

## REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2001 RECORDS

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**ABSTRACT:** In 2001, the California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 194 records of 66 species, accepting 161 of them. New to California were the Greater Sand-Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*), Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), and Eyebrowed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*), bringing California's bird list to 619 species, nine of which are not native. Potential first state records of the Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*), and Black-backed Oriole (*Icterus abeillei*) were not accepted, the first on grounds of identification and the last two because of concerns about natural occurrence. Other significant accepted records include California's second Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and Red-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa brevirostris*), second and third Greater Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*), and the strongest annual showings in California of the Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia/sandwichensis*), Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*), and Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) on record.

This 27th report of the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the CBRC or the Committee) summarizes decisions reached on 194 records of 66 species. Although most records pertain to birds found in 2001, the period covered by this report extends from 1994 to 2001. Three of the reviewed records were reassessments of earlier Committee decisions. The Committee accepted 159 records involving 55 species; this acceptance rate of 83% was just above the Committee's mean as detailed by Rottenborn and Morlan (2000), who discussed trends in acceptance rates though the CBRC's history. Twenty-five records of 20 species were not accepted because of insufficient documentation or because descriptions were inconsistent with known identification criteria; one of these was a reassessment of a record previously not accepted. Eight additional records of five species were not accepted because of questions concerning the bird's natural occurrence. Finally, two other records originally accepted as the Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) prior to the species-level revision adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union (2000) were reassessed and accepted only to the level of Masked/Nazca booby (*S. dactylatra/granti*). Counties best represented by accepted records were San Diego (30 accepted records, including seven of the Reddish Egret, *Egretta rufescens*), Kern (13), San Francisco (11), Los Angeles (8), Monterey (8), and Santa Barbara (8). Records were accepted from 28 of California's 58 counties.

Highlights of this report include the addition of three species to the California list: the Greater Sand-Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*), Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), and Eyebrowed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*). With these additions, California's list stands at 619 species, nine of which are non-native, and two of which have been extirpated within historical times. A report of a Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), a potential first state record, was not accepted because documentation was insufficient

to establish the identification conclusively. Potential first state records of the Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*) and Black-backed Oriole (*Icterus abeillei*) were not accepted because of questions of natural occurrence. Records of the Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*), Falcated Duck (*Anas falcata*), Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*), Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*), Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), and Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*) are currently under consideration.

Other highlights of this report include the second accepted California record of the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), the second (both specimens) of the Red-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa brevirostris*), and the second and third of the Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*). We also report record annual showings of the Hawaiian/Galapagos Petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis/phaeopygia*; four records), Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*, which was removed from the Review List in January 2002 in part because of this spate of 13 new records), and Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*, with the twelve records for 2001 exceeding the previous high of nine for 1987). Also recorded in relatively high numbers were the Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*, with four records matching 1981's total), Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*, with ten 2001 records equaled only by 1992's showing), and Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*, four records).

The list of species currently reviewed by the CBRC is posted at Western Field Ornithologists' web site (<http://www.wfo-cbrc.org>). This site also includes the entire California state list, the Committee's bylaws, a reporting form for the direct e-mail submission of records to the CBRC, the addresses of current Committee members, a photo gallery of recent submissions (including several birds published in this report), and other information about the CBRC, WFO, and its journal, *Western Birds*.

All documentation reviewed by the CBRC, including copies of descriptions, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, and Committee comments, is archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, California 93012, and is available for public review. The CBRC solicits and encourages observers to submit documentation for all species on the review list, as well as species not on the state list. Documentation should be sent to Guy McCaskie, CBRC Secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, CA 91933-0275 (e-mail: [guymcc@pacbell.net](mailto:guymcc@pacbell.net)).

*Committee News.* The Committee's voting membership after the 18 January 2003 annual meeting consisted of Luke W. Cole, Richard A. Erickson (chairman), Kristie N. Nelson, Todd A. McGrath, Joseph Morlan, Peter Pyle, Michael M. Rogers (vice-chairman), Mike San Miguel, John C. Sterling, and John C. Wilson. Guy McCaskie continues his role as nonvoting Secretary. Recent Committee members who also voted on many of the records in this report include Jon L. Dunn, Kimball L. Garrett, Robert A. Hamilton, Matthew T. Heindel, Alvaro Jaramillo, Guy McCaskie, Tristan McKee, Michael A. Patten, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Daniel S. Singer, and Scott B. Terrill. No changes in the review list were adopted at the January 2003 meeting. The Committee placed the Nazca Booby on the Supplemental List, as discussed below under that species (see "Records Not Accepted, Natural Occurrence Questionable").

*Format and Abbreviations.* As in other recent CBRC reports, records are generally grouped geographically and/or 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 usually follows that published in *North American Birds* (formerly *American Birds* and *Field Notes*), but 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 finding and/or identifying the bird(s)—if known and if they supplied supportive documentation—are followed by a semicolon, then the initials, in alphabetical order by surname, of additional observers submitting supportive documentation, then the CBRC record number consisting of the year of submission and a chronological number assigned by the secretary. All records are sight records unless otherwise indicated: initials followed by a dagger (†) indicate the observer supplied a supportive photograph, (‡) indicates videotape, (§) indicates a voice recording, and (#) indicates a specimen record, followed by the abbreviation (see below) of the institution housing the specimen and that institution's specimen catalog number.

An asterisk (\*) prior to a species' name indicates that the species is no longer on the CBRC Review List. The first number in parentheses after the species' name is the number of records accepted by the CBRC through this report; the second is the number of new records accepted in this report (because this number excludes records thought to pertain to returning individuals, it may be zero). Two asterisks (\*\*) after the species' total indicate that the number of accepted records refers only to a restricted review period or includes records accepted for statistical purposes only; see Roberson (1986) for more information.

When individual birds return to a location after a lengthy or seasonal absence, each occurrence is reviewed under a separate record number, and Committee members indicate whether or not they believe the bird is the same as one accepted previously. Such decisions follow the opinion of the majority of members and, if a bird is considered a returning individual, the total number of records remains unchanged. Although the CBRC does not formally review the age, sex, or subspecies of each bird, information on these subjects is often provided during the review process, and in some cases the Committee achieves a strong or unanimous consensus. We report much of this information.

The CBRC uses standard abbreviations for California counties; those used in this report are ALA, Alameda; BUT, Butte; DN, Del Norte; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; LA, Los Angeles; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MOD, Modoc; MNO, Mono; MTY, Monterey; ORA, Orange; PLU, Plumas; RIV, Riverside; SBE, San Bernardino; SD, San Diego; SF, San Francisco; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SBA, Santa Barbara; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SIS, Siskiyou; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SUT, Sutter; VEN, Ventura; and YUB, Yuba. A full list of county abbreviations is available on the WFO-CBRC web site. Other abbreviations used: I., island; km, kilometer(s); L., lake; mi., mile(s); Mt., mountain; n. miles, nautical miles; N.W.R., national wildlife refuge; Pt., point; R., river; W.M.A., wildlife management area.

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Museum collections housing specimens cited in this report, allowing access to Committee members for research, or otherwise cited, are the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS), Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles (LACM), Pacific Grove Museum, Pacific Grove (PGM), San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM), and Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo (WVZ).

### RECORDS ACCEPTED

**SHY ALBATROSS** *Thalassarche cauta* (3, 1). One immature was over Bodega Canyon (38° 03.05' N, 123° 21.93' W), MRN, 27 Jul 2001 (DWN†; 2001-143; Figure 1). Many members concluded that it best fit the subspecies *salvini*, but others did not believe that we yet have the knowledge to assign immature birds to subspecies confidently, particularly as there are no specimens of *salvini* from the Northern Hemisphere (for identification criteria and distributional information see Cole 2000). The majority of Committee members agreed that this was likely an individual different from the one at nearby Cordell Bank, MRN, 29 Jul–10 Sep 2000 (McKee and Erickson 2002). At least one additional record, 25 Sep 1999 off Sonoma County (NAB 55:98), has not completed circulation through the Committee, and another 17 Sep 2000 off Marin County (NAB 55:98) has not been submitted.

**HAWAIIAN/GALAPAGOS PETREL** *Pterodroma sandwichensis/phaeopygia* (12, 4). One was at 37° 48.4' N, 123° 22.6' W, 10 km W of Fanny Shoal, SF, 9 May 2001 (DAI; 2001-142); one was at 34.195° N, 122.687° W, ca. 100 miles W of Pt. Conception, SBA, 25 Jul 2001 (RTS; 2001-132); one was at 39° 32.61' N, 123° 57.61' W, 8 miles W of Laguna Pt., MEN, 18 Aug 2001 (SNGH; GGi, RJK, TMcK, SBT; 2001-134); and one was at 121° 9.61' N, 34° 29.58' W, about 29 mi. WSW of Pt. Arguello, SBA, 28 Apr 2001 (BS, DMH; DMC, MLF, MMe; 2001-076). All were accepted unanimously as belonging to this species pair, which resulted from the split of the Dark-rumped Petrel (Banks et al. 2002). The April date is the earliest for California (the previous early record was 3 May). The May bird was described briefly but acceptably; it was submitted as a Hawaiian Petrel, but no features that would eliminate the Galapagos Petrel were reported. The question of which of these taxa (if not both) reaches California waters has not been resolved, although distributional evidence suggests a Hawaiian origin for some or all; field identification criteria, if they exist, remain poorly developed.

**GREATER SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis* (3, 2). One was 1–2 n. miles N to NW of Pt. Pinos (c. 38° 54' N, 121° 54' W), MTY, 13–15 Jan 2001 (EH, CAS, WS, LST, SBT; 2001-093). This bird was originally found (but not documented) on 13 Jan by a veteran pelagic birding trip skipper in Monterey Bay; it was seen briefly two days later but acceptably described. This record is significant, as the acceptance of the only other winter report for California (24 Feb 1979 in Monterey Bay, MTY; 1979-017) was ultimately overturned (Erickson and Terrill 1996). At its 2003 meeting the Committee decided to reassess this record yet again. Another Greater Shearwater was photographed 15 mi. W of Davenport, SCZ, 8 Oct 2001 (2001-172; TMcG; CK, JPot).

**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus* (65, 4). One seen from Pigeon Pt., SM, 21 May 1999 (RST; 1999-110) was finally accepted on the fourth circulation. One seen from Pt. Piedras Blancas, SLO, 31 May 2001 (RAR; 2001-103) was accepted with one dissenting vote; the dissenter was concerned about the use of a single description to apply to birds seen on different days (records of two seen earlier in May 2001 are still in circulation). One was seen from Southeast Farallon I., SF, 17 Oct



Figure 1. Shy Albatross, *Thalassarche cauta*, 27 July 2001, over Bodega Canyon, off Marin County. Some features suggest that this bird is of the subspecies *salvini*, but that determination remains unresolved.

Photo by Dan W. Nelson

2001 (AB; 2002-009). One 5 mi. off Pt. Vicente, LA, 17 Mar 2001 (MJSM; 2001-067) was the first for Los Angeles County and the southernmost for California.

**MASKED BOOBY** *Sula dactylatra* (16, 1). A subadult was at La Jolla Cove, SD, 30 Dec 2001–10 Jan 2002 (FBe†, WmB†, NF, DFu†, ABL, CAM, GMcC, AM†, JM, RTP, MSanM, LSa†, JWe†, JEZ; 2002-001). Whether this bird should be considered the same as the one later found to the north in Orange County in February and March 2002 (NAB 56:223) is not yet resolved.

**MASKED/NAZCA BOOBY** *Sula dactylatra/granti* (5, 2). Two older records, accepted as the Masked Booby prior to the split by the American Ornithologists' Union (2000), were reevaluated and accepted only to the level of the species pair. One was at 38° 54.24' N, 123° 56.48' W, ca. 10 mi. W of Pt. Arena, MEN, 15 Jun 1997 (M Fo; 1997-130A). This bird was perhaps in its second calendar year; a minority of Committee members concluded that "pale yellowish" in the bill and a broad white cervical collar sufficed to identify the bird as a Masked; see also Rottenborn and Morlan (2000). A juvenile 3 mi. S of White's Pt., LA, 30 Apr 1994 (MSanM, SLW†; 1994-084) was unanimously considered unidentifiable to species within this sibling pair (see also Howell and Pyle 1997). For further information on these species see Pitman and Jehl (1998) and Roberson (1998).

**BROWN BOOBY** *Sula leucogaster* (70, 1). One adult female was 7.7 n. miles SSW of Davenport, SCZ, 20 Oct 2001 (LML†, EP†; 2001-211).

**TRICOLORED HERON** *Egretta tricolor* (32\*\*, 3). One immature was along the southeastern shore of the Salton Sea near the intersection of Lack and Lindsey roads, IMP, 30 Sep–3 Dec 2001 (GMcC; BLaF, NLaF, BM†; 2001-159). One immature was at the Tijuana R. estuary, SD, 29 Dec 2001 (GMcC; 2001-225). An adult was along lower San Diego Creek in Irvine, ORA, 16–29 Sep 2001 (BEDa†; 2002-047). The last record was supported only by photographs, prompting one vote to not accept (the Committee urges observers to augment photographs with written details).

\***REDDISH EGRET** *Egretta rufescens* (93, 13). One adult at the Tijuana River mouth, SD, 25 Aug–23 Dec 2001 (MJl, GMcC; 2001-136) was the same bird with

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a slightly deformed bill that has been wintering in this area each year since first found on 18 Dec 1982; the age of this bird far exceeds the species' maximum published longevity of 12 years, 3 months (Lowther and Paul 2002). New records were of one adult on s. San Diego Bay, SD, 7–12 Sep 2001 (MJI; MBS†; 2001-151); an immature on s. San Diego Bay, SD, 9 Sep–9 Nov 2001 (MJI; GMcC, BCM, MBS†; 2001-148); an immature at the San Diego R. mouth, SD, 1 Jan–18 Apr 2001 (MBM†; 2001-014) and another there 3 Sep 2001–22 May 2002 (DFu†, MJI, GMcC, JM, MPo†; 2001-149); an adult at the San Diego R. mouth 12 Oct 2001–12 Feb 2002 (DFu†, GMcC, JM; 2001-174); an immature at Batiquitos Lagoon, SD, 6 Sep–12 Dec 2001 (GLR; 2001-182); and an adult at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, ORA, 6 Apr 2001 (BEDa; 2001-109). All of these birds were on the extreme southern coast of California where the species is now regular. An immature at the mouth of Bell Creek in Goleta, SBA, 14 Jul–11 Sep 2001 (JSt†; MB, DMC, RAH, NL, MSanM; 2001-117) was north of the areas of regular occurrence. One immature at the Whitewater R. mouth, RIV, 7 Jul 2001 (GMcC; C-TL, BLS†; 2001-115), one immature near Salton City, IMP, 1 Aug 2001 (GMcC; 2001-126), and one 2nd-year bird at Obsidian Butte, IMP, 28 Jul–19 Aug 2001 (LMD†, KZK†, GMcC, PS; 2001-125), joined by an immature 17 Aug–12 Oct 2001 (KZK†; GMcC, PS; 2001-146; Figure 2), were inland at the Salton Sea where the Reddish Egret is casual to rare. An immature at Little Lake, INY, 29 Sep–4 Oct 2001 (JLD, JHe†, TH, JPa, DPa; 2001-217) was also inland and the first for Inyo County. Obviously it is uncertain how many individuals were involved, as traveling up and down the coast by some birds is probable. This spate of reports in 2001 was a factor in the removal of the Reddish Egret from the Review List at the CBRC's January 2002 meeting (McKee and Erickson 2002). The species remains exceptionally rare in the interior (away from the Salton Sea) and on the coast north of Orange County.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** *Nyctanassa violacea* (19, 0). A continuing adult at Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla, SD, was documented 25 Mar–17 Apr 2001 (GMcC; 2001-069); this bird, the same as 2000-074 (McKee and Erickson 2002), was first found in 1981 (Binford 1985). Another returning adult was at Famosa Slough in San Diego, SD, 17–19 May 2001 (MMa†; 2001-105); it was first found with nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) at nearby Sea World Mar–Apr 1998 and seen 3 May 2000 at Famosa Slough, but documentation for those earlier reports was never submitted to the Committee.

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus* (2, 1). An adult in alternate plumage was well studied and photographed at Alviso, SCL, 14–15 May 2001 (MMR†; LCh†, AME, DoG†, MJM, JM, RWR, SBT†; 2001-079; Figure 3). The committee inferred unanimously that a similar adult at nearby Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, 20–21 May 2001 (PD, SJ, RJR; 2001-104) was the same individual as at Alviso. At both sites this Glossy Ibis was associating with a group of migrant White-faced Ibises (*P. chihii*). The previous accepted record of the Glossy Ibis for California was from Imperial County 1–15 Jul 2000 (Patten and Lasley 2000, McKee and Erickson 2002); other records from that period in Imperial County are still under review.

**EMPEROR GOOSE** *Chen canagica* (66, 3). Two were at Klamath, DN, about 20 Dec 2001–20 Jan 2002 (MS†; LB†; 2002-008). One was at Bodega Harbor, SON, 23 Dec 2001–21 Apr 2002 (WBo†, LWC†, JM, BDP, DEQ, RR, RS†; 2002-004). One was on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 25 Dec 2001–4 Mar 2002 (BW†; 2002-010). Surprisingly, although there are now 66 records of the Emperor Goose for California, none were submitted for the period 24 Feb 1997–20 Dec 2001.

**TRUMPETER SWAN** *Cygnus buccinator* (30, 4). Two adults were near Marysville, YUB, 14 Dec 2000 (BEDe; 2000-158); the record received one dissenting vote, based in part on forehead shape and pattern. One adult was near Nelson, BUT, 5 Jan 2001



Figure 2. Immature (left) and adult Reddish Egrets, *Egretta rufescens*, 17 August 2001 at Obsidian Butte, south end of Salton Sea, Imperial Co. Exceptional numbers of this species were recorded on the southern coast and in the interior of California in 2001.

Photo by Kenneth Z. Kurland

(JSn; 2001-020). Two adults were 3 mi. S of Alturas, MOD, 26 Jan 2001 (WmB; 2001-036). One was at Tule Lake NWR, SIS, 30 Dec 2001 (MDo; 2002-060).

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* (7, 1). An adult was at Lake Almanor, PLU, 19 Dec 2001 (CD; 2002-040). Questions of both natural origin and movement of individuals have plagued the few reports of this species in California, but this one was accepted unanimously.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis*. (30, 1). One, apparently a second-year bird, was at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Park, INY, 25 May 2001 (AME; 2001-088), fitting the late-May-to-July pattern of occurrence that accounts for 80% of California's records; a third of the state's records are from Furnace Creek Ranch.

GREATER SAND-PLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultii*. (1, 1). California's (and North America's) first was exhaustively documented from Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 29 Jan-8 Apr 2001 (SA, SNGH†; KMB, LWC, MDe‡, JF†, KLG, SK, PLaT†, LML‡, MJM, GMcC, JM, PP, RWR, MMR†, MSanM, LSa†, RS†; 2001-033; Figure 4). The inch-thick package for this record contains descriptions, slides, prints, sketches, identification references, and other documentation and supplementary material, along with Committee members' comments; these are reinforced by videotape. Details of this record were provided by Abbott et al. (2001). Certainly Committee members and California birders in general will no longer make the assumption that the Mongolian Plover (*C. mongolicus*) is the "default" member of this species pair to



Figure 3. Adult Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*, at Alviso, Santa Clara Co., May 2001; this bird, the first for northern California, and representing California's second accepted record, was also reported just to the north in Alameda County on 20 and 21 May 2001.

Photo by Don Ganton

occur in California. The American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Classification and Nomenclature has not yet proposed a convention for the orthography of this species' English name, which has been variously written as Greater Sandplover, Greater Sand Plover, and Greater Sand-Plover. The last best fits that committee's decision to follow the recommendations of Parkes (1978) in forming compound English names, although the AOU's use of "Common Ringed Plover" for *C. hiaticula* indicates some latitude here.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*. (9, 1). One was photographed northeast of Calipatria, IMP, 22–23 Jan 2001 (ABr; 2001-071; Figure 5), representing the first record for southern California and the first winter record for the United States (previous California records fall between 22 August and 21 November). The bird was in a flock of Mountain Plovers (*C. montanus*), a common wintering species in the Imperial Valley. The only other winter record of the dotterel for North America was of one near La Misión, Baja California, ca. 150 km southwest of Calipatria, 30 Jan–1 March 1998 (Erickson et al. 2001). Both locations match the latitude at which most Eurasian Dotterels winter in north Africa and the Middle East (Cramp 1983).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus*. (18, 1). One at Royal Palms State Beach, Palos Verdes Peninsula, LA, 24 Dec 2001 (DMH; 2002-054) appeared to be a "pure" *H. p. frazari*. There is at least one other record of the American Oystercatcher from this locality, along with several likely representing hybrids with the Black Oystercatcher (*H. bachmani*). Extensive hybridization and





Figure 4. The exhaustive documentation of North America's first Greater Sand Plover, *Charadrius leschenaultii*, included in-hand measurements and plumage analysis after the bird was trapped at Stinson Beach, Marin Co., on 15 March 2001.

Photo by Steve N. G. Howell

introgression between the American and Black oystercatchers on the Pacific coast of Baja California (with occasional interbreeding likely on the southern California Channel Islands as well) makes assessment of many individuals problematic (see below under records not accepted; Jehl 1985).

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* (1, 1). A juvenile extensively photographed at the Mad R. estuary in McKinleyville, HUM, 27 Aug–15 Sep 2001 (LCo†, MC, JLD, MWE, EE, NF, PAG, EG†, RLeV†, IML†, MJM, SMcA†, GMcC, TMcK, MSanM, JM, BDP, DEQ, MMR, LSa†, TS, RSu†, DW; 2001-137) was not only the first in California, it was also the first on the Pacific coast of North America south of western Alaska. A photograph appeared on the cover of *W. Birds* 33 (1), 2002. Another sighting in the same area 18–23 Oct 2002, apparently of an adult, is currently under review.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* (17, 1). One was on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 23–28 Aug 2001 (JT†; 2002-011); two-thirds of California's records are from the period from late August through September.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* (9, 1). One adult in alternate plumage was at Moss Landing, MTY, 13–14 Jul 2001 (DGe; DR, DSS†, JSo†; 2001-120); all but two of California's accepted records have been for July.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (30, 4). Single alternate-plumaged adults were at Edwards Air Force Base, KER, 24 Jul 2001 (MSanM; DVB, JCW; 2001-123), San Elijo Lagoon, SD, 9 Aug 2001 (DVB†; GMcC, AM†; 2001-129), Tule Lake N.W.R., MOD, 18 Aug 2001 (RE; 2001-139), and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, ORA, 17–21 Sep 2001 (SS; MJJ; 2001-152). These four records from a two-month period match the species' highest previous annual total, in 1981; the Kern and Modoc records were county firsts. The preponderance of records of adults in fall suggests that juveniles are perhaps being overlooked.



Figure 5. California's first winter Eurasian Dotterel, *Charadrius morinellus*, was photographed near Calipatria, Imperial Co., 21 January 2001.

Photo by Aaron Brees

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (78, 1). An adult was at Lake Perris, RIV, 28 Jan–15 Mar 2001 (MFr; HK, RF, JM, GMcC, JHo, MSanM; 2001-034).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (19, 0). A returning adult was at Salton Sea State Recreation Area, RIV, 26 Jan–25 Mar 2001 (CMcG†; 2001-073) and again 11 Nov 2001–28 Feb 2002 (LMD†, JM, MSanM; 2001-202). Another returning adult was at the nearby Whitewater R. mouth at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 10 Jan–6 Feb 2001 (SGI; CMcG†; 2001-039). An adult was at Lake Cunningham in San Jose, SCL, 16 Dec 2001–22 Mar 2002 (MMR†, BG; 2002-023); this bird was first discovered as a second-winter bird in October 1997 (Erickson and Hamilton 2001).

RED-LEGGED KITTIIWAKE *Rissa brevirostris* (2, 1). A female, in at least in its third calendar year, was found in emaciated condition in a residential area of Ross, MRN, 13 Feb 2001 and died at a rehabilitation facility during the night of 13–14 Feb (RS†; #CAS 88973; 2001-066). It was actively growing its 9th primary (10th old). A photograph appears in NAB 55:248, 2001. California's only previous Red-legged Kittiwake was found under similar circumstances in Anaheim, ORA, 28 February 1996 (McCaskie and San Miguel 1999).

SOOTY TERN *Sterna fuscata* (8, 1). One 10.8 mi. WSW of Tomales Pt., MRN, 26 Aug 2001 (RS†; AD, TLE, GGr†, SHe†, CL, LML†, DMacK†, BDP, EP†, JWw, JW; 2001-184; Figure 6) was the first for California north of Ventura County, although there is a specimen record for Alaska (Dickerman et al. 1998).

LONG-BILLED MURRELET *Brachyramphus perdix* (11, 4). Single birds in basic (or first alternate?) plumage 0.5 km offshore 1 km s. of the Aptos Creek mouth, SCZ, 23 Aug 2001 (LHe†; 2001-179), off the Eel R. mouth, HUM, 11 Sep 2001 (EE†; 2001-194), off the Little R. mouth, HUM, 21 Sep 2001 (EE†; 2001-195), and 1 mi. ESE of Año Nuevo I., SM, 18 Oct 2001 (LHe†; 2001-175) were all found by persons monitoring Marbled Murrelets (*B. marmoratus*).



Figure 6. This adult or near adult Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata*, flew past an organized pelagic trip 10.8 miles west-southwest of Tomales Point, Marin Co., 26 August 2001, for northern California's first record.

Photo by Dave MacKenzie

**RUDDY GROUND-DOVE** *Columbina talpacoti* (73, 1). A male was at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 20–22 Oct 2001 (KL†, MSanM; 2001-204).

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** *Cynanthus latirostris* (58, 1). A male was seen briefly but adequately described at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Pt. Loma, SD, 22 Oct 2001 (REW; 2001-215).

**GREATER PEWEE** *Contopus pertinax* (35, 1). One at the Pomona Cemetery, Pomona, LA, 1 Dec 2001–28 Feb 2002 (ABL, CAM†, DPa†, DPe†, MSanM; 2001-209) fit the species' typical pattern of winter vagrancy.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax flaviventris* (14, 1). A juvenile was banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 4 Oct 2001 (JT; RDB†, KNN†; 2002-013; Figure 7).

**DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (64, 3). One was at Bodega Head, SON, 17 Nov 2001 (ERL; LML; 2001-197). One at Lakeside Park, Oakland, ALA, 16 Dec 2001–20 Jan 2002 (ME; CDL†, JM, DEQ; 2001-218) constituted the first record for Alameda County. Another was at Greenwood Cemetery, San Diego, SD, 15 Dec 2001–20 Apr 2002 (JOZ; ML, GMcC, CAM, JRO†, MSanM; 2001-221). These records fit the species' typical late-fall-and-winter pattern in California.

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus crinitus* (45, 2). One in Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay, SON, 5 Oct 2001 (DWN†, ERL; JM, BDP; 2001-185) was the first for Sonoma County. Another was at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, SD, 10–13 Oct 2001 (LMD†; GMcC, MPo†, GLR, REW†; 2001-171).

**THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD** *Tyrannus crassirostris* (15, 0). One returned to the campus of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, LA, 1 Dec 2001–28 Feb



Figure 7. This Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, *Empidonax flaviventris*, was captured and banded on Southeast Farallon Island, 4 October 2001. Note the relatively uniform thin buffy eye ring typical of this species.

Photos by Kristie N. Nelson



Figure 8. This Blue-headed Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*, was captured and banded on Southeast Farallon Island 21 September 2001. The most notable features seen in these photographs include the blue-gray head contrasting with the greenish back, the bold white "spectacles," and the bold white throat contrasting sharply with the sides of the face.

Photos by Kristie N. Nelson

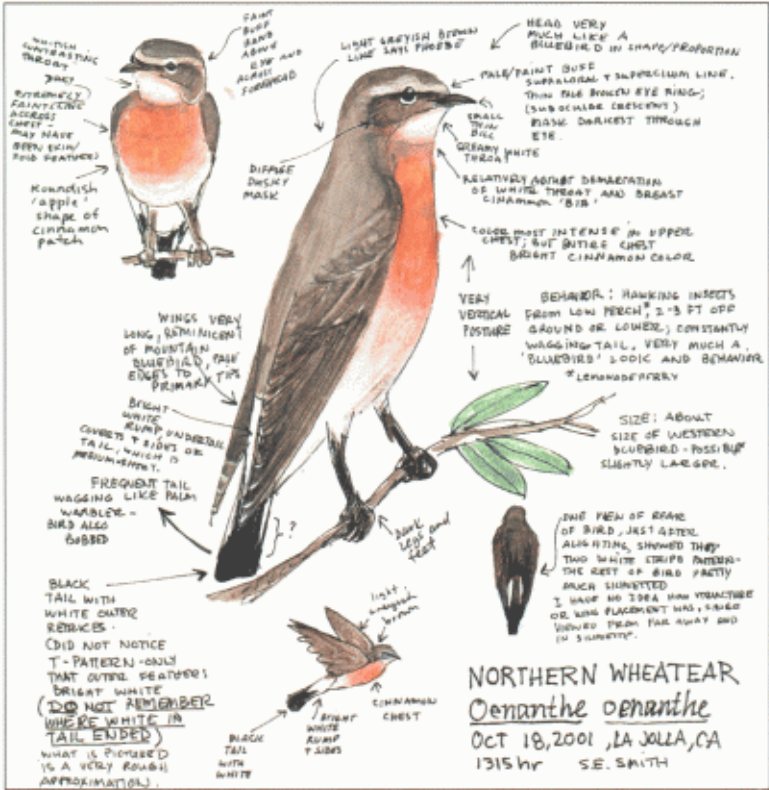


Figure 9. This Northern Wheatear, *Oenanthe oenanthe*, at the La Jolla Coastal Preserve, La Jolla, San Diego Co., 18 October 2001, was only the second ever for southern California.

Sketch by Susan E. Smith

2002 (MSanM; 2001-024) for its tenth consecutive (and apparently final) winter; it was not found during winter 2002–2003.

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (44, 4). One at Pescadero Creek, SM, 6 May 2001 (RST; 2001-127) made the earliest spring record for California. Singing birds were near Cajon Pass, SBE, 15–16 May 2001 (MSanMS; 2001-110), Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 16 May 2001 (JWS; 2001-128), and Elk Head, Trinidad, HUM, 10–17 Jun 2001 (JCP, JAA; 2001-138).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons* (84, 10). The year 2001 yielded an impressive ten records, equal only to the numbers seen in 1992; all birds (even the one in fall) were singing, and one can only guess how many silent birds went undetected. Individuals were at Coyote Creek in s. San Jose, SCL, 13–15 May 2001 (MJM; AME, MMR; 2001-080) for a first county record, Laguna Niguel Regional Park, ORA, 14–17 May 2001 (MDe†; RF; 2001-106), Pt. Reyes, MRN, 15 May

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2001 (RS; JE, JPK; 2001-100), Jawbone Canyon, KER, 19–20 May 2001 (SBT; JCW; 2001-084), Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 19 May 2001 (JM, RF; 2001-085), Lee Vining Creek, MNO, 24 May 2001 (KNN; 2001-121), Rancho Sierra Vista near Newbury Park, VEN, 28 May 2001 (SS; MPo; 2001-087), Butterbreed Springs, KER, 3 Jun 2001 (LC; 2001-116), and Pine Valley, SD, 11–16 Jun 2001 (MBM; PAG, GMcC; 2001-097). The fall record was of a bird at Big Sycamore Canyon, VEN, 7–8 Oct 2001 (MSanM; DPet; 2001-203).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius* (14, 4). One was on the Oxnard Plain, VEN, 11–18 Feb 2001 (DV; MSM; 2001-054). A fall migrant was banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 21 Sep 2001 (KNN†; AB; 2002-014; Figure 8), and others were at Shay Park, Arcata, HUM, 3–4 Oct 2001 (DFi; 2001-165) and Galileo Hill Park, KER, 22 Oct 2001 (TEW; MSanM†; 2001-205).

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (74, 1). One was at Goleta, SBA, 7–8 Oct 2001 (DMC; RC, NL; 2001-169).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* (11, 1). One at the La Jolla Coast Preserve in La Jolla, SD, 18 Oct 2001 (DAu, SES; GMcC, JOZ; 2001-177; Figure 9) was endorsed with a 9–1 vote. The dissenting member expressed concern that other wheatears, particularly the Isabelline (*O. isabellina*), were not ruled out. This is the first Northern Wheatear for San Diego County and only the second for southern California; all but one of California's records are from the period 15 Sep–10 Nov.

EYEBROWED THRUSH *Turdus obscurus* (1, 1). A male at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 28 May 2001 (SBT†, LST†, JSe; RAE, JI, GMcC, BSt†; 2001-086) represented the first record for California of this Asiatic species. Its discovery in spring at this desert locale defies precedent, as virtually all vagrant Siberian breeders are recorded in fall and nearly always along the coast. In North America, this species occurs regularly in the Aleutian Is., primarily in spring, and has occurred casually in the Pribilof Is. and northern Alaska (AOU 1998). Given the spring date, this bird undoubtedly spent the previous winter somewhere in the Western Hemisphere.

RUFIOUS-BACKED ROBIN *Turdus rufopalliatu*s (10, 1). One was near Mayflower Park in Blythe, RIV, 11–14 Nov 2001 (GGr†, MJM, GMcC, MMR†, MSanM, ES; 2001-193).

\*GRAY CATBIRD *Dumetella carolinensis* (110, 2). A bird found on San Nicolas I., VEN, 8 Nov 1998 (RDB; 1999-081) required four rounds before being accepted. Concerns focused on the rather sparse documentation that was not written at the time of observation. In the end nine members endorsed it. Another catbird was in Cabrillo National Monument, Point Loma, SD, 31 Oct 1999–21 Jan 2000 (GMcC; 2001-162). Records of this species after 1999 are not reviewed by the Committee.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (31, 2). One at California City, KER, 21 May 2001 (JLF; 2001-113) was accepted 9–1 with one Committee member concerned about discrepancies between the written description and the sketch. Another was at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 28 May 2001 (SBT; 2001-092).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (66, 3). A second-year male was banded on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 25 May 2001 (MG; CDelT†; 2001-130). A female was at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 13 Jun 2001 (KL; 2001-133). Another female was at the Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, ORA, 30 Dec 2001–12 Jan 2002 (LDT; CAM, JM; MSanM; 2002-025).

BLUE-WINGED × GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (4, 1). A female photographed at Cabrillo National Monument, Pt. Loma, SD, 15–19 May 2001 (PAG; ABL, MMat, GMcC, GLR; 2001-082; Figure 10) was submitted, but not accepted, as a Golden-winged (see "Records Not Accepted, Identification Not Established" below). At its

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2003 meeting the Committee voted to accept it as belonging to this hybrid combination, with two members still supporting the identification as a "pure" Golden-winged.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** *Dendroica dominica* (90, 3). One near the intersection of Sequence Drive and Mira Mesa Boulevard, San Diego, SD, 24 Jan–21 Mar 2001 (TRC; GMcC, GLR, GCH; 2001-060) and one at Refugio State Beach, SBA, 12–26 May 2001 (JSt; HK, PK, RC, DMC; 2001-078) were both thought to be of the more frequently occurring subspecies *albiflora*. The description of a bird in Solana Beach, SD, 24 Oct 2001 (PAG; 2001-190) suggested the yellow-lored race *dominica*.

**GRACE'S WARBLER** *Dendroica graciae* (36, 2). One was in Del Mar, SD, 9 Nov 2001 (EC; 2001-191). A first-winter female was at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, SD, 20 Sep 2001–20 Apr 2002 (GMcC; MJI, MPo†, REW†; 2001-153).

**PINE WARBLER** *Dendroica pinus* (63, 3). One was at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Pt. Loma, SD, 4–6 Oct 2001 (REW†; GMcC; 2001-163). Another was on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 7 Oct 2001 (PP; RDB; 2002-016). One wintered in Santa Barbara, SBA, 30 Dec 2001–28 Feb 2002 (HPR; 2002-050).

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** *Helmitheros vermivorus* (92, 3). One at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 22–25 Apr 2001 (TEW; KL†; 2001-101) represented the earliest spring record for this species. One was at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 19–20 Sep 2001 (JWS†; 2001-186). Another was on the University of California, Santa Barbara campus, Goleta, SBA, 30 Nov 2000–12 Jan 2001 (GW; LRB, DMC, NL, CAM, MSanM; 2001-207).

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** *Oporornis agilis* (90, 5). One at Natural Bridges State Beach, SCZ, 1 Oct 2000 (AK; 2000-121) finally garnered the required nine votes in the third round. One found in weakened condition in Pacific Grove, MTY, 12 Sep 1998 was taken to the local S. P. C. A. shelter where it died on 17 Sep 1998 and was preserved as a live mount (EM†; #PGM2428; 2002-051). Another was at the Pt. Reyes lighthouse, MRN, 22 Sep 2001 (JLD; LML; 2001-212). Additional birds were at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 23 Sep 2001 (LCo†; JSe; 2001-158) and on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 23 Sep–4 Oct 2001 (KNN†; AB†, PP; 2002-017; Figure 11).

**MOURNING WARBLER** *Oporornis philadelphia* (113, 4). Two records—of one at Harkins Slough, SCZ, 17 Jun 1998 (DLS; 1999-025) and one at California City, KER, 25 Sep 1999 (JLD; RF, MTH, GMcC, JM, MAP, GHR†, JCW†; 1999-165; Figure 12)—required four and three rounds, respectively, to resolve, illustrating the difficulties the Committee sometimes encounters with this species. In the case of the latter record, the bird was seen by many experienced observers and was adequately documented with written descriptions, videotape, and photographs. Although it had several characteristics consistent with the Mourning Warbler (including call, long undertail coverts, and some yellow on the throat), considerable concern about the presence and relative thickness of eye-crescents caused many committee members to raise the possibility of its being a MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*) or perhaps a hybrid Mourning × MacGillivray's warbler. Subsequently, Heindel (in comments) suggested that the eye-crescents on the bird were within the range of variation known in Mourning Warbler, and specimen photographs provided by Gary H. Rosenberg further demonstrated this point. Additionally, the late inclusion of a videotape had audio of the bird's call, which was thought to be diagnostic of Mourning Warbler. Two more Mourning Warblers were on Southeast Farallon I., SF: 4–5 Oct 2001 (KNN†; 2002-019) and 7 Oct 2001 (PP†; 2002-018).

**SCARLET TANAGER** *Piranga olivacea* (115, 12). Twelve birds recorded in 2001 were more than in any previous year, exceeding the previous record of nine in 1987;



Figure 10. Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera* x *V. pinus*, at Point Loma, San Diego Co., 19 May 2001. Note the fairly extensive yellow on the breast and belly of this female, indicating a hybrid.

Photo by Matthew Matthiessen

all records were from the southern half of the state. Males were in California City, KER, 11 May 2001 (JCW; 2001-111); at Montana de Oro State Park campground, SLO, 30 May 2001 (MDS; 2001-090); and at Live Oak, SCZ, 27 Jun 2001 (DLS; 2001-141). Single birds were at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, SD, 9 Oct 2001 (JWo, GMcC; 2001-170), 22–28 Oct 2001 (GCH; DWAt, LHu, GMcC; 2001-181), and 29 Oct–10 Nov 2001 (JWo; MUE; 2001-200), and another was in a nearby residential area 27–28 Oct 2001 (GMcC; SES; 2001-183; Figure 13). Additionally, single birds were at Laguna Grande Park, Seaside, MTY, 14–17 Oct 2001 (AC; BH†; 2001-156); La Jolla, SD, 19 Oct 2001 (PAG; 2001-178); San Clemente I., LA, 26 Oct 2001 (BLS; 2002-029); Goleta, SBA, 14–17 Nov 2001 (DMC, PG†, PK; 2001-196); and Oceano Campground, Oceano, SLO, 28–29 Nov 2001 (KJZ; 2001-219).

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Aimophila cassinii* (45, 4). Singing birds were noted in Chiquita Canyon near San Juan Capistrano, ORA, 1–4 Jun 2001 (DRW; 2001-118), in Upper Grasshopper Canyon near Castaic, LA, 8 Jun 2001 (BEDa; MSanM; 2001-112), and in Weldon, KER, 10–13 Jun 2001 (BB; JCW; 2001-135); the last two provided the first records for Los Angeles and Kern counties, respectively. One on San Clemente I., LA, 2 Nov 2001 (BLS†, SL, JHP; 2001-192; Figure 14) was only the ninth recorded in California in fall. Interestingly, all other fall records are from Southeast Farallon I., SF.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius pictus* (6, 1). One with Lapland (*C. lapponicus*) and Chestnut-collared (*C. ornatus*) longspurs near Calipatria, IMP, 31 Dec 2001–16 Jan 2002 (TE; GCH, GMcC; 2002-002) was the first for Imperial County and the first to be found in winter in California.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (71, 1). One of indeterminate age and sex was at Montgomery Creek Ranch near Benton, MNO, 10–11 Feb 2001 (DH; CB; 2001-059).





Figure 11. This Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*, was captured and banded on Southeast Farallon Island, 23 September 2001.

*Photo by Kristie N. Nelson*



Figure 12. The relative thickness of the eye crescents on this Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis philadelphia*, photographed in California City, Kern Co., 25 September 1999, proved to be somewhat problematic for the committee. The calls of this bird, heard on the audio portion of a videotape, helped establish its identification.

*Photo by John C. Wison*

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PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (88, 7). An adult male at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 26–27 May 2000 (MJS; 2000-086) required three rounds to gain acceptance, as records of spring males generate concern about natural origin. A immature banded at Coyote Creek Field Station, Alviso, SCL, 30 Sep 2000 (RiC; 2002-129) was a first for Santa Clara County. A green bird visiting a feeder in Encinitas, SD, 21–22 Oct 2000 (KA; SW; 2000-146) and a female at Cabrillo National Monument, Pt. Loma, SD, 16 May 2001 (GCH; ABL; 2001-083) also raised concerns about natural occurrence; both records went two circulations before acceptance. Additionally, individuals were in Bishop, INY, 22 Aug 2001 (DPa; 2002-030), at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 5 Sep 2001 (JWS; 2001-187), and Natural Bridges SB, SCZ, 4–6 Oct 2000 (SGe; TME, JG; 2002-022). The four accepted records for 2000 bring to 13 the number of accepted records for that year.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (54, 3). Birds were at Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area, Encino, LA, 24 May–11 Jun 2001 (KLG; 2001-094; Figure 15), in Guerneville, SON, 23 Dec 2001–20 Jan 2002 (PP; KMB, LWC, CDL; JM, BDP, DEQ, RS; 2001-227), and near Rovana, INY, 15–18 Dec 2001 (JLD; 2002-043).

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. A large, pale loon at Manila Park, Humboldt Bay, HUM, 13 Dec 2001(2002-052) was thought by many Committee members to likely have been a Yellow-billed, but lack of details on bill color and head pattern led a majority to consider the identification not established.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*. One was reported with Sooty Shearwaters (*P. griseus*) from shore at the Salinas River mouth, MTY, 20 Sep 2001 (2001-157), but the brevity of the observation and incomplete description led Committee members to consider the identification only probable.

RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon rubricauda*. One was reported from a low flying Partenavia P-68 Observer aircraft, a twin-engine wing-over plane used for marine-mammal surveys, at 32° 24' N, 120° 40' W off Ventura County 14 Aug 1998 (1998-159). The record generated much discussion of the efficacy of identifying birds from aircraft, leading to a consensus that identification can often be straightforward once observers adjust to the dramatic change in viewing angle. Ultimately, however, concerns about the described dorsal pattern and the bird's flight characteristics led to the record's rejection.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*. One at Twentynine Palms, SBE, 29–31 Aug 1999 (1999-143) would have been California's first (Patten and Lasley 2000). The bird's age was uncertain, but it was likely in its first or second calendar year. The distant photographs showed no diagnostic characters, and some Committee members were uneasy about applying the well-described facial pattern to immature birds.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator*. A report of "perhaps four or five adults and juveniles" at Yuba City, SUT, 22 Jan 2001 (2001-021) received no support.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus*. One seen in flight at Newport Beach, ORA, 6 Feb 1999 (1999-065) showed some influence of the Black Oystercatcher and was considered a possible hybrid by half the Committee members. One at Eel Pt. on San Clemente I., LA, 24 Apr 2001 (2001-114) was seen too briefly for several characters to be noted, and a hybrid Black × American Oystercatcher could not be ruled out.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. The report of one at Blythe, RIV, 1 Sep 2001 (2001-150) was intriguing, yet another of a species considered overdue in California. Although most Committee members believed the bird was likely a Wood

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Sandpiper, the level of documentation was not high enough for acceptance of a first state record by a single observer.

GRAY-TAILED TATTLER *Heteroscelus brevipes*. The report of one at Kehoe Beach, Pt. Reyes, MRN, 24–26 May 1998 (1998-099) was one of the more difficult the Committee has dealt with. Described and sketched in detail by careful and experienced observers, the bird nevertheless generated considerable debate on calls and morphological characters. The calls heard did not include the typical disyllabic note of the Gray-tailed but a mellow whistled series, recalling a Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). Ultimately members accepted that the call could fit a Gray-tailed, but some were not convinced it ruled out a Wandering Tattler (*H. incanus*). Problems with assessment of the maxillary groove and with some plumage characters led to the record's falling barely short of acceptance (it received eight accept votes on the 3rd and 4th rounds). There remains only one accepted record for California.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*. One at Dockweiler State Beach, El Segundo, LA, 12 Jan 2001 (2001-038) was described as "all white," ruling out the claimed species.

RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa brevirostris*. Experienced observers reported one on the water with three Black-legged Kittiwakes (*R. tridactyla*) 7 miles w. of Davenport, SCZ, 26 Feb 2001 (2001-095). Several important characters (including leg/foot color) were not noted, and the bird was not observed in flight. Although most described features were highly suggestive of the claimed species, some members felt that the description did not satisfactorily eliminate the Mew Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*).

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax*. One reported from Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, MTY, 15 Apr 2001 (2001-075) was unanimously not accepted as members felt the details were inadequate to support what would be the first record of a spring vagrant for the state. Except for a dozen wintering birds lingering until March or April, there are no accepted spring records for this bird in California.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum*. One banded and photographed on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 21 Aug 1991 (1993-101) was re-evaluated by the Committee after failing to gain acceptance in 1994; see discussion by McKee and Erickson (2002). After reasonable support in the first round, the record was not accepted in the second round 1–9 with most committee members concluding that the bird was quite possibly an Alder Flycatcher but unconvinced that the eastern subspecies of the Willow Flycatcher (*E. t. campestris/traillii*) was ruled out. There remain just four accepted records for the Alder Flycatcher in California.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer*. Most Committee members found the description of one at the Ventura Game Preserve near Port Hueneme, VEN, 29 May 2001 (2001-096) inadequate in view of this unprecedented late date; it received only one lukewarm endorsement.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius*. One at Pescadero Creek, SM, 2 Jan 1999 (1999-087) received an 8–2 vote in its first round with both dissenting members concerned that the description of "thin greenish edgings" to the rectrices would be better for Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*). While most members felt that there was a possibility the bird seen was indeed a Blue-headed Vireo, by the fourth round support had waned and the record was not accepted 3–7. The multiple descriptions of a singing bird reported at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 2–3 Jun 2001 (2001-091) were, in the opinion of all Committee members, not exclusive of Cassin's Vireo. Disappointing to several Committee members was the fact that this bird was videotaped, yet only inconclusive video-captured photographs were submitted. While the described song of the bird was intriguing to several members, it was not enough to garner support for this record. One seen at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma, SD, 11 Sep 2001 (2001-214) received no support, the Committee believing that the rather



Figure 13. Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*, 27–28 October 2001, Point Loma, San Diego Co. This sketch represents one of 12 Scarlet Tanagers recorded in California in 2001.

Sketch by Susan E. Smith



Figure 14. This Cassin's Sparrow, *Aimophila cassinii*, photographed on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles Co., 2 November 2001, was only the ninth recorded in California in fall.

Photo by Brian L. Sullivan



Figure 15. This Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*, was photographed in the Sepulveda Basin, Los Angeles Co., 9 June 2001.

Photo by Kimball L. Garrett

brief and incomplete views were insufficient for distinguishing birds of this complex. Another in Blythe, RIV, 30 Sep 2001 (2001-224) was thought possibly to pertain to the Blue-headed Vireo, but in the opinion of most Committee members the rather brief description did not eliminate Cassin's Vireo. One in La Jolla, SD, 6 Oct 2001 (2001-208) was thought by all members to be too briefly seen, with written details too perfunctory to eliminate Cassin's Vireo. Heindel (1996) provided detailed information on this difficult-to-identify complex.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre*. Most Committee members felt the described call of a bird found in Mayflower Park, Blythe, RIV, 22–23 Nov 2001 (2001-223) was good for this species but that the documentation did not eliminate other thrasher species, including Bendire's (*T. bendirei*) and Le Conte's (*T. lecontei*).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera*. When considered initially, a female photographed at Cabrillo National Monument on Pt. Loma, SD, 15–19 May 2001 (2001-082) received a vote of 8–2 in favor of acceptance. But both Dunn and Morlan expressed concern in first-round comments that there was perhaps too much yellow on the breast of this bird, precluding it from being a pure Golden-winged Warbler. The record was recirculated and was not accepted 2–8 in the second round. Golden-winged Warblers frequently hybridize with the closely related Blue-winged, and back-crosses between hybrids and pure birds are common. This bird was clearly not a first-generation hybrid, but perhaps some subsequent back-cross phenotypically most similar to a Golden-winged. At its 2003 meeting, the Committee unanimously voted to accept this bird as a Golden-winged × Blue-winged Warbler, the fourth accepted of this combination in California. Parkes (1951) and Dunn and Garrett (1997) reviewed hybridization of these two species.

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CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis*. One at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 15 Sep 2001 (2001-154) received no support, in part because of the described bill color (blackish) and the lores' being slightly blacker than the hood color, characters wrong for this species. The bird was apparently fairly active, yet the characteristic walking behavior was not noted. The described complete whitish eye-ring was helpful, but the Committee was not comfortable with the rest of the description.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia*. One measured and banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 13 Jun 1998 (1999-015) was almost certainly correctly identified, but there was never any written description of the bird. After four rounds the committee was split, with the dissenting members believing written documentation was essential for acceptance.

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea*. After two rounds the Committee was unanimous that the rather brief description of a bird on Southeast Farallon I., SF 21 Jun 2001 (2001-131) did not rule out a Summer Tanager (*P. rubra*). Several members were also concerned about the described five-note vocalization that was not consistent with their experiences with the Scarlet and better for the Summer.

VARIED BUNTING *Passerina versicolor*. A report of one seen briefly at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, IMP, 12 May 2001 (2001-081) split the committee in the first round. Comments included concern about the described overall color ("Blue Jay" blue, not purplish) and nape color (chestnut, not red), as well as the brevity of the sighting. The Committee was unanimous in the second round. There remain only two accepted records of this species in California.

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE (IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED)

NAZCA BOOBY *Sula granti*. An immature that landed on a sport-fishing boat in Mexican waters at 117° 45' W, 31° 45' N (about 60 n. miles sw. of Pt. Loma SD, or 50 n. miles w. of Punta Banda, Baja California), 27 May 2001, remained on that boat into San Diego, and was taken into care by Project Wildlife after being captured on 29 May (GMcC†, REW†; 2001-107; Figure 16). Identification was accepted on the basis of some acquisition of orange adult bill color and, importantly, through a genetic analysis in the laboratory of Vicki L. Friesen at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada (T. E. Steeves, in litt.; Friesen et al. 2002). The Committee's deliberations centered on the acceptability of records of ship-transported birds and the extent to which the bird might have been induced to remain on the boat by being fed; the record ultimately only received one vote to accept. By a vote at the January 2003 meeting, this species was placed on the state's Supplemental List.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*. One was at Tinemaha Res., INY, 9 Jul 1999 (TH†; 2000-004). The only record that has been accepted after the 1994-96 incursion of these hawks into southern California (Patten and Erickson 2000) was of two or three birds near Indio, RIV, 11-27 Nov 1999 (Rogers and Jaramillo 2002). The Harris's Hawk at Tinemaha Res. was somewhat farther removed from the earlier incursion both temporally and geographically, and half of the Committee questioned its natural occurrence.

PYRRHULOXIA *Cardinalis sinuatus*. A female in Costa Mesa, ORA, 7 Feb-13 Mar 1999 (RAH, GMcC, JM, EGS, JWet†; 1999-078) generated lively (and sometimes heated) comments about the probability of natural occurrence through four equally split rounds. In summary, in spite of three records accepted by the CBRC fitting a "coastal pattern," dissenters did not feel comfortable with this bird's urban location and the fact that this species is commonly held and sold in captivity in



Figure 16. This Nazca Booby, *Sula granti*, came aboard a fishing boat in Mexican waters about 60 miles southwest of San Diego, San Diego Co., riding the boat into San Diego Bay. This photograph was taken in captivity at Project Wildlife, San Diego, 2 June 2001.

Photo by Richard E. Webster

southern California (Hamilton, in comments). Supporters argued that this species is prone to wander and Dunn (in comments) cited its apparent increase in numbers and distribution in southeastern Arizona in winter, as well as recent records of winter and spring vagrants elsewhere in the Southwest. This record exemplifies the difficulties the Committee has in attempting to determine natural occurrence in vagrants.

**PAINTED BUNTING** *Passerina ciris*. An adult male in the Tijuana River Valley, SD, 16–23 Nov 2001 (GMcC; MUE; 2001-198) received only four votes for acceptance, as the majority of Committee members remain cautious about adult males found adjacent to Tijuana, Mexico, where both males and females are commonly sold. An adult male at a feeder in La Mesa, SD, 15 Feb 2001 (LL†; 2001-058) failed to get any support as all members were skeptical of the origin of an adult male in mid-winter visiting a feeder in an urban setting so close to the Mexican border. Most members took a conservative approach about two green individuals found in winter. One in the Tijuana R. Valley, SD, 29 Dec 2001 (GMcC; 2001-226) and one at a feeder in Dana Point, ORA, 12 Jan 2001 (DaG; 2001-077) each managed just three votes to accept. Because of the Committee's prevailing views on natural occurrence, there remain no accepted winter records for this species in California.

**BLACK-BACKED ORIOLE** *Icterus abeillei*. An adult male at Smuggler's Gulch on the south side of the Tijuana River valley, SD, 9 Apr–1 Jul 2000 (JEH; MDe†, JLD, PAG, SHa, GCH†. GMcC, JM, DN†, HLP, MPa, DEQ, MSanM, DS†; 2000-073) and returning 28 Apr–4 Jul 2001 (AME; DVBT†, CAM, GMcC, MJM, MAP, MMR; 2001-074) was associating with nesting Bullock's Orioles *Icterus bullockii*, apparently arriving and departing with them, and eventually enjoyed the full support of the

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Committee. The discovery of the bird at the same locale 2–13 Jan 2002 (CGE, GMcC, CHR; 2002-020) caused most members to adopt a more conservative position, because the bird had not migrated south with Bullock's Orioles. Ultimately, both this winter record and the records from 2000 and 2001 were not accepted 2–8. There are no records for this Mexican endemic in the United States (Jaramillo and Burke 1999).

### ADDENDUM AND CORRIGENDA

The following corrections pertain to the 26th report of the CBRC (McKee and Erickson 2002). The Shy Albatross (record 2000-129) in Figure 1 was photographed on 10 Sep 2000 (not 2002 as indicated in the caption); the date in the text is correct. Peter Famolaro was inadvertently omitted as the original observer of the White-eyed Vireo along the Sweetwater River in the Otay–Sweetwater Unit of San Diego N.W.R., Spring Valley, SD, 5–15 Jul 2002 (2000-108). Under “Records Not Accepted, Identification Not Established”, the correct record number for the Arctic Loon is 2000-040.

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