

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Editors, California Birds

The list in *California Birds* (A Checklist of the Birds of California, Calif. Birds, 1:4-28, 1970) follows Mayer and Short (Publications of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, 9:66, 1970) in suggesting that Pygmy and Brown-headed Nuthatches may be the same species. While the data presented by Norris (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 56:119-300, 1958) could be interpreted this way, the two have different call notes. Pygmies give a high peeping; Brown-heads have a nasal "ki-ih-hih" triple note. Among nuthatches, I have not found call notes to vary strongly except between species. The current status in the A.O.U. Check-list is that of separate species, and there should be more evidence before they are considered the same species.

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Editors, California Birds

I would like to make two comments, both of which derive from "A Checklist of the Birds of California" published in the first issue of *California Birds*. Firstly, Black Duck and Tufted Duck are as suspect as vagrants as the other waterfowl you excluded, except perhaps Red-breasted Goose and Spectacled Eider, but in particular Falcatad and Baikal Teal. Sight records of Anhinga in California probably give it as good a place on the California list as the Cape Petrel and Black-headed Gull. Secondly, the following species have not yet been properly documented as occurring in California even though they are included in the checklist: Yellow-billed Loon, Black Duck, White-rumped Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Thick-billed Kingbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Baird's Sparrow and Cassin's Sparrow. The photos of White-eyed Vireo in the Point Reyes Bird Observatory publications are barely acceptable - why not *Vireo pallens*? I am glad the list has been so much shortened in recent issues, and hope you will be able to publish the details of the above species in coming issues.

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