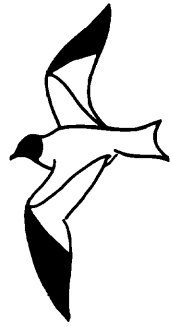


# WESTERN BIRDS



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## **EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 1992 RECORDS**

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In this article we report the results of the recent review of 253 records of 96 species by the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the Committee or CBRC). Of these records, 219 were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 86.6%. This rate is higher than in recent reports, primarily the result of an unusually large number of accepted records of passerines normally associated with the southeastern United States during the spring of 1992. This report contains records from 1954 through 1993, although the great majority are from 1992.

Three species newly added to the California state list are included in this report: the Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*), Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*), and Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*). The list now stands at 587. The earliest accepted records of two species already on the California list are published here: the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) and Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*).

All records reviewed by the CBRC are archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, California 93012. All written documentation, photographs, voice recordings, and videotapes are housed there, catalogued, organized by CBRC record number, and are available for public review. The CBRC solicits information on all occurrences in California of species on its Review List (see Roberson 1993), as well as species unrecorded in California, and requests that documentation be sent to Michael A. Patten, CBRC Secretary, at the address above. For further reading on how the Committee functions, see Heindel and Garrett (1995) and Patten et al. (1995).

The format closely follows that of recent reports (e.g., Patten and Erickson 1994, Heindel and Garrett 1995). In general, records are listed chronologically by first date of occurrence. Included with each record is the location, county abbreviation (see below), and date span. The date span

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generally follows that published in *American Birds*. If the CBRC accepts a date span that differs from a published source, the differing dates are italicized. Initials of the observer(s) responsible for the record, if known, are followed by a semicolon, then the initials of additional observers submitting documentation, then the CBRC record number. All records are sight records unless otherwise noted. Initials followed by a dagger (†) indicate the observer supplied an identifiable photograph. Similarly, (‡) designates videotape, (§), a voice recording. A “#” indicates a specimen record, and is followed by the acronym (see below) of the institution housing the specimen and the institution’s specimen number.

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

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

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

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

Museums that have allowed Committee members access to specimens, have provided information, or house specimens are cited below as follows: CAS, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; CMN, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada; FM, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; LACM, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles; LSUMZ, Museum of Zoology at Louisiana State University; ROM, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto; SBCM, San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands; SDNHM, San Diego Natural History Museum; UMMZ, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor; and WFVZ,

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Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo. Other abbreviations used are AFB, Air Force Base; I., island; L., lake; mt., mountain; n. miles, nautical miles; NM, National Museum; NWR, national wildlife refuge; Pt., point; R., river; SB, state beach; and SP, state park.

### RECORDS ACCEPTED

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** *Gavia adamsii* (55). Single individuals were seen at Whiskeytown Reservoir, SHA, 30 Dec 1991–17 Feb 1992 (DLR; FG, SBT; 31-1992), Morro Bay, SLO, 10 Dec 1992 (TME, CM†; 304-1992), Santa Barbara, SBA, 11 Dec 92 (J&PC; SEF†, PEL; 12-1993), and in San Francisco Bay, SF, off Alameda Creek and then off San Lorenzo Creek 20–24 Dec 92 (DRI; RJR; 124-1993).

All of these records appear to pertain to first-year birds, which account for most California records. The Shasta record is of particular interest in being inland. Disappointingly, however, the documentation was rather brief, given the significance of inland reports. A number of observers failed to submit any supporting details. We encourage all observers to send in their notes to document these records fully. The Santa Barbara record, one day later than and 100 miles south of that at Morro Bay, could possibly pertain to the same individual, but these two were considered as different.

**MOTTLED PETREL** *Pterodroma inexpectata* (53). One was 109 n. miles west of Pt. Arguello, SBA, 11 Feb 92 (PP; 76-1992), and another was 71 n. miles west of Pt. Arguello, SBA, on the same date (PP; 77-1992). Although the first bird was photographed, no detail was discernible in the pictures, and so the record is listed as a sight record. Although not annual, this species is occasionally seen in late winter/early spring well off the coast of California.

**STEJNEGER'S PETREL** *Pterodroma longirostris* (6). One was 153 n. miles SW of San Nicolas I., VEN, 4 Jul 1992 (PP; 203-1992), and another was 189 n. miles WSW of San Nicolas I., VEN, 10 Jul 1992 (PP; 204-1992). Both records are significant because they are the first for summer off our coast; the previous records have been for late fall. A third bird was seen on 10 Jul 1992, 209 n. miles from the island, outside of our region of coverage, so was not reviewed. In comments, Pyle relayed that Patrick Gould (pers. comm.) found Stejneger's the most common *Pterodroma* in the south-central Gulf of Alaska in summer. Presumably, these Alaska birds account for our fall records (as they move south), but perhaps some Stejneger's also spend the summer with Cook's Petrels (*P. cookii*) far offshore. Pyle noted large numbers of Cook's (up to 200/day) in the same area during early July 1992.

**RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD** *Phaethon rubricauda* (8). Immatures were 129 n. miles WSW of Pt. Sur, MTY, 8 Aug 1992 (JLD, PP†; 227-1992), and 87 n. miles WSW of Pt. Piedras Blancas, SLO, 19 Aug 1992 (Figure 1; SFB, RAE, DR†; 229-1992). These well-documented records provide increasing evidence that this species probably occurs with some regularity at this season. The descriptions and photos show a large, robust tropicbird with a large blackish bill, nearly all-white wings and a small eye patch. There was fine barring on the upperparts and a slender and stiff tail streamer.

**MASKED BOOBY** *Sula dactylatra* (5). An adult was at the Salinas R. mouth, MTY, 18, 20, and 22 Jun 1992 (Figure 2; JB, RD; SFB†, RC, JM, DR†; 174-1992). An adult booby reported (but not reviewed by the Committee) at Capitola Pier, SCZ, on 8 Jun could have been the same bird. Another adult flew by Mugu Rock, VEN, 20 Jun 1992 (DDe, BH; 209-1992). An immature was off Newport Pier, ORA, 30 Jun

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1992 (DRW, BED; 210-1992). With only two prior California records, this "invasion" was unexpected.

**BROWN BOOBY** *Sula leucogaster* (40). An immature frequented SE Farallon I., SF, 25 May–24 Nov 1992 (PP†; FG; 162-1992). An adult (or near-adult) was over Mountain View, in San Francisco Bay, SCL, 29 Aug 1992 (MMA; 243-1992). The Farallon I. bird was absent from 16 Sep to 7 Oct, but returned to finish its stay on the same perch. Pyle noted that it fed on juvenile Pacific Sardines (*Sardinis sagax*), the first of these noted around the island in 40 years. The record from inside San Francisco Bay is most unusual, but unfortunately the bird did not remain for others to see.

**RED-FOOTED BOOBY** *Sula sula* (10). An immature was approximately 166 n. miles WSW of San Nicolas I., VEN, 1 Feb 1992 (PP†; 73-1992). Photographs show a fairly uniform brown body with bright pinkish-red feet. The bill was mixed dull blue and pinkish, with a dusky tip. The soft-part colors are diagnostic for this species.

**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (4). An adult was photographed at Imperial Dam, IMP, 12 Sep 1992 (Figure 3; JTa†; 15-1993). The date and location fit the species' limited pattern of occurrence. The photograph shows a cormorant with a small body, short bill, and relatively long tail, all excellent marks for the Neotropic.

**GREAT FRIGATEBIRD** *Fregata minor* (1). A female, apparently adult or near-adult, was at SE Farallon I., SF, 14 Mar 1992 (PP†; EE; 121-1992); a photograph was published in *Am. Birds* (46:500). Most of the Committee had to take a crash course in frigatebird identification, as we normally see just one species, the Magnificent (*F. magnificens*). Pyle immediately suspected that this bird was a Great, from his experience with that species in Hawaii, among other places. Fortunately, the bird

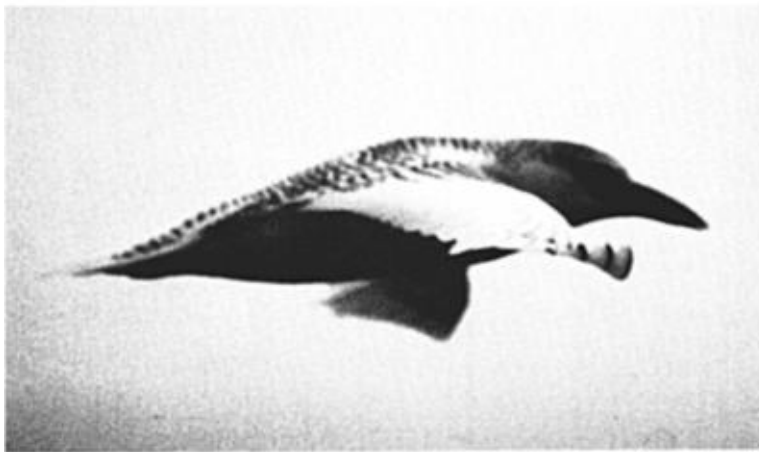


Figure 1. Red-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon rubricauda*, 19 August 1992 (229-1992), well off Pt. Piedras Blancas. SLO. Diagnostic features visible in this photograph are the extensively white wings, small eye patch, large bill, and fine barring on the upperparts. The bird also appears rather large for this genus.

*Photo by Don Roberson*

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came back after distant views and flew overhead, allowing the pictures to be taken. The combination of a dark head and gray throat is unmatched in *F. magnificens*. A small amount of rufous was present at the sides of the nape, a mark indicative of *F. minor*. There are also subtle differences in the pattern of black and white on the breast (see Howell 1995 for a thorough discussion of this difficult problem).

The CBRC was also concerned about eliminating the next most likely species, the Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*). The bird in question was too large for a Lesser (as assessed in direct comparison with a Western Gull, *Larus occidentalis*) and had dark axillars, whereas a Lesser would show a distinct white spur.

This record points out the need for all frigatebirds seen in California, particularly those out of season, to be critically reviewed. The majority of our records for the Magnificent are from the Salton Sea and coastal southern California from late June to September.

**TRICOLORED HERON** *Egretta tricolor* (7\*\*). An adult was at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 4–11 Jul 1992 (GMcC, MAP†; 178-1992). An immature was near Santa Rosa, SON, 7–19 Nov 1992 (LL‡, JM, BDP; 284-1992). An immature was at the Tijuana R. mouth, SD, 24 Oct 1992–18 Jan 1993 (TC, GMcC; 16-1993). The Sonoma bird was the second to be recorded from northern California (the first was at Honey Lake, LAS, 24 Aug–26 Sep 1971; Manolis 1972).

**REDDISH EGRET** *Egretta rufescens* (62). An adult was at Pt. Mugu, VEN, 28 Mar 1992 (HC, AS; 105-1992). Another was in Anaheim Bay, ORA, 12–14 Apr 1992 (SM; BED, RAE; 133-1992). An immature was on San Diego Bay, SD, 17 Apr–19



Figure 2. This adult Masked Booby, *Sula dactylatra*, was seen on 18, 20, and 22 June 1992 (174-1992) at the Salinas R. mouth, MTY.

Photo by Stephen F. Bailey

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Jun 1992 (GMcC; 138-1992). An adult, easily recognized by a deformity on its bill, returned to San Diego, SD, for its eleventh year, 14 Aug–13 Sep 1992 (JLD, PEL; 263-1992). See Heindel and Garrett (1995) and Patten and Erickson (1994) for a complete date span. An immature was at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 18 Oct 1992–3 Jan 1993 (SC, BED, MTH†, CM†, MAP, TG; 288-1992).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (16). The adult that has resided at La Jolla, SD, since 1981 was in La Jolla 11 Jan–25 Jul 1992 (GMcC; FH†, PEL; 84-1992). It attempted to nest with a Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) as it has done in past years.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (9). One was at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 6 Jul 1992 (WRR; 236-1992), and one was at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 10 Jul 1992 (NDH; 226-1992). There was considerable discussion over whether these records pertained to the same individual; given the species' rarity, lumping these two records together might be justified. The birds were seen more than 30 miles apart, however, and there are enough records of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks wandering north to justify acceptance of two individuals.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (20). Two were at White L., Lower Klamath NWR, SIS, 30 Nov 1991 (DR†; 210-1991). A family group of three were in Sierra Valley, PLU, 28 Feb 1992 (LJ; 91-1992). Records of this species have been scrutinized closely, because of the difficulty of distinguishing the Trumpeter from its more common congener, the Tundra Swan (*C. columbianus*). In both of these cases,



Figure 3. Although the detail is somewhat difficult to discern, the picture shows a smaller cormorant, with a long tail and white border to the throat. This Neotropical Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*, was photographed at Imperial Dam, IMP, 12 September 1992 (15-1993).

Photo by Jim Taylor

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the birds were well described, including in the latter the sharply pointed "V" on the forehead, one of the best marks for separating adults. In addition, the diagnostic call, a low double "honk," was heard.

**GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula* (15). One of undetermined age/sex was in Mountain View, SCL, 22 Aug–22 Sep 1992 (PJM; WGB, GMcC, SEF, JM, MMR, SBT, JSh, AW†; 241-1992). This bird was generally regarded as a female by most observers, although the descriptions led some committee members to leave this question unresolved. Some of these age/sex determinations must always be left tentative. Jackson (1992) covered the identification of female and eclipse-plumage Garganeys well.

**COMMON POCHARD** *Aythya ferina* (1). An adult male returned to Silver Lakes, SBE, 14 Jan–8 Feb 1992 (CM; 106-1992) and again 26–29 Nov 1992 (MAP; GMcC; 287-1992). This bird was first seen 11–17 Feb 1989 but was missed the following winter. Its recurrence in subsequent years, including 18 Jan–23 Feb 1991, suggests the bird was probably somewhere in the area during the winter of 1989–1990. For full details, see Patten (1993).

**KING EIDER** *Somateria spectabilis* (32). A female was in Humboldt Bay, HUM, 6 Jan–1 Feb 1992 (BBA; FB, SWH, GSL; 109-1992). What was believed to be the same bird was in Humboldt Bay, HUM, 12 Nov 1992–30 Jan 1993 (SWH, GSL, JM, DR; 40-1993). The dates are consistent with most other records for California.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** *Ictinia mississippiensis* (25). An immature collected at Goleta, SBA, 18 Jun 1933 (FM 156760; 58-1994) was the first for California (Willett 1933; see also Roberson 1993). One was at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 17 May 1992 (TH†; GMcC, MAP†; 131-1992). One was flying over the South Fork of the Kern R. near Weldon, KER, 5 Jun 1992 (JCS; 148-1992). One was in Norwalk, LA, 1 Jul 1992 (JSc; 175-1992). One was in Rancho Palos Verdes, LA, 26 Sep 1992 (JLA; 42-1993).

The four spring records were of subadults, like most Mississippi Kites reaching California. The Kern record was the first for that county. The Norwalk record was accompanied by extensive details and impressive sketches. The Rancho Palos Verdes record was exceptional in being for fall. The bird appeared to be a subadult retaining some juvenal secondaries and tail feathers; Wheeler and Clark (1995) discussed this plumage.

**ZONE-TAILED HAWK** *Buteo albonotatus* (32). An adult near the San Diego Wild Animal Park at San Pasqual, east of Escondido, SD, 12 Jan 1992 (CR; 126-1992) was judged to be a returning individual, seen previously in Escondido on 30 Dec 1989 and 4 Feb–10 Mar 1991 (Heindel and Garrett 1995). An adult was at L. Murray, San Diego, SD, 14 Dec 1992 (JiM; 78-1993). What was believed to be the same individual was in Santee, SD, 29 Jan–5 Feb 1993 (EA, JWo; 79-1993). The L. Murray and Santee records were thought to pertain to the same individual seen in this area in previous years (Heindel and Garrett 1995, Patten et al. 1995).

**YELLOW RAIL** *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (64). One was at Tomales Bay, MRN, 22 Nov 1992 (RS; 36-1993), during a high tide in an area that has yielded a few other recent records. A previously unreviewed specimen was located by Michel Gosselin, at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, Canada. It had been taken at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 30 Oct 1905 (CMN 9065; 127-1994).

**MONGOLIAN PLOVER** *Charadrius mongolus* (5). A juvenile was at Moss Landing SB, MTY, 16–20 Sep 1992 (Figure 4; RC, JMD†, SEF, FG†, JML†, TDM, GMcC, JM, BDP, DR†, MMT†, SBT†; 250-1992), a photo appeared in *Am. Birds* 47:166. Many observers were careful to separate this species from the Greater Sand Plover (*C. leschenaultii*). Although there are no American records for the latter, it is

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Figure 4. This juvenile Mongolian Plover, *Charadrius mongolus*, was at Moss Landing SB, MTY, 16–20 September 1992 (250-1992). The small bill, tarsus length, and overall size are key to distinguishing the Mongolian from the Greater Sand Plover, *C. leschenaultii*.

Photo by Monte Taylor

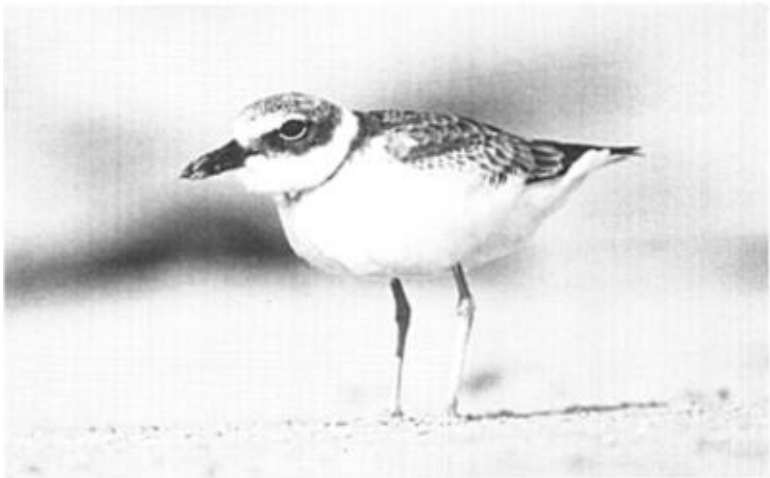


Figure 5. This juvenile Wilson's Plover, *Charadrius wilsonia*, one of two in this report, was photographed in Santa Barbara, SBA, 11 August 1992 (212-1992). The relatively massive bill separates Wilson's Plover from its more common relatives.

Photo by Shawneen Finnegan



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a long-distance migrant. Some of the pictures seemed to show a long-legged bird that looked too big for the Mongolian (also called Lesser Sand Plover in the Old World). In addition, at least one photo showed the legs to be a paler greenish gray, a mark more typical of the Greater Sand. Other pictures (for example, Figure 4), however, showed a leg length and color, as well as overall size, typical of the Mongolian Plover. The small bill, in particular, eliminates the Greater Sand Plover.

**WILSON'S PLOVER** *Charadrius wilsonia* (7). A juvenile was in Santa Barbara, SBA, 11 Aug 1992, (Figure 5; FS; NBB, RC, KFC, SEF†, PEL, MAP; 212-1992). One was at Moss Landing SB, MTY, 15 Sep 1992– 1 Jan 1993 (DEG; RC, JLD, JRG†, EG†, JML†, GMcC, JM, CAM†, BDP, DR†, BS, SBT†, AW†, BW; 256-1992). These are the first records of this species in fall.

The Moss Landing bird was unique in its extended stay as well as in being the first for northern California. From the wear shown by many of the wing coverts, etc., many observers felt this bird was an adult. Others noted that some juvenal lesser coverts may have been retained, however, and because a southern shorebird may breed much earlier in the year than its arctic congeners, its plumage cycle may differ. We leave the age of this bird unresolved. See Marchant et al. (1986) for further discussion of age determination in Wilson's Plover.

**EURASIAN DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus* (5). One was at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 17 Oct–21 Nov 1992 (LL; HG, PEL, GMcC, JM, BDP, MAP†; 272-1992). Again, the age of this bird was unclear. It was widely referred to as a juvenile, but some observers noted a feather pattern consistent with either an adult or a first-year bird in basic plumage. As suspected by some observers, the bird may have been molting from juvenal into first basic plumage.



Figure 6. This Little Stint, *Calidris minuta*, in Irvine, ORA, 25 July 1992 (205-1992), was the first adult to be accepted in fall. The orange face and throat, white chin, and breast pattern are all excellent marks for this species.

Photo by Herb Clarke

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BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (14). A juvenile was at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 20 Aug–24 Sep 1992 (RS†; EG†, JM, BDP, MAP, JWr; 231-1992). Another was in Bodega Harbor, SON, 26 Oct 1992 (GHF; DN†; 278-1992). Both birds showed the characteristics of *baueri*, the expected race of this vagrant to our area. The one at Bodega was particularly worn, as might be expected on this date.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* (5). An adult was in Irvine, ORA, 25–28 Jul 1992 (Figure 6; HC†, BED, JRG†, DK†, MH†, GMcC, MAP; 205-1992), constituting the first accepted record of a fall adult for California. This bird was in bright alternate plumage, showing substantial orange in the face and throat but a white chin, as is typical of this species. The streaks did not quite meet at the center of the breast, and the tertials were quite dark with rufous edges, all excellent marks for distinguishing this species from the Rufous-necked Stint (*C. ruficollis*).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* (12). An alternate-plumaged bird was near the Wister Unit, Imperial Wildlife Area, south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 30–31 May 1992 (MAP†; GMcC; 137-1992). This is the ninth spring record, with the others falling between 17 May and 16 June.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (46). An adult frequented the Santa Maria–Oso Flaco Lake area, SBA/SLO, 23 Mar–22 May 1992 (JMC; TME, DWQ†, JSR; 111-1992). A first-summer bird was at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 10 May–4 Jul 1992 (GMcC; MAP; 123-1992). A first-year bird at Playa del Rey, LA, 21 Mar 1992 (MH; 185-1992) was judged to be the same individual seen in San Pedro, LA, 26 Apr–1 May 1992 (MH†; NBB, KLG; 186-1992).

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* (15). A first-winter bird was in Santa Barbara, SBA, 21 Nov–21 Dec 1992 (SEF†; DD†, PEL, CM†, GMcC, AS†; 292-1992). On this individual, the pale base of the bill, usually obvious on a Black-headed Gull, was not always evident even with binoculars. Similarly, the underlying pattern, with the diagnostic dusky inner primaries contrasting with the two outer white primaries, was less easily visible than in most individuals of this species.

BLACK-TAILED GULL *Larus crassirostris* (1). An adult was collected on San Diego Bay, SD, 28 Nov 1954 (UMMZ 136176; 143-1977) and published by Monroe (1955). In its 3rd report (Luther et al. 1979), and again in its 9th (Roberson 1986), the CBRC rejected this record, questioning whether the occurrence was natural. There were also two votes to reject on the basis of identification, as the evidence supporting that identification was not circulated. Stephen F. Bailey analyzed the specimen (thanks to Robert W. Storer and C. Sims of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology) and supplied photographs which established its identity beyond question.

The argument against this bird's natural occurrence is based on the concept that the Black-tailed Gull is generally restricted to coastal areas, without an extensive pattern of vagrancy. Since the species occurs in Korea, and the specimen was collected shortly after the Korean War, near a naval shipyard, the probability that the bird reached San Diego on a ship seemed higher than a unique instance of vagrancy. Over the past 10 years, however, knowledge of the Black-tailed Gull's distribution has increased, and a pattern has emerged, with records of vagrants from Australia and Thailand. Closer to California, there are now at least seven records from Alaska, one from Manitoba, and one from Maryland. Among these is a bird photographed at Ketchikan, Alaska, 22 Aug–8 Oct 1992 (*Am. Birds* 47:166). In fall, where would this bird be going? Movement south from Alaska may account for a west-coast record. Whether Alaska records suggest a pattern relevant to California is debatable, but they certainly do not hurt the argument that the species could reach this state naturally. As we go to press, a number of Black-tailed Gulls have been reported in 1995, from Alaska and the Atlantic states.



Figure 7. This Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savana*, photographed 4 September 1992 (240-1992) in Bridgehaven, SON, was the first confirmed in California.

*Photo by Nancy T. Conzett*

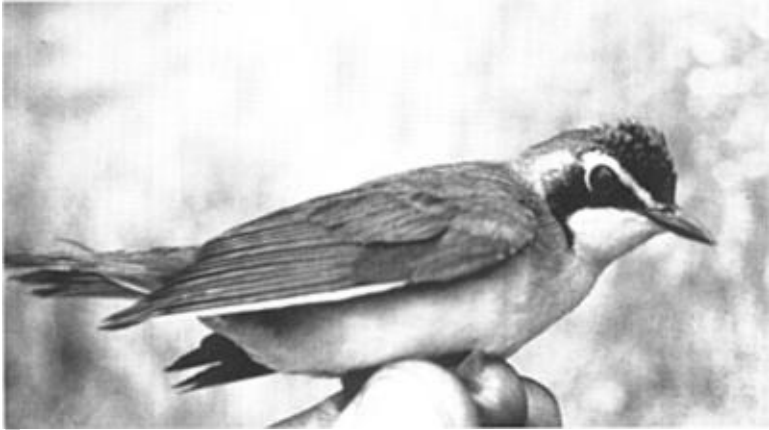


Figure 8. For many species typical of the southeastern U.S., 1992 was a memorable year, but at 36 the number of Kentucky Warblers, *Oporornis formosus*, is one of the more impressive tallies. This bird, one of eleven found in the area, was in the upper Santa Ynez R. drainage, SBA, 29 May 1992 (200-1992).

*Photo by James M. Greaves*

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Figure 9. A Red-faced Warbler, *Cardellina rubrifrons*, was at SE Farallon I., SF, 25 August 1992 (253-1992). Both the date and location are unprecedented.

*Photo by Peter Pyle*



Figure 10. This Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*, photographed 16 October 1992 (271-1992) at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, shows the small pink bill and eye ring expected of this species. The rather pale underparts indicate the western subspecies, *S. p. arenacea*.

*Photo by Jon L. Dunn*

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**THICK-BILLED MURRE** *Uria lomvia* (27). One was on Humboldt Bay, HUM, 16 Dec 1992 (DF; BBA, TL; 26-1993). The description was quite complete, mentioning the dark head and neck, typical of this species at this season. In addition, the pattern of white extending up into the neck in a "V" (rather than in a rounder "U" shape, as in the Common Murre, *U. aalge*) was noted, as was the thicker, more heavily curved culmen. The white tomium stripe was not seen, but it may be faint or absent on the Thick-billed.

**PARAKEET AUKLET** *Cylorrhynchus psittacula* (42). One was seen about 140 n. miles SW of San Nicolas I., SBA, 1 Feb 1992 (PP; 74-1992). Five were seen approximately 193 n. miles west of San Miguel I., SBA, 10 Feb 1992 (PP; 75-1992). A specimen found dead at the mouth of San Simeon Creek, SLO, 6 Feb 1955, is in the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto (ROM 81724; 70-1994). This record, published by Munro (1957), was on List A of the appendix of the CBRC's 14th report (Roberson 1993), of records based on specimens believed lost. We thank Stephen F. Bailey for obtaining this skin for our evaluation.

**RUDDY GROUND-DOVE** *Columbina talpacoti* (53). A male wintered in Ridgecrest, KER, 5 Feb–4 Apr 1992 (DVB, MOC†; 127-1992). Three birds at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 17 May–21 Jul 1992 (GMcC, MAP; 132-1992) were judged to be the same three that spent the previous winter there (Patten et al. 1995). Sorting out the occasional fall "explosions" of this species at Furnace Creek Ranch is often difficult. For the fall of 1992, up to 10 were accepted from 12 Sep 1992 to 4 Jun 1993 (JLD†, SEF†, JH, TH, PEL, GMcC, MAP; 257-1992). A male was at Iron Mountain Pumping Plant, SBE, 9–16 Oct 1992 (GMcC; MAP; 262-1992). Another male was in the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 23 Oct 1992 (EDG; 17-1993).

**GROOVE-BILLED ANI** *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (8). One was along the Colorado R. 14 miles north of Blythe, RIV, 30 Sep–8 Oct 1992 (SC†; SFB, SEF, JLD, GMcC, MAP†, DR†; 261-1992). Another in Baker, SBE, 22–23 Oct 1992 (PEL; SEF†, SJM†; 291-1992) was the first for San Bernardino County. Another was near Desert Center, RIV, 23 Oct 1992 (TB; 18-1993). One at El Monte and Pico Rivera, LA, 9 Nov–30 Dec 1992 (SC, BED, KLG, CM; 302-1992) was the first for Los Angeles County.

This remarkable influx doubles the number of previous records for the state. P. Pyle (in comments) noted that the grooves in the bill get deeper and more extensive with age. In the photographs 2–4 shallow grooves are visible, indicating young birds. The description of the individual in Los Angeles County, mentioning contrasting brown and black feathers, also specifies an immature.

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** *Cynanthus latirostris* (36). A first-year male was in Lone Pine, INY, 12–14 Sep 1992 (MI; JH, TH†; 299-1992). This is the first record for Inyo County. Irwin, who was camping, had set out a feeder attracting various hummingbirds, including this bird. Although the date is consistent with the pattern of fall arrivals, the location is not, as this species is scarce in the interior and, particularly, so far north.

**VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD** *Amazilia violiceps* (3). One was at Kenwood, SON, 26–29 Mar 1992 (SFB, RC, JM, DN†, BDP, DR†; 110-1992). The early date was some cause for concern, but the species is typically on the move in Arizona at the time. Furthermore, the likelihood of escaped hummingbirds was not felt to be high.

**GREATER PEWEE** *Contopus pertinax* (29). One was in the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 19 Dec 1992–3 Jan 1993 (GMcC; 4-1993). This record fits a well-established pattern of late-fall and winter records of this species in coastal southern California.

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ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* (2). A singing individual at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 30 May 1992 (MTH; DVB; MOC; 149-1992) followed California's first record, also of a singing bird, by only one year (Patten et al. 1995). Unlike the first record, which was documented with voice recordings and sonograms, this record included only written transcriptions of the song (and plumage descriptions), so it met with some initial resistance. However, the descriptions of the song were convincing, and the song was compared to that of nearby singing Willow Flycatchers (*E. traillii*). The plumage characters (e.g., a thin eye ring) were consistent with the Alder Flycatcher (although probably within the range of some Willows).

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (28). Nine were found along the central and southern coast: along the Santa Ynez R. near Lompoc, SBA, 31 Jan-9 Feb 1992 (MAH; SEF†, PEL; 85-1992), at California State University at Dominguez Hills, Carson, LA, 4-6 Nov 1992 (BED, KLG; 305-1992), at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 21 Nov-15 Dec 1992 (JND, CH; RC, DR†, RFT; 308-1992), at Natural Bridge SP, SCZ, 21 Nov 1992-10 Jan 1993 (EL, JM, DLS; 314-1992), at Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 7-11 Dec 1992 (RS; PP†; 34-1993), at San Marino, LA, 13-19 Dec 1992 (KLG†; EM; 47-1993), at Pacific Grove, MTY, 23 Dec 1992-11 Jan 1993 (DR†; RC, SBT†, BJW; 313-1992), another at Pacific Grove, MTY, 29 Dec 1992-3 Jan 1993 (DS; RC, DR†, JSot, SBT†, BJW; 5-1993), and at Goleta, SBA, 29 Dec 1992-2 Mar 1993 (SEF†, PEL, CAM, GMcC; 6-1993). A color photograph of one of the birds at Pacific Grove appeared in *Am. Birds* 47:321. All these records, in late fall and winter, fit the established pattern for the species, but the appearance of eight in one season (the fall and early winter of 1992) was unprecedented.

It was impossible to determine the age of many of these individuals, but those at Bolinas Lagoon and Goleta, retaining juvenal rectrices, appeared to be in their first winter (P. Pyle in comments). Although this rectrix retention is not well understood or documented, it seems to explain the presence of rufous margins to the base of the outer rectrices, a feature that adults lack (Pyle et al. 1987).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (37). One at Wilmington, LA, 31 Oct-2 Nov 1990 (MH†; JKA†, KLG; 215-1990) stirred a lively debate, as the possibility of Brown-crested Flycatcher (*M. tyrannulus*) was strongly considered by some members. Much of the debate centered on several poor photographs taken in harsh lighting, so that the throat and breast of the bird looked paler gray than in life (K. L. Garrett in comments). Another point raised dealt with the description of the tertials (the three innermost secondaries). The innermost tertial of the Great Crested Flycatcher often shows a diagnostic pattern of a whitish fringe wide at the feather base and tapering to a point toward the tip. The Brown-crested Flycatcher, by contrast, shows a narrower whitish fringe of fairly equal width throughout the feather. However, independent examinations of specimens by Garrett (LACM), Heindel (LSUMZ), McCaskie (SDNHM), and Patten (LACM, WFVZ) led to the conclusion that whereas the Brown-crested apparently never shows a tapered fringe, the Great Crested can have tertial fringes of fairly uniform width. After four full circulations, and discussions at two different annual meetings, the record was eventually accepted on the strength of a thorough written description and sketch by Garrett. The documentation included mention of olive on the back and sides of the breast, a feature lacking on even fresh Brown-crested Flycatchers of the northwestern (and expected) subspecies *M. t. magister*, although potentially present on more southerly subspecies.

Less controversial was a first-fall bird near the Santa Maria R. mouth, SBA, 4 Oct 1992 (JMC, DWQ†; 265-1992), as it fit the seasonal pattern slightly better and the single photograph, though also poor, shows a bird with a dark gray breast.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (10). An adult at Seal Beach, ORA, 9 Oct 1992-20 Mar 1993 (TLW; GMcC, SBT; 7-1993) had returned for its

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second winter at this location. It was also present 29 Oct 1991–14 Mar 1992 (Patten et al. 1995).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus forficatus* (83). Single individuals were at Laguna Beach, ORA, 17–25 Mar 1992 (JEP; 37-1993) and at Ft. Dick, DN, 12 May 1992 (ADB†; 60-1993). A male was at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 24 May 1992 (GMcC; MAP†, SBT†; 136-1992). Individuals were found at the Cactus City Rest Area along Interstate 10, 10 miles NE of Mecca, RIV, 25 May 1992 (JBo; 217-1992) and Olema, MRN, 28–30 Jun 1992 (SPJ; LL†; 228-1992). An adult, probably a female, was at China L. NWC, KER, 7 Aug 1992 (DVB; 20-1993). A probable female was at Cerro Noroeste, KER, 6 Sep 1992 (R&DS; 21-1993). One was near the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 16–19 Oct 1992 (SFB, RC, DR; 273-1992). An immature was at San Dieguito Co. Park, SD, 4 Dec 1992 (PAG; 76-1993). An immature female was in El Monte, LA, 6 Dec 1992–9 Jan 1993 (JG; KLG, CAM, MSM; 48-1993). An adult female/immature male was in Goleta, SBA, 11 Dec 1992–5 Mar 1993 (DD†, PEL†, CAM†, GMcC; 8-1993); a photograph was published in *Am. Birds* 47:301. This species has become one of the more “routine” rarities reviewed by the Committee, with records spanning all seasons.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus savana* (1). A first-fall bird was at Bridgehaven, SON, 4–8 Sep 1992 (Figure 7; SFB†, WGB, RC, NTC†, SEF†, FG†, EDG†, CHK, THK, JML, LL, CAM†, GMcC, JM, DWNT, BDP, MAP†, DEQ, DR†, MMR, RS†, BvS†, SBT†; 240-1992). A color photograph was published on the cover of vol. 25, no. 3 of *Western Birds*, and a black-and-white print appeared in *Am. Birds* 47:146. Although the subspecies could not be positively determined without a specimen and comparison with a series, the bird appeared to be of the nominate subspecies, the one apparently accounting for most records for the United States and Canada (McCaskie and Patten 1994). This record is one of only three confirmed for western North America, the others being from Alberta 1 Jun 1988 (Wedgwood 1988) and Idaho 25 Aug–7 Sep 1991 (Trost 1991). There is, however, a report from Santa Monica, LA, in “late summer” 1883 (Toppan 1884). The alleged specimen supporting this record cannot be found, and the record was questioned by Grinnell (1915); it has not been considered by the CBRC. See Monroe and Barron (1980) and McCaskie and Patten (1994) for summaries of this species’ status and distribution in the United States and Canada, and the latter for information on subspecies and age determination.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* (5). One of unknown age/sex (but possibly an adult male from its sharply defined black mask and uniform tawny coloration) was at SE Farallon I., SF, 26 Sep 1992 (PP; 293-1992), the site of two previous records. Aside from the first California record, of a bird taken at SE Farallon I., 11 Jun 1971 (Manuwal and Lewis 1972, Dunn 1988; CAS 68566), all California records have been in fall between mid-September and mid-November.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus* (15). One was at Pt. Reyes NS (fish docks), MRN, 13–15 Oct 1992 (RS; JM; 312-1992). The descriptions appeared to eliminate the possibility of Bicknell’s Thrush, *C. bicknelli* (Ouellet 1993), a species unrecorded (and unlikely) in California. See McLaren (1995) and Curson (1994) for some sobering identification problems with this species-pair. This record fits the Gray-cheeked Thrush’s pattern of occurrence in California: 13 of the 15 records fall between 12 September and 31 October (the other two are for spring).

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (10). A singing male was at Dechambeau Creek, Mono L., MNO, 2–7 Jun 1992 (DPS; DWS; 220-1992). One banded and photographed in hand at Palomarin, MRN, 18–19 Jun 1977 (Luther 1980) constitutes the only previously accepted spring record for California.

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RUFIOUS-BACKED ROBIN *Turdus rufopalliatu*s (7). An apparent female was at Snow Creek Village, RIV, 1–20 Mar 1992 (TJG; KLG; GMcC; MAP; TLW; 78-1992). Aside from two birds in Newport Beach, ORA, during the winter of 1982/1983 (Roberson 1986), all Rufous-backed Robins in California, like this one, have been found in the desert in the southeastern portion of the state.

GRAY CATBIRD *Dumetella carolinensis* (65). One collected on SE Farallon I., SF, 4 Sep 1884 (USNM 100202; 51-1994) was the first for California (Townsend 1885). Single individuals were at Pt. Reyes NS (lighthouse), MRN, 25 Jun 1992 (RS†; WSt†; 29-1993), at Huntington Beach, ORA, 12–31 Oct 1992 (JEP; JRG†; SRG; MAP; 266-1992), and at Orick, HUM, 12 Dec 1992–31 Jan 1993 (GSL†; DR; 41-1993). A photograph of the Huntington Beach bird appeared in *Am. Birds* 47:149, and a photograph of the Orick bird was published in *Am. Birds* 47:298.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre* (14). One showing the characters of the western subspecies *T. c. palmeri* was along the Colorado R. at Sue Clark's ranch 14 mi. north of Blythe, RIV, 8–22 Oct 1992 (SFB; JLD†; SEF†; CAM; GMcC; MAP†; DR†; 260-1992). It represents the first acceptable record for California outside of Imperial County, although given the habitat in the lower Colorado River Valley and the seven Colorado River records for Imperial County, it was hardly unexpected.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* (10). A first-fall bird, probably a female, was at San Joaquin Marsh, ORA, 19–20 Sep 1992 (BED; MTH†; MAP†; 246-1992). As noted by Patten et al. (1995), all California records of this species fall in the narrow window of 4 to 21 September, and all are from coastal locations. This record, however, was only the second for southern California, following a bird photographed at Malibu Lagoon, LA, 6 Sep 1987 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992).

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (27). A remarkable total of eleven individuals was found during the spring and summer of 1992, almost doubling the number of California records. This unprecedented invasion took place simultaneously with that of the Yellow-throated Vireo (*V. flavifrons*; 9 birds; see below), Northern Parula (*Parula americana*; 138 birds), Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*; 6 birds; see below), Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*; 8 birds; see below), Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*; 36 birds; see below), and Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*; 76 birds). This massive incursion of species breeding predominantly in the southeastern United States was discussed by Terrill et al. (1992); more complete details will be published elsewhere.

Spring and summer records: Singing males at Upper Newport Bay, ORA, 10 May 1992 (JEP; DRW; 81-1993), Butterbreed Springs, KER, 14–17 May 1992 (MTH; 150-1992), South Fork Kern R. Preserve, KER, 24–27 May 1992 (MDH; 18-1994), Wilmington, LA, 25 May 1992 (MH†; NBB; 179-1992), Deep Springs, INY, 31 May 1992 (JH; TH; 187-1992), upper Arrastre Creek, San Bernardino Mts., SBE, 23–24 Jun 1992 (GH§; 237-1992), San Juan Capistrano, ORA, 26–28 Jun 1992 (BED; GMcC; 188-1992), China Ranch, near Tecopa, INY, 9–11 Jul 1992 (JTS; 207-1992), along the Santa Margarita R. near the confluence of De Luz Creek on Camp Pendleton, SD, 12–17 Jul 1992 (PAG; GMcC; 189-1992), and at Mono L., MNO, 13–14 Aug 1992 (ES†; 286-1992).

An immature was at Pt. Loma, SD, 25 Oct 1992 (PAG; GMcC; 279-1992), and one of unknown age and sex was measured and banded at SE Farallon I., SF, 28 Oct 1992 (PP†; 297-1992).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons* (49). Nine were located during the spring and summer of 1992, giving California its largest incursion on record. Single individuals were at Anaheim, ORA, 9 May 1992 (DPu; 238-1992), Redondo Beach,



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LA, 9–10 May 1992 (JKA†; 91-1993), Pt. Reyes NS (fish docks), MRN, 16 May 1992 (RS; SC, LL; 182-1992), and Pt. Loma, SD, 17 May 1992 (GLR; 190-1992). Singing males were at Ogilvy Ranch along Mono Creek, SBA, 23 May 1992 (JMG†; 173-1992), at Huntington Beach, ORA, 28–30 May 1992 (JEP; 38-1993), at Descanso Gardens, La Cañada–Flintridge, LA, 9 Jun–9 Jul 1992 (RAE; KLG; 146-1992), and at Centerville Beach, HUM, 25 Jun 1992 (BBA†; GSL; 224-1992). One at Mono Creek Campground, SBA, 26 Jun–1 Jul 1992 (HR; SEF; 211-1992) was judged to be an individual different from the bird at Ogilvy Ranch, a location 6 km (4 mi) upstream. A fall vagrant was at Stinson Beach, MRN, 11–18 Oct 1992 (KH, JM, BDP, SBT; 275-1992).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus* (85). One was at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 10 Oct 1992 (AS; JLD; 280-1992). One at Goleta, SBA, 14 Feb–17 Mar 1992 (SEF†; DD†, PEL, GMcC; 87-1992) was perhaps the first to winter anywhere in the United States; a color photograph of it was published in *Am. Birds* 46:333. It was certainly the first to winter unequivocally because two previous winter-season individuals in California, at Harbor L., LA, 30 Dec 1978–12 Jan 1979 (Luther et al. 1983) and Huntington Beach, ORA, 26 Nov 1982–1 Jan 1983 (Morlan 1985), appeared to be attempting to winter, but may also have been lingering fall vagrants.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (33). An immature was at SE Farallon I., SF, 30 Sep 1992 (JK, PPT†; 294-1992). Aside from a bird collected at Harper Dry L., SBE, 2 Oct 1988 (Patten and Erickson 1994; SBCM 52625), all California records have been for the coast between 8 September and 30 October.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (15). An apparent female was at Mojave, KER, 22 May 1992 (DVB; MTH, SBT; 151-1992), a male was at SE Farallon I., SF, 24–25 May 1992 (PP; 163-1992), and a probable male was at Pt. Reyes NS (lighthouse), MRN, 19 Sep 1992 (SC, BDP; 248-1992). This species tends to be recorded slightly more frequently in spring than in fall.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (48). A female in Alpers Canyon, MNO, 15 Jul 1992 (DWS; 221-1992) was remarkable for its date and perhaps was summering, although it may have been a late spring vagrant. A male was at El Capitan SB, SBA, 19–20 Sep 1992 (RH†, PEL†; 264-1992), and a female was at Stinson Beach, MRN, 10–12 Oct 1992 (KH; JM, SBT; 311-1992). A male at Whiting Ranch Regional Park, ORA, 19 Feb–14 Mar 1992 (MTH, GMcC; 108-1992) was the first to winter in California, although there are two prior December records of likely late-fall vagrants: a male found dead in Claremont, LA, 18 Dec 1972 (Patten and Erickson 1994) and a female in the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 15 Dec 1990 (Heindel and Garrett 1995).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (70). A singing male was near Lopez Pt., MTY, 24 May 1992 (SFB; 147-1992). A singing male at Pt. Loma, SD, 8–10 May 1992 (GMcC; 122-1992), a probable female at Pt. Reyes NS (Mendoza Ranch), MRN, 30–31 May 1992 (RS†; JM, SBT; 159-1992), one at Pt. Reyes NS (Nunes Ranch), MRN, 2–3 Jun 1992 (JM; 230-1992), a singing male at Arcata, HUM, 3 Jul 1992 (FB; BBA†, GSL; 225-1992), and a male at Pt. Reyes NS (Mendoza), MRN, 18 Sep 1992 (RS†; 44-1993) all showed the characters of the subspecies *D. d. albiflora*, the race that accounts for the vast majority of California records. The six records in spring/summer of 1992 tied the previous high for that season, as that number was reached in both 1981 and 1982 (Binford 1985, Morlan 1985, Roberson 1986, Dunn 1988, Bevier 1990, Langham 1991).

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae* (28). A singing male was at Clark Mt., SBE, 23 May 1992 (RJR; 141-1992). Only one of two singing males claimed was accepted; see Roberson (1993) for a discussion of this issue. Males of this species have

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been recorded on Clark Mountain in 1977 (Luther 1980), 1981 (Roberson 1993), and 1986 (Bevier 1990); reports from additional years (e.g., Johnson 1995) have either not been reviewed or not been accepted by the CBRC (see Roberson 1993).

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (48). An immature male was at Pt. Loma, SD, 6 Jan–12 Apr 1992 (PAG, GMcC, MAP†; 30-1992). An immature male at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 21 Oct 1992 (JLD, CAM; SEF†, TH, PEL, GMcC; 281-1992) provided only the second interior fall record for California, the first being of a female collected near Westmorland, IMP, 13 Oct 1991 (Patten et al. 1995; SDNHM 47864). A male at Pt. Loma, SD, 25 Oct–10 Nov 1992 (GMcC; 306-1992) was judged to be probably different from the male present the previous winter (record 30-1992 above). The frequency of California records continues to increase at an impressive rate: see Patten and Erickson (1994) for a discussion.

CERULEAN WARBLER *Dendroica cerulea* (13). A singing male was at Pt. Loma, SD, 6 Jun 1992 (REW; 191-1992). This species remains very scarce in California in comparison to many other wood-warblers primarily of eastern North America. Only three were recorded in spring prior to this bird: a female at Oasis, MNO, 27 May 1974 (Luther et al. 1979), a female at Pt. Loma, SD, 26–27 May 1979 (Luther et al. 1983), and a male at California City, KER, 17 May 1985 (Dunn 1988).

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermicivorus* (68). Single individuals were at Huntington Beach, ORA, 7 May 1992 (DP; 239-1992) and SE Farallon I., SF, 7 May 1992 (PRBO; 164-1992). A singing male was along Baker Creek near Big Pine, INY, 19 May 1992 (JH, TH†; 193-1992). A female was at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 24 May 1992 (HB, MOC, MTH; 142-1992). A singing male was at Pt. Reyes NS (fish docks), MRN, 31 May–2 Jun 1992 (JM; 183-1992). A first-spring bird was at SE Farallon I., SF, 6–7 Jun 1992 (PP†; 165-1992). One measured and banded at Coyote Creek Riparian Station, SCL, 17 Jun–6 Sep 1992 (KS†, SBT; 69-1993) was the first certain to have overwintered in California. One was at Montaña de Oro SP, SLO, 28 Jun 1992 (BSc; 222-1992). The eight individuals found during the spring and summer of 1992 made easily California's largest influx of Worm-eating Warblers on record.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH *Seiurus motacilla* (6). A singing male was at Huntington Beach, ORA, 3–6 May 1992 (BED; RAE, MTH†, MH†, GMcC, MAP; 119-1992); a photograph of it was published in *Am. Birds* 46:482. California had but one record until the mid-1980s, but five have accumulated since that time.

\*KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus* (101). Although Kentucky Warblers have made impressive showings in other recent springs and summers, such as 8 in 1985 (Dunn 1988, Bevier 1990, Roberson 1993) and 13 in 1987 (Langham 1991, Roberson 1993), the 36 found in spring and summer of 1992 were astounding, representing a number 10 times that of the most recent 10-year average for the season (Terrill et al. 1992). This year also furnished the first definite summering records for the species, although breeding was never proven.

Southeast Farallon Island, SF, has hosted more Kentucky Warblers (21 accepted records prior to this report) than any other location in California. Six more were added to its tally in 1992: an adult male 4–25 May (PP†; 166-1992), a first-spring female 14–15 May (PRBO; 167-1992), a first-spring male 15–16 May (PRBO, WJS†; 168-1992), a first-spring female 16 May (PRBO, WJS†; 169-1992), an adult female 1–2 Jun (PP†; 170-1992), and a first-spring female 6–7 Jun (PP†; 171-1992).

On the heels of Southeast Farallon Island for Kentucky Warbler records is Kern County, which yielded eight in spring 1992: a female at Galileo Hill Park, 9–10 May (V&AH; MTH, SBT; 152-1992), one at California City, 20 May (RAE; 145-1992), a singing male at the South Fork Kern R. Preserve, 22 May (MBS†; 195-1992), a singing male at Butterbredt Springs, 24 May (JMC; MTH; 196-1992), one of

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unknown age/sex at Butterbredt Springs, 26 May (SBT; 232-1992), another singing male at Butterbredt Springs, 31 May (RC, MTH, DRo; 140-1992), a singing male at Mojave, 4 Jun (MTH; 153-1992), and one of unknown age/sex at Butterbredt Springs 6-7 Jun (MOC; 197-1992).

A singing male was at Los Osos, SLO, 9 May 1992 (JSR; 194-1992). A male struck a window in Petaluma, SON, 15-16 May 1992 (CN†, DWN†; 62-1993). Singing males were at Carpinteria Creek, SBA, 16 May 1992 (BBA; SEF, PEL; 156-1992), at Donner Pass, NEV, 24 May-27 Jun 1992 (LJE†; 161-1992), at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley NP, INY, 25 May 1992 (RST; EH; 154-1992), at Wildrose Canyon, Glass Mtn., MNO, 31 May 1992 (PJM; 63-1993), at Mountain Home Village, SBE, 5-15 Jun 1992 (JDG§; RJH; 267-1992), in Noble Canyon 2.5 miles north of Pine Valley, SD, 8 Jun 1992 (BC; 198-1992), at Blue Jay in the San Bernardino Mts., SBE, 12 Jun 1992 (DG; 25-1993), and at Pacific Grove, MTY, 14-21 Jun 1992 (SFB; RC, DR§, JSof; 157-1992). A female was along Sandia Creek near Fallbrook, SD, 19-20 Jun 1992 (GMcC; 201-1992).

An amazing total of eleven (and perhaps more) individuals was found in the upper Santa Ynez River drainage, SBA, between 24 May and 11 Aug 1992. Many of these birds were banded and photographed in hand, and the efforts of James M. Greaves were essential in getting a handle on the number of individuals present. Specific records are as follows: one was along Cameusa Creek near Gibraltar Reservoir, 24 May (JMG†; 200-1992). Three males were found near P-Bar Campground, 28-29 May (Figure 8; JMG†; 200-1992); a color photograph of one was published in *Am. Birds* 46:501. Three were at Juncal Campground, 10 Jun-11 Aug (JMG†; SEF, PEL, CAM; 200-1992). One was at Mono Adobe along Mono Creek, 11 Jun (JMG†; 200-1992). Two were at P-Bar Campground, 15 Jun-3 Aug (JMG†; PEL, CAM; 200-1992). One was at Mono Creek Campground, 22 Jun (JMG†; 200-1992). Voice recordings of one or two singing males at Juncal Campground on 18 Jun 1992 (CAM§) and of one singing male at P-Bar Campground on 18 Jun 1992 (CAM§) were deposited at the Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

After the massive showing in spring and summer of 1992, only two appeared in fall: at Gaviota SP, SBA, 3 Sep 1992 (BH; 290-1992) and at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 25 Oct 1992 (HB†; 276-1992).

Records of this species are no longer reviewed.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (68). An immature was at SE Farallon I., SF, 18 Sep 1992 (JK†; 9-1993). Another immature, probably a female, was at Bodega Harbor, SON, 3-4 Oct 1992 (RAR; DRM†, JM, DWN†, BDP; 269-1992). Only one observed 22 Oct 1978 at Santa Cruz, SCZ (Luther et al. 1983) was later in fall than one at SE Farallon I., SF, 18 Oct 1992 (PP†; 296-1992). As in previous years, Southeast Farallon Island remains the primary location in California for this species.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (84). A female was at Mojave, KER, 22 May 1992 (MTH; 155-1992), an immature male was at SE Farallon I., SF, 30-31 Aug 1992 (PP†; 252-1992), a probable immature male was at Pt. Reyes NS (Fish Docks), MRN, 20 Sep 1992 (GMcC; SEF; 255-1992), and an immature, probably a female, was at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 5 Oct 1992 (JLD, GMcC; 270-1992). Only 12 of California's prior 80 Mourning Warblers occurred in spring, so the Mojave bird was noteworthy in that regard. The bird at Furnace Creek Ranch was only the second found in the interior in fall, following one collected at Baker, SBE, 10 Nov 1979 (Roberson 1993; SBCM 30529).

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons* (9). An immature, probably a male, at SE Farallon I., SF, 25 Aug 1992 (Figure 9; PP†; 253-1992) provided the first record for northern California: a photograph appeared in *Am. Birds* 47:147.

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SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (83). A female was at Pt. Loma, SD, 24 Oct 1992 (CGE; TC; 23-1993). An immature male at Oceano Campground, Pismo SB, SLO, 27 Nov-7 Dec 1992 (JMC; TME, KAH, CAM; 303-1992) was quite late, the only later record being of one at San Luis Obispo, SLO, 27 Nov-13 Dec 1976 (Luther et al. 1979).

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (41). One was at Goleta, SBA, 2 Sep 1992 (SEF†; 289-1992), and first-fall birds were at SE Farallon I., SF, 5 Oct 1992 (PPT; 295-1992) and Mojave, KER, 6-7 Oct 1992 (GH; MOC, JLD; 282-1992). Virtually all accepted California records are of fall birds in female or immature "supplemental" plumage; all three of these birds fit that pattern well.

FIELD SPARROW *Spizella pusilla* (3). One at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 16-17 Oct 1992 (Figure 10; JLD†; TH†, GMcC, MAP; 271-1992) appeared to be of the western subspecies *S. p. arenacea*. The only previous records were of a bird banded and photographed in hand at SE Farallon I., SF, 17 Jun-9 Jul 1969 (Robert 1971, Roberson 1986) and one photographed at Irvine Regional Park, ORA, 25 Nov 1989-6 Jan 1990 (Patten and Erickson 1994).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (24). A juvenile was at SE Farallon I., SF, 18-19 Sep 1992 (JK†; 10-1993). One at Malibu Creek SP, LA, 20 Dec 1992-17 Jan 1993 (SH, KLG†; JBr, JLD, CAM†, GMcC, JM, SS, SBT; 11-1993), the first for Los Angeles County, was only the third to winter in California, following others at China L., KER, 27 Nov 1988-2 Jan 1989 and along the Smith River near Ft. Dick, DN, 5 Jan-11 Feb 1989 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992). The bird on Southeast Farallon Island was more typical, as aside from the three winter records and two spring records (Luther 1980, Binford 1985), all Le Conte's Sparrows in California have occurred in fall between 11 September and 16 November.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (52). One was at SE Farallon I., SF, 18 Nov 1992 (LG; 298-1992). One at Bear Valley Ridge, HUM, 22 Nov 1992 was joined by a second bird on 25 Nov 1992 (MM, AME; 105-1993). Most California Snow Buntings have occurred from late October through November.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (31). A male at Big Pine, INY, 16 Feb-14 Mar 1992 (TH†; DLD†, GMcC, MAP; 93-1992), one at Pt. Loma, SD, 23 Apr 1992 (VPJ, BJ; 202-1992), a different male at Big Pine, INY, 7 Nov 1992 (TH; 300-1992), and an immature male at Stovepipe Wells, Death Valley NP, INY, 29 Nov 1992 (RS†; LL; 35-1993) all appeared to be Bronzed Grackles, *Q. q. versicolor*, the only subspecies recorded in California.

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. The description of one in Carmel Bay, MTY, 20 Jan 1992 (67-1992) mentioned a pale yellow bill but did not go into any detail on the distribution of paleness on the bill or some of the other marks expected on this species.

STREAKED SHEARWATER *Calonectris leucomelas*. One was reported near shore at La Jolla, SD, 18 Nov 1992 (83-1993). This record failed to get any support for a variety of reasons, including the location, late date, and incomplete description. In addition, the bill was described as pink with a black tip, whereas the vast majority of Streaked Shearwaters have a pale grayish bill with dusky on the tip of only the mandible.

## CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

**BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** *Oceanodroma castro*. A storm-petrel well studied and well described bird off San Francisco, west of the Gumdrops Seamount, SF, 2 May 1992 (158-1992) may have been this species. Understanding of the criteria for distinguishing Band-rumped and Leach's (*O. leucorhoa*) storm-petrels in the field, however, is still evolving. The flight behavior and amount and pattern of white on the under tail coverts of Leach's vary tremendously. There is a difference in tail length and the depth of the fork in the tail, but these can be very difficult to assess in the field. One Committee member, from a drawing of the tail, felt this identification was incorrect, demonstrating the importance most of us place on this field mark. Also, the Band-rumped is a warm-water species, and the waters off San Francisco at the time of this observation were quite cold. As mentioned in previous reports (e.g., Heindel and Garrett 1995), we have accepted only one record for California (McCaskie 1990), and given the complexities, it is being re-reviewed.

**TRUMPETER SWAN** *Cygnus buccinator*. A photograph of five swans from Arcata Bottoms, HUM, 2-6 Jan 1991 (Figure 11; 58-1991) demonstrates the difficulty in identifying them, particularly when vocal clues are not available. After three circulations of this record, there is still no consensus; a majority of the Committee felt these birds were most likely Tundra Swans (*C. columbianus*). The variation in interpretation of these photographs supports the tough scrutiny records of the Trumpeter have received lately. An immature at White L., Lower Klamath NWR, SIS, 18 Jan 1992 (104-1992) was identified only by direct size comparison with nearby Tundra Swans. See Patten and Heindel (1994) for pitfalls in the identification of immature Trumpeter and Tundra swans.



Figure 11. This group of five swans on 5 January 1991, at Arcata Bottoms, HUM (58-1991) illustrates how difficult the identification of Trumpeter (*C. buccinator*) and Tundra (*C. columbianus*) Swans can be. Though a majority of the Committee concluded that this was a group of Tundra Swans, a consensus could not be reached.

Photo by Michael Hughes

## CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. Reports of males at Novato, MRN, 12 Feb 1988 (69-1991) and at Pyramid L., LA, 14 Jan–7 Feb 1991 (102-1992) lacked convincing, contemporary documentation, although each was felt to be likely correct by a majority of Committee members. Indeed, the Pyramid Lake bird may have been a previously accepted male returning for its second winter (see Patten and Erickson 1994).

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*. Although this species has become annual in winter in southern California, the description of one at Irvine Regional Park, ORA, 20 Dec 1992 (122-1993) was very brief, and owing to lighting and quick views, too weak to garner support.

GRAY-TAILED TATTLER *Heteroscelus brevipes*. A tattler, photographed and seen next to a Wandering Tattler (*H. incanus*) on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 9 Oct 1992 (53-1993), had whiter sides, looked a touch paler, and had wingtips falling just short of the tail. In addition, a call that reminded the observer of a golden-plover's (*Pluvialis dominica/fulva*) was heard near the tattlers. Dennis Paulson reviewed the photograph but considered the identification inconclusive, although the bird in question definitely had paler sides. Some Committee members wondered whether a Wandering Tattler could be that pale, or if it could drop its wings enough to cover some of the gray that typically shows on the flanks. The calls are generally believed to be the most diagnostic character. The typical call of the Gray-tailed is a two-noted upslurred whistle, quite different from the repeated monotone whistle of the Wandering. Less frequently, the Gray-tailed gives a three-noted whistle, still upslurred, as was the case with the call in question. The uncertainty over whether the vocalization came from a tattler was a significant factor in most members' letting this one go. Finally, a juvenile Gray-tailed should show extensive spotting on the upperparts, somewhat reminiscent of that of the smaller sandpipers of the genus *Tringa* (e.g., the Solitary, *T. solitaria*, or Wood, *T. glareola*). The general consensus was that this may very well have been a "good one that got away." Excellent reading on the identification of this species pair has been published recently (Paulson 1993, Hirst and Proctor 1995).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*. It was apparent that the description of one at Princeton Harbor, SM, 8 Aug 1992 (51-1993) was written well after the observers consulted many references. We discourage this practice to the extent possible, as it may influence subtle details that were not observed, even with the best of intentions on behalf of the observer. In this case, the main concern was that the observer, stating it was molting to basic from either adult or juvenal plumage, was not certain of the bird's age. We feel that if a shorebird cannot be aged with certainty, certainty of its identification is not likely. Also, the peach color ascribed to this bird's underparts is far more appropriate for the Red Knot (*C. canutus*). Some members felt that this bird could have been a molting adult Red Knot, perhaps with more droop to the bill than most.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda*. One at Crescent City, DN, 8 Sep 1992 (49-1993) proved difficult for the Committee. Much of the description was good and the date certainly fits the Upland Sandpiper's pattern in fall. There were some weaknesses in the description, however, and a local observer added uncertainty. Given the rarity of this species in California, only one member supported the record.

LITTLE/RUFOUS-NECKED STINT *Calidris minuta/ruficollis*. A juvenile peep reported to be one of these species was seen at Elkhorn Slough, MTY, 8 Sep 1992 (13-1993). The basis for the report was a perceived lack of vestigial webs and bright plumage. We cannot overemphasize the need for caution in assessing whether these webs are present or absent. Often, seeing the webs in the field is almost impossible.

## CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

Another major pitfall in this identification is seeing a juvenile Least Sandpiper (*C. minutilla*) with basic-plumaged adults. The juvenile looks bright in comparison, and the leg color is often obscured by mud. Finally, the range of brightness of juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers (*C. pusilla*) is an underappreciated identification problem. The detail on critical feathers provided in this report failed to address these concerns adequately.

LONG-TOED STINT *Calidris subminuta*. One reported at the Salinas R. mouth, MTY, 17 Sep 1992 (268-1992) was photographed, but the images were too distant to be of any value. Some parts of the description were intriguing, but others were deficient, and some did not seem right. The observer compared this individual to an adult he photographed in Alaska, saying it matched that bird very well. Although in the Long-toed the juvenile arguably looks more like the adult than do those of other *Calidris* sandpipers, it is still quite distinct, and a comparison is not really appropriate.

SOOTY TERN *Sterna fuscata*. We considered two older reports that had not previously been reviewed by the Committee. One was from San Clemente, ORA, 13 Aug 1968 (119-1994), the other from Venice Beach, LA, 27 Jul 1969 (120-1994). Both records received only four votes to accept, as the majority felt the documentation supplied did not have enough detail. These records' being reviewed now is related to the recent appearance of tropical terns. As noted by Heindel and Garrett (1995) there have been recent reports from Bolsa Chica, ORA, where in the summer of 1995, a Sooty Tern was photographed and seen over a prolonged period.

VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD *Amazilia violiceps*. Shortly after the sighting of one in Kenwood, SON, 28-30 Mar 1992 (see under Records Accepted, 110A-1992), there was a report from Tiburon, MRN, 2-7 Apr 1992 (110B-1992). Members felt the locations were too far apart to involve the same individual, so each record needed to stand on its own. Given the rarity of the Violet-crowned Hummingbird anywhere in California, especially this far north, the description should be complete and the bird should have been seen at length in good light. In this case, the entire bird was not viewed and lighting was poor, leaving most of us uncertain of the identification.

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Lampornis clemenciae*. A female was reported from Morongo Valley, SBE, 25 Apr 1992 (139-1992). This record failed to get any support on its first circulation. With only one record for the state, all reports of this species receive exceptional scrutiny. In this case, the bird was described as 1.25 to 1.5 times the size of a Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*). Although linear measurements support the latter comparison, all members noted that the difference in volume is much greater, making the Blue-throated appear in the field to dwarf Costa's. Furthermore, the eyestripe and other facial details were not well described, making many of us suspect an Anna's Hummingbird (*C. anna*) may have been misidentified. Anna's are quite numerous at Morongo Valley (Patten pers. obs.), and a juvenile female Anna's matches the described bird very well.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER *Picoides tridactylus*. One was reported from Dixie Mt., PLU, 26 Jun 1992 (245-1992). The Committee was impressed with the honest write-up and many felt the species claimed may indeed have been present. But with only one accepted record for California (Trochet et al. 1988), a report of the Three-toed Woodpecker must meet a high standard. In this case, there was no mention of the number of toes and the facial pattern seemed to have a bit too much white. Furthermore, acceptance of this record would imply either unprecedented wandering or an unknown population over 100 miles from the previous record. Although everyone concedes that such wandering is possible, a more certain record is

## CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

necessary to establish it. The most likely source of confusion is with a juvenile Hairy Woodpecker (*P. villosus*). Kaufman (1993) covered this problem well. The Committee appreciates the observer's understanding of the need for caution.

**GREATER PEWEE** *Contopus pertinax*. One was reported at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 19 Sep 1992 (307-1992), but the early date, incomplete description, and after-the-fact identification led to caution among the Committee. Only two Greater Pewees, in Huntington Beach, ORA, 11 Sep 1991 and Newport Beach, ORA, 14 Sep 1991 (Patten et al. 1995), have occurred earlier in the fall.

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*. One at San Rafael, MRN, 12 Dec 1992 (70-1993) was supported by details suggesting a wheatear but also not eliminating a number of other species such as the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*).

**VEERY** *Catharus fuscescens*. One reported at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 25 Oct 1992 (277-1992) was described as being rather olive throughout the upperparts. Despite the misleading illustration in the National Geographic Society's (1987) *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, even the westernmost subspecies *C. f. salicicolus* is fairly rufous above. See Phillips (1991) for an appreciation of the range of variation in this species, but Patten's examination of the specimen itself (WFVZ 50311) suggests the putative specimen of *salicicolus* in the color photograph facing page 104 is instead a Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*).

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** *Catharus minimus*. One at the Smith R. mouth, DN, 6 Jun 1992 (242-1992) may well have been this species, as the observer is experienced. Nevertheless, the brief views and somewhat incomplete description led to a caution with a species so difficult to identify in the field.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*. Individuals reported at Black Butte Dam, TEH, 26 Sep 1992 (283-1992) and Novato, MRN, 4 Dec 1992 (58-1993) were supported by details suggesting other species were in fact involved.

**WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba*. Although a male White Wagtail had wintered near Saticoy and Oxnard in three of the previous four winters (Pyle and McCaskie 1992, Patten and Erickson 1994), the report of a male at Saticoy, VEN, 8 Feb 1992 (86-1992) was too brief to add another year to its occurrence.

**WHITE/BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba/lugens*. One reported at Coyote Creek Riparian Station, SCL, 15 Dec 1991 (219-1992) was not thoroughly described; indeed, it was not even clear that a wagtail was seen. Given the extreme difficulty in the identification of these sister species, a complete description of any suspected wagtail is essential for the review process to be worthwhile.

**RED-THROATED PIPIT** *Anthus cervinus*. A heard-only fly-over was reported by a reliable observer at Bolinas, MRN, 22 Oct 1991 (157-1991). As noted by Patten et al. (1995), the Committee's standards have changed somewhat in recent years, so that records of Red-throated Pipits heard only are now often found unacceptable, lacking a necessary level of documentation that simply cannot be provided given the nature of the records.

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** *Anthus spragueii*. The description of two birds reported 6 miles NE of Coalinga, FRE, 15 May 1992 (160-1992) suggested that they were in fact juvenile Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*). This record is not the first of juvenile Horned Larks being misidentified at Sprague's Pipits. Observers should note carefully the behavior, calls, and face, back, and tail patterns of any purported Sprague's Pipits before reporting this species.



## CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification questionable, Cont.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO *Vireo philadelphicus*. Although perhaps correct, the identification of a bird at Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 3 Oct 1992 (309-1992) was questioned because the observation was brief and the details were sparse.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia*. Photographs and detailed descriptions from two experienced observers suggested that a bird reported at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 9 Oct 1992 (22-1993) may have been an immature MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*) with a yellowish wash to the throat. The rather bold eye-arcs, distinct breast-band, yellowish flanks, and grayish head supported the identification of this bird as a MacGillivray's, but the call note and, perhaps, the throat color suggested a Mourning. The possibility of a hybrid cannot be dismissed, although this hybrid combination is unproven in nature; instead, various factors "suggest that extreme *Oporornis* specimens are not hybrids" (Pitocchelli 1993). More likely, the bird was a MacGillivray's Warbler showing an extreme amount of yellow on the throat, featured by a small percentage of first-year MacGillivray's. See Pitocchelli (1990, 1993) and Pyle and Henderson (1990) for more information about variation and identification pitfalls in this difficult species pair.

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons*. The brevity of observation and the observer's not having binoculars led to a cautious approach for one reported at Coyote Hills Regional Park, ALA. 30 Apr 1992 (184-1992), although the details suggested that this species may indeed have been involved.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK *Sturnella magna*. A bird photographed at SE Farallon I., SF, 29 May 1992 (254-1992) was reported as *S. m. lilianae*, the pale southwestern subspecies. Although field identification of this subspecies (versus Western Meadowlark, *S. neglecta*) may be possible (Zimmer 1984, 1985), the distance of the observation precluded a detailed plumage description and large-image photographs. The Committee tends to exercise extreme caution with potential first state records.

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, natural occurrence questionable (identification accepted)

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*. One was at Lake Merritt, ALA, 1 Jun 1992 (WVM†; 177-1992). The Committee appreciates the efforts to document this record, and the photographs certainly do that. Because the Bar-headed Goose is common in captivity, however, a pattern of records (from Alaska, for example) must develop before a California record will be given serious consideration.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*. One was at Tule Lake NWR, SIS, 8 Aug 1992 (ADD†; 213-1992). Another was well described from Sacramento NWR, GLE, 14 Nov 1992 (WM; 285-1992). The identification of this species is straightforward; it is common in captivity, however, and wild Ruddy Shelducks are not thought to occur anywhere near California.

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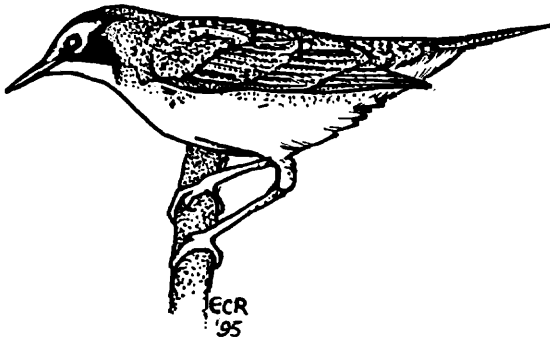
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Kentucky Warbler

*Sketch by Edward Rooks*