2020 (MB†, JBa†, DH†; 2020-113). Males in formative plumage were in Pacific Beach, SD, 1–3 Oct 2020 (GNu†; 2020-109); Loma Linda, SBE, 15–16 Oct 2020 (TABe†, MAG†, BCS†; 2020-132); Half Moon Bay, SM, 22–23 Oct 2020 (ChH†, MDeF†, RFi, JMo†; 2020-143); Poway, SD, 25 Oct–1 Nov 2020 (MAK, LSh†, TB†, TH†, TKo†; 2020-151); Oak View, VEN, 9 Nov 2020–7 Jan 2021 (JCo†; 2020-168); Montecito, SBA, 10–16 Nov 2020 (DN†, JCa†, NL; 2020-169); Pasadena, LA, 20 Nov 2020–20 Feb 2021 (TM †, TABe†, JSF†, SY†; 2020-179); and Paradise Estates, 16 km southeast of Crowley Lake, MNO, 5–16 Nov 2020 (MO†, DJH†; 2020-202). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** A male hummingbird photographed in Blythe, RIV, 5 Jul–13 Aug 2020 (2020-069) appeared to be a hybrid between a Broad-billed and a Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), while a Broad-billed Hummingbird described at the same location 10 Jul 2020 (2020-081) was not endorsed by a majority of members. The committee has discontinued reviewing records of the Broad-billed Hummingbird subsequent to 2020.

VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD *Leucolia violiceps* (8, 1). One undergoing its second prebasic molt visited a hummingbird feeder at the De Anza Springs Resort, 4 km north of Jacumba, SD, 20–23 May 2020 (NCh\$, PEL, GMcC, BMu†; 2020-049).

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* (3, 1). An adult was associating with Sandhill Cranes (*Antigone canadensis*) near the town of Davis Creek, MOD, 26 Jul–20 Sep 2020 (KMCK†, JDo†, CHH†, LHug†\$, MM†, NJO†, DEQ, RAR†, SBT; 2020-072).



FIGURE 1. This Chuck-will's Widow roosting near Bolinas, Marin County, 7 Dec 2020 (2020-200) was observed that day only. The rounded shape and barred pattern to the rectrices indicate juvenile feathers retained on a bird in formative plumage.

Photo by Daniel S. Singer



FIGURE 2. This adult Bristle-thighed Curlew at Abbotts Lagoon, Marin County, 19 May 2020 (2020-048) was only the third recorded in California, following two in May 1998. The species remains in its winter range on tropical Pacific islands for its first one to three summers (Pyle 2008), so only adults, distinguished by their broad and dark basic flight feathers, should have a chance of reaching California in spring.

Photo by Matt Lau

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2020 RECORDS

All three of California's records have come from the extreme northern end of the state with one for Del Norte County and two for Modoc County.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* (5, 2). One recorded calling in flight at the mouth of Elk Creek, DN, 16 Aug 2020 (RN\$; 2020-075) and an adult male in definitive alternate plumage at Morro Bay, SLO, 1–7 Oct 2020 (KJZ†, TME†, LFr†, BH†, WHK†, BKS†, MSt†, ST†, EW†; 2020-110) provided the first records for Del Norte County and San Luis Obispo County, respectively.

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW *Numenius tahitiensis* (3, 1). An adult at Abbotts Lagoon, MRN, 19 May 2020 (MLau†\$; 2020-048; Figure 2) represented the second record for Marin County. All three of California's recorded Bristle-thighed Curlews have occurred on the northern California coast within the relatively narrow window of 14–25 May following periods of strong westerly or northerly winds (Mlodinow et al. 1999, CBRC 2007).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (59, 5). Juveniles were at Waddell State Beach, SCZ, 12–15 Sep 2020 (LS†, AMR†, MSt†, Pso†, GT†, SBT†; 2020-089); Limantour Beach, MRN, 14–19 Oct 2020 (JG, DLu†; 2020-139); and the Garcia River mouth, MEN, 19 Oct 2020 (ZV†; 2020-140). An adult was at the mouth of Colma Creek, SM, 1 Sep 2020 (CD†; 2020-082). The committee also endorsed a recently submitted report of one from Berkeley Aquatic Park, ALA, 13 Apr 1979 (LRB, DLD\$; 1979-502). Only four of California's 59 accepted records of the Bar-tailed Godwit have been of spring migrants, with this being the earliest; the other three are for May and early June.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (62, 3). An adult male in definitive alternate plumage was at the Wister Unit of the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), IMP, 30 May 2020 (GMcC; 2020-058). Juveniles were at the west end of Young Road along the southeast shore of the Salton Sea, IMP, 10 Oct 2020 (GMcC, PAI†; 2020-127) and near the Salton Sea NWR headquarters, IMP, 10–12 Oct 2020 (GMcC, GL†; 2020-128).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (55, 3). Juveniles were at Grimes, COL, 17 Sep 2020 (MFo†, LHub†, LK, LP†; 2020-092) and Goleta, SBA, 16 Sep–2 Dec 2020 (FJS, TABe†, BC-B†, DMC†, SDC†, BH†, ALH†, DK-B†, NL, ESa†, LSa†, AJS†, RST†, LDW†; 2020-091). An adult that completed definitive prebasic molt was at the Tulare Lake Drainage District's south evaporation ponds, KIN/KER, 5 Sep–18 Nov 2020 (SSu†, LK, ME\$†; 2020-129). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One described at Red Hill, IMP, 20 Apr 2004 (2004-613) failed to receive support from a majority of committee members.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* (36, 2). One at the south end of San Diego Bay, SD, 4 Jul 2020–10 Apr 2021 (PEL†, GMcC, MSa†; 2020-068) is considered a bird returning for a third consecutive winter (2018-219; Benson et al. 2020). Little Stints in alternate plumage at the Napa-Sonoma Wildlife Area, SOL, 23 Jul 2020 (LS†; 2020-071) and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, ORA, 17 Aug 2020 (WB†; 2020-076) were fall migrants.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* (3, 1). One in formative or basic plumage at the Kern NWR, KER, 29 Mar 2020 (WR†; 2020-026) provided the third record for California and the first for Kern County.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (33, 2). We consider an adult in definitive basic plumage associating with Bonaparte's Gulls (*C. philadelphia*) on the Salton Sea at North Shore, RIV, 2 Jan–3 Mar 2020 (GMcC, DVP†; 2020-001) as a returning individual (2014-003; Singer et al. 2016). Another adult in definitive basic plumage was at Ormond Beach, VEN, 7–11 Apr 2020 (ZA†, DK-B†, AJS†; 2020-031), and a first-year bird in formative plumage was at the Stockton Water

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2020 RECORDS

Treatment Plant, SJ, 4 Dec 2020–17 Jan 2021 (JMB†, RFi, JMo†, LP†, AMR†, BTo†, ANW†; 2020-191).

BLACK-TAILED GULL *Larus crassirostris* (7, 0). An adult in definitive alternate plumage on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 4 Apr 2020 (GPD†; 2020-029) and in definitive basic plumage 23–24 Oct 2020 (EL†, JRT†; 2020-147), then in flight over the ocean at Fort Funston, SF, 1 Nov 2020 (PSa†; 2020-197) were all considered the same bird first found on the mainland coast at the Gazos Creek mouth, SM, 30 May 2019 (2019-041; Benson et al. 2021).

SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus schistisagus* (79, 7). One undergoing second prebasic molt at Ten Mile Beach, MEN, 16–21 Sep 2020 (TE†, RA†, JRW; 2020-097; Figure 3) represents the only record accepted in California between mid-April and mid-November; it was possibly overwintering locally. Adults were at Half Moon Bay, SM, 14–15 Jan 2020 (A†, MDeF†, ChH†; 2020-003); at the Marina landfill, MTY, 23 Jan–13 Feb 2020 (BTM†; 2020-008); near the Yolo County Central Landfill, 7 km northeast of Davis, YOL, 31 Jan–15 Feb 2020 (SCH†, ZP†, BW†; 2020-010); and at the Crescent City harbor, DN, 25–26 Feb 2020 (LB†, TKu†; 2020-014). A male in second alternate plumage was at Point Pinos, MTY, 27 Mar–15 Apr 2020 (BTM†; 2020-025), and a bird in third basic plumage was in Eureka, HUM, 27 Dec 2018 (EAE†; 2018-255). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The photograph of a reported Slaty-backed Gull at the Marina landfill, MTY, 20 Nov 2020 (2020-181) did not support the identification adequately.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (105, 1). A juvenile at Stone Lagoon, HUM, 14 Jan–12 Mar 2020 (TKu†, BE†, RFo†; 2020-004; Figure 4) commenced its preformative molt before departing. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A description of a supposed Yellow-billed Loon seen under poor viewing conditions at Point Reyes, MRN, 25 Mar 2020 (2020-024) did not eliminate a Common Loon (*G. immer*).

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* (42, 1). A juvenile was photographed during a whale-watching trip near the submarine Monterey Canyon, southwest of Point Pinos, MTY, 28 Feb 2020 (SSc†; 2020-016; Figure 5).

STREAKED SHEARWATER *Calonectris leucomelas* (19, 1). One ~40 km west-southwest of Pillar Point, SM, 24 Oct 2020 (PP, ID†, AJ†; 2020-149) was the first identified in California since 2008. Except for the one inland at Red Bluff, TEH, 5 Aug 1993 (Garrett and Singer 1998), all 19 records are from offshore waters between Mendocino and Santa Barbara counties from 17 August to 24 October (CBRC 2007, 2022).

WOOD STORK *Mycteria americana* (1**, 1). The only new records since the Wood Stork was added to the review list in 2020 were of an adult at the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park, San Pasqual, SD, 13–15 May 2020 (DHa†, AL; 2020-043) that subsequently moved north to Perris, Lake Elsinore, and Mystic Lake, RIV, 18 Jul–25 Sep 2020 (JS†, TABe†, MAG†, BH†, GMcC, SJM†, CS†; 2020-070; Figure 6) before returning to the Safari Park, SD, 3–15 Oct 2020 (NJD†, JTS†; 2020-116).

MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra* (54, 8). An adult was offshore from Point Loma, SD, 18 Jan 2020 (PN†; 2020-005), and another at Pescadero State Beach, SM, 12 Mar 2020 (SM†; 2020-019) subsequently visited Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 18 Mar–5 Apr 2020 (GPD†; 2020-020). Masked Boobies undergoing their second prebasic molt were at the Playa del Rey breakwater, LA, 8–24 Feb 2020 (RST†, TABe†, LFe†, DDS†; 2020-013); ~13 km south-southwest of Point Loma, SD, 28 Feb 2020 (TAB†, PEL, GMcC, DPov; 2020-017); at Crystal Cove State Beach, ORA, 3 Apr 2020 (DB†; 2020-030); at Crescent Bay and Newport Beach, ORA, 13 Sep–3 Nov 2020 (MG†, GNo†, NJO†, ESa†, RS†, DT†; 2020-090); at Dana Point harbor, ORA, 29



FIGURE 3. This second-cycle Slaty-backed Gull at Ten Mile Beach, Mendocino County, 16 Sep 2020 (2020-097) was the first found in California in summer.

Photo by Todd Easterla



FIGURE 4. The brownish plumage, yellow coloration of the distal culmen, and mandibular ramus recurved from the gonys to the base of the bill identify this as a juvenile Yellow-billed Loon, photographed 19 Jan 2020 at Stone Lagoon, Humboldt County (2020-004).

Photo by Brad Elvert



FIGURE 5. This striking juvenile Short-tailed Albatross, photographed 28 Feb 2020 off of Point Pinos, Monterey County (2020-016), shows the large pink bill characteristic of this species. The pointed outer primaries are characteristic of juvenile plumage, as opposed to second basic plumage in which the outer three primaries are usually replaced.

Photo by Scottie Schmidt



FIGURE 6. Photos of spread wings, like this one of a Wood Stork taken 26 Jul 2020 near Perris, Riverside County (2020-070), allow the evaluation of molt stage and whether the bird may be the same individual as one photographed elsewhere. This Wood Stork is an adult undergoing definitive prebasic molt, as its fifth primary is growing.

Photo by Stephen J. Myers

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2020 RECORDS

Nov 2020–27 May 2021 (*DGa*†, *TABe*†, *CCa*†, *SVF*†; 2020-187); and at the San Dieguito River mouth, SD, 2 Sep 2020 (*NJD*†, *DKi*†, *PU*†; 2020-101, SDNHM #56614). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: An adult described from Point La Jolla, SD, 27 Jul 2019 (2019-073) and another photographed and video-recorded offshore from Humboldt Bay, HUM, 22 Nov 2020 (2020-204) were not accepted as Masked Boobies. The former was re-evaluated as a Masked/Nazca Booby (see below).

NAZCA BOOBY *Sula granti* (63, 1). An adult was photographed ~205 km south-southwest of San Miguel Island, SBA, 23 Jul 2019 (*CW*; 2019-090). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one photographed at Point Arguello, SBA, 30 Jul 2019 (2019-083) did not receive enough votes for acceptance and was re-evaluated as a Masked/Nazca Booby (see below). The committee considers records of the Nazca Booby only through 2019, having discontinued review of subsequent reports in light of the species' remarkable surge into California.

MASKED/NAZCA BOOBY *Sula dactylatra/granti* (50, 2). Single adults were at Point La Jolla, SD, 27 Jul 2019 (*DJ*; 2019-073A) and at Point Arguello, SBA, 30 Jul 2019 (*JuH*†; 2019-083A). The committee reviews records of Masked/Nazca Boobies through 2019 only.

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (91**, 10). An adult at Fig Lagoon, 3 km south of Seeley, IMP, 8–15 May 2020 (*DJ*†, *GMcC*, *NJD*†; 2020-040), and one in formative plumage at Rock Hill at the Salton Sea, IMP, 27 Dec 2020–2 Apr 2021 (*CAM*†, *GMcC*; 2020-201), represented the first records for Imperial County since 2008. Five occurred in San Diego County: an adult at Mission Bay, SD, 5–8 June 2020 (*SHa*†; 2020-061); a juvenile or one in preformative molt at the San Dieguito River mouth, SD, 3 Sep 2020 (*SESS*; 2020-083); and birds in formative plumage at and near the San Diego River mouth, SD, 14 Oct 2020–26 Apr 2021 (*DJ*†, *TABl*†, *GMcC*; 2020-130), the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay NWR, SD, 12 Nov 2020–30 Mar 2021 (*MSa*†; 2020-171), and San Elijo Lagoon, SD, 16 Nov–5 Dec 2020 (*SGB*, *TD*†; 2020-177). In Orange County, birds in formative plumage were observed at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, ORA, 2 Oct–18 Dec 2020 (*JA*†, *CCa*†, *HF*†, *JHo*†, *CaJ*†, *ChJ*†, *JMi*†, *ESa*†; 2020-114) and Upper Newport Bay, ORA, 22 Dec–4 Apr 2021 (*DGo*†, *CaH*†, *EMa*†, *ESa*†, *JSta*†; 2020-198). We consider an adult at Point Mugu Naval Air Station, VEN, 4 Nov 2019–24 Feb 2020 (*MRu*†; 2019-216) and 25 Nov 2020–16 Mar 2021 (*MRu*†; 2020-190), to be the same as one present there 18 Oct 2018–25 Jan 2019 (2018-205; Benson et al. 2020).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (42, 2). Two adults were photographed at the Susanville sewage ponds, LAS, 7–9 May 2020 (*SJS*†; 2020-039). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one photographed along Stockdale Highway west of Bakersfield, KER, 23 Apr 2019 (2019-027) was not accepted after four rounds of circulation, as two committee members believed this individual showed signs of hybridization. The continuing introgression of Glossy Ibis alleles into White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) populations creates challenges in evaluating records of these species (Leukering 2008, Oswald et al. 2018). Good-quality photos showing facial features, along with eye, bill, and leg color, are needed for assessment.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL *Platalea ajaja* (150, 3). One in formative plumage was at Unit 1 of the Salton Sea NWR, IMP, 3 Apr–27 Sep 2020 (*GMcC*, *NJD*†, *TGM*, *JTS*†; 2020-028), and another of uncertain age was at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, RIV, 8 Apr 2020 (*NP*; 2020-032). One undergoing its second prebasic molt or in second basic plumage at the Mad River Slough and along the Eel River at Fernbridge, HUM, 31 Oct–7 Nov 2020 (*ABe*†, *MW*†; 2020-161; Figure 7) was the first for Humboldt County and the northernmost recorded in California.

BLACK VULTURE *Coragyps atratus* (11, 0). The committee treats the five records in 2020 as representing the same individual that has remained in the San



FIGURE 7. This Roseate Spoonbill, photographed 7 Nov 2020 along the Eel River near Fernbridge, Humboldt County (2020-161), represents one of only two records in California north of Santa Barbara County. The pink wing coverts combined with the short white feathering to the head a bird in second basic plumage or completing the second prebasic molt; the head is naked in an adult Roseate Spoonbill.

Photo by Matthew Wells

Francisco Bay area since March 2014 (2014-027 et seq.; Singer et al. 2016): Willow Creek near Bridgehaven, SON, 31 Mar 2020 (*JSn†*; 2020-027); near Point Reyes Station, MRN, 3 May–12 Aug 2020 (*EMo†*; 2020-036); around Kentfield and San Rafael, MRN, 30 Jul–16 Aug 2020 (*JSn†*, *DLe†*; 2020-074); around Sonoma, SON, and Novato and San Rafael, MRN, 2–22 Oct 2020 (*AS†*, *MFi*; 2020-135); and around Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 14 Dec 2020–24 Mar 2021 (*PP†*; 2020-194). The records sufficient to verify the bird's age confirmed it to be an adult.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (57, 4). The two reports of spring migrants were of one in formative plumage in San Francisco, SF, 16 May 2020 (*MLar†*; 2020-045) and an adult at Mojave Narrows Regional Park, SBE, 13–14 Jun 2020 (*MAG†*, *TABe†*; 2020-063). An adult at Palm Springs, RIV, 7 Aug 2020 (*JaR†*; 2020-077) may have summered locally or have been a very early fall migrant. A Mississippi Kite in formative plumage or undergoing its second prebasic molt was seen in flight over Chula Vista, Mission Bay, and Ocean Beach, SD, 9 Sep 2020 (*PEL*; 2020-086). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One described over Encinitas, SD, 9 Sep 2019 (2019-212) was seen without the aid of binoculars, and the committee did not endorse the identification.

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2020 RECORDS

ELF OWL *Micrathene whitneyi* (12, 1). One calling at Pachalka Spring in the Mojave National Preserve, SBE, 23 May 2020 (EAE\$, KC\$; 2020-054) was the northernmost yet reported in California and the first recorded in San Bernardino County since a population along the Colorado River near Needles was extirpated in 1988 (McCaskie 1988).

AMAZON KINGFISHER *Chloroceryle amazona* (0, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The written description of a supposed Amazon Kingfisher seen in poor light near Blythe, RIV, 23 Oct 2020 (2020-159) lacked sufficient documentation to establish a first state record.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (116, 1). One was at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, SD, 17 Nov 2003 (SBM; 2003-214). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The committee received previously unsubmitted photographs of a bird at Southeast Farallon Island, SE, 24 Oct 2004, which it had previously not accepted as a Dusky-capped Flycatcher (2004-208; Cole et al. 2006). Per the committee's bylaws, the members voted in favor of re-evaluating the record on the basis of new and substantial evidence, and a new record number (2004-208A) was assigned. Upon re-review, however, the committee still considered the documentation insufficient to support the identification. The committee reviews records of this species through 2017 only.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (68, 4). Fall migrants, all birds that had suspended the preformative molt, were at Drakes Beach, MRN, 30 Sep–3 Oct 2020 (LC†, LHug†, DEQ†, DSS†, JCS†; 2020-108), Sea Ranch, SON, 1 Oct 2020 (KMB†\$; 2020-107), Morro Bay High School, SLO, 23 Oct 2020 (MDH†, WHK†, KP†, MSt†, ST†; 2020-145), and Columbia Park in Torrance, LA, 24 Oct 2020 (TABe†, ChJ†, KMo†, JN; 2020-146).

GREAT KISKADEE *Pitangus sulphuratus* (0, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One was described from Santa Cruz Island, SBA, 12 Apr 2020 (2020-035). While several committee members thought the description was consistent with this species, all considered the documentation inadequate for a first state record.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris* (22, 1). An adult in fresh definitive basic plumage was at Long Beach, LA, 21–24 Sep 2020 (JBo, TABe†, BED†, NJD†, ChJ†, KMo†, NJO†, JTS†, JCS†, RST†; 2020-099). Only eight of California's 22 records are of birds that have remained for multiple days.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (26, 2). An adult returned for its 11th winter to the mouth of Poggi Canyon in Otay Valley, Chula Vista, SD, 27 Oct 2020–24 Apr 2021 (DJ†, RU†; 2020-153), and another adult returned to Horsethief Canyon Park, San Dimas, LA, 7 Feb–8 Mar 2020 (KPC†, MP†; 2020-012) and 8 Dec 2020–1 Feb 2021 (KPC†; 2020-193) for its seventh and eighth winters, respectively. A third adult wintered at Laguna Niguel Regional Park, ORA, 6 Dec 2020–7 Apr 2021 (JoR†\$, TABe†, NJO†, ESa†, RS†; 2020-203). One in formative plumage at Mount Umunhum, SCL, 7 Oct 2020 (WGB†; 2020-123; Figure 8) was the first for Santa Clara County and one of only seven fall migrants recorded in California.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus savanna* (4, 1). An adult at Vandenberg Air Force Base, SBA, 22 Oct 2020 (AA†; 2020-144) furnished the first record for Santa Barbara County and for southern California. This is the latest record for the state by over three weeks; the previous three Fork-tailed Flycatchers occurred between 4 and 28 September (CBRC 2007, 2022).

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (46, 0). Wintering adults returned to Balboa Park, San Diego, SD, 22 Sep 2020–6 Feb 2021 (JP, NF †; 2020-098) and Pacific Palisades, LA, 6 Oct 2020–2 Jan 2021 (JSF, RT †; 2020-122), each for its fourth winter.



FIGURE 8. This Thick-billed Kingbird at Mount Umunhum, Santa Clara County, 7 Oct 2020 (2020-123) was only the third found in northern California and one of very few fall migrants recorded in the state. The blunt outer primary, narrow tapered rectrices, and two evident generations of greater coverts (inner two feathers replaced) confirm a bird in formative plumage.

Photo by William G. Bousman



FIGURE 9. This Cave Swallow at the Tulare Water Pollution Control Facility, 3 km southwest of Tulare, Tulare County (2020-009; photo taken the first day of its 29 Jan–1 Feb 2020 stay), was the first recorded in the Central Valley. The inner primaries are being replaced and contrast with the brown and worn juvenile outer primaries, indicating an individual undergoing its complete preformative molt.

Photo by Steve Summers

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2020 RECORDS

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens* (16, 1). One vocalizing at Point Reyes National Seashore, MRN, 2 Jun 2019 (LC†\$; 2019-048) provided California's earliest record of a spring migrant yet, edging out the previous early date by one day.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris* (30, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The identity of a supposed Yellow-bellied Flycatcher photographed at the mouth of Hardy Creek, MEN, 23 Sep 2020 (2020-158) was not endorsed by a majority of committee members.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* (9, 1). One in first alternate plumage (as determined by retained juvenile primary coverts and replaced alternate inner secondary coverts; see Carnes et al. 2021) at California City, KER, 25–26 May 2020 (EI\$, LK, DS, GMcC, NJO, RO†, L\$at, Bo\$†, JCS†, RST\$; 2020-055) represents California's earliest record of a spring migrant by five days. All three of California's spring and early summer records (25 May–11 July) are of singing males in Kern County.

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (94, 6). Six individuals found in 2020 were considerably more than California's recent 10-year (2010–2019) annual average of 2.1 (CBRC 2022). Spring reports were of one at San Luis Obispo, SLO, 19 May 2020 (EW†\$, TME†; 2020-047); an adult at Camino Corto Open Space, Isla Vista, SBA, 23–31 May and nearby Goleta Monarch Butterfly Grove at Ellwood Mesa, SBA, 3–4 Jul 2020 (JCa†\$, DMC, NL, AO †, SBT†\$; 2020-052); and one in formative plumage on Patterson Pass Road, near Livermore, ALA, 24 May 2020 (SHu†, TF†\$; 2020-053). Three individuals that likely summered locally included one undergoing its second prebasic molt at El Camino Memorial Park, SD, 3–29 Aug 2020 (PCh, NCh\$, AD†, BF†, MCN†, AN†, JTS; 2020-073); one at Usal Beach Campground, MEN, 22 Aug–20 Sep 2020 (AdH†\$, LK, JCS†; 2020-078); and an adult at Matilija Lake, VEN, 27 Aug–22 Sep 2020 (BC-B†\$, SDC†\$, LK, DK-B, AJS†\$, JCS†, SBT†; 2020-079).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius* (90, 1). A male in formative plumage at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, Harbor City, LA, 2–16 Mar 2020 (TABe†, CAD†, TG†; 2020-018) likely wintered locally. The four wintering Blue-headed Vireos recorded previously in California were last seen in early spring between 4 March and 8 April, with the average of these dates being 24 March (CBRC 2007, 2022).

EURASIAN SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* (3, 1). One at Lake Tolowa, DN, 3 Nov 2020 (LB†; 2020-162) was the third recorded in California, but unlike the two known previously, this individual apparently did not winter. This bird's boldly patterned and overall russet plumage suggests *A. a. pekinensis* (Vaurie 1951), the subspecies to which California's two previous skylarks, as well as those occurring in Alaska and the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (Gibson and Withrow 2015, Pyle and Pyle 2017, Benson et al. 2020), have been attributed.

CAVE SWALLOW *Petrochelidon fulva* (14, 2). One undergoing its preformative molt at Tulare Water Pollution Control Facility, 3 km southwest of Tulare, TUL, 29 Jan–1 Feb 2020 (SSu†, LC†, LP†, SLS; 2020-009; Figure 9) was the northernmost yet recorded in the state and the first for Tulare County. An adult at Blythe, RIV, 2 Jul 2013 (Of†; 2013-293) provided the first record for Riverside County. The latter is the first accepted for California in July; all but two of the state's now 14 records fall between 28 November and 21 May.

ARCTIC/KAMCHATKA LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis/examinandus* (10, 1). One in formative plumage photographed at Mile Square Park, Fountain Valley, ORA, 20 Sep 2020 (TABe†, RS†, ESa†; 2020-095) furnished the first record of this species pair for Orange County. As with all other California records (see Singer et al. 2020), neither recordings of diagnostic vocalizations nor genetic data were available to allow specific identification of this individual.

WINTER WREN *Troglodytes hiemalis* (27, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTAB-

LISHED: The calls of a supposed Winter Wren recorded at Clear Lake State Park, LAK, 5 Dec 2020–2 Jan 2021 (2020-192) lacked the distinctive harmonic bands and peak energy in the frequency range of 3–5 kHz that are typical of this species (see Hejl et al. 2020). The report of another photographed and audio-recorded from Bannon Creek, SAC, 21 Dec 2019 (2019-208) failed to garner support from a majority of committee members.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre* (38, 1). An adult was at the Cactus City rest area, RIV, 28 Sep 2020 (PAG, CAM†; 2020-106).

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens* (15, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The committee agreed to re-review an accepted record of the Veery from the Lanphere Dunes near Arcata, HUM, 3 Nov 2010 (2010-177; Johnson et al. 2012). The original record had been unanimously accepted in its second circulation; nearly a decade later, a majority of members believed that the record deserved re-evaluation because of the relatively late date and the lack of other records from northwestern California. After four rounds of circulation of the new record (2010-177A), a narrow majority of committee members decided that the documentation did not conclusively eliminate the possibility of a Hermit Thrush (*C. guttatus*), perhaps of a brighter eastern subspecies, and voted not to accept the record. In addition to the issues noted above, members cited the lack of photos, similarity to other *Catharus* thrushes, paucity of Veery records in the state, and the committee's low acceptance rate (now 42%) for this species. This lowers the total number of accepted records for California from 16 to 15.

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (36, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One described from the outer point at Point Reyes National Seashore, MRN, 18 Oct 2020 (2020-164) did not receive sufficient support from the committee.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* (16, 2). Two found in 2020 were the first confirmed in California since 2011. One in formative plumage was at the McKinleyville bottoms, HUM, 18 Sep 2020 (LC†, RFo†, GG†, RN, RAR†; 2020-093), and an adult female was at San Clemente Island, LA, 3 Oct 2020 (NJD†, JTS†; 2020-117; Figure 10).

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis* (20, 1). One in formative plumage was at the Loleta bottoms, HUM, 24–27 Sep 2020 (KMS†, RN†; 2020-100). All Eastern Yellow Wagtails accepted for California, including this one, have occurred within 10 km of the coast or on offshore islands between 27 August and 25 September (CBRC 2007, 2022).

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* (44, 6). A remarkable six individuals in fall 2020 was more than have been seen in California in any previous year. Four individuals in formative plumage showing characteristics of the subspecies *M. a. ocularis* included one along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach, LA, 27–28 Sep (GMo†, RB†, CAD†, ChJ†, KMo†, ESa†; 2020-104), reappearing at the same location 18–19 Oct 2020 (BMu †; 2020-138); one at Malibu Lagoon, LA, 5–7 Oct 2020 (ES†, CAL, DJB†, BH†, DK-B†; 2020-121); one at the mouth of Villa Creek, SLO, 27–28 Oct 2020 (CCom†, TME†, MDH†, ST†; 2020-154); and one at Leadbetter Beach, Santa Barbara, SBA, 7–8 Nov 2020 (A/S†, DMC†, NL, SBT†; 2020-166). The two remaining White Wagtails were apparently of the subspecies *M. a. lugens*. One in formative plumage was at Ocean Beach County Park at the mouth of the Santa Ynez River, SBA, 19 Nov 2020 (LDW†; 2020-178) and an adult female initially at Corcoran Lagoon, SCZ, 14 Nov 2020 returned to winter at Corcoran Lagoon and the San Lorenzo River mouth, SCZ, 21 Nov 2020–26 Mar 2021 (LDJ†, SL†, JMo†, MJR†, AMR†\$, SBT†, BTo†, ANW†; 2020-173; Figure 11) after a brief jaunt to Bean Hollow State Beach, SM, 15 Nov 2020 (LG †; 2020-174).



FIGURE 10. This accommodating Northern Wheatear was on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, 3 Oct 2020 (2020-117). The broad and fresh flight feathers indicate an adult and, among adults, the lack of a sharp black mask indicates a female.

Photo by Nicole J. Desnoyers



FIGURE 11. This adult female White Wagtail, seen undergoing a prealternate molt at the San Lorenzo River mouth, Santa Cruz County (2020-173), in this photo taken 29 Nov 2020, was one of an exceptional six White Wagtails found in California in fall 2020. The extent of white in the primaries indicates an adult female *M. a. lugens*; birds in formative plumage show less white, whereas adult males of this subspecies show extensive bright white in the primaries.

Photo by Mark J. Rauzon

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2020 RECORDS

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (152, 7). All seven Snow Buntings noted in 2020 were in coastal northern California where the majority of those recorded in the state have been found (CBRC 2007, 2022). These included, at Humboldt Bay, HUM, a female in formative plumage, 5 Jan–29 Feb 2020 (OTM†; 2020-006) and one on 19 Nov 2020 (RHR†; 2020-186). An adult female was at Lynch Canyon Open Space Park, 5 km southwest of Cordelia, SOL, 24–26 Oct 2020 (SdT†; 2020-150). At Abbotts Lagoon, MRN, were one on 27 Oct 2020 (TF; 2020-156) and a male in formative plumage, 4–12 Nov 2020 (JMB†, ChH†; 2020-167). Two were together at Lake Tolowa, DN, 26 Oct 2020 (LB†; 2020-152), at least one of these being a female in formative plumage.

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Peucaea cassinii* (99, 3). The first Cassin's Sparrow recorded in Mendocino County, in preformative molt, was near the mouth of the Big River, MEN, 20–22 Sep 2020 (AM, LK; 2020-096). One was at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 27 Sep 2020 (LK†; 2020-105). One completing preformative molt at the mouth of the Mad River, HUM, 2–29 Dec 2020 (RfO†, LK; 2020-188) provided the latest record yet for California. Previous fall migrants have been recorded between 4 September and 2 November, and except for one on Southeast Farallon Island that remained 14 days, none had stayed more than five days (CBRC 2007, 2022). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The description of a reported Cassin's Sparrow from Terwer Valley, DN, 3 Oct 2020 (2020-115) was not accepted.

FIELD SPARROW *Spizella pusilla* (20, 1). The first record of this species for San Luis Obispo County was of a pale individual, likely of the western subspecies *arenacea*, in formative plumage, in Los Osos, SLO, 20–27 Nov 2020 (SBT†, BTo†; 2020-180).

LECONTE'S SPARROW *Ammospiza leconteii* (45, 4). One in first alternate plumage (as aged by retained juvenile flight feathers) at Hahamongna Watershed Park, Pasadena, LA, 16–20 Apr 2020 (JV†; 2020-033) represents the earliest of only four spring records of LeConte's Sparrow for California. The other three occurred within the narrow window of 21–26 May (CBRC 2007). More in line with dates of the state's previous records were one at Coyote Point, SM, 2 Oct 2020 (RST, MDeF; 2020-111), one at Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland, ALA, 14 Nov 2020 (RL†, BTh†; 2020-175), and an adult with fresh flight feathers of the definitive basic plumage at the Carmel River mouth, MTY, 17 Oct 2020 (TD†; 2020-157). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A report from Sacramento NWR, GLE, 24 Nov 2020 (2020-183) received no support.

STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE *Icterus pustulatus* (10, 1). An apparent adult female, with fresh basic primary coverts and dusky orange rectrices, overwintered at Montaña de Oro State Park, SLO, 4 Nov 2020–28 Mar 2021 (AC†, TME†, MFe†, DLK†, WHK†, RST†, BTo†; 2020-163; Figure 12). Besides one from Monterey County in 2003, this makes the most northerly record on the Pacific coast and the first for San Luis Obispo County of this species that breeds in western mainland Mexico and Central America.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (104, 3). One male in formative plumage was in the Arcata bottoms, HUM, 21 Oct 2020–5 Nov 2020 (GG†, RfO†, RN†; 2020-142). A female was at the mouth of the San Dieguito River, Del Mar, SD, 29 Nov 2020 (SGB†; 2020-184), and a female in formative plumage was at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, KER, 20 Dec 2020 (SLS†; 2020-206). Like all other Common Grackles in California, these individuals were of subspecies *Q. q. versicolor*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One described from Windy Hollow Road in Manchester, MEN, 14 Jun 2020 (2020-065) did not receive majority support.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helminthos vermivorum* (142, 3). Singing Worm-



FIGURE 12. This Streak-backed Oriole at Montaña de Oro State Park, San Luis Obispo County (2020-163) spent much of its time skulking in dense vegetation, but it posed nicely for this photo taken 25 Feb 2021. The apparent single generation of feathers in the wing, blackish primary coverts, and dusky (not greenish or blackish) rectrices suggest that this is an adult female.

Photo by Alice Cahill



FIGURE 13. This cooperative Connecticut Warbler at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara County (2020-112), was photographed 22 Sep 2020. The relatively dull olive-brown head indicates formative plumage.

Photo by Will H. Knowlton

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2020 RECORDS

eating Warblers, presumably males, were at Bald Hill Open Space Preserve, MRN, 4 May 2020 (*EMo*, LC; 2020-037) and along the South Fork of Clear Creek near Igo, SHA, 16 May 2020 (*EO*; 2020-044). One in formative plumage at Half Moon Bay State Beach, SM, 27 Oct–29 Nov 2020 (*JMo*, *DPom*†, *SBT*, *BTo*†; 2020-155) may have been attempting to overwinter.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora cyanoptera* (56, 1). An adult male at Pitts Ranch Park in Camarillo, VEN, 26–27 Sep 2020 (*JMu*†, *SDC*, *DK-B*†, *DP*†; 2020-103) provided the first record for Ventura County. This individual showed some suggestions of hybridization with the Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*), namely, a light wash of yellow to the wing bars and a slight “hook” of black behind the eye. However, after consulting recent literature and outside experts the committee concluded that these characters do not necessarily indicate a hybrid between these two closely related species.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (128, 1). One in formative plumage was photographed at Vandenberg Air Force Base, SBA, 22–23 Sep 2020 (*WHK*†; 2020-112; Figure 13). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED**: A report from Muir Beach, MRN, 11–13 Sep 2020 (2020-087) did not garner enough support for acceptance.

MOURNING WARBLER *Geothlypis philadelphia* (169, 2). Birds in formative plumage were in Hatton Canyon, MTY, 3–5 Oct 2020 (*RC*, *CR*†, *BTM*†; 2020-118) and at an industrial park in Goleta, SBA, 18–20 Oct 2020 (*DMC*, *BH*†, *DK-B*, *JKe*†, *NL*, *AJS*†; 2020-137). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED**: A warbler photographed and audio-recorded at Muir Beach, MRN, 11 Oct 2020 (2020-131) appeared to show the dull grayish-white throat and broad broken eye-ring of a MacGillivray’s Warbler (*G. tolmiei*).

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Geothlypis formosa* (121**, 11). The 11 reports accepted during 2020 made the third highest annual count of this species in California following 38 in 1992 and 14 in 1987 (CBRC 2007). Spring migrants included two females, one at Lake Tamarisk Golf Club, RIV, 10–11 May 2020 (*JStP*†; 2020-041) and one in formative plumage at Pachalka Spring, SBE, 24 May 2020 (*TABe*†, *DKa*†, *BO*†; 2020-051); three males in formative plumage, at Butterbredt Spring, KER, 22 May 2020 (*RST*†; 2020-050), at Cerro Alto Campground, SLO, 29–30 May 2020 (*EW*†§, *LFr*†, *TME*†§, *WHK*†, *SBT*†§; 2020-057), and along Old Womans Creek, SM, 14 Jun 2020 (*AMR*†§; 2020-064); and four of undetermined age and sex along San Pedro Creek, Pacifica, SM, 12 May 2020 (*JMo*§, *MDeF*§, *ChH*§; 2020-042); at Jacumba, SD, 18 May 2020 (*PEL*; 2020-046); at Grasslands Regional Park, 7 km southeast of Davis, YOL, 27 May 2020 (*SCH*§, *SSm*†, *GS*†, *ZV*; 2020-056); and in Rockhouse Basin, TUL, 31 May 2020 (*BoS*§, *SLS*§; 2020-059; Figure 14). Late summer records of an adult male near San Marcos Pass, SBA, 19 Aug 2020 (*JKu*†; 2020-170) and one at Matilija Lake, VEN, 28 Aug–18 Sep 2020 (*CAD*§, *JiH*, *AJS*§; 2020-084) may have represented oversummering birds or early fall migrants. **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED**: A description from Laguna Road in Oxnard, VEN, 12 Sep 2020 (2020-088) did not garner enough support for acceptance.

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Setophaga tigrina* (54**, 3). A spring migrant female in first alternate plumage was on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 5 Jun 2020 (*MVB*†; 2020-060). A fall migrant male in formative plumage was in Inyokern, KER, 3–4 Oct 2020 (*BoS*†, *SLS*, *BBa*, *KH-L*†, *NJO*†; 2020-119). A female that wintered at Lake Murray, SD, 29 Nov 2020–18 Apr 2021 (*CAD*†, *AD*†, *JN*, *MSe*†, *JTS*†; 2020-185; Figure 15) arrived in formative plumage and started its first prealternate molt before departing.

GRACE’S WARBLER *Setophaga graciae* (85, 1). A singing adult male returned

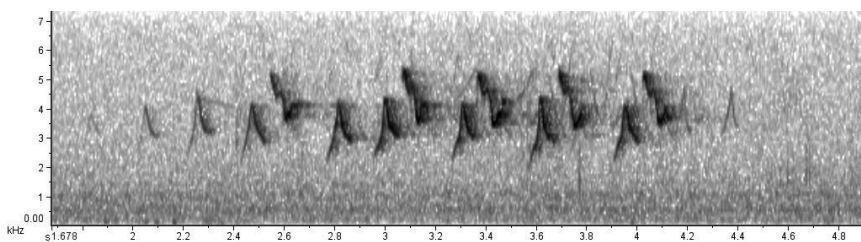


FIGURE 14. This diagnostic audio recording of an unseen Kentucky Warbler, singing in the Rockhouse Basin, Tulare County (2020-059), on 31 May 2020 represents the first record of the species for Tulare County and the second for the Sierra Nevada.

Recording by Bob Steele

for its third summer to Charlton Flats, LA, 16 Apr–24 Jul 2020, (*LMB*§, *NS*†, *TGM*; 2020-034). A fall migrant was on Point Loma, SD, 14 Sep 2020 (*PEL*; 2020-094). Overwintering adults returned to Villa La Jolla Park, La Jolla, SD, 7–30 Oct 2020 (*ARA*†, *NCh*†; 2020-124); Del Mar, SD, 8 Oct 2020–31 Mar 2020 (*ARA*†; 2020-126); and Encinitas, SD, 17 Oct 2020–21 Mar 2021 (*SES*, *AD*†; 2020-136). Approximately half of California's records of overwintering Grace's Warblers are from coastal San Diego County.

MISCELLANEOUS

The long-staying Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*; 2012-058) first seen at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 25 Apr 2012 (Pike et al. 2014) was still present through 31 Dec 2020, and the female Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*; 2005-060 et seq.) resident near Santa Rosa, SON, since 14 May 2005 (Iliff et al. 2007) was last reported 24 Jul 2020.

CORRIGENDA

The caption for Figure 1 in the 45th report of the California Bird Records Committee (Benson et al. 2021) is potentially misleading. It makes a general comparison about the plumage similarity between the female Garganey and female Blue-winged Teal, but the bird pictured with the female Garganey is a male Blue-winged Teal in formative plumage. Also in the 45th report, the date of a Curve-billed Thrasher at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, RIV, should have been 15 Jan 2019 instead of 1 Jan 2019 (2019-004); the end date for the wintering Thick-billed Kingbird in Chula Vista, SD, should have been 7 Mar 2020 instead of 27 Mar 2020 (2019-160); and the date of a Snow Bunting reported at the Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, should have been 16 Nov 2019 instead of 11 Nov 2019 (2019-184). In the 44th report (Benson et al. 2020), the date for a Slaty-backed Gull near Vernalis, SJ, 18 Feb 2018, was omitted (2018-073); a Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*; not accepted) was reported offshore from San Diego, SD, 26 Jul 2014, not 27 Jul 2014 (2014-188); a Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) was at Don Edwards NWR, ALA, 7 Oct 2018, not 6 Oct 2018 (2018-179); the Thick-billed Kingbird wintering in Chula Vista, SD, remained until 27 Mar 2019, not 24 Mar 2019 (2018-194); a Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*; not accepted) was reported at Goodwin Pond, DN, 15 Oct 2018, not 25 Dec 2018 (2018-254); and the record number for a Golden-winged × Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera* × *cyanoptera*) at the Carmel River mouth, MTY, 8–10 Oct



FIGURE 15. This female Cape May Warbler, photographed here 21 Mar 2021, wintered at Lake Murray, San Diego County (2020-185).

Photo by Justyn T. Stahl

2018 should have been 2018-175A, not 2018-175. In the 22nd report (McCaskie and San Miguel 1999) the date span for a Violet-crowned Hummingbird (*Leucolia violiceps*) in Carlsbad, SD, was published as 13 Nov–3 Dec 1996; the correct interval is 3 Nov–3 Dec 1996 (1996-154).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our gratitude to James R. Tietz for updating the table of records published in *Rare Birds of California* (www.californiabirds.org/cbrc_book/update.pdf) and to Joseph Morlan for maintaining the CBRC's website. Peter Pyle reviewed and provided input on the ages and sexes of the birds recorded in this report. Dave Toews and Sheri Williamson provided expert opinions on records of the Blue-winged Warbler and Broad-billed Hummingbird, respectively. The following past and present CBRC members provided comments on drafts of the manuscript: Jon L. Dunn, Rob Fowler, Peter Pyle, Adam Searcy, and Justyn Stahl. We also thank Philip Unitt, Matt Baumann, and Mark Lockwood for their review and comments on the draft report.

Finally, the CBRC would not exist without the cooperation of birders and ornithologists throughout California. We especially thank the following people who contributed documentation for records included in this report: Zack Abbey, Alex R. Abela, Alice Abela, Roger Adamson, Christopher Adler (CAAd), Chuck Almdale (CAL), John Avise, Diane Baker, Mario V. Balitbit, Bob Barnes (BBa), Richard Barth, David J. Barton, John Batchelder (JBa), Marianne Batchelder, Alex Benn (ABe), Lance M. Benner, Jonah M. Benningfield, Thomas A. Benson (TABe), Louis R. Bevier, Will Black, Thomas A. Blackman (TABl), William G. Bousman, Bill Bouton (BBo), Jeff Boyd (JBo), Adam Brown (ABr), Brian Browne (BBr), Lucas Brug, Sean G. Buchanan, Timothy Burr, Kenneth M. Burton, Alice Cahill, John Callender (JCa), Rita Caratello, Scott Carey, Cynthia Case (CCa), Paul Chad (PCh), Nancy Christensen (NCh), Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin, Petra Clayton (PCl), Connor Cochrane (CCo), Kaia Colestock, Natalia Collier (NCol), Carol Comeau (CCom), David

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2020 RECORDS

M. Compton, Janine Conahey (JCo), Keith P. Condon, Elizabeth Copper, Lucas Corneliussen, Samuel D. Cowell, Brian E. Daniels, Alison Davies, Ian Davies, Jorge Davila (JDa), Susana de Trapaga, Christine A. Dean, Malia DeFelice (MDeF), Terence Degan, Rick Derevan (RDe), Nicole J. Desnoyers, Mark Dettling (MDet), Bruce Deuel, Ryan DiGaudio (RDi), Donna L. Dittmann, Jeremy Dominguez (JDo), Cedric Duhalde, Konshau Duman, Garrett P. Duncan, Linda Easter, Todd Easterla, Tom M. Edell, Elias A. Elias, Brad Elvert, Jon S. Feenstra, Matt Felperin (MFe), Lynda Fenneman (LFe), Beth Fife, Michaela Figari (MFi), Robbie Fischer (RFi), Brian C. Flick, Matthew Forster (MFO), Rob Fowler (RFO), Laura Frank (LFR), Nathan French, Howard Freshman, Teale Fristoe, Sachiko V. Fukuman, Peter A. Gaede, Dawn Garcia (DGA), Juan Garcia, Charles Giannini, Mark Girardeau, DeeDee Gollwitzer (DGo), Lorri Gong, Greg Gray, Matthew A. Grube, Trish Gussler, Brad Hacker, Derek Hameister (DHa), Steve C. Hampton, Calvin Hardcastle (CaH), Marlin D. Harms, Shari Hatch (SHA), Christopher Hayward (ChH), Kelli Hendel-Levinson, Eliana Heiser, Lynn Hemink (LHe), Tracy Henchbarger, Diane Hichwa (DHi), Alison Hiers (AlH), Adrian Hinkle (AdH), John Hobbs (JoH), Julie Howar (JuH), Jim Howard (JiH), Liam Huber (LHub), Steve Huckabone (SHu), Lisa Hug (LHug), Patricia A. Isaacson, Emmett Iverson, Cathy Jacobs (CaJ), Christine Jacobs (ChJ), Lee D. Jaffe, Alvaro Jaramillo, Daniel Jehl, Oscar Johnson, Stephen Johnston, Logan Kahle, Deven Kammerichs-Berke, Doug Karalun (DKa), David L. Keeling, Joan Kent (JKe), Mary A. Kessler, Dan King (DKi), Will H. Knowlton, Tammy Kokjohn (TKo), Julie Kummel (JKu), Tony Kurz (TKu), Keith C. Kwan, Seraphina Landgrebe, Max Lara (MLar), Matt Lau (MLau), Derek Lecy, Paul E. Lehman, Nick Lethaby, Rick Lewis, Gary Lindquist, Christopher Lindsey, Evan Lipton, Aedyn Loeke, David Lumpkin, Curtis A. Marantz, Eric Marking (EMa), Blake T. Matheson, Sara B. Mayers, Guy McCaskie (GMC), Bryan McIntosh (BMcl), Kevin McKereghan (KMck), Robert L. McKernan, Jimmy McMorran (JMcM), James A. Mentgen, Alex Merritt, Martin Meyers, Thomas G. Miko, Jon Miller (JMi), Tom Mills, Eddie Monson (EMo), Graham Montgomery (GMO), Shawn Moon, Kim Moore (KMO), Joseph Morlan (JMo), Oscar T. Moss, John Mueller (JMu), Brennan Mulrooney (BMu), Stephen J. Myers, Jonathan Nakai, Russ Namitz, Michael C. Nelson, Andrew Newmark, David Nimmons, Patti Nisbet, George Nothhelfer (GNo), Gary Nunn (GNu), Brittany O'Connor, Adrian O'Loghlen, Eric Ongman, Nancy J. Overholtz, Ron Overholtz, Kaaren Perry, Adam Panto (APa), Jim Pawlicki, Mike Peralez, Dave Pereksta (DPe), Asher Perla (APe), Zane Pickus, Nathan Pinckard, Linda Pittman, Donna Pomeroy (DPom), David Povey (DPov), Peter Pyle, David E. Quady, Melissa Rains (MRa), Mark J. Rauzon, Ellie Resendiz, Ryan H. Rickman, Alex M. Rinkert, William Rockey, Carole Rose, Martin Ruane (MRu), Joan Rubin (JoR), Ruth A. Rudesill, Jake Ruygt (JaR), Matt Sadowski (MSa), Edana Salisbury (ESa), Florence J. Sanchez, Larry Sansone (LSa), Paul Saraceni (PSa), Naresh Satyan, Scottie Schmidt (SSc), Ken R. Schneider, Roger Schoedl, Brad K. Schram, Adam J. Searcy, Mel Senac (MSe), Laura Shanley (LSh), Desmond Sieburth, John Sillasen (JSi), Bradley C. Singer, Daniel S. Singer, Keith M. Slauson, Diane D. Smith, Sean Smith (SSm), Susan E. Smith, Josh Snead (JSn), Anke Snow, Pete Sole (PSo), Chris Spurgeon, Jason St. Pierre (JStP), Gavin Stacey, James Stacy (JSta), Mark E. Stacy, Justyn T. Stahl, Ben Stalheim (BeS), Bob Steele (BoS), Susan L. Steele, Lucas Stephenson (LSt), Mark Stephenson (MSt), John C. Sterling, Mike Stiles (MSti), Jeanette Stone (JSto), Ed Stonick (ES), Stephanie Stragier (SSt), Steve J. Stump, Steven Summers (SSu), Christopher Tarango, Glen Tepke, Ryan S. Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Bill Thomas (BTh), Ronald S. Thorn, James R. Tietz, Janny Tillmann, Steve Tillmann, Bob Toleño (BTo), Delaney Trowbridge, Rebecca Turley, Philip Unitt, Roger Uzun, David Vander Pluym, Zeke VanZante, Javier Vasquez, Lisa D. Walker-Roseman, Matthew Wells, Bart Wickel, Eric Wier, Jerry R. White, Alan N. Wight, Charlie Wright, Steve Yamanaka, and Kevin J. Zimmer.

LITERATURE CITED

- Benson, T. A., Fowler, R., McCaskie, G., and Stahl, J. T. 2020. The 44th annual report of the California Bird Records Committee: 2018 records. *W. Birds* 51:228–260; <https://doi.org/10.21199/WB51.3.4>.
- Benson, T. A., House, D. J., McCaskie, G., Rinkert, A. M., Searcy, A. J., and Terrill, R. S. 2021. The 45th annual report of the California Bird Records Committee: 2019 records. *W. Birds* 52:2–22; <https://doi.org/10.21199/WB52.1.1>.
- California Bird Records Committee (R. A. Hamilton, M. A. Patten, and R. A. Erickson, eds.). 2007. *Rare Birds of California*. W. Field Ornithol., Camarillo, CA; <https://rarebirds.westernfieldornithologists.org/>.
- California Bird Records Committee (J. R. Tietz and G. McCaskie, eds.). 2022. Update to *Rare Birds of California*, 1 January 2004 – 17 Jan 2022; https://www.californiabirds.org/cbrc_book/update.pdf.
- Carnes, B. H., Godwin, C. M., Foster, K. R., and Pyle, P. 2021. Clarification of molt strategies in three *Empidonax* flycatchers. *Wilson J. Ornithol.* 133:34–42; <https://doi.org/10.1676/20-00109>.
- Chesser, R. T., Burns, K. J., Cicero, C., Dunn, J. L., Kratter, A. W., Lovette, I. J., Rasmussen, P. C., Remsen, J. V., Rising, J. D., Stotz, D. F., and Winker, K. 2017. Fifty-eighth supplement to the American Ornithological Society's *Check-list of North American Birds*. *Auk* 134:751–773; <https://doi.org/10.1642/AUK-17-72.1>.
- Cole, L. W., Nelson, K. N., and Sterling, J. C. 2006. The 30th report of the California Bird Records Committee: 2004 records. *W. Birds* 37:65–105.
- Garrett, K. L., and Singer, D. S. 1998. Report of the California Bird Records Committee: 1995 records. *W. Birds* 29:133–156.
- Gibson, D. D., and Withrow, J. J. 2015. Inventory of the species and subspecies of Alaska birds, second edition. *W. Birds* 46:94–185.
- Hejl, S. J., Holmes, J. A., and Kroodsma, D. E. 2020. Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), in *Birds of the World* (S. M. Billerman, ed.). Cornell Lab Ornithol., Ithaca, NY; <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.winwre3.01>.
- Howell, S. N. G., and Pyle, P. 2015. Use of “definitive” and other terms in molt nomenclature: A response to Wolfe et al. (2014). *Auk* 132:365–369; <https://doi.org/10.1642/AUK-14-180.1>.
- Howell, S. N. G., Corben, C., Pyle, P., and Rogers, D. I. 2003. The first basic problem: A review of molt and plumage homologies. *Condor* 105:635–653; <https://doi.org/10.1093/condor/105.4.635>.
- Humphrey, P. S., and Parkes, K. C. 1959. An approach to the study of molts and plumages. *Auk* 76:1–31; <https://doi.org/10.2307/4081839>.
- Illiff, M. J., McCaskie, G., and Heindel, M. T. 2007. The 31st report of the California Bird Records Committee: 2005 records. *W. Birds* 38:161–205.
- Johnson, O., Sullivan, B. L., and McCaskie, G. 2012. The 36th annual report of the California Bird Records Committee: 2010 records. *W. Birds* 43:164–188.
- Leukering, T. 2008. Glossy Ibis and the identification challenges of hybrid *Plegadis* in Colorado. *Colo. Birds* 42:147–149.
- McCaskie, G. 1988. The nesting season, June 1 – July 31, 1988: Southern Pacific coast region. *Am. Birds* 42:1339–1342.
- McCaskie, G., and San Miguel, M. 1999. Report of the California Bird Records Committee: 1996 records. *W. Birds* 30:57–85.
- Mlodinow, S. G., Feldstein, S., and Tweit, B. 1999. The Bristle-thighed Curlew landfall of 1998: Climatic factors and notes on identification. *W. Birds* 30:133–155.
- Oswald, J. A., Harvey, M. G., Remsen, R. C., Foxworth, D. U., Dittmann, D. L., Cardiff, S. W., and Brumfield, R. T. 2018. Evolutionary dynamics of hybridization and introgression following the recent colonization of Glossy Ibis (Aves:

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2020 RECORDS

- Plegadis falcinellus*) into the New World. *Molec. Ecol.* 28:1675–1691; <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.15008>.
- Pike, J. E., Garrett, K. L., and Searcy, A. J. 2014. The 38th report of the California Bird Records Committee: 2012 records. *W. Birds* 45:246–275.
- Pyle, P. 1997. Identification Guide to North American Birds, part 1. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, CA.
- Pyle, P. 2008. Identification Guide to North American Birds, part 2. Slate Creek Press, Point Reyes Station, CA.
- Pyle, R. L., and Pyle, P. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status, version 2. B. P. Bishop Mus., Honolulu; <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>.
- Pyle, P., Gustafson, M., Johnson, T., Kratter, A. W., Lang, A., Lockwood, M. W., Pit-taway, R., and Sibley, D. 2017. 28th report of the ABA Checklist Committee, 2017. *Birding* 49:28–39.
- Singer, D. S., Dunn, J. L., Harter, L. B., and McCaskie, G. 2016. The 40th annual report of the California Bird Records Committee: 2014 records. *W. Birds* 47:291–313; <https://doi.org/10.21199/WB47.4.3>.
- Singer, D. S., Benson, T. A., McCaskie, G., and Stahl, J. 2020. The 43rd report of the California Bird Records Committee: 2017 records. *W. Birds* 51:2–26; <https://doi.org/10.21199/WB51.1.1>.
- Vaurie, C. 1951. A study of Asiatic larks. *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 97:437–526.

Accepted 14 February 2022
Associate editor: Philip Unitt