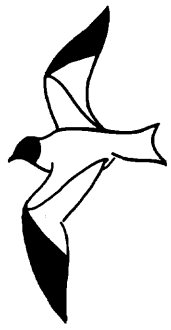


# WESTERN BIRDS



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## NINTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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*The editorial staff of Western Birds is pleased to announce that **Bushnell Corporation** has underwritten the full costs for printing this report of the California Bird Records Committee. We know that members of Western Field Ornithologists will appreciate this special support from Bushnell. Bringing color photos into the journal is costly, but greatly enhances the report. CBRC reports are among the most popularly (and meticulously) read articles appearing in Western Birds. All along the way, Bushnell has been enthusiastic in its desire to make it a quality report, from way back when Jon Dunn first asked the people at Bushnell to consider sponsoring the Records Committee report, through the time we asked them to send camera-ready copy for the advertisement of Bushnell products in this issue of Western Birds.*

*To everyone at Bushnell Corporation, a warm thank you. We hope this support of the California Bird Records Committee will be a regular sighting in Western Birds. —Bruce Webb*

This report contains 212 accepted records of 73 species and 27 unaccepted records of 24 species (including 2 previously accepted). These numbers represent an acceptance rate of 88.7%, very similar to the acceptance rate of 88.4% in our Eighth Report (Morlan 1985). One hundred forty-two observers contributed descriptions or photographs, the most for any annual report.

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At its annual meeting in February 1984, the California Bird Records Committee ("CBRC" or "the Committee" hereafter) decided to fulfill its primary purposes of evaluating, publishing and storing records of California rarities by reviewing all reports, including those which are quite old. At that time we had reviewed only about 49% of published reports of species on the CBRC review list. We have obtained unpublished notes, reviewed published accounts, and considered extant specimens. Specimens were judged on the basis of photographs of the skins or skeletons and published or unpublished details. Since specimens have been misidentified in the past (for example, see Roberson and Pitelka 1983), review of specimens is as important as review of sight records.

Many old records were obtained from the unpublished field notes of Jon L. Dunn, Kimball L. Garrett, Guy McCaskie, Don Roberson, and the late Laidlaw Williams and from published details in *The Auk* and *The Condor*. Many other old reports are still under review. Published herein are several records which have long been considered acceptable by other authors. This publication simply marks their formal CBRC acceptance under a specific record number. We are pleased to report that we have now evaluated about 65% of all known review-listed species. We welcome documentation of all unreviewed past records.

*State boundaries.* At its February 1985 annual meeting, the CBRC extended its offshore coverage and will now review all rarities observed or collected in California waters within 200 miles of the mainland.

*State list.* This report officially adds 10 species to the California state list: Cook's Petrel, Anhinga, Whooper Swan, Common Black-Hawk, Little Curlew, Little Stint, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, White Wagtail, Rustic Bunting and Brambling. These additions bring the California list to 560 species. A new official state list has been prepared (Binford 1986).

*Review list.* The list of species or forms we review has remained relatively stable over recent years. In general, this list includes species that average four or fewer records per year. We welcome reports of the following:

Yellow-billed Loon; Least Grebe; Wandering and Short-tailed Albatross; Mottled, Cook's and Stejneger's Petrel; Streaked and Greater Shearwater; Wilson's, Band-rumped and Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel; White-tailed and Red-tailed Tropicbird; Masked, Brown and Red-footed Booby; Olivaceous Cormorant; Anhinga; Reddish Egret; Yellow-crowned Night-Heron; White Ibis; Black-bellied Whistling-Duck; Whooper and Trumpeter Swan; Emperor Goose; Baikal Teal; Garganey; Tufted Duck; King and Steller's Eider; Smew; Mississippi Kite; Common Black-Hawk; Harris' and Zone-tailed Hawk; Gyrfalcon; Sharp-tailed Grouse; Yellow Rail; Purple Gallinule; Mongolian, Wilson's and Piping Plover; Eurasian Dotterel; American Oystercatcher; Spotted Redshank; Gray-tailed Tattler; Upland Sandpiper; Little Curlew; Hudsonian and Bar-tailed Godwit; Rufous-necked and Little Stint; White-rumped, Curlew and Buff-breasted Sandpiper; Jack Snipe; Little, Common Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gull; Sandwich and Sooty Tern; Thick-billed Murre; Kittlitz's Murrelet; Parakeet, Least and Crested Auklet; Black-billed Cuckoo; Groove-billed Ani; Snowy and Barred Owl; White-collared Swift; Broad-billed, Violet-crowned, Blue-throated and Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Red-headed Woodpecker; Greater Pewee; Eastern Wood-Pewee; Yellow-bellied, Dusky-capped, Great Crested, Sulphur-bellied and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; Thick-billed Kingbird; Eurasian Skylark; Blue Jay; Sedge Wren; Dusky Warbler; Northern Wheatear; Veery, Gray-cheeked and Wood Thrush; Rufous-backed Robin; Gray Catbird; Curve-billed

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Thrasher; Yellow, White, White/Black-backed and Black-backed Wagtail; Red-throated and Sprague's Pipit; White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Philadelphia and Red-eyed (Yellow-green) Vireo; Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Blue-winged X Golden-winged, Golden-cheeked, Yellow-throated, Grace's, Pine, Cerulean, Prothonotary and Worm-eating Warbler; Louisiana Waterthrush; Kentucky, Connecticut, Mourning and Red-faced Warbler; Scarlet Tanager; Northern Cardinal; Pyrrhuloxia; Varied and Painted Bunting; Cassin's, Field, Baird's, LeConte's and Sharp-tailed Sparrow; Rustic and Snow Bunting; Common Grackle; Streak-backed Oriole; Brambling; White-winged Crossbill; Common Redpoll.

The CBRC also reviews records of any species not yet on the state list.

*Committee membership.* After serving six years as Secretary, Benjamin D. Parmeter retired in January 1986. I am the new Secretary and all documentation of records should be sent to me at the above address. The current members are: Stephen F. Bailey, Louis Bevier, Jon L. Dunn, Richard A. Erickson, Kimball L. Garrett, Jeri M. Langham, Curtis Marantz, Joseph Morlan and Richard Stallcup.

*Format.* The format is similar to that of the Eighth Report (Morlan 1985), with a few modifications discussed below. Each record includes the locality and a standard abbreviation for the county (see below), followed by the date and (in parentheses) the initials of reporting contributors and the CBRC record number. If the observer(s) who first found or identified the bird provided documentation, his or her initials are given first, followed by a semicolon. If an observer submitted a photograph, a dagger (†) follows their initials. Many photographers submitted written descriptions with their photos, a practice we encourage. A specimen is indicated by "#," followed by an abbreviation (see below) for the museum which houses the specimen and the specimen number. Unless otherwise indicated by "#," or "†," all reports are sight records.

I have provided a full span of dates for each record. This information was provided by committee members or was gleaned from the seasonal reports published in *American Birds*. If our dates differ from *American Birds* published dates, our dates have been italicized, indicating they are correct. I have cited published photographs. Species marked with an asterisk (\*) are no longer reviewed by the Committee.

A new feature in this report is an annotation following each species name that indicates the number of CBRC accepted records. If a double asterisk (\*\*) follows this number, refer to the following list of explanations.

Short-tailed Albatross: This species was regular offshore California before the 20th century. Only accepted records since 1900 are included in the total. We do not review reports prior to 1900.

Cook's Petrel: Total includes those records accepted with the disclaimer discussed in the text.

Emperor Goose: Total includes 22 records cited by Grinnell & Miller (1944) which, due to the lack of available documentation, appear unlikely to be reviewed. They are included in the statistical count of accepted records, but are not formally accepted.

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Harris' Hawk: This species was a permanent resident in the Imperial Valley into the 1950s and along the Colorado River until the early 1960s. Though some old records have been reviewed, the CBRC no longer reviews records prior to 1960 and only those accepted records since then are included in the total.

Parakeet Auklet: Eight specimens (5 from San Francisco, 3 from Monterey Bay) listed by Grinnell & Miller (1944) are apparently no longer extant and are unlikely to be reviewed due to lack of available documentation. They are included in the statistical count, but are not formally accepted.

Snowy Owl: Grinnell & Miller (1944) summarized several flights in the period 1895-1897, plus birds in 1908 and 1916. The flight in Nov-Dec 1916 apparently numbered at least 20 birds, but only one specimen now seems extant. The statistical total includes 21 records since 1900 listed by Grinnell & Miller (1944), though only one has been formally accepted. The other early records seem unlikely to be reviewed due to the lack of available documentation.

White/Black-backed Wagtail: The total includes records accepted as a specific species.

Some records reported here are of individual birds returning for additional years. Each such report is reviewed annually under a separate CBRC number. Members are asked if they believe the bird is the same individual as previously accepted. If the consensus is that it is the same, it is treated as additional dates of a previous record and does not appear in the statistical count; otherwise it is considered a new record. Some of these decisions made at the annual meeting in February 1985 are included here.

All annotations, except those noted above, are mine, although the information usually comes from Committee files. The CBRC does not formally review age and sex and all indications herein are opinions, not officially accepted CBRC positions.

*Abbreviations.* Seasonal reports in *American Birds* are abbreviated AB, followed by volume and page number. County abbreviations follow Morlan (1985): ALA Alameda, BUT Butte, CC Contra Costa, DN Del Norte, HMB Humboldt, IMP Imperial, INY Inyo, KRN Kern, LAS Lassen, LA Los Angeles, MRN Marin, MRP Mariposa, MER Merced, MOD Modoc, MNO Mono, MNT Monterey, NEV Nevada, ORA Orange, PLU Plumas, RIV Riverside, SBE San Bernardino, SD San Diego, SBA Santa Barbara, SJ San Joaquin, SLO San Luis Obispo, SM San Mateo, SCL Santa Clara, SCZ Santa Cruz, SIS Siskiyou, SOL Solano, SON Sonoma, TRN Trinity, TUL Tulare, VEN Ventura. Museums that house specimens reported herein are abbreviated:

CAS = California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco  
LACM = Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History  
MVZ = Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley  
PGMNH = Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History  
SDNHM = San Diego Natural History Museum  
SBCM = San Bernardino County Museum  
SBMNH = Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

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Other standard abbreviations throughout include: NM = National Monument, NS = National Seashore, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, SE Farallon I. = Southeast Farallon Island, Pt. = Point. Directions of the compass are sometimes abbreviated.

*Contributors:* Listed by their abbreviations in the text: David Abbott, Dennis Abbott (DA), Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldrige, Bruce Barrett (BBa), Don Bazzi, Rebecca Belkin, Chris Benesh, Linda A. Belluomini, Laurence C. Binford, Ronald L. Branson, N. Bruce Broadbooks, Henry Brodtkin, June Buntin, Betty Burrige (BBu), John Butler, Kurt F. Campbell, Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven W. Cardiff, Barbara A. Carlson, Karen Cartier, Herbert Clarke, Ron Cole, Wanda D. Conway, Elizabeth Copper, Malcolm Coulter, Alan M. Craig, Brian E. Daniels, David DeSante (DDeS), Donna Dittmann (DD), Linda Doerflinger, Jon L. Dunn, Tom M. Edell, David G. Edwards, Richard A. Erickson, Jules Evens, Gary M. Fellers, Joan Fellers, Jeffrey W. Fleischer, Ronnie Fowler, Kimball L. Garrett, Doug George, Albert Ghorso, Ed Greaves, Jeffrey A. Greenhouse, William E. Grenfell, Jr., Kem L. Hainebach, Robert C. Halsy, Rob Hansen, W. Ed Harper, Syd P. Harrison, Debra L. Hays, Loren R. Hays, Phil Henderson, Lillian K. Henningsen, Wes Hetrick, Don Hoechlin, Dorothy Hoffman, Robert Hogan, Alan Hopkins, Arthur L. Howe, N.G. Howell, Richard Ives, Kenn Kaufman, Brian W. Keelan, Dave Krueper, Woody Kuehn, Jeri M. Langham, Kim Lathrop, Stephen A. Laymon, Paul E. Lehman, Phil Lenna, Gary S. Lester, Ron LeValley, George Lindsay, Mike Lippsmeyer, John S. Luther, Tim Manolis (TM), Curtis Marantz, Roger Malrowe, Guy McCaskie, Teya McElroy (TMc), Nancy McMahan, Patrick McMonagle, Alan B. Meyerfield, Larry A. Moore, Joseph Morlan, Doug Morton, Dan Murphy (DM), Janet B. Murphy, Dan Nelson, Eugene O'Reilly, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Red & Jacqueline Phillips, Robert L. Pitman, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Dave Povey, Sylvia J. Ranney, Don Roberson, Henry Robert, Steve & Diane Rose, Mary Louise Rosegay, Larry Sansone (LSa), Barry Sauppe, Scott Seltman, Dennis & Rebecca Serdehely, Arnold Small (AS), Gregory P. Smith, Sue Smith (SSm), Larry Spear (LSp), Richard Stallcup, Andrew Starrett (ASt), Don Sterba, Gary J. Strachan, Jim & Ellen Strauss, G. Shumway Suffel, Steve Summers (SSu), Harold Swanton, Chris Swarth, Ian C. Tait, Dan Taylor, Chris Tenney, Bob Tintle, W. Breck Tyler, William Van Meter, Kent Van Vuren, Vitaly Volmenski, Richard E. Webster, Brian Weed, Michael Weinstein, Nick Whelan, Jack Wilburn (JWb), Laidlaw Williams, Douglas R. Willick, Jon Winter (JWn), Frank Wright, David G. Yee, Bob & Carol Yutzy.

*Acknowledgments.* The Committee thanks the many contributors listed above, without whom this report would not be possible. We also appreciate the critical evaluation of records by the following consultants: Peter J. Grant, William E. Grenfell, Jr., Lars Jonsson, Dennis Paulson, Charles A. Pilling, J. Van Remsen, Jr., Frank S. Todd, Terence R. Wahl, George E. Watson, Richard Veit and Mike Wihler. Members and former members provided much information and reviewed an earlier draft of this manuscript: Stephen F. Bailey, Louis Bevier, Laurence C. Binford, Jon L. Dunn, Richard A. Erickson, Kimball L. Garrett, Jeri M. Langham, Curtis Marantz, Guy McCaskie, Joseph Morlan, Benjamin D. Parmeter and Richard Stallcup.

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Former members who voted on some or all of the records in this report were: H. Lee Jones, Paul E. Lehman and Richard E. Webster. The following curators or collection managers graciously provided members access to their collections: Luis F. Baptista and Stephen F. Bailey (CAS), Eugene A. Cardiff (SBCM), Kimball L. Garrett and Ralph W. Schreiber (LACM), Stanley W. Harris (Humboldt State University), Ned K. Johnson and Anne Jacobberger (MVZ), James R. Northern (Univ. of Calif., Los Angeles), Dennis M. Power (SBMNH), Amadeo M. Rea (SDNHM) and Vernal L. Yadon (PGMNH). Lloyd Kiff continues to curate past CBRC records at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 1100 Glendon Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024. The following photographers particularly deserve credit for aiding the work of the Committee: Albert Ghorso, Ed Greaves, W. Ed Harper, Alan Hopkins and Richard E. Webster.

### ACCEPTED RECORDS

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** *Gavia adamsii* (23). One in breeding plumage flying north past Pigeon Pt. SM 9 May 1979 (BS; 97-1983). One inside San Francisco Bay at San Francisco SF 7-14 Feb 1982 (RH; WK, DM; 45-1982). An immature on Lake Perris, near Lakeview RIV 20 Dec 1983-4 May 1984 (DD, SWC; JLD, JML, GmC, REW†; Figure 1; 134-1983). A previously accepted record from Monterey harbor MNT (7-1972; Winter 1973) is amended to reflect the entire date span 26 Jan-4 May 1972.

The Pigeon Point bird is the second record of a breeding-plumaged bird in California. The first was also a spring migrant flying north past a coastal viewing site (Morlan 1985). The Lake Perris bird is the first accepted inland record for the state. The San Francisco bird illustrated the need for all observers to submit details; the report was accepted on the third round only after a committee member obtained details from additional observers.

**SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS** *Diomedea albatrus* (2 \*\*). A first-year bird first observed at 35°30'N, 122°11'W (off SLO) followed the ship for 45 minutes to a point about 40 miles southwest of Cape San Martin MNT 2 Dec 1983 (RLP†, LSp; 72-1984); a photo was published by Roberson (1985).

This species, considered common in California waters in the 19th century, was nearly extirpated and has only recently begun to recover. Recent population estimates are around 250 birds (Haseagawa & DeGange 1982). This is only the second accepted record this century; see Unaccepted Records for a retraction of another report.

**\*LAYSAN ALBATROSS** *Diomedea immutabilis* (14 \*). One on Monterey Bay MNT 13 Feb 1977 (JML†, DR; 91-1983). One about 30 miles west of Pt. Año Nuevo SM 8 Nov 1982 (SSm; 96-1983). One about 15 miles west of Pt. Pinos MNT 5 Feb 1983 (JLD, DH†; 105-1983).

A photograph of the 1977 bird, one of the few records inside Monterey Bay, appears in Roberson (1978) and on the cover of the June 1978 issue of *Birding* (Vol. 10, No. 3). The Laysan Albatross is regular during winter well offshore California (see Sanger 1974) and reports are no longer reviewed by the CBRC.

**COOK'S PETREL** *Pterodroma cookii* (10 \*\*). An immature female in a weakened condition found ashore at Santa Cruz SCZ 17 Nov 1983 subsequently expired and is now a specimen (WBT, #CAS 71447; 164-1984). Full details will be published elsewhere. This is the first time a Cook's Petrel in California was unquestionably inden-

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tified; prior accepted records had been listed as *P. cookii/defilippiana* (see Binford 1985). This accepted specimen thus adds the species to the state list.

Cook's Petrel, breeding on islets off New Zealand, regularly spends the austral winter (June-Oct), at least in some years, north to Baja California, Mexico (AOU 1983). Birds of this type have been seen over the continental shelf (in the narrow zone of water depths from 1300-2200 fathoms) in Oct-Dec 1979 (see Luther et al. 1983, Binford 1983) and again in June 1985 (currently under review). They may yet prove to be a regular component of the summer/fall avifauna over deep water far offshore.

At the annual meeting in January 1986, the Committee voted to accept all records of *Pterodroma cookii/defilippiana/pycrofti* type petrels as Cook's Petrels, the one species known to occur here. Although such records are statistically listed as *P. cookii*, all but the specimen above are accepted with the following note: *P. defilippiana* and *P. pycrofti* are considered unlikely on known geographic range, but have not been eliminated by description. All previously accepted records are now considered to be Cook's with the above disclaimer. Some members believe record 71-1979 (bird #6), near the Davidson Seamount 50 miles sw. of Cape San Martin MNT on 17 Nov 1979, is identifiable to *cookii* by the photograph, though the majority still consider *defilippiana* not eliminated. Most agree *pycrofti* has been eliminated for this particular bird, a photo of which appears in Roberson (1985).

With the adoption of the disclaimer policy regarding *defilippiana* and *pycrofti*, the following two records were accepted as Cook's Petrel: one near the San Juan Seamount (85 miles south of Pt. Conception) SBA 14 Aug 1984 (RLP; 246-1984) and another about 65 miles sw. of Pt. Conception SBA 19 Aug 1984 (RLP; 247-1984). Both were over the continental shelf in waters 1500-1800 fathoms deep, consistent with other sightings.



Figure 1. Yellow-billed Loon, Lake Perris, Riverside Co., California. 22 Dec 1983.

Photo by Richard E. Webster

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**WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanites oceanicus* (19). One collected on Monterey Bay MNT 24 Aug 1910 (#MVZ 18742; 106-1984). One about 2 miles south of SE Farallon I. SF 29 Aug 1959 (GMcC, RS; 107-1984). One on Monterey Bay (6-7 miles west of Moss Landing) MNT 7 Oct-1 Nov 1967 (GMcC; 108-1984). One on Monterey Bay MNT 1 May 1978 (DR; 92-1983).

The 1910 record was the first for California and was originally published by Grinnell (1915). Since the 1967 record, from 1 to 4 birds have occurred on Monterey Bay nearly every fall. The 1978 bird is the first to be found in spring.

**WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** *Oceanodroma tethys* (4). One on Monterey Bay about 10 miles west of Moss Landing MNT 2-9 Oct 1983 (RS; GMF, JF, RI, KK, JML; 77-1983/29-1984). This record encountered some procedural confusion. The 2 Oct bird (77-1983), found away from the large storm-petrel flocks, was originally circulated with another report from 9 Oct (138-1983). It was apparent to all committee members that these were two different individuals, and that the 9 Oct bird was not a Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel; it was eventually rejected (see Unaccepted Records). Details of another 9 Oct sighting, from another boatload of birders, were obtained and accepted (29-1984). This acceptable 9 Oct bird was with the large storm-petrel flock over the Monterey submarine canyon. A majority of members felt the two sightings, a week apart, represented the same individual.

An important character used to separate the two 9 Oct birds was the amount of white visible on the flanks when the bird was sitting on the water; none was seen on the accepted Wedge-rumped, whereas much was present on the rejected bird. Showing apparent white while at rest is characteristic of Wilson's Storm-Petrel. Some members felt that this mark alone eliminated the possibility of Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel. The accepted Wedge-rumped was very small (similar to Least Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma microsoma*) and had a long triangular-shaped white rump patch extending nearly to the tip of the tail.

**WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD** *Phaethon lepturus* (1). An adult at Newport Bay ORA 24 May-23 June 1964 (WH†, GMcC; 43-1984). Photographs and full details of this remarkable bird, including its attempted copulation with a radio-controlled model glider, appear in Hetrick & McCaskie (1965).

**BROWN BOOBY** *Sula leucogaster* (7). An adult male off San Miguel Island SBA 3-5 July 1965 (HC†; 89-1984). A first-year bird off Santa Barbara Island SBA 29 Oct 1983 (ALH; 115-1983) was refound in more advanced plumage 25 Mar 1984 (NBB; 115-1984).

Published photographs of the San Miguel Island bird appear in McCaskie (1970) and Roberson (1980). They show the extensively pale hindcrown characteristic of males of the east Pacific race *brewsteri*. While the CBRC accepts the 1965 sighting, note that an adult Brown Booby was reported in this same area in July 1961 and again in June-July 1968 (McCaskie 1970). The CBRC welcomes details of these sightings to help determine if the same bird was involved. The two records accepted here are the only coastal records for California (a third record, from SE Farallon I. in 1983, is currently in circulation).

**OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax olivaceus* (3). One in flight at the Whitewater River mouth, Salton Sea RIV 30 July 1983 (GMcC, SSu; 66-1983). This is now considered to be the same individual, previously accepted (Morlan 1986), that was at the north end of the Salton Sea 1 Aug-10 Sep 1982 (76-1982) and attempted to nest at the south end of the Sea 27 Feb-5 Mar 1983 (37-1983).



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**ANHINGA** *Anhinga anhinga* (1). A female at Lee Lake RIV 27 Nov 1983-9 June 1984 (LCB, JLD, JML, GMcC, JM, DR, REW†; 30-1984). This is the first California record.

This bird produced extensive discussion regarding its status as a wild vagrant or a possible escape. The record was accepted (9-1) only after additional information was obtained of the recent occurrence of Anhinga in Sonora, Mexico (provided by SWC) and the general scarcity of the species in captivity (REW provided information that only one had been held recently by the San Diego Wild Animal Park and it was still present). Supporters of this bird as wild cited this data and an 1893 record from Arizona (Monson & Phillips 1981). The single dissenter cited the Committee's previous rejection of the Sweetwater Reservoir SD bird (Feb 1977 into fall 1980) and the Lake Merced SF bird (summer 1939), both of which were rejected on split votes as "origin questionable." In January 1986 the Committee voted to recirculate these two records.

**REDDISH EGRET** *Egretta rufescens* (11). One around south San Diego Bay SD 18 Dec 1982-26 Mar 1983 (GMcC, REW†; 49-1984) returning 18 Jan-15 Mar 1984 (JLD, GMcC, REW†; 45-1984). There are now 11 accepted records from California (10 from SD, 1 in VEN), but some 21 published reports remain unreviewed (with another 15 currently in circulation). This species was recently added to the review list after having been removed for several years.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** *Nycticorax violaceus* (10). An adult at Harbor Slough LA 30 May-2 June 1963 (ABM†; 88-1984). An adult at Santa Margarita River mouth SD 9 May 1984 (LRH; 76-1984). The latter bird might be the same as the individual present at San Elijo Lagoon SD in 1982-1983 (records 88-1981, 81-1982, 37-1983; Binford 1985, Morlan 1985), but the majority considered it a different bird.

**WHOOOPER SWAN** *Cygnus cygnus* (1). An adult near Grimes COL 17-19 Jan 1984 (LCB, RAE, AG†, GMcC, RS, REW†, JW; 21-1984). This bird, present with a flock of about 750 Tundra Swan (*C. columbianus*), is the first for California. Though delighting many observers during its 3-day visit, it disappointed many more by leaving before the weekend.

After debate regarding origin, the record was accepted (9-1) on the second round. Most persuasive to those supporting the record was the extensive checking (by LCB) of potential sources of escapes, including the Sebastiani Vineyards (which had 7 Whoopers in Jan 1984 but had an alibi for each bird), the San Francisco Zoo, Sea World in San Diego, and various game farms in northern California and Washington. Supporters also noted that Whooper Swans winter south to 35° N in Asia, are regular in the Aleutians, and once occurred in fall migration in southeastern Alaska. The date was appropriate for a vagrant and various other Siberian species visited the U.S. in winter 1983-84. The dissenter noted the lack of a pattern of records toward California, the known escapes in Ontario (1979; originally accepted locally and later retracted) and in Wisconsin (1985), and the fact that a list of bird breeders obtained from the California Dept. of Fish & Game showed at least 21 other potential sources of escapes that had not been checked. The Committee's evaluation was that the bird was more likely a wild bird than an escape.

The CBRC does not require irrefutable proof that a particular bird is wild or escaped. Rather, it weighs the evidence to reach a conclusion about the probable origin of a bird. All relevant information should reach the Committee prior to the balancing test. Observers are urged to submit not only field descriptions of birds which may or may not be wild, but facts on both sides of the issue as well.

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EMPEROR GOOSE *Chen canagica* (32 \*\*). One at Carmel MNT 28 Dec 1945-11 Jan 1946 (LW; 110-1984). At the time this was the southernmost record for the state. The Committee amended record 29-1978 (Luther et al. 1983) to reflect the entire date span 19 Dec 1977-22 Apr 1978 at Moss Landing MNT and the Pajaro River mouth MNT/SCZ.

The 1946 record illustrates that even very old reports can be researched, reviewed and accepted. The details submitted included a copy of the January 1946 issue of *The Sanderling*, the newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, and much more thorough descriptions in the field notes of the late Laidlaw Williams. These field notes were donated to Hastings Natural History Reservation, a University of California field station, and thus were available to researchers. Active field observers are urged to provide for the eventual deposit of their notes in public facilities or museums, thereby providing a valuable resource to future generations.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* (3). A male at Lower Klamath NWR, SIS 29 Apr 1982 (JWF; 76-1983). The record fits well into a pattern of spring records in North America, and possibilities of an escape or a hybrid were considered and dismissed in committee comments.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* (19). One male at Lake Perris RIV 25 Nov 1983-5 Mar 1984 (JLD, JML, GMcC; 75-1984), with a second male there 2 Jan 1984 (JLD; 31-1984), are considered the same birds which wintered there Jan-Feb 1983 (previously accepted 53-1983; Morlan 1985). One male at Quail Lake LA 29 Dec 1983-7 Mar 1984 (WDC, KLG; 73-1984) is regarded as the same bird there in winters 1978-79 and 1979-80 (previously accepted 49-1980; Binford 1985, which also appeared in Cuddy Valley KRN as 80-1982; Morlan 1985). By a split vote, a slight majority favored listing it as the same bird, having been overlooked in this lightly-birded area in intervening winters. One male at the Stockton sewage ponds SJ 17-22 Mar 1984 (DGY; 70-1984).

The Committee evaluated, for statistical purposes, previously accepted records of birds returning winter to winter. Their decisions follow:

One male at Lake Sherwood VEN 25-31 Jan 1973, 31 Dec 1973-2 Feb 1974, 30 Oct 1974-12 Jan 1975, 19 Nov 1975-late Feb 1976, and 19 Nov 1976-Jan 1977 (25-1974, 25-1976) is considered a single record.

One male at Lake Merritt, Oakland and nearby Alameda ALA 28 Oct 1976-28 Mar 1977, 27 Oct-6 Nov 1977, and 2 Dec 1978-13 Jan 1979 (126-1976, 24-1978, 13-1979) was joined by a female 28 Oct-12 Dec 1976 (46-1976, 24-1978), for a total of two records.

One male at Limantour MRN 12 Jan-17 Apr 1978, 14 Dec 1978-10 Mar 1979, 29 Sep 1979-12 Jan 1980, and 3 Oct-27 Dec 1980 (78-1978, 12-1979, 44-1981, 237-1980) is considered one record. A second male appeared there 9 Nov-12 Dec 1980 (44-1981, 237-1980).

These amendments result in a total of 19 records of Tufted Duck through March 1984. An additional 8 published reports remain unreviewed and another 4 are pending.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus* (1). One male at Foster City SM 19 Dec 1983-22 Jan 1984 (AG<sup>+</sup>, JML, GMcC, REW; 24-1984) returned for its third winter (same bird as 95-1981; Binford 1985). It remains the only record for the state.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (12). A first-summer bird at Long Beach (California State University campus) LA 21 June 1982 (KLG; 118-1983). A first-summer bird at Oasis MNO 1 June 1984 (ML, JML, REW; 116-1984).

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**COMMON BLACK-HAWK** *Buteogallus anthracinus* (1). An adult at Thousand Palms Oasis (Nature Conservancy Reserve) RIV 13 Apr 1985 (BED, DLH, LRH; 46-1985). This apparent overshooting spring migrant is the first record of a species that had been anticipated to occur in California (Jehl 1980). It had previously occurred as near as Ehrenberg and the Bill Williams Delta, Arizona (on the Colorado River), and near Las Vegas, Nevada. This bird was seen only in flight but was carefully described and sketched. In comments, Committee members considered and rejected the possibilities of an escape or confusion with Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*, dark phase Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus*, Mangrove Black-Hawk *B. subtilis*, Great Black-Hawk *B. urubitinga*, Harris' Hawk, Solitary Eagle *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius*, and Zone-tailed Hawk. While not all these tropical hawks are likely to occur wild here, many raptors are kept in zoos and are potential escapes. All should be considered in reports of vagrant raptors.

**HARRIS' HAWK** *Parabuteo unicinctus* (2 \*\*). Three around Imperial Dam IMP 19 Dec 1958 (GMcC: 138-1984). One adult at Topock Marsh, near Needles SBE 22 Nov 1962 (GMcC: 47-1984). One adult about 20 miles north of Blythe RIV 28 Nov 1964 (GMcC: 46-1984).

This species was resident along the lower Colorado River (Grinnell & Miller 1944) and the CBRC no longer reviews records prior to 1960. Severe declines occurred in the early 1960s and the 1964 bird may be the last wild bird seen in California. Five reports from the 1970s were rejected on origin or identification questions. Governmental efforts are currently underway to re-establish the species along the Colorado River.

**ZONE-TAILED HAWK** *Buteo albonotatus* (17). An adult near Bonsall SD 7 Dec 1982-27 Feb 1983 (GMcC: 5-1983) returned 10 Dec 1983-14 Feb 1984 (GMcC, REW†: Figure 2; 135-1983). A second adult was near Fallbrook SD (about 8 miles away from the Bonsall bird) 26 Dec 1982-8 Jan 1983 (REW†: 27-1984). One of these birds may be the same individual at nearby Whelan Lake 13 Jan 1979 (previously accepted 40-1979; Binford 1985), but the majority considered all three to



Figure 2. Zone-tailed Hawk, Bonsall, San Diego Co., California, 16 Dec 1983.

Photo by Richard E. Webster

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be different birds. An adult at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY 31 May 1983 (AH; 92-1984). An adult at Morongo Valley (Big Morongo Reserve) SBE 2 May 1984 (RB; 93-1984). The latter record was previously unpublished.

**GYRFALCON** *Falco rusticolus* (2). An immature collected near Lower Klamath Lake (not Tule Lake as cited by Roberson 1980 and others) SIS 23 Oct 1948 (#MVZ 15104; 87-1984). This bird was the first for California, shot by a quail hunter when it dived at his dog (Jewett 1949).

**YELLOW RAIL** *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (18). Eighteen specimens collected in late fall and winter between 1863-1936, as detailed below. This species, now exceptionally rare in the state, was apparently regular in winter during this early era and nested east of the Sierra Nevada (Grinnell & Miller 1944). The Quincy PLU record might be a migrant or a breeding bird.

15 Dec 1863	Martinez CC 128-1984	*MVZ 4460
24 Apr 1894	Quincy PLU 122-1984	*MVZ 57968
16 Nov 1898	Pt. Reyes Station MRN 121-1984	*MVZ 81933
27 Dec 1903	Locks Marsh SCZ 26/134-1984	*MVZ 91349
27 Dec 1903	Locks Marsh SCZ 135-1984	*MVZ 91350
31 Oct 1905	Locks Marsh SCZ 129-1984	*MVZ 91351
5 Nov 1905	Locks Marsh SCZ 130-1984	*MVZ 91352
5 Nov 1905	Locks Marsh SCZ 131-1984	*MVZ 91353
5 Nov 1905	Locks Marsh SCZ 132-1984	*MVZ 91354
12 Nov 1905	Locks Marsh SCZ 133-1984	*MVZ 91355
19 Oct 1910	Suisun Marsh SOL 125-1984	*MVZ 24900
28 Dec 1910	Suisun Marsh SOL 124-1984	*MVZ 17250
1 Jan 1911	Suisun Marsh SOL 123-1984	*MVZ 17251
30 Nov 1911	Los Banos MER 126-1984	*MVZ 22141
30 Nov 1911	Los Banos MER 127-1984	*MVZ 22142
17 Nov 1912	Rincon Valley SON 119-1984	*MVZ 23339
31 Jan 1914	Corona RIV 136-1984	*MVZ 54552
22 Feb 1936	Pt. Reyes Station MRN 120-1984	*MVZ 100442

The 1936 Pt. Reyes Station bird and the 7 from Locks Marsh SCZ were not published by Grinnell & Miller (1944). Morlan, in comments, noted that he had searched for Locks Marsh as found on old maps, and discovered that today it is a parking lot in Scott's Valley.

**MONGOLIAN PLOVER** *Charadrius mongolus* (2). An adult in breeding plumage at the Santa Clara River mouth VEN 26 July-2 Aug 1983 (ASt; JLD, GMcC; 65-1983). The Committee regards this as the same individual which appeared here the previous Aug (previously accepted 74-1982; Morlan 1985).

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus palliatus* (5). An adult at Fraser Pt., Santa Cruz Island SBA 26 Feb 1984 (PEL; 51-1984). This is considered to be one of up to three individuals present here year-round since first noted on 11 Nov 1966 (previously accepted 92-1980; Binford 1983). It shows the spotted breast characteristic of the Pacific Coast race *frazari*. This bird could be more than 18 years old, but some members noted that the Eurasian Oystercatcher *H. ostralegus* has been known to live longer than 35 years (Terres 1980).

**LITTLE CURLEW** *Numenius minutus* (1). A juvenile in the Santa Maria River Valley, near Betteravia SBA 16 Sep-14 Oct 1984 (PEL; JLD, RAE, AH†, JML, ML, CM, GMcC, JM, DR†, AS†, BT†; 215-1984). This first state record was seen by hundreds of observers after being relocated on the ranch of the Mahoneys, who graciously

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permitted birders to enter their property. The excitement of the find, surely one of the most remarkable in North America, was described by Schram (1985). Full details and color photos appear in Lehman & Dunn (1985).

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta* (1). A juvenile at the Bolinas sewage ponds MRN 14-22 Sept 1983 (DHE; LCB, AG†, AH†, NGH, PL, JM, BDP, RS†; 62-1983). This bird was originally identified as a Rufous-necked Stint *C. ruficollis*, but a review of photos provided by Ed Greaves and W. Ed Harper of juvenile stints on Attu Island, Alaska, in Sep 1983 raised serious questions regarding this identification. The issue was only settled to the satisfaction of the Committee after Lars Jonsson of Sweden and Peter J. Grant of Britain provided comments. The combination of characters they used to identify the bird as a Little Stint have since been published by Grant and Jonsson (1984) and Veit and Jonsson (1985), and illustrated in Jonsson's color plates, prints of which he provided prior to publication.

This is the first record south of Alaska in western North America. The discussion and controversy it spawned led to a better understanding of the identification of juvenile stints.

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *Tryngites subruficollis* (22). One at Greenhills Cemetery, Palos Verdes Peninsula LA 5-17 Sep 1971 (JLD; 57-1984). Two on SE Farallon I. SF 29 Aug 1978 (PRBO; 112-1984). One at Manchester Beach MEN 2-3 Sep 1978 (BBu, RM; 113-1984). One in breeding plumage at the Arcata marina HMB 3-4 May 1980 (LD, RLeV; 95-1983). One at the Lancaster sewage ponds LA 3-9 Sep 1983 (BWK; HC†, JLD, GMcC, REW; 67-1983).

The Arcata bird is the only spring record. Accepted fall birds, apparently all juveniles, occurred between 26 Aug-22 Oct. In some autumns, such as 1978, unusually large numbers have been present.

**JACK SNIBE** *Lymnocyptes minimus* (1). One collected near the Sutter Buttes BUT 20 Nov 1938 (#MVZ 94397; 86-1984) is the only California record. The circumstances were described by McLean (1939). After some initial debate regarding the question of origin, the record was accepted (9-1) on the second round.

**LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus* (21). An adult migrating north past Pigeon Pt. SM 19 Apr 1979 (BS; 98-1983). Up to three at the Stockton sewage ponds SJ over the past 6 years. A second-winter bird was first noted 20 Mar-2 Apr 1979 (previously accepted 21-1979; Luther et al. 1983). Since then adults have occurred on the following dates and numbers: 4 Feb-31 Mar 1980, 17 Oct 1980-31 May 1981 (JML†; 93-1983), 26 Oct 1981-30 Apr (2)-9 May (2) 1982, 18 Oct 1982-22 Apr (2)-26 Apr (3)-30 Apr(3)-9 May (2) 1983 (JML, DR†; 1/42-1984), and 18 Oct 1983-15 Apr(2)-28 Apr (2) 1984 (LCB, JML, GMcC, BDP, REW†; 85-1983). A second-winter bird at Monterey MNT 3-13 Apr 1982 (AB, RLB†; 94-1983). A photo of this bird was published by Roberson (1985).

**COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus* (9). An adult in winter plumage at Long Beach LA 10 Sep-13 Oct 1983 (LRH; GMcC; 70-1983). An adult at the Stockton sewage ponds SJ 18 Oct 1982-10 Apr 1983 (DR†; 2-1984) and 11 Oct 1983-9 Apr 1984 (LCB, JML, GMcC, BDP, REW†; Figure 3; 84-1983). The latter bird has been present six consecutive winters since first discovered in March 1979 (previously accepted 20-1979; Luther et al. 1983). Complete dates of occurrence in its first four winters were 20-30 Mar 1979, 4 Feb-31 Mar 1980, 7-12 Nov 1980, 10 Nov 1981-8 Apr 1982.

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**PARAKEET AUKLET** *Cyclorhynchus psittacula* (16). Fifteen specimens (#CAS 10291-10305), all showing head plumes, taken by Rollo Beck on Monterey Bay MNT on the following dates: twelve on 13 Jan 1908 (records 139-1984 through 148-1984 and 150-1984, 151-1984), one on 15 Jan 1908 (149-1984) and one on 30 Jan 1908 (152-1984). Another was picked up on the Pacific Grove MNT shoreline on 28 Jan 1908 (153-1984). These were reported by Beck (1910) and Grinnell & Miller (1944). One found dead just north of the Pajaro River mouth SCZ 28 Apr 1947 (skeleton #MVZ 119009; 200-1984).

The numbers in 1908 are truly extraordinary. Nothing like it has occurred since, though it is not known if the species was regular off-shore before 1908. The 1947 specimen posed an interesting question of identification, as only a photo of the skull was available for review, but reference to Ainley et al. (1980) was useful. Several members considered whether the bird should be accepted as a California record since a dead bird might be carried by ocean currents for some distance (see Grinnell 1938). The British Ornithologists' Union Committee does not accept records of "tide-line corpses" on the "A" British list, but CBRC members considered the record acceptable, as this state is far from other jurisdictions.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (6). An immature mist-netted at Pt. Reyes NS, MRN 22 Sep 1965 (LKH†; 12-1984). Details of this first California record were published by Van Velzen (1967).

**SNOWY OWL** *Nyctea scandiaca* (34 \*\*). An immature male collected at Humboldt Bay HMB 19 Dec 1916 (#CAS 44914; 157-1984). Grinnell & Miller (1944) list another 18 birds from northwestern California that winter.

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** *Cyanthus latirostris* (19). An immature male in the Tijuana River Valley SD 9-11 Sep 1983 (JLD; 58-1984). An immature male in Bundy Canyon, Brentwood LA 6-17 Nov 1983 (KLG, GMcC; 119-1983). A female at Goleta SBA 31 Dec 1983-18 Jan 1984 (JLD, PEL, GMcC; 53-1984).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** *Archilochus colubris* (1). An adult male collected at Sagehen Creek, 11 km north of Truckee NEV 15 May 1975 (RC; #U.C. Davis WFB-972; 100-1984).

This bird has an interesting history (Cole & Engilis 1986). The specimen was distinguished from Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) by its a) black non-iridescent feathers extending from the chin to the auriculars, b) rectrices lacking any rufous and forming a distinct fork (5 mm in depth), and c) upperparts deep forest green.

**GREATER PEEWEE** *Contopus pertinax* (12). One at Griffith Park, Los Angeles LA 31 Oct 1982-16 Feb 1983 and 10 Nov 1983-23 Mar 1984 (KLG†; GMcC; 88-1983). This bird wintered here five consecutive years, occurring in its first three years 7 Nov 1979-30 Jan 1980, 1 Nov 1980-23 Feb 1981, and 13 Jan-20 Feb 1982 (previously accepted 19-1980; Binford 1983).

**DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (9). A male collected at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, NM, INY 23 Nov 1968 (GMcC, GSS; #LACM 66519; 84-1984). One at Palomarin, near Bolinas MRN 12-14 Nov 1983 (DDeS, RS†; 132-1983). One at Goleta SBA 5 Dec 1983 (PEL; JLD, REW†; 126-1983). One at Arcata HMB 13 Jan-12 Mar 1984 (RAE; 55-1984). One at Los Osos (Sunset Terrace Golf Course) SLO 22 Jan-20 May 1984 (DB, CB; JLD, CM†, GMcC, REW†; 23-1984).

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The 1968 specimen was the first record for California; details were published by Suffel (1970). It agrees well with the northern race *olivascens* (KLG, in comments). The Arcata bird is the northernmost record in North America; a photograph was published in *AB* 38:354, but inexplicably was not submitted to the Committee.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (8). One banded at Palomarin, near Bolinas MRN 19 Oct 1974 (ICT†; 83-1984). One at Pt. Loma SD 20 Sep 1983 (REW; JLD, GMcC; 69-1983).

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris* (5). One at Pt. Loma SD 16-20 Sep 1983 (REW†; JLD, GMcC; 68-1983). One at Harbor Lake, Harbor City LA 8 Oct 1983 (DS; 116-1983).

These reports stirred questions about the potential of the tropical Streaked Flycatcher (*M. maculatus*) to reach California. Members noted that Streaked Flycatcher has a highly migratory race, is variable in plumage between races, and is given conflicting field marks in neotropic guides [e.g., Peterson & Chalif (1973), Ridgely (1976), Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps (1976)]. J. Van Remsen, Jr., of Louisiana State University, provided comments on the Pt. Loma record, confirming the importance of chin color (pale in Streaked, dark in Sulphur-bellied) and of the much broader male stripe and frosty look to the crown in Sulphur-bellied. Other characters, emphasized by some authors, are of little value, including the color of the lower mandible and the color of the underparts (though Sulphur-bellied averages yellower). Because the field descriptions conflicted on some of these marks, this record pointed up the value of clear photographs, even if taken at some distance.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Muscivora forficata* (11). One on East Anacapa Island SBA 24 May 1974 (NW†; 54-1984). One in the Tijuana River Valley SD 17 Oct 1974 (JLD; 59-1984). One at San Elijo Lagoon SD 8-10 Nov 1974 (JB†, JLD, GMcC; 60-1984); the photo was published by Roberson (1980). One at Pt. Lobos State Reserve MNT 27-30 May 1978 (LAM; SPH; 105-1984). One at Needles SBE 26 July 1978 (SWC†; 82-1984). One at Pt. Gorda MNT 15 May 1983 (R&JP; 67-1984). One at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY 28-30 May 1984 (JML, ML, GMcC, REW; 98-1984).

The two MNT records were not published in *American Birds*, but were accepted by Roberson (1985). This species has been on and off the CBRC review list several times, leading to observer confusion on submission of details. Details of all records are desired. To date, there are only 11 accepted California records, but at least 42 published reports remain unreviewed.

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (2). One at Hayward Regional Shoreline, Hayward ALA 28-29 Sep 1984 (JSL, JM; SFB†, BBa, LCB, KFC, RAE, AG†, JAG, WEG, KLH, AH†, JML, PEL, ML, TM, GMcC, DN, BDP, DR, AS†, J&ES, JW; Figure 4; 216-1984). This is the second record for California, the first having occurred on SE Farallon I. 27 Sep 1980 (Luther et al. 1983). Useful discussions of identification were found in Johns & Wallace (1980), Svensson (1984) and Williamson (1962). Photos were reviewed by Peter J. Grant in Britain, who pointed out that even the partial wing formula could be discerned in photos provided, pointing directly to Dusky or Radde's Warbler (*P. schwarzi*). A review of all characters led to his conclusion that "I don't think you could have got a more certain Dusky." Important points separating the species from other *Phylloscopus*, including Radde's, included 1) brown (not olive-toned) upperparts, 2) brownish-buff (not yellowish) wash to underparts, brightest on undertail coverts, 3) sharp "tchack" call, recalling Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*), 4) the comparatively small, thin bill, 5) a rather even and short supercilium palest before the eye, and 6) the rather dark legs. Committee comments

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considered, and rejected, the possibilities of *P. fulviventor*, *griseolus*, *armandii*, *neglectus*, *ijimae*, *amoenus*, *olivaceus*, *cebuensis*, *ruficapillus*, *laurae*, *umbrovirens*, *laetus*, *budongoensis* and *herbert*, and the possibility of an escape, which was judged to be nil.

This surprising bird inhabited a most unremarkable small patch of grass and weeds, actively feeding on the ground or fluttering briefly in the foliage. This being only the second *Phylloscopus* ever found south of Alaska, it is not surprising that the possibility of Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) was originally considered, but the frequent flicking of wings and fanning of tail dispelled this initial impression. During its 2-day stay it was viewed by over 200 observers, 23 of whom submitted details or photographs, which must set a CBRC record for documentation! Published photos appear in AB 39:99.

**WOOD THRUSH** *Hyalocichla mustelina* (6). One captured in weak condition and collected in the Tijuana River Valley SD 18 Nov 1967 (AMC†, GMcC; #SDNHM 36353; 81-1984). One at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco SF 21 Dec 1983-23 Mar 1984 (JM; LCB, AG†, RCH, JBM, BDP; 136-1983).

Details and a photograph of the San Diego bird, the first record for the state, were published by McCaskie (1971). The San Francisco bird was unexpected, being the first to winter in the state. It was quite elusive, but had begun singing by the time of its departure.

**RUFIOUS-BACKED ROBIN** *Turdus rufopalliatus* (4). One at Newport Bay (Newport Nature Center) ORA 1 Jan-11 Apr 1983 joined by a second bird 23 Feb-5 Mar (JLD, KLG, BWK, GMcC, JM, SJR, DR†, REW; 6-1983). One at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY 5 Nov 1983 (DA, GMcC, REW†; 86-1983).

A photo of one Newport Bay bird appeared in AB 37:339 and was deposited in SDNHM, but inexplicably was not submitted to the Committee. The presence of two birds in this small urban park was surprising, but members considered, and rejected, the possibility of escapes. The Death Valley bird is the northernmost record of this species anywhere.

**GRAY CATBIRD** *Dumetella carolinensis* (16). One at Pt. Loma SD 7 Nov 1983-13 Mar 1984 (JLD, GMcC, REW†; 87-1983). This is the third time this species has wintered in California.

**WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba* (1). An adult at Arroyo de la Cruz SLO 5-8 Oct 1984 (GPS†; SFB†, JLD, JML, PEL, ML, CM, GMcC, JM, EO†, BDP, DR, AS; Figure 5; 218-1984). The extensively white greater and median coverts, forming a large white patch on the wing, identified the bird as an adult. At that age the dark (not mostly white) flight feathers eliminated Black-backed Wagtail (*M. lugens*). The combination of black eyeline and pale gray upperparts are indicative of the Alaska/Siberia breeding race *ocularis*.

A wagtail at this same site 9 Oct 1983, originally submitted as a White/Black-backed Wagtail, has since been accepted as a White Wagtail and as probably the same individual which returned the following autumn (TME†; CM; 38-1984). This bird, now accepted for 1983 and 1984, is the first White Wagtail in California. The standard reference on the identification of the species pair is Morlan (1981).

**WHITE/BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL** *Montacilla alba/lugens* (6 \*\*). A first-winter bird at Long Beach (Los Angeles River channel) LA 4 Nov 1982-18 Jan 1983 (JLD, KLG, GMcC, J&ES†, REW; 119-1982). This is the first wagtail to winter in California.



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Figure 3. Common Black-headed Gull (left) and Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*). Stockton. San Joaquin Co., California. 19 Jan 1984.

*Photo by Richard E. Webster*



Figure 4. Dusky Warbler. Hayward Regional Shoreline. Alameda Co., California, 28 Sep 1984.

*Photo by Albert Ghorso*

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RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* (41). One banded on SE Farallon I. SF 3 Nov 1968 (HR†; 13-1984). Up to six birds present in the Tijuana River Valley SD 19-27 Oct 1974 (2 on 19 Oct, 3 on 2 Oct, 6 on 21 Oct, dwindling numbers from 22-27 Oct; GMcC; JLD, JM, DR; 61-1984).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii* (19). One west of Blythe RIV 2 Jan 1984 (DK; 74-1984). This is only the second record from the lower Colorado River Valley. The species winters regularly in small numbers in southern Arizona (Monson & Phillips 1981).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus* (43). An immature male collected on Southeast Farallon I. SF 14 Sep 1969 (#CAS 68462; 14-1984). A female collected at Kelso SBE 10 Oct 1976 (#SBCM 30274; 7-1984). One at Pt. Reyes NS (New Willows) MRN 4 Oct 1981 (B&CY; 33-1982). One at Pt. Reyes NS (Mendoza Ranch) MRN 26 Sep 1983 (LCB; 72-1983). One at Pt. Reyes NS (New Willows) MRN 26-27 Sep 1983 (LCB; AG†; Figure 6; 73-1983). One on the Oxnard Plain, near Oxnard VEN 2-3 Oct 1983 (S&DiR; 128-1983). A female collected at Kelso SBE 2 Oct 1983 (#SBCM 38070; 6-1984). One at Morongo Valley (Big Morongo Reserve) SBE 3 Oct 1983 (REW; 122-1983).

Very small numbers of this species appear each fall, although the five found during the single week 26 Sep-3 Oct 1983 are exceptional. Directions to specific Pt. Reyes spots are found in Morlan (1978) and Richer (1984). The 1981 Pt. Reyes bird elicited extensive comments, eventually circulating three rounds and being accepted (10-0) only on the final round following a discussion at the annual meeting. The most important point of controversy involved the description of the lores: "dark line through eye which quit at or just into lores slightly." Some members contend Philadelphia Vireo always has dark lores, while others insist some freshly molted fall birds can appear pale-lored. This issue remains unresolved, although the doubters were willing to accept a bird which showed partially dark lores, as described.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (2). One collected in Wyman Canyon INY 16 June 1954 (#MVZ 132435; 104-1984). One at Morongo Valley (Big Morongo Reserve) SBE 2 Oct 1983 (LSa; BAC; 83-1983). The Wyman Canyon bird was the first record for California; details were published by Miller & Russell (1956). Blue-winged Warbler remains one of the most difficult species to find in the state. The Morongo bird, like all others reported, was seen on but a single day.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (23). One at Montecito, Santa Barbara SBA 23-24 Oct 1960, collected 24 Oct (#SBMNH 4326; 69-1984). A male collected on SE Farallon I. SF 5 July 1972 (#CAS 68648; 20-1984). A male banded on SE Farallon I. SF 14 Sep 1974 was found dead 16 Sep (#CAS 68917; 19-1984).

The Montecito bird was the first for California and was published by Richardson & Richardson (1961). It is labelled a first-year male, but its plumage appears to be that of a female (PEL, in comments). The specimens accepted here are the three oldest accepted records, but three other reports from 1962-1972 remain unreviewed.

GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER *Dendroica chrysoparia* (1). An immature male collected on SE Farallon I. SF 9 Sep 1974 (#CAS 68546; 18-1984). This extraordinary record was the first for California; details were published by Lewis et al. (1974).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (32). One banded on SE Farallon I. SF 8 July 1969 (HR†; 17-1984); a photo appears in DeSante (1980). A singing male in Northridge LA 7 May 1981 (HS; 41-1982). A pair at Eureka HMB 12

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June-1 July 1982 (RAE; 27-1983). One found dead at Santa Monica (Palisades Park) LA 7 Jan 1983 (#LACM 100690; 111-1983). A singing male in Lincoln Park, San Francisco SF 6 June 1983 (AH†; 91-1984). A singing male at Pt. Lobos State Reserve MNT 24 May 1984 (DR; 103-1984).

All showed whitish lores, characteristic of the western race *albiflora*. The Santa Monica bird is the first specimen for California and the first to occur in winter. The Eureka pair were observed nest-building, but nesting success was not documented.

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae* (11). One banded at Pt. Loma SD 8 Sep 1968 (AMC†; 16-1984); details and a photo were published by Craig (1970). One at Zuma Beach LA 30 Sep 1979 (HB; 114-1983). One near Carpinteria SBA 22 Feb-21 Mar 1982 (KLG; 103-1983) and returning 22 Oct 1983-27 Mar 1984 (JLD, PEL; 62-1984). The Committee considers this the same individual present 24 Feb-21 Apr 1980 (previously accepted 119-1980; Binford 1983), though it was not located during brief coverage in winter 1980-1981. Thus by 1983-1984 it had returned for its fourth winter. One at Pt. Loma SD 7 Sep 1983 (REW; 124-1983). An adult male at Montecito SBA 28 Sep 1983-14 Mar 1984 (PEL, GMcC; 114-1984). This is considered the same individual first located 6 Jan-2 Apr 1980 (previously accepted 23-1980; Binford 1983), now returning for its fifth winter, having been present 4 Nov 1980-28 Mar 1981, 10 Oct 1981-10 Mar 1982 and 11 Oct 1982-1 Apr 1983.

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (9). One on SE Farallon I. SF 16 Oct 1979 (PH, DT; 197-1980). An immature female at Pt. Loma SD 13 Oct 1983 (REW; GMcC; 78-1983). One at Pt. Loma SD 12-23 Dec 1983 (REW†; GMcC; 127-1983). A male at San Luis Obispo (Cal. Poly. campus) SLO 9 Jan-14 Mar 1984 (CM; LCB, JLD, JML, GMcC, DR, REW†; 32-1984). A singing male at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM. INY 31 May 1984 (REW; 137-1984).

R.E. Webster appears to have a special affinity for this species, having discovered three of the birds accepted here, including the Death Valley male which provides the



Figure 5. White Wagtail. Arroyo de la Cruz, San Luis Obispo Co., California, 7 Oct 1984.  
Photo by Stephen F. Bailey

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first accepted spring record in California. The San Luis Obispo bird, which was seen by mobs, began singing before its departure. It is the second Pine Warbler known to have wintered in the state. The Farallon individual provoked much controversy and extensive comment. Its original circulation was interrupted when it was resubmitted as an "Olive Warbler," but this suggestion was unanimously rejected. Details of this ill-fated detour and of the record itself were published in Binford (1985). It was eventually accepted (10-0) as a Pine Warbler on a fourth and final round following discussion at an annual meeting.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** *Protonotaria citrea* (35). One collected in Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara SBA 25 May 1953 (#SBMNH 4258; 68-1984). This was the first record for California; details were published by Hillman & Erickson (1954). One at Malibu Lagoon LA 18 Sep 1983 (KLG; 63-1983). One at Morro Bay State Park SLO 19-20 Oct 1983 (GPS; CM; 39-1984). One at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY 19-20 May 1984 (GMcC; 97-1984).

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** *Helminthos vermivorus* (25). One found dead at Carmel Highlands MNT 16 Dec 1967 (#PGMNH 2343; 102-1984). One in the Tijuana River Valley SD 10 Sep 1974 (JLD, GMcC; 63-1984). One in Long Beach (Recreation Park) LA 6 Nov 1981, returning 5 Nov 1982-9 Mar 1983 (BED; 137-1983). One at Zuma Creek mouth, Malibu LA 15 Oct-18 Dec 1983 (KLG; 120-1983). One at Goleta (San Jose Creek) SBA 23 Dec 1983-11 Mar 1984 (JLD, PEL, GMcC, BDP, DR, REW; 41-1984).

The Carmel Highlands bird was the first for northern California. After some debate, the CBRC considers the Long Beach bird to be a different individual than one present at nearby Whaley Park 5 Nov 1981-21 Mar 1982 and 1-5 Nov 1982 (previously accepted 5-1982; Binford 1983).

**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** *Seiurus motacilla* (1). One collected at Mecca RIV 17 Aug 1908 (#MVZ 1105; 187-1984). This was the first state record; details were published by Miller (1908). The status, distribution and identification of California waterthrushes were summarized by Binford (1971a,b).

**KENTUCKY WARBLER** *Oporornis formosus* (12). A male banded at Pt. Loma SD 4 June 1968 (AMC†; GMcC; 15-1984). This was the first record for California; a photo and description were published by Craig (1970). A female at Morongo Valley (Big Morongo Reserve) SBE 4 Oct 1981 (DRW; 23-1983). One at Deep Springs MNO 27 May 1982 (JLD; 102-1983). A male at Del Mar SD 14-16 Nov 1983 (JLD, GMcC, REW†; 89-1983). A female at Goleta (San Jose Creek) SBA 16 Dec 1983-5 Mar 1984 (JLD, JML, PEL, DR, REW; 11-1984). A male at Corona del Mar ORA 29 Dec 1983-6 Mar 1984 (CM; JLD, GMcC, REW; 25-1984).

The latter two birds are the first to winter in California.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** *Oporornis agilis* (13). An immature on SE Farallon I. SF 29 Sep 1975 (JWn; 4-1984). An immature at Pt. Reyes NS (Lighthouse) MRN 26 Sep 1983 (LCB; 74-1983).

Both of these birds engendered numerous comments, although both passed unanimously. Both were brown-hooded birds. The Farallon bird was repeatedly seen walking, jerking its tail upward, which most members felt was characteristic of the species. The Pt. Reyes bird was seen only perched or in flight. Though there was a wide white eyering, it was broken slightly, and some members felt this was unusual. However, the olive-brown hood, the white (not yellow or buffy) eyering, the buffy yellow (not rich yellow) belly and the very long undetail coverts were considered, in combination, to be conclusive.

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Figure 6. Philadelphia Vireo, Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin Co., California, 27 Sep 1983  
*Photo by Albert Ghiorso*



Figure 7. LeConte's Sparrow, Nearys Lagoon, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co., California, 30 October 1983.  
*Photo by Albert Ghiorso*

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**MOURNING WARBLER** *Oporornis philadelphicus* (19). An immature male at Pt. Reyes (Fish Docks) MRN 27-30 Sep 1979 (RAE, AG†, GMcC, JM, DR, RS; 61-1979); a photo was published in Roberson (1980). An immature female at Pt. Loma SD 8 Oct 1982 (REW; 111-1982). An immature female at Big Sycamore Canyon, Pt. Mugu State Park VEN 18 Sep 1983 (HB; 130-1983). An immature female at Pt. Loma SD 20 Sep 1983 (REW; 123-1983).

The Pt. Reyes bird proved to be very controversial, having almost been published as "unaccepted" when additional photos of the bird were uncovered and circulated. It passed on its fourth round (9-1). There had been much concern about the color of the throat and the reliability of call-notes, eyering shape, and color of sides of breast in separating immatures of this species from the very similar MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*). The new photos showed a single black feather appearing on the lower throat, indicating the bird was a male (which makes throat color an academic argument, as immature males of both species may have off-white throats). In addition, recent years have added to our experience in dealing with fall *Oporornis* and some of the marks, thought to be untested in 1979, are now considered reliable.

**RED-FACED WARBLER** *Cardellina rubrifrons* (7). One collected at Brock Ranch, east of Holtville IMP 30 May 1970 (#SDNHM 37494; 80-1984). This was the first California record; details were published by McCaskie (1970b).

**SCARLET Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* (26). An immature female banded on SE Farallon I. SF 29 Sep-2 Oct 1975 (JWn†; 5-1984). An immature male found dead at Malibu Lagoon LA 7 Nov 1982 (KLG; #LACM 100438; 112-1983). An immature male at Pt. Loma SD 16-17 Oct 1983 (GMcC, REW; 79-1983). An immature female on Pt. Loma SD 29 Oct 1983 (REW; 125-1983).

**PAINTED BUNTING** *Passerina ciris* (9). An adult male at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY 4 Nov 1972 (GMcC; 50-1973). An immature at Goleta SBA 3 Oct 1983 (PEL; 131-1983).

The Death Valley bird is the first adult male to be accepted. It was actually published as accepted in the Committee's second report (Winter & McCaskie 1975), with the notation that eight members thought the point of origin questionable. This vote was taken before the Committee had adopted its current voting forms, which at the time did not have a "reject, origin questionable" category as we do now for votes against birds thought to be escapes. Due to this confusion, the record was recirculated. Committee members now have over 10 years' more experience in evaluating the potential of escaped birds vs. wild vagrants. Given the now-established pattern of Oct-Nov records of Painted Buntings in California, the known presence of adult vagrants of other species, the paucity of information on captivity status in the U.S., and the vagrant trap location, the Committee, on recirculation, accepted this record unanimously.

**CASSIN'S SPARROW** *Aimophila cassinii* (9). One banded on SE Farallon I. SF 11-12 July 1969 (MC†; 36-1984). An immature female present, eventually collected, on SE Farallon I. SF 22-23 Sep 1969 (#CAS 68475; 9-1984). An adult female present, eventually collected, on SE Farallon I. SF 2-4 June 1970 (#CAS 68520; 10-1984). One banded on SE Farallon I. SF 17 June-6 July 1982 (TMc, CS†; 91-1982). SE Farallon I. now accounts for nearly half of the accepted records.

**FIELD SPARROW** *Spizella pusilla* (1). One present and banded on SE Farallon I. SF 17 June-9 July 1969 (HR†; 77-1984). This was the first state record; details and an in-hand photo were published by Robert (1971).

**BAIRD'S SPARROW** *Ammodramus bairdii* (2). An immature collected on SE Farallon I. SF 28 Sep 1969 (#CAS 68476; 8-1984) was the first state record.

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LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammospiza leconteii* (7). An immature at Nearys Lagoon, Santa Cruz SCZ 28-30 Oct 1983 (DG; AG†, KH; Figure 7; 80-1983).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW *Ammodramus caudacuta* (23). One at Pt. Pinos (Crespi pond), Pacific Grove MNT 12 Oct 1975 (SAL; 28-1984). Two (one banded, one unbanded) at Bolinas Lagoon (Pine Gulch) MRN 19-31 Dec 1983 (JP; 121-1983) are considered returning individuals. Up to three have been present here since winter 1980-81 (previously accepted 222-1980, 120-1982; Binford 1985, Morlan 1985).

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* (1). One at Stone Lagoon HMB 7-8 Jan 1984 (GJS†, RAE; GSL; 33-1984) is the first California record. This same winter, termed the "Siberian Express" by Lehman (1984), also brought the first record of this species to British Columbia, Canada. A previous report for California (see Garrett & Dunn 1980) has not been submitted to the Committee.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (17). One at north spit, Humboldt Bay HMB 7-17 Nov 1975 (JLD; 66-1984).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (11). A male at Baker SBE 24-30 May 1984 (GMcC, REW; 99-1984). A female at Pt. Reyes NS (Nunes Ranch) MRN 13-16 June 1984 (LCB; KFC, JM, MLR; 94-1984).

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* (1). One at Crescent City DN 5 Feb-24 Mar 1984 (RAE; JLD, JML, GMcC, JM, DR, J&ES†, JWn; 44-1984). This is the first California record. The obliging female, discovered by Jim Rooney in his back yard and identified by Erickson, delighted all by remaining there for 2 months. It occurred during a winter, now known as the "Siberian Express" (Lehman 1984), which brought other Bramblings to British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Colorado and Minnesota — a spectacular and unprecedented invasion!

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* (1). A large flock, from which 5 specimens (4 females, 1 male) were taken, at Eagle Lake LAS 30 Nov-23 Dec 1899 (#CAS 47883, 47884, 47885; #MVZ 5542, 5543; 159-1984). These were first reported by Willard (1902). This flock constitutes the first state record.

### UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Diomedea albatrus*. A "sub-adult" photographed at 36°14.9'N, 123°01.8'W, about 80 miles WNW of Monterey MNT 20 Apr 1978 (100-1978). Details of this report, along with a photo, were published by Helm (1980) and were initially accepted by the Committee (Luther et al. 1979). Roberson requested a recirculation based upon a study of plumages of this species and correspondence with Terence R. Wahl and Dennis Paulson regarding Washington and Oregon reports, including one published by Wahl (1970) which he no longer considers a Short-tailed Albatross. On recirculation and after discussion at an annual meeting, the Committee agreed that the photograph was conclusively not of this species, representing possibly an old or aberrant Black-footed Albatross *D. nigripes* or a Black-footed X Laysan hybrid, which have been reported from Midway I. Among points wrong for Short-tailed were a) too short a bill, b) white (not dark) undertail coverts, c) lack of large white patches on upperwings, d) comparatively short and broad wings, e) lack of huge feet extending well beyond tail, and f) wrong facial and neck pattern. See Roberson (1980) for more details on this identification problem.

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### UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*. One off Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove MNT 28 Oct 1977 (82-1982). One about 2 miles west of Carlsbad SD 28 Dec 1980 (92-1982). Both were rejected (1-9) on the grounds that the details were insufficient to document a first state record of a species which is difficult to separate from closely related species. The Pt. Pinos report was published by Roberson (1980), but was not accepted by Roberson (1985).

**WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** *Oceanodroma tethys*. One on Monterey Bay MNT 9 Oct 1983 (138-1983). Another report of this species on this same date, but from another boatload of birders, was accepted (see Accepted Records). The Committee was convinced that this was a different bird (the accepted Wedge-rumped did not show white while resting on the water, whereas this bird did) and was nearly unanimously convinced (1-9) that this was not a Wedge-rumped. The majority felt it was probably a Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and some members noted that Murphy (1936) had described a small race (*O. o. chilensis*) from South America which might account for the apparent small size of this individual. This bird was accepted by Tucker (1984), a position which became controversial (Greenman & Tucker 1985). Not all observers submitted details, so this report might have been more thoroughly reviewed if more information had been available.

**ANHINGA** *Anhinga anhinga*. One-two birds at Potholes (now near Laguna Dam on the Colorado River) IMP 9-12 Feb 1913. These sightings were discussed by Brooks (1913) and Dawson (1916, 1923). Grinnell & Miller (1944) placed this species on their supplemental list because a specimen was not taken. The CBRC was sharply split (6-4) after four rounds on the issue of whether the early discussions contained sufficient details for the first state record. A 1983-1984 record was subsequently accepted, adding the species to the state list.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** *Nycticorax violaceus*. One at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NM, INY 14 May 1984 (95-1984). If it had been accepted, this would have been the first record of a first-year bird in California. See Blom (1985) for a recent comment on this identification problem.

**TRUMPETER SWAN** *Cygnus buccinator*. One at the Chico oxidation ponds BUT 2 Jan 1982 (2-1982). It had been published in *AB* 36:326, but was defeated (6-4) on the fourth round.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** *Ictinia mississippiensis*. One at Creighton Ranch Preserve TUL 10 June 1983 (82-1983). This was published in *AB* 37:1023 and the report called "well-described," but the Committee (2-8) did not agree.

**GRAY HAWK** *Buteo nitidus*. One seen briefly in flight near Bolinas MRN 16 June 1984 (21-1985). Most members expressed concern about the brevity of observation for a first state record. Several members commented that they felt this species was an unlikely vagrant to northern California and that even if a Gray Hawk were involved, it was most likely an escape from captivity.

**YELLOW RAIL** *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. One at upper Newport Bay ORA 12 Jan 1984 (22-1984). Most thought the possibility of an immature Sora *Porzana carolina* was not eliminated.



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### UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus palliatus*. One at Pt. Lobos State Reserve MNT 3 Apr 1954 (111-1984). Two at Tomales Pt., Pt. Reyes NS, MRN 25 Feb 1981 (75-1983).

These are the only reports for northern California. The former had been widely accepted (e.g., McCaskie et al. 1979, Roberson 1980) but was recently rejected by Roberson (1985). Details could not be found despite efforts to locate them. Furthermore, the field notes of the late Laidlaw Williams make no mention of this species, despite his active birding at Pt. Lobos in April 1954. Normally the Committee does not review records which contain no details, but it was felt important to formally reject this record because it has long been cited as a positive record.

**RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT** *Calidris ruficollis*. A juvenile seen briefly and distantly photographed in the Tijuana River Valley SD 10 Aug 1980 (238-1980). If accepted, this would have been the first juvenile recorded in California. After five circulations, the record was defeated (3-7). Those opposed felt the photos were inconclusive and the bird too briefly seen to obtain details adequate to address the numerous fine points in separating juvenile stints (see Grant & Jonsson 1984, Veit & Jonsson 1985 for a full discussion).

**TEMMINCK'S STINT** *Calidris temminckii*. A basic-plumaged bird at the Salinas River mouth MNT 6 Aug 1983 (51-1983). If accepted, this would have been the first state record; after three rounds it was defeated (4-6). Those opposed noted the brevity of observation, particularly of tail pattern seen only briefly in flight, expressed concern that the bird did not call, and questioned whether a basic-plumaged bird was likely in early August. Those favoring the record emphasized the correctly described shape, breast pattern and tail pattern.

**COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus*. One at Lake Merritt, Oakland ALA 21 Nov 1983 (143-1977).

**THICK-BILLED MURRE** *Uria lomvia*. One at Otter Pt., Pacific Grove MNT 21 Jan 1978 (26-1978). This report, published as unaccepted and discussed in Binford (1983), was recirculated on the basis of a recently discovered photograph. After two circulations, the Committee decided (3-7) the original decision was correct.

**GREEN VIOLET-EAR** *Colibri thalassinus*. One at Berkeley ALA 18 Aug 1977 (159-1977). One near Iris Meadow, Mt. Pinos KRN 31 Aug-1 Sep 1977 (40-1978). Either report, if accepted, would have been the first for California.

Both were rejected after three circulations (Berkeley 2-8, Mt. Pinos 3-7) on split grounds. Five members opposed to the Berkeley report and four opposed to the Mt. Pinos bird expressed concern about identification. The descriptions accompanying both reports were comparatively brief for a first state record; a photo said to have been taken of the Mt. Pinos bird was never submitted (though would still be welcomed). Remaining "reject" votes were based on questions of origin, noting that this species has occurred in captivity in California. Those supporting the record(s) countered that those in captivity were of southern races from South America, separable in the field from the northern race (*thalassinus*), which has occurred as a vagrant in Texas, and felt the descriptions eliminated the southern races. Those opposed were either unimpressed with racial determination or expressed concern about the lack of intervening records from Arizona.

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### UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** *Archilochus colubris*. An adult male at Placerita Canyon LA 5 May 1984 (96-1984). Most members (3-7) expressed a reluctance to accept single-observer reports of this rarity, especially when the diagnostic black chin was not specifically described.

**EASTERN WOOD-PEEWEE** *Contopus virens*. One at Big Sycamore Canyon VEN 18-19 Oct 1974 (27-1975). This report, based on a calling (not singing) bird, was accepted in the third CBRC report (Luther et al. 1979) as the first state record. It was re-evaluated on the request of one observer (Dunn) who now doubts the identification. The 1974 bird gave a clear, descending whistle, thought at the time to be lacking in the repertoire of Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*). More recent field work suggests that Western Wood-Pewee can give this clear call, while Easterns more typically give an upslurred "pweeeee" note and a sharp "chip." Most members (1-9) agreed the report should be retracted. It is clear from member's comments that much is left to be learned about the voices and plumages of these sibling species. For more information see Dunn & Garrett (1983).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax flaviventris*. One at Yucca Valley SBE 23 Oct 1982 (16-1983).

**DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*. A molting bird at Cholame SLO 27 Sep 1982 (21-1983). The state of molt, early date (earliest accepted record is 12 Nov), and lack of the diagnostic call troubled most members.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** *Tyrannus forficatus*. One about 6 miles south of Big Sur MNT in May 1981 (56-1984).

**SCARLET TANAGER** *Piranga olivacea*. A female-plumaged bird at Deep Springs INY 30 May 1983 (44-1983). The presence of wingbar(s) on a spring bird concerned most members.

### UNACCEPTED RECORDS, origin questionable (identification accepted)

**BLACK VULTURE** *Coragyps atratus*. One seen with a flock of Turkey Vultures *Cathartes aura* at Chico BUT 13 Apr 1972 (12-1972). This record was published as "unaccepted, origin uncertain" in the third CBRC report (Luther et al. 1979), but recirculated during the brief tenure of the "unresolved" category (see Binford 1983). It circulated for a fourth time when the "unresolved" category was abolished (see Binford 1985) and missed acceptance by the narrowest of margins (8-2). There are still no California records.

Those supporting the record noted that the bird was with migrant vultures at an appropriate date and latitude for vagrants for the southeast, was without cage wear, and was scarce in captivity. The two members still voting "reject, origin questionable" preferred to wait for some "intermediate" record between Arizona and northern California.

**BLACK-TAILED GULL** *Larus crassirostris*. An adult at the U.S. Naval Training Center on San Diego Bay SD 26 Nov 1954 was collected 28 Nov (143-1977). It was reported by Monroe (1955) and been variously accepted (AOU 1957, Small 1974,

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Terres 1980) and rejected (Roberson 1980, Garrett & Dunn 1981, AOU 1983, Unitt 1984). Dates published in Small (1974) and AOU (1983) are in error.

The CBRC rejected this record (2-8) after three rounds. The majority suggested that the bird's presence at a U.S. Naval Base was attributable to heavy naval traffic between the range of this species (Japan, Korea) and San Diego during the post-Korean War period. They felt that ship-assistance, probably as a captive, was more likely than occurrence of a wild vagrant, noting the absence of records between the outermost Aleutian Islands and California. Some thought long-distance vagrancy to California possible, cited vagrant records in Thailand and Australia, but thought an immature more likely than an adult.

**PAINTED BUNTING** *Passerina ciris*. An adult male photographed at a feeder in Cambria SLO 7 Dec 1972-4 Mar 1973 (78-1984). A slight majority (4-6) felt an escaped cage bird to be more likely in winter than a genuine vagrant adult male. There are no accepted winter records in California.

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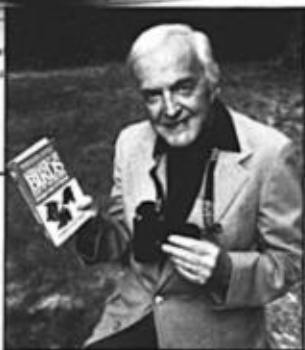
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