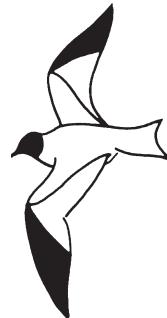


# WESTERN BIRDS



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## THE 32<sup>ND</sup> REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2006 RECORDS

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**ABSTRACT:** The California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 264 records involving 83 species evaluated during 2006, endorsing 225 of them. New to California were Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) and the Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*); the Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*) was removed from the state list. Adjusted for these changes, California's bird list stands at 633 species, ten of which are non-native; three additional species recently accepted will be covered in the next report.

This 32<sup>nd</sup> report of the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the CBRC or the committee) is the first annual report to be published after the publication of *Rare Birds of California* (CBRC 2007), a book summarizing the status of all vagrants and rare migrants in the state and detailing all of the committee's decisions from its inception through 2004. In this book, Appendix H covers selected records from 2004 through 2006 but does not include all records from that period; therefore, the simple addition of records in this report to those in the book could result in incorrect totals since some records were covered in Appendix H and others were not. This report discusses the evaluation of 264 records of 83 species. Although most records pertain to birds found in 2006, the period covered by this report extends from 1915 through 2007. The committee accepted 225 records involving 221 individuals of 77 species, for an acceptance rate of 85%. Thirty-four records of 26 species were not accepted because of insufficient documentation or because descriptions were inconsistent with known identification criteria. Five additional records of four species were not accepted because of questions concerning the birds' natural occurrence. Counties best represented by accepted records are Imperial (22 records), San Diego (21), Los Angeles (15), Humboldt (12), Monterey (12), Riverside (11), San Francisco (10, all from Southeast Farallon I.), Inyo (9), Santa Barbara (9), Marin (8), Mendocino (8), Orange (8), Santa Cruz (7), and Kern (6).

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Highlights of this report include California's first Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) and Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*), second American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), and the earliest accepted records of the Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*), Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*), Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), and Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*). A previous decision to accept the Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*) was reversed.

In 2007 the committee accepted first records for California of Newell's Shearwater (classified as subspecies *Puffinus auricularis newelli* of Townsend's Shearwater in the current A.O.U. checklist [1998]), Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*), and Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*); complete details will be published in the next report. In addition, the committee currently is considering potential first state records of Tristram's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tristrami*), Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), Yellow Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysopcephalus*), and Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*). With the addition of two species in 2006, three in 2007, and the removal of Little Shearwater, California's list stands at 636 species, ten of which are nonnative and two of which have been extirpated within historical times.

This report's acceptance rate of 85% exceeds the average of 79.6% for all reports, perhaps because of the increasing use of digital photography to support identifications that otherwise might have been supported only with written descriptions. The total of 264 records reviewed in this report is above the average of 214.4 records per report over the committee's first 30 reports.

The list of species reviewed by the CBRC is posted at the Western Field Ornithologists' (WFO) web site ([www.westernfieldornithologists.org](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.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 some of several birds addressed 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 members' comments on records submitted are archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA 93012, and are available for public review. The CBRC solicits and encourages observers to submit documentation for all species on the review list, as well as species unrecorded in California. 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)).

### News and Format

**Committee News.** The committee's voting membership after the January 2008 annual meeting consisted of David M. Compton (chair), Jon L. Dunn (vice-chair), Alvaro Jaramillo, Kristie N. Nelson, James E. Pike, Peter Pyle, Brian L. Sullivan, Scott B. Terrill, and Jim Tietz. Guy McCaskie continued in his role as non-voting secretary. Additional committee members who also voted on many of the records in this report include Kimball L. Garrett, Matthew T. Heindel, Marshall J. Iliff, Joseph Morlan, and Daniel S. Singer.

As noted by Shuford (2006) and Iliff et al. (2007), *California Birds/Western Birds* is now available online via SORA, the Searchable Ornithological Research Archives (<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora>), and all previously published CBRC reports through 2005 can be accessed through that site.

**Format and Abbreviations.** As in other recent CBRC reports, records are generally listed chronologically from earliest to latest date of occurrence, and/or geographically, from north to south. Each record includes 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*). 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 alphabetized 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 video, (\$) indicates a voice recording, and (#) indicates a specimen record, followed by the acronym (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's review list.

In this report, the first number in parentheses after the species' name is the number of *individual birds* accepted by the CBRC through this report, not the number of accepted *records*; the number of individual birds may be higher than the number of records as historically the committee has treated groups of individuals appearing together with a single record number (e.g., a flock of Common Redpolls, *Carduelis flammea*). The second number is the number of new individuals accepted in this report (because this number excludes records thought to pertain to returning individuals treated in previous reports, 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. In such cases 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. If a bird is considered a returning individual, the total number of individuals 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 a strong majority or consensus is achieved). We report much of this information; the diagnosis of age, sex, or subspecies is our opinion, based on the evidence in the files and committee members' comments. Our terminology for age follows that used by the CBRC (2007).

The CBRC uses standard abbreviations for California counties; those used in this report are ALA, Alameda; BUT, Butte; DN, Del Norte; GLE,

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Glenn; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; KIN, Kings; LAK, Lake; LAS, Lassen; LA, Los Angeles; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MNO, Mono; MTY, Monterey; NEV, Nevada; ORA, Orange; RIV, Riverside; SAC, Sacramento; 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; SHA, Shasta; SIS, Siskiyou; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; TRI, Trinity; VEN, Ventura; YOL, Yolo. A list of county abbreviations for all 58 California counties is available on the WFO-CBRC web site and in CBRC (2007). Other abbreviations used: Cr., creek; I., island; L., lake; Mt., mountain; n. miles, nautical miles; N.W.R., national wildlife refuge; Pt., point; R., river; W.A., wildlife area; W.M.A., wildlife management area.

Museum collections housing specimens cited in this report, allowing access to committee members for research, or otherwise cited, are the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles (LACM); Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley (MVZ); San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego (SDNHM); Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara (SBNHM), and the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo (WFVZ).

### RECORDS ACCEPTED

EMPEROR GOOSE *Chen canagica* (87, 4). Three records of four birds were accepted as follows: one was photographed in the Smith R. bottoms, DN, 2–10 Apr 2006 (OHT; 2006-048); two were seen at the mouth of the Big R., MEN, 24 Nov 2006 (DT; RHu, DJ; 2007-007), and one was photographed at Arcata, HUM, 27–28 Nov 2006 (KRT; 2006-195). The April record is one of California's few of this species in spring.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (75, 8). A vocal flock of eight near Willows, GLE, 15–17 Jan 2006 was with Tundra Swans (*C. columbianus*), providing great comparisons of these two species (CL, LL‡; 2006-010). See also records not accepted, identification not established and records not accepted, identification accepted but natural occurrence questionable.

ARCTIC LOON *Gavia arctica* (5, 1). A severely ill bird was picked up at Newport Beach, ORA, and euthanized 5 Jul 2006 (SK, KLG; LACM #114223; 2006-106). The culmen measurements were within the norm of the Arctic and exceeded those of the largest male Pacific (*G. pacifica*) from the LACM collection; all plumage criteria fit the Arctic as well. This specimen is the first of the Arctic Loon for California and represents the first record for California south of San Luis Obispo, though there is a more southerly record from Baja California, 21 Feb 1997 (Erickson and Howell 2001).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (76, 2). One in molt, suggesting it summered in our waters, was photographed on Humboldt Bay, HUM, 13 Aug–22 Sep 2006 (CBu; SCT, KB, RFo; 2006-104), earlier than the previous early record of 17 Aug 2002 from Westport, MEN, also likely of a summering bird (Cole and McCaskie 2004). A juvenile was at Pescadero, SM, 18–27 Nov 2006 (FT; LBT, AE, KHLT, CLo†, JMT, DSS, SBT†; 2006-187; Figure 1; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:136). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* (18, 2). An immature was seen 10 mi. sw. of Morro Bay, SLO, 19 Apr 2006 (PEL; 2006-060); a juvenile was



Figure 1. This crisp, close-up photograph provides great detail on the key identification marks of the Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) at Pescadero, San Mateo County, 18–27 November 2006. The large pale bill is angled sharply on the lower mandible. Pale areas around the eye contrast with a darker crown and auricular; the back feathers are broadly edged paler, indicating a young bird.

*Photograph by Len Blumin*

found dead at Morro Bay, SLO, 5 Aug 2006 (TME†; SBNHM #8593; 2006-100). The latter bird had been banded as a chick on 25 Apr 2006 on Torishima, Izu Islands, Japan, the species' main breeding site.

MOTTLED PETREL *Pterodroma inexpectata* (59, 1). One was photographed at 32.086° N, 120.584° W off San Nicolas I., VEN, 6 Apr 2006 (JDY, ABD†; 2006-055), at a season when the Mottled Petrel has occurred previously far offshore.

GALAPAGOS/HAWAIIAN PETREL *Pterodroma phaeopygia/sandwichensis* (21, 3). Three fall records fit the emerging pattern of this complex; 17 of 21 records are from mid-July to mid-September. Most surprising was one seen from shore, California's first such record, while it was sitting on the water and then flying away from Pt. Dume, LA, 12 Aug 2006 (KLG; 2006-036). One was photographed off Fort Bragg, MEN, 13 Aug 2006 (M&MB†, DD†, EDG†, OJ, MM†; 2006-109; Figure 2; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:136). The third was photographed 75 n. miles sw. of San Nicolas I. 6 Sep 2006 (SNGH†, WTH; 2006-128). Our understanding of features distinguishing the Hawaiian from the Galapagos Petrel is still evolving, though addressed by Force et al. (2007). Those authors suggested that at least some of the records for California represent the Hawaiian Petrel. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

STREAKED SHEARWATER *Calonectris leucomelas* (15, 2). One photographed off Cypress Point, MTY, 30 Sep 2006 (SNGH, BLST†, SBT, LST†; 2006-135; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:137) looked subtly different on the underwing from another photographed on Monterey Bay, MTY/SCZ, 15 Oct 2006 (SNGH†, JJ†, OJ, CL, DVP; 2006-150; Figure 3; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:137). All California's accepted Streaked Shearwaters are from fall; 15 Oct is our latest date for this species yet.



Figure 2. The combination of head, nape, and underwing pattern identify this bird photographed 13 August 2006 off Ft. Bragg, Mendocino County, as a Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia/sandwichensis*). Force et al. (2007) highlighted the pattern of the dark hood as a feature distinguishing the two taxa formerly classified as one species, the Dark-rumped Petrel; they suggested that California records represent the Hawaiian Petrel.

*Photograph by Matthew Matthiessen*

GREATER SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* (6, 1). One was photographed on Monterey Bay, MTY/SCZ, 15 Oct 2006 (SNGH†, JJ†, OJ, CL, DVP; 2006-151; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:138) for our sixth record, fifth from Monterey Bay.

WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER *Puffinus pacificus* (5, 1). While examining specimens at MVZ, Steve N. G. Howell came across a bird labeled as a Short-tailed Shearwater (*P. tenuirostris*) taken in Santa Cruz, SCZ, 1 Apr 1915 (SNGH†; MVZ #91142; 2007-048); he reidentified it as a dark morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Howell 2007). This specimen predates all other Wedge-tailed Shearwaters for California by 71 years and represents the lone spring record of the species for California; Oregon also has a spring record, from Newport on 26 Mar 1999 (Marshall et al. 2003).

\*MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* (97, 10). Ten records were accepted, comprising one off Pt. Vicente and 5 mi. w. of Marina del Rey, LA, 30 Dec 2005–6 Jan 2006 (JFe, 2006-036); one 10 mi. w. of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 23 Apr 2006 (GSL; 2007-066); one from Pigeon Point, SM, 2 May 2006 (RSTh; 2006-091); one off Pt. Pinos, MTY, 1 Aug 2006 (MB; 2006-101); one off Humboldt Bay, HUM, 10 Aug 2006 (RFo, KR; 2006-114); one from Southeast Farallon I., SF, 23 Aug 2006 (MB; 2007-032); one from Pigeon Pt., SM, 23 Sep 2006 (RSTh; 2007-025); and one off Pt. Pinos, MTY, 15 Oct 2006 (DR; 2006-160). An apparent juvenile on Monterey Bay, SCZ, 15 Oct 2006 provided evidence of the likely breeding of this species in the North Pacific (SNGH†, OJ, JJ†; 2006-167). It was in uniformly fresh plumage, a condition not expected in an adult at this season (S. N. G. Howell pers. comm.). A bird molting its primaries was in Monterey Bay, SCZ, 22 Oct 2006 (OJ, CK†, CAM, LST†, DVPT; 2006-155; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:138).



Figure 3. This photograph of a Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) taken in Monterey Bay on 15 October 2006 shows that the crown is pale, a dingy white, contrasting with a darker mantle. Some mantle feathers are edged pale, imparting the scaly look this species often shows. The dark-tipped bill is a pale straw color. Note the long dark tail, which has some pale whitish upper tail coverts; these upper tail coverts are quite variable, ranging from dark to an obvious white U-shaped band.

*Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell*

The Manx Shearwater is now regular in California, averaging over seven records per year. At the 2008 meeting, the committee voted to discontinue reviewing records of it after 2007.

MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra* (13, 1). A subadult was on the breakwater in San Pedro, LA, 14 Oct 2006 (KLG, SK†; 2006-155; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:143); the yellow rather than orange bill eliminated the similar Nazca Booby (*S. granti*). In addition to the 13 records of the Masked Booby, California has seven records of the Masked or Nazca not identifiable to species (CBRC 2007).

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii* (89, 7). A mini-invasion reached the Salton Sea with up to two individuals at the north end of the sea, RIV, 5 Aug–1 Sep 2006 (MJB†, MB, HD†, OJ†, CAM, GMcC, CMcG†, SJM†, JPu, MSanM, DVPT, 2006-096; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:142) and up to five around Mullet I., IMP, 25 Aug–19 Dec 2006 (GMcC, MJB†, KB, RST; 2006-115)—the largest numbers in California since 1977, when 11 were noted (Roberson 1993).

\*BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (97, 11). Eleven accepted records of single birds, including ten in one year, is a new high count for the state: an immature was found dead at the Tijuana R. mouth, SD, 2 May 2006 (MJB†, SDNBM #51276; 2006-061); an adult male *brewsteri*, the only race of the Brown Booby recorded in California, was seen near Imperial Beach, SD, 8 Jul 2006 (GMcC; 2006-081); a subadult was photographed in Mission Bay, SD, 18–19 Aug 1987 (NK†; 2006-012); one in its second or third fall was photographed in Monterey Bay, SCZ, 15 Oct 2006 (SNGH†, CL, DVPT; 2006-149); one in its first fall was taken into rehabilitation

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from Newport Beach, ORA, 10 Oct 2006 and successfully released on 27 Oct (SKr†; 2006-148); one was near Imperial Beach, SD, 1–2 Oct 2006 (DH; TRSt†; 2006-140); an adult male was in Bear Harbor, MEN, 8–9 Aug 2006 (JRW; 2006-119); an adult female was w. of San Clemente I., LA, 3 Oct 2006 (MSmt†; 2006-180); a worn subadult was photographed w. of San Clemente I., LA, 12 Oct 2006 (MSmt†; 2006-182); an adult female was near Trinidad, HUM, 3–7 Dec 2006 (BAct, BD, KR, COg; 2006-200); and another adult female was at Monterey, MTY, 28 Dec 2006–21 Jan 2007 (DW; MB, DEQ, DR†, RST†; 2006-222).

Given the Brown Booby's continuing increase in California, presumably due in part to its colonization of Los Coronados Islands (35 individuals by 2007, Whitworth et al. 2007) just south of our waters, the committee voted to discontinue reviewing records of Brown Boobies seen after 2007. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

**RED-FOOTED BOOBY** *Sula sula* (17, 2). A total of two in one year exceeds the average. A hatch-year female was captured 1.1 mi. nw. of the mouth of Las Flores Creek, Camp Pendleton, SD, 5 Aug 2006 (BFT†; SDNHM #51340; 2006-097); the fishing hook in its stomach proved fatal, and it died on 9 Aug. A second-fall bird was photographed off Palos Verdes, LA, 14 Oct 2006 (KLG, SKr†; 2006-156).

**TRICOLORED HERON** *Egretta tricolor* (50\*\*, 6). A total of six records of this southern heron is a little above average; as expected, most records came from San Diego. An adult was in San Elijo Lagoon, SD, 10 Jul 2006 (RTP; 2006-083); another adult was at the San Diego R. mouth, SD, 1 Aug 2006–28 Jan 2007+ (PAG; MJB†, MB, GMcC; 2006-095); a first-fall bird was at San Elijo Lagoon, SD, 16 Oct 2006 (KM; JeS; 2006-152); one was at the Salton Sea, IMP, 1–25 Sep 2006 (OJ†, CW, DVP; GMcC; 2006-124); an adult near Red Hill, IMP, 9 Sep 2006 (MJSanM; 2006-192) was judged to be the same bird as one seen there 28 Oct–25 Dec 2006 (TEW, LLA; ES; 2006-204); one was in Imperial Beach, SD, 8 Oct 2006–15 Mar 2007 (JeS; GMcC; 2006-154).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** *Nyctanassa violacea* (32, 5). An adult was at Famosa Slough, San Diego, SD, 27 Apr–29 May 2006 (MJB†, TJM, MFP-R†; 2006-056); a subadult was in Prado Basin, RIV, 3 Jul 2006 (JEP†; 2006-080; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:579); and three juveniles in Imperial Beach SD 4 Jul–10 Sep 2006 represented the first nesting of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in California (GMcC, VM†, MMet†; 2006-080; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:579); the accepted record of the adults was published by Iliff et al. (2007).

**WHITE IBIS** *Eudocimus albus* (3, 1). Quite surprising was a report from the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 5 Aug 2006 (BO; 2006-121). Given the paucity of previous California records, committee members were concerned about a one-day record without photographs. But the description was thorough, the observer considered the possibility of a leucistic White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*), and the accompanying sketch had detail sufficient to convince the committee. This record is the first of the White Ibis for California since 1977. Arizona has eight records (Rosenberg et al. 2007), and this species also occurs in Sonora, Mexico (Russell and Monson 1998).

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus* (12, 3). An adult was well described from Prado Basin, RIV, 8 Jun 2006 (JEP; 2006-087); an adult in alternate plumage was near Calipatria, IMP, 26–31 Jul 2006 (GMcC; OJ†, CAM, TMcG†, MSanM, DVPT†; 2006-092); and another adult was near Calipatria, IMP, 26 Aug 2006 (ToEt, GMcC; 2006-116). Oregon and Arizona have recently added this species to their state lists, providing further evidence for the increase in records of the Glossy Ibis throughout the West (Nehls 2007, Rosenberg et al. 2007). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

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ROSEATE SPOONBILL *Platalea ajaja* (129\*\*, 7). J. S. Rowley collected a one-year-old male at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 22 May 1927 (Pemberton 1927; PP†; MVZ #51702; 2004-303); one in its second fall was at Salton Sea, IMP, 1 Sep 2006 (OJ†, DVP†; 2006-123); and up to five were around the Salton Sea, IMP, 21 Oct 2006–26 Apr 2007 (HBK; WF, W&EH†, OJ†, CAM, GMCC, SBT, ET†, DVP; 2006-163; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:143).

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (38, 2). A juvenile was photographed in Imperial Beach, SD, 6–9 Sep 2006 (GMCC; DWA†, MJB†, AM†, MS†, SES; 2006-125; Figure 4; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:184). One in its first spring was photographed at Furnace Cr. Ranch, INY, 26–28 May 2006 (EPa; DC†, OJ†, LST†, DVP†; 2006-069; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:436).

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* (4, 0). An adult returning to near Santa Rosa, SON, 30 Apr–9 Oct 2006 (SMT†; 2006-057) was presumed to be the same as the one there 14 May–29 Oct 2005 (Iliff et al 2007). Its schedule and prolonged stay raise many questions about its movements and vagrancy of the Common Black-Hawk in general. See also records not accepted, identification not established.



Figure 4. This juvenile Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) at Imperial Beach, San Diego County, 6–9 September 2006 was seen repeatedly capturing and devouring green fig beetles (*Cotinis mutabilis*), sometimes eating them on the wing. The tail is heavily banded with white, and the underparts are streaked brown.

*Photograph by Anthony Mercieca*

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HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* (49, 3). One was seen flying north at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 5 Mar 2006 (KLG; 2006-031); another was at Borrego Springs, SD, 25 Apr 2006 (RT; 2006-054); and one was near Dripping Springs and Oak Grove, RIV/SD, 20 Sep 2006–14 Feb 2007 (SQ†, JW†; 2007-044). This species always confronts the committee with the question of natural occurrence, as Harris's Hawks are kept by falconers, and evidence of past captivity in escapees is not always easily seen. Yet this species is also believed to irrupt on occasion (Patten and Erickson 2000). See also records not accepted, identification accepted but natural occurrence questionable.

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway* (21, 14). The caracara also challenges the committee with the question whether escapees are responsible for some (or most) California records. While the number of accepted records continues to grow, each record has had at least one detractor on the committee. Furthermore, some or many of these records may represent a single individual; indeed, all of the records for northern California listed below could have been of the same adult. When considering these questions future committees will benefit from more information about both the origin and number of individuals, but the current committee does not have the luxury of time before making a decision. See CBRC (2007) for a more complete discussion.

The following records have been accepted: an adult at Morro Bay, SLO, 1–2 Jun 2005 (EF; TME, BK†, SSH, AF†; 2005-071); a returning adult bird near Davenport, SCZ, 14 Aug 2005–10 Apr 2006 (DW; MB, SG, CL, LML‡, JeP†, LS†, KSt, RST, DSS, 2005-100); an adult at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 3–6 May 2005 (DA†, KH‡, LML‡; 2005-070; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:574), considered to be the same as an adult at Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, 2–3 Aug 2005 (JMe†, CB, AF; 2005-097); an adult near Casper, MEN, 2 May 2005 (PRe, 2005-057); an adult at Fort Dick, DN, 13 Jun–12 Jul 2005 (ADB†; 2005-086), considered the same as one near Alton, HUM, 19 Jul 2005 (KB; 2005-089); one at the Santa Clara R. mouth near Ventura, VEN, 5 Jan 2006 (DLG†; 2006-004; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:285); one at Bixby Ranch, SBA, 10 Jan 2006 (JS; 2006-042); an adult at Big Sur, MTY, 28 Mar–20 Sep 2006 (DRT; MB; 2006-047), considered to be the same as one at Carmel, MTY, 10 Apr–13 May 2006 (DRT, MB; 2006-051); presumably a single adult at Occidental Beach and Shell Beach, SON, 23 Apr–9 May 2006 (RRu, EDu; 2006-129); an adult at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 17–20 Jun 2006 (J&DD†; 2006-078); and an adult at Humboldt Bay, HUM, 13–14 Jul 2006 (SMc†; 2006-084).

In light of the addition of this species to the California list and the numerous records recently accepted, the committee decided to reconsider some previously rejected records. Given the more lenient treatment of records of late, previous decisions on the following records have been reversed and they now stand accepted: an adult at Mono Lake, MNO, 13 Sep–16 Oct 1987, now serving as our earliest record (RS; LB†, JLD, GMcC; 1987-267A); one near Fort Dick, DN, 28–30 Apr 1989 (GSL, LPL; 1989-096A); another near Westmorland, IMP, 14 Dec 1993 (RH; 1993-196A); and one at Chula Vista, SD, 9 Feb 1995 (RCh, DWA, JL†, BCM; 1995-021A). The total of 14 accepted records doubles the previous total. See also records not accepted, identification not established and records not accepted, identification accepted but natural occurrence questionable.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* (23\*\*, 13). Spring records of golden-plovers are difficult for the committee to assess because our knowledge of the differentiating characteristics of birds molting into alternate plumage is still evolving. In spring, the Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*) molts early so adult males are in crisp plumage by April, whereas *dominica* molts en route to its breeding grounds and is often still largely in basic plumage when at the latitude of California in April and early May. In its first spring *fulva* may also remain in a plumage like the basic, but it has more worn, brownish primaries rather than the fresh black primaries shown by all

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ages of *dominica* in spring. The best feature is the longer primaries of *dominica*, which extend more noticeably past the tail than in *fulva*. Birds that appear intermediate in plumage and structure might best be left unidentified in the field. Ones near El Centro, IMP, 18 Apr 2004 (SNGH; 2004-060) and near Calipatria, IMP, 27 Apr 2004 (GMCC; 2004-061) prompted much debate before being accepted. One nearing alternate plumage (later in spring than the two records just listed) was at the Wister Unit, Imperial W. A., IMP, 18 May 2006 (GMCC; 2006-066).

In fall, a juvenile was photographed at Edwards Air Force Base, KER, 19 Oct 2005 (MSanM, TMCG†; 2005-156); one was near Fort Bragg, MEN, 1–5 Oct 2006 (MM†; 2006-217; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:139); up to two were near Davis, YOL, 24–26 Oct 2006 (SSC†; JRy; 2007-030); one was at Goleta, SBA, 1 Nov 2006 (NLT; DMC; 2006-173); up to four were near Arcata, HUM, 1–8 Nov 2006 (KRT; SCT; RFo†; 2006-186); one was at Coyote Creek, SCL, 6–12 Nov 2006 (SCR; WGB†, PD†, DEQ, RWRT, MMR; 2006-178); and a very late juvenile was with a flock of Black-bellied Plovers (*P. squatarola*) in Sacramento, SAC, 6–17 Nov 2006 (ChCT; 2006-223). Six records in fall seems rather high for one year, but noteworthy was the number of birds lingering well into November, when most American Golden-Plovers have reached their South American wintering grounds.

WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia* (11, 1). One was well studied in Coronado, SD, 11 Oct 2006 (DP; TRC, GMCC; 2006-146); six of the 11 records for California are from San Diego County. This record is the third for fall.

PIPING PLOVER *Charadrius melanotos* (4, 1). An adult was on the southeastern shore of the Salton Sea, IMP, 7 Aug–19 Dec 2006 (OJ†, MB, RST†; MJB, CAM, GMCC, DWNT, MMRT, MJSanM, DVP; 2006-099; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:144), the first Piping Plover for California since 1980 and first for the state's interior. Its long stay and molt of primaries led many to expect it to remain through the winter, an expectation not realized.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus* (35, 2). Like many of California's American Oystercatchers, one photographed in Goleta, SBA, 8 Apr 2006 showed signs of some introgression with the Black Oystercatcher (*H. bachmani*), including a slightly uneven breast demarcation and an intermediate tail pattern (DMCT†, WF†; 2006-077; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:438). With this species, the committee believes that a few signs of intergradation are insufficient for rejecting a record. Another photographed at Pt. Loma and La Jolla, SD, 26 Aug 2006–8 Mar 2007 appeared as close to "pure" as American Oystercatchers get in our area (DWAT†, MJB†, JD†, DE†, CAM, GMCC, AMo†, MMRT†, LST†, 2006-117). The hybridization between the two species can make assessment of these records difficult; to the extent possible, we apply the index developed by Jehl (1985) so that decisions can be reached according to standardized criteria. The index was intended for use on specimens, and its use on birds in the field is less accurate though, the committee believes, still useful. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* (27, 5). In 2006 two records were for spring: Twenty-nine Palms, SBE, 18–19 May 2006 (JZ; B&KT; 2006-067); and Galileo Hill, KER, 4–8 Jun 2006 (RST†, OJ†; ToET, KHL, TMCG†, MSanM†, RSt†; 2006-072; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:472). Three were for fall: Long Beach, LA, 23 Sep 2006 (ML, LL†, KGL; CAM; 2006-133); Bishop, INY, 1 Oct 2006 (CG, LaN; 2006-210), and near Oxnard, VEN, 28 Oct 2006 (N&MFT†; 2006-175). The total of five records is far more than we expect in one year; the 28 Oct date is now the latest for California.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (30, 1). A juvenile photographed at Fort Bragg, MEN, 6–16 Aug 2006 was quite early for a young bird in California (MM†; GC, ED, OJ†; 2006-108; Figure 5; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:183) and



Figure 5. Superficially similar to the Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*), this Bar-tailed Godwit (*L. lapponica*) near Ft. Bragg, Mendocino County, 13 August 2006 differs structurally with shorter legs and a shorter, straighter bill. The face pattern is bolder; note the bold white postocular line. Also, the wing coverts lack any cinnamon tones and they are streaked, indicating a juvenile. There is no strong contrast between the coverts and the scapulars, whereas a juvenile Marbled has these coverts less marked, making them contrast more.

*Photograph by Oscar Johnson*

two weeks earlier than any other record of a presumed juvenile. The photos show a short-legged, short-billed godwit, likely a male, and the barred rump indicates the expected subspecies *L. l. baueri*.

**RED-NECKED STINT** *Calidris ruficollis* (11, 1). An adult was videotaped at L. Talamo, DN, 11 Aug 2006 (LB†; 2006-118). The date is late, as California's other accepted records fall primarily from mid to late July with none later than 29 July. Because of plumage wear this bird had only hints of orange left on its face and throat, but it still showed dark spotting on the breast below the orange, a key feature distinguishing this species from the Little Stint (*C. minuta*). Juvenile Red-necked Stints remain undocumented in California, undoubtedly because of the difficulty of finding and identifying them.

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta* (8, 1). An adult was in Alviso, SCL, 16–20 Jul 2006 (MB†, OJ; MJM, SCR; 2006-088). The quality of the photographs was marginal, but the report was strengthened by excellent written details, demonstrating the importance of writing notes even of birds that have been photographed. In this case, the white throat, the brighter edges of the coverts and at least one tertial, and the spots contained within the wash across the breast are all features of the Little and not expected on an alternate-plumaged Red-necked Stint.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** *Calidris fuscicollis* (20, 1). An adult that had started its molt into basic plumage was photographed at China L., KER, 15 Aug 2006 (SSt; LLA, AEK; RSt†; 2006-110; Figure 6 photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:145). Like

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most adults seen at this season, this bird was mostly gray with a few streaks below and warm fringes to some scapulars visible only at close range. All California records of this species are for spring or of adults in fall. In contrast to all other shorebirds known from western North America, no juvenile White-rumped Sandpipers have been documented west of the Rockies!

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (36, 1). The description of an adult at San Elijo Lagoon, SD, 9 Jul 2006 (SES; 2006-098) was accompanied by an excellent sketch. This record fits the expected pattern of adults in fall, which occur primarily from early July to mid-August.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax minor* (2, 1). An astounding set of circumstances attended the discovery of a woodcock at Desert Center, RIV, 8–11 Nov 2006 (DGo; JG, CMcG†; LACM #114224; 2006-176). The bird was first found in a restricted area on 8 Nov, and a small group of birders was allowed access on a follow-up visit. Observers on 11 Nov saw the bird fly past them as it flushed and headed out to the desert; as they watched it for a half-mile, a Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) pursued and then captured the woodcock in mid-air. After a cross-country trek, the birders found the falcon eating the woodcock while perched on a telephone pole. The falcon flushed, allowing the observers to retrieve some rectrices and other feathers, now archived at LACM, the first physical evidence of this species for California. The only other woodcock recorded in California was at the Iron Mtn. Pumping Plant, SBE, 3–9 Nov 1998 (Patten et al. 1999).



Figure 6. This stunning picture of a White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*), taken at China Lake, Kern County, on 15 August 2006 shows not only the white rump but other subtle diagnostic features. Fall adults in molt are often dull grayish brown with few distinguishing features. This bird has molted in fresh gray scapulars of the basic plumage but retains some telltale feathers of the alternate plumage, including rufous-edged scapulars and streaking along the sides. The mandible has a pale orange base, another consistent feature of this species.

*Photograph by Bob Steele*

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LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (95, 3). Three for the year was about average: one in its first spring was photographed at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 12 Apr–26 Jul 2006 (KLG; MJB†, MJ†, KZK†, GMcC; 2006-049; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:599); another in its first spring at Salton City, IMP, 29 Apr 2006 had a slightly different tail pattern so was different from the previous one (ToE†; GMcC; 2006-058); one in its first fall was photographed at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 19 Nov 2006 (ToE†, TaE†; 2006-189).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucopterus* (4, 1). A first-winter bird was at Clear Lake, LAK, 16 Jan–26 Feb 2006 (FEH†; MM†, LML‡; 2006-035). Reports of the Iceland Gull are difficult for the committee to assess because of the wide range of variation in Thayer's Gull (*L. thayeri*) and the poor understanding of features that distinguish these taxa. Individuals at the pale extreme of Thayer's and the dark extreme of Kumlien's Gull (*L. glaucopterus kumlieni*) have occurred with some regularity in California, contributing to the confusion surrounding the species' status here. The committee believes that Kumlien's Gull may occur rarely but regularly in California and has accepted birds that would not seem out of place in Newfoundland. Although they may look right for Kumlien's, however, it is still possible that they are not pure Iceland Gulls. The birds with plumage outside our current understanding of Thayer's Gull, like the well-documented one at Clear Lake, have pale primaries, checkered rectrices, and patterned tertials. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (31, 3). Three for the year is about average, but two immatures in one year is unusual since only five of the previous 28 records are of young birds. An adult was photographed at Red Hill, IMP, 22 Feb–4 Mar (KLG†; HD†, GMcC, MSanM; 2006-023; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:286); a first-winter immature was photographed at Salt Creek, RIV, 22 Feb 2006 (KLG†; 2006-024); and, a second-fall immature was photographed at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 9 Sep 2006 (ToE, TaE†; 2006-168). The one on 9 Sep was the earliest recorded for the state. The next earliest record is 14 Sep 1986, also from the Salton Sea (Langham 1991). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus schistisagus* (17, 11). Ten accepted records of this species during the winter of 2005–2006 seems unthinkable, given that the first was accepted only in 2005 (Iliff et al 2007). Most have come from Half Moon Bay, SM, where a large gull flock also attracts a steady flow of birders. Committee member Jaramillo has been instrumental in assessing identifications and settling the same-bird issues attending reports of this species. Accepted records from Half Moon Bay are as follows: one adult 2 Dec 2005–8 Mar 2006 (RSTh; 2006-044), considered different from another adult 21 Feb 2006 (RSTh; 2006-045). A first-winter bird 3 Jan 2006 raised concerns over how little we know about variation in the Slaty-backed Gull's immature plumages, but the committee was unanimous in concluding that this bird matches our current understanding of this species, and there were no obvious signs of hybridization (AJ†; 2006-001). From its retention of substantial black on the bill an adult 13 Jan–8 Mar 2006 was considered to be a returning individual, (RSTh; LWCT, ToE†, AJ†, OJ†, 2006-008; see record 2005-048, Iliff et al. 2007). An adult on 6 Feb 2006 (RST†, DVPT, DSS†, 2006-020) generated discussion because it lacked the extensive head streaking the Slaty-backed Gull typically shows in winter, but the remainder of the plumage and structure were consistent with this species, and Howell and Dunn (2007) noted that head molt can rarely be completed by February. A first-year immature 7 Jan–6 Feb 2006 (AJ†; LWCT, DWNT, LL‡, DSS†; 2006-026) was considered to be the same as that seen 21 Feb 2006 (DSS†; 2006-062). A second-year bird 4 Feb 2006 generated debate as a possible hybrid, a real problem that can be invoked on many claims of this species, but even those questioning the record did not have a viable alternative (AJ†; 2006-027). A third-year bird on 4 Feb

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2006 (AJ†; LML†, EPr†, DSSt; 2006-028) was slightly paler than typical for the Slaty-backed Gull, reminding us of the poor understanding we have of this species' variation in mantle color (see King and Carey 1999). Finally, a second-winter bird was present 27 Jan 2006 (MJ†, MTH†, GMcC, DSSt; 2006-016).

Away from Half Moon Bay, accepted records are of an adult in Alviso, SCL, 14 Jan 2006 (AJ†; 2006-009) and a third-winter bird in Fremont, ALA, 9 Mar 2006 (AJ†; 2006-034).

In addition, because of the pattern of distribution now emerging, a second-winter bird at the Ventura Marina, VEN, 5 Feb 1995 (DDJ†; 1995-053A), previously rejected because of the lack of a written description of the bird or photograph of a spread wing (Rottenborn and Morlan 2000), was reconsidered. The bird photographed standing, however, looks perfect for the species, leading the committee to reverse itself and endorse the record. The reconsideration of records demonstrates an important aspect of the committee's process; all records archived can be reassessed as our knowledge improves or patterns emerge.

**ROSS'S GULL** *Rhodostethia rosea* (1, 1). An adult, a welcome addition to the California list, was at Red Hill, Salton Sea, IMP, 17–19 Nov 2006 (GMcC; HD†, DG†, ToE†, WFT, N&MF†, OJ†, KZK†, MM†, CMcG†, TMcG†, BM†, DWNT, MSanM†, GLR, LST, BKSt, SSot, TRSt, MSit, LST†, SBT†, PW†, 2006-183; McCaskie 2007, which see for details and photos, as well as the cover of *Western Birds* 38(2) and *N. Am. Birds* 61:176. This Ross's Gull was documented by more birders than perhaps any other bird reported to the CBRC.

**THICK-BILLED MURRE** *Uria lomvia* (46, 1). An adult in alternate plumage was found dead in Pacific Grove, MTY, 1 Aug 2006 (MB, BLSt, SBNMH #8768; 2006-102). It is the earliest Thick-billed Murre found in California in fall by ten days and one of only five documented during August.

**LONG-BILLED MURRELET** *Brachyramphus perdix* (19, 1). One photographed near Trinidad Harbor, MEN, 30 Aug–2 Sep 2003 (PAH†; SMct, LPL, KR; 2003-117A) was debated through several circulations as the committee waited for photos not originally circulated with the record.

**\*RUDDY GROUND-DOVE** *Columbina talpacoti* (108, 1). The committee has twice rejected the report of one near Fillmore, VEN, 24–26 Nov 1978 (REW; 1981-031A; Binford 1985, Howell and Pyle 1997). It now reverses itself, given the pattern of this species' distribution emerging in the last decade. The acceptance was not without controversy, as this record predates not only all previous California records by six years but also the earliest records from Sonora and Arizona by a few years. Nevertheless, most members now believe that the bird was a harbinger and an early pioneer. Furthermore, supporters noted the lack of evidence of caged ground-doves, as the question of escape from captivity was a significant reason for the record's prior rejection.

**SNOWY OWL** *Bubo scandiacus* (59, 2). A first-winter male was near Dixon, SOL, 13–14 Jan 2006 (TaE†, ToE, EDG†, JFH†, DL, CAM, DWNT, DEQ, WFWT; 2006-007; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:281) and was the first Snowy Owl reported in California since early 1978. Another first-winter bird was at Grizzly Bay, SOL, 30 Dec 2006–22 Feb 2007 (CAST; DWA†, MB, JMT, JCSt†; 2006-224; Figure 7; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:325). The winter of 2006–07 saw a number of Snowy Owls reach southern British Columbia and points farther south.

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** *Cynanthus latirostris* (71, 2). Two spring records in 2006 are significant because there was only one prior California record of the Broad-billed Hummingbird for that season. An adult male was near Ramona, SD, 14–18 Apr 2006 (BC†; GMcC, 2006-050). An adult male in El Centro, IMP, 20–21 Apr 2006 represents the first record for Imperial County (GMcC; TMcG†, MSanM;



Figure 7. This Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) was photographed on 19 January 2007 during its nearly month-long stay at Grizzly Bay, Solano County. It occurred approximately one year after another Snowy Owl nearby, so the question of whether this was a different individual arises. The heavily marked wings suggest a young bird, although some adult females are heavily marked too. Features not visible in this photo, such as an extensive white nape, thin tail bars, and uniform flight feathers support the conclusion that this was a first-winter bird. Older birds would likely show two generations of remiges.

*Photograph by Douglas W. Aguillard*

2006-052; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:438). A female in Mission Viejo, ORA, 25 Nov 2006–14 Jan 2007 (DRW†; 2006-220) was judged to be the same as the one there 17 Dec 2005–22 Jan 2006, returning (Iliff et al. 2007). The vast majority of California's Broad-billed Hummingbirds have occurred in fall.

VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD *Amazilia violiceps* (6, 1). Most unusual was a Violet-crowned Hummingbird videotaped at Grass Valley, NEV, 8 Feb 2006 (B&JC†; 2006-030). The videotape was critical to the acceptance of this report, given the unprecedented location away from the coastal plain.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris* (9, 1). A first-fall male was photographed at Arroyo Grande, SLO, 17–25 Oct 2006 (MB, DMC, TME†, OJ†, CAM, DEQ, BKST, DVPT; 2006-157; Figure 8). This bird stayed for several days, allowing extended study of the latest Ruby-throated Hummingbird found in California in fall. Arizona has just added this species to its list on the basis of a winter record from Tucson (20 Dec 2004–14 Apr 2005, Rosenberg et al. 2007).

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (39, 2). One in the old zoo area of Griffith Park, Los Angeles, LA, 17 Apr 2006 (RBa; MSanM, LS†; 2006-053; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60: 472) was considered to have likely wintered in the vicinity since there are no California records of spring migrants known not to have wintered where



Figure 8. This Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) visited feeders in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo County, 17–25 October 2006 (here 20 October). The narrow inner primaries indicate the genus *Archilochus*, eliminating more expected species like Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), which can share this upperpart coloration. The bright green upperparts, extending to the top of the crown, are a good feature for the Ruby-throated; the Black-chinned (*A. alexandri*) is invariably grayish on the forecrown (and only rarely bright green on the back). The straight bill is a further distinguishing feature but not diagnostic on its own. Barely visible at the tip of the wing is a narrow feather; this is the tip of primary 10, narrow and pointed in the Ruby-throated but blunt and rounded in the Black-chinned. Not visible in this photograph are two red gorget feathers that clinch the identification of this first-year male Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

*Photograph by Brad K. Schram*

they were found. Another had wintered annually at this same site from 1979–80 to 1983–84. One on Clark Mt., SBE, 27 May–3 Jun 2006 (SBT, LST; DHu; 2006-086) was just the second found in summer in montane coniferous forest in California and adds another species of Madrean montane woodlands to the list of birds recorded on this small “sky island” in the eastern Mojave Desert. In Arizona, apparently nonbreeding Greater Pewees have been recorded in summer as close to California as the Hualapai Mts., Mohave Co., 150 km to the southeast of Clark Mtn. (Corman and Wise-Gervais 2005).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens* (11, 1). One in full song was near the Mace Avenue bridge along Putah Creek, SOL, just south of Davis, on 4 Jun 2006 (JS; ToEt, FO; 2007-049); although voice recordings could not be obtained, multiple *pee-o-wee* songs were heard by observers familiar with *Contopus* vocalizations. Of the ten previously accepted Eastern Wood-Pewees for California, all but two were in June and early July, most singing on territory. Arizona has just three records of this species, all of singing birds (Rosenberg 2001). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

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**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax flaviventris* (20, 1). A juvenile was captured, measured, and photographed on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 27–28 Aug 2005 (MB; BHT, RST†; 2005-202; Figure 9). This record was accepted only when excellent in-hand photographs (not referred to or included with the original submission) were made available. Previous California records of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher extended from 3 September to 16 October, so this one is the earliest yet. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax alnorum* (5, 1). A juvenile captured, measured, and photographed on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 8–11 Sep 2006 (MB, JT‡; RFot, RST; 2007-034; Figure 10; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:140) fit comfortably within the range of Alder in plumage, measurements, and wing formula. The value of formula R, incorporating wing tip shape and wing, tail and bill length (Pyle 1997), was especially useful in eliminating an eastern Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii traillii*). The more striking differences with the three western subspecies, notably the more subdued tertial patterning of the latter, were evident in side-by-side comparison with a migrant of *E. t. brewsteri*.

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus crinitus* (48, 2). The two accepted in 2006 fit within the latter half of a well-established interval of fall coastal vagrancy. One was at outer Pt. Reyes, MRN, 12 Oct 2006 (JJ†; 2006-185; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:140), the other was netted, measured and photographed at the Big Sur River mouth, MTY, 13 Oct 2006 (NT†; 2007-047).

**THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD** *Tyrannus crassirostris* (17, 0). One at Banning Park, Wilmington, LA, 4 Nov 2006–9 Mar 2007 had apparently returned for its second consecutive winter (KGL; MB, KLGT, RST; 2006-179); nearly a third of California's Thick-billed Kingbirds have returned for more than one winter.

**FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER** *Tyrannus savana* (2, 1). One was photographed at the intersection of Tierra Buena and Eager roads nw. of Yuba City, SUT, 28 Sep 2006 (KP†; 2007-005; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:141). The committee was cautious with a second state record, especially one supported by only a single photograph initially submitted. Correspondence with the observer confirmed the location where the photograph was taken and additional photographs were submitted. The apparent rectrix molt and pale nape were advanced by some committee members as characters suggesting the northerly breeding *T. s. monachus*. California's previous Fork-tailed Flycatcher, at Bridgehaven, SON, 4–8 Sep 1992 was thought to be of the nominate subspecies, a migrant from the Southern Hemisphere (McCaskie and Patten 1994).

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** *Vireo flavifrons* (110, 4). One was at Butterbredt Spring, KER, 14 May 2006 (TEW, LLA; 2006-074). One was singing at Old Mission Dam near Santee, SD, 31 May 2006 (CH; DA, EA, BaC, TRST†; 2006-068; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:439). Fall vagrants were at Mendoza Ranch on Pt. Reyes, MRN, 1 Oct 2006 (SE†, RFi, SH; 2006-144) and China Ranch, INY, 13 Oct 2006 (JEP†; 2006-205). Records of the Yellow-throated Vireo show a strong peak in May, with a weaker fall peak in late September and October. The bird at China Ranch is among the latest for the interior, matched only by one at Panamint Springs, INY, 13–14 Oct 1990 (CBRC 2007).

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** *Vireo solitarius* (45, 2). A singing bird at Mad River County Park, HUM, 9 Sep 2006 (DC; 2007-121) matched the earliest accepted fall record for California. An additional record predating the 1997 split of the Solitary Vireo complex (AOU 1997) was accepted from Panamint Springs, INY, 3 Oct 1989 (JLD; 2007-078). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

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**YELLOW-GREEN VIREO** *Vireo flavoviridis* (88, 2). Two immatures were found during the identical date spans of 30 Sep–2 Oct 2006 at two coastal sites: at Road Forks Pool, Pt. Reyes, MRN (MB, ToEt, RFi, EDG†, DH†, JM; 2006-141), and Oceano State Park, Oceano, SLO (TME, MaS; BB†, DMC, CAM, MSanM, BK†; 2006-134; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:146). The latter bird was described by all observers as having brown eyes, but one close-up profile photograph taken with a flash appeared to show bright red irides. The committee cautions that short-distance side-on flash photography can accentuate the “red eye” effect, possibly leading to misinterpretations in birds with age-dependent eye color. The California pattern of records is of fall dispersants, almost all immature, whereas that for Arizona is of summer dispersants in late June or July (Rosenberg 2001).

**TAIGA FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula albicilla* (1, 1). This remarkable bird, first for California and mainland North America, was along Putah Creek below Monticello Dam, SOL/YOL, 25 Oct 2006 (JCSt, SBT†; ToE, DEQ; 2006-169; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:183); more details and photographs are in Appendix H of CBRC (2007:H6, H25). Several experts (see Acknowledgments) advised the committee on the distinctions between the Taiga and the more westerly Red-breasted Flycatcher (*F. parva*), formerly considered conspecific. Cederoth et al. (1999) and Svensson et al. (2005) covered the identification of these species well. *Ficedula albicilla* breeds from 50° E in eastern European Russia east through the taiga of Siberia, as far northeast as the Anadyr R. basin; it winters in the Indian subcontinent (mainly the eastern half), southern China, and Indochina (Cramp and Perrins 1993).

**WOOD THRUSH** *Hylocichla mustelina* (22, 1). One remained at Crystal Spring in the Kingston Mts., INY, from 19 Aug to 10 Oct 2006 (BD†; JLD, GMcC, SJM†, DR†; 2006-111; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:146). During this two-month stay the bird lost then regrew all of its rectrices. With one exception California’s previous Wood Thrushes are distributed bimodally, from 2 to 19 June (8 records) and from 19 October to 23 March (12 records). So it seems likely that the bird at Crystal Spring arrived in late spring or early summer. The one previous Wood Thrush known for California in August, at Glendale, LA, 1–11 Aug 1968 (Roberson 1993), may also have summered locally.

**RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN** *Turdus rufopalliatus* (15, 1). One was photographed and reported through the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology’s BirdSource “Project Feederwatch” at a vacation property just west of the Coachella Canal, RIV (just north of the Imperial County line near the Imperial Hot Mineral Spa RV Park), on 23 Oct 2006 (AK†; 2006-201; Figure 11). Nine of the 15 California records are from the deserts of Imperial and Riverside counties.

**CURVE-BILLED THRASHER** *Toxostoma curvirostre* (18, 1). One was at Big River on the west bank of the Colorado R., SBE, 30–31 Oct 2006 (DGo; 2006-177). Because no calls were heard and the identification was based largely on plumage and bill shape, acceptance was not unanimous.

**WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba* (27, 1). The committee reconsidered the record of one at Coyote Creek Riparian Station (now Coyote Creek Field Station), Alviso, SCL, 15–17 Dec 1991 (AJF; ER; 1992-219A) that had not been accepted because it was supported only by a brief description on a Christmas Bird Count “supporting details” reporting form. The reconsideration was occasioned by the surfacing of a duplicate of a convincing sketch that had been submitted to the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count editors but apparently discarded. The committee reached no consensus as to whether this bird was of the subspecies *M. a. ocularis* or *M. a. lugens*, the Black-backed Wagtail. See also records not accepted, identification not established.



Figure 9. With difficult *Empidonax* identifications, extensive and multifaceted documentation is required. This bird, California's earliest fall Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*E. flaviventris*), was captured and photographed on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, on 27 August 2005; it did not gain unanimous acceptance until a series of in-hand photographs was added to the record prior to its third circulation. Note the thin eye-ring (showing a slight "teardrop" projection at the rear), the strong green tints to the plumage, and the yellow-white wingbars, all plumage characters supporting the identification as the Yellow-bellied rather than the Western Flycatcher (*E. difficilis/occidentalis*), in which juveniles have ochre wingbars.

*Photograph by Brett Hartl*

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii* (97, 13). Up to eight were in agricultural fields n. of Calipatria, IMP, 28 Oct 2006–3 Feb 2007 (OJ, GMcC, DVP; MB, KHL†, JM†, RST, PW†; 2006-171). As many as five were about 4 km away in fields near the Calipatria State Prison, IMP, 20 Nov–19 Dec 2006 (MJSMt; OJ†; 2006-202). It is clear that Sprague's Pipits winter regularly in fields of Bermuda grass and mown alfalfa in the Imperial Valley, particularly around Calipatria. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (40, 2). A singing male was at the Cosumnes River Preserve, SAC, 28 May 2006 (JTr; 2007-028). One was at the Carmel River mouth, Carmel, MTY, 27 Oct 2006–9 Jan 2007 (MB; LWC, DEQ, DR†; 2006-170; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:141); this bird attempted to winter and was netted and banded on 21 Dec 2006. California's only prior winter Blue-winged Warbler was at Ferndale, HUM, 2 Jan–7 Mar 1993 (Erickson and Terrill 1996).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (69, 1). A female at Montana de Oro State Park, SLO, 23 Sep 2006 (JSR; 2006-206) was the second Golden-winged Warbler for San Luis Obispo County. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (113, 5). Spring vagrants were at Wilson Cove, San Clemente I., LA, 10–11 May 2006 (SWSt; 2006-071) and at Cabrillo National Monument, Pt. Loma, SD, 15 May 2006 (AM†; 2006-063; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:440). In fall, one was at Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, MRN,

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Figure 10. Acceptable documentation for an Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) in California ideally involves extensive close examination and measurements, as shown here in these profile and spread-wing views of bird captured on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, 8 September 2006. Structural and plumage characters distinguishing this bird from the three western subspecies of the Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*) included the relatively stout bill, thin eye-ring, bold white tertial borders (diffuse in western Willow Flycatchers), auricular-throat contrast, and green tones to the dorsal plumage. Discrimination of the Alder from the much more problematic eastern Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii traillii*) requires a battery of measurements and wingtip-shape characters (ideally supplemented by diagnostic call notes, which were not heard from this captured individual).

*Photograph by Rob Fowler*

16–29 Sep 2006 (RA†, BAct, MB, MD, EDG†, PL†, LML‡, BrMt, DWN†; 2006-132) and one was south of Needles, SBE, 14–17 Nov 2005 (KDE; 2006-076). All of these were of subspecies *D. d. albilora*, which accounts for nearly all of California's Yellow-throated Warblers in both spring and fall. One at Twinkle Park, Costa Mesa, ORA, 12 Nov 2006–2 Feb 2007 (DRW†; DWA†, BAi†, JLD, MJ†, CAM, JM, JEP†, SSot; 2006-188), however, had a long bill and some yellow in the supraloral area. The committee reached no consensus on its subspecific identity, but several members believed that these characters specify nominate *dominica*, which apparently accounts for about half of California's now nine midwinter Yellow-throated Warblers.

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae* (52, 4). Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Pt. Loma, SD, has proven to be a consistent site for this species, with four in 2006. A female returning for its second winter remained from 22 Sep 2006 to 19 Mar 2007 (MTH†, GMcC, CAM; 2006-136; same bird as 2005-146, Iliff et al. 2007). Another female returned for its fourth winter 3 Sep 2006–14 Apr 2007 (MB, MTH†, CAM, GMcC; 2006-142; same bird as 2005-125). Two additional dull birds, presumed to be females, were at the cemetery 15 Oct 2006 (MTH, GMcC; 2006-165, 2006-166). Away from Pt. Loma, one was at Waller Park, Santa Maria, SBA, 22 Feb–27 Mar 2006 (JMC; DMC, WTF†, OJ†, NL; 2006-025; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 60:284); it returned for its second winter 30 Sep 2006–19 Mar 2007

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(DMC; CAM; 2006-137). A fall vagrant was at DeForest Park, Long Beach, LA, 12 Oct 2006 (RBa; KSG; 2006-196).

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (80, 7). One dull bird, presumably a second-year female, was at Waller Park, Santa Maria, SBA, 26 Feb–18 Apr 2006 (DMC, JMCT; MB, OJ; 2006-033). Three individuals were at North Vandenberg AFB, SBA, in October 2006: a first-year male 13 Oct (JMCT; 2006-211), a female about 0.5 mi. away 19 Oct (JMC; 2006-212), and another female was at the same location 30–31 Oct 2006 (JMC; 2006-213). Because of the 11-day gap between the two sightings, the observer's daily coverage of the site, and the site's limited appropriate habitat (pines), the committee concluded there were most likely two individuals. A first-winter female was at Mile Square Park, Fountain Valley, ORA, 3–11 Jan 2006 (JEP; 2006-039). A first-fall male was in Bart Speedlove Park, Mission Viejo, ORA, 4 Nov 2006 (PCt; 2006-221). A male was in Tewinkle Park, Costa Mesa, ORA, 12 Nov 2006 (JEPT; 2006-219). As expected, all of these birds were found in parks or other open areas with planted pines on the coastal slope. In California, the Pine Warbler is most frequent in winter, as also in Arizona (Rosenberg 2001) and New Mexico (S. O. Williams pers. comm.).

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum* (103, 2). One was found by biologists censusing monarch butterflies at the Esalen Institute 10 mi. north of Lucia, MTY, 18 Dec 2006 (JeG; 2007-093). Another was on the campus of University of California, Irvine, ORA, 31 Dec 2006–18 Mar 2007 (DWAT, MJT, CAM, JEP; 2007-013; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:329).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (108, 7). Southeast Farallon I., SF, remains the premier spot for this skulking species in California. Single birds were there 3–6 Sep 2006 (banded, MB†, RST; 2007-037), 6–7 Sep 2006 (MB; JT; 2007-038), 13–14 Sep 2006 (banded, MB†; 2007-039), and 29 Oct 2006 (banded, JT†; 2007-041); the last is the latest for California by 11 days and among the latest ever convincingly documented for North America (Dunn and Garrett 1997). Three others were found away from Southeast Farallon I. One at Butterbreyt Spring, KER, 23 May 2006 (SSu; 2006-085) is the earliest yet found in California in spring. Although it was seen rather briefly, an experienced observer provided a convincing description. One was photographed and videotaped at Shay Park, Arcata, HUM, 15 Sep 2006 (KR, DC; SMCT,‡; 2006-130). One was at Scotty's Castle, Death Valley National Park, INY, 1 Oct 2006 (JHi; 2006-214). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphicus* (134, 3). One in Birchim Canyon north of Bishop, INY, 22–24 Aug 2002 (JLD; DJH; 2006-207) was identified by both plumage and the distinctive call that is diagnostically different from calls of MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*). Other birds were well studied and photographed at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 16 Sep 2006 (KHLT, TEW, AEK, JLD, RST†; 2006-131) and Southeast Farallon I., SF, 11–12 Sep 2006 (MB, RFot; 2007-036).

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (137, 3). Males were at Wilderness Park, Redondo Beach, LA, 17 Oct 2006 (DLM; 2006-216), Wilson Cove, San Clemente I., LA, 19 Oct 2006 (SWS; 2006-218), and Southeast Farallon I., SF, 27 Oct 2006 (JT; 2007-042). Curiously, each was described as having all-black wings, implying that they were adult. Unless the wings of a Scarlet Tanager are described in detail, however, the committee prefers to consider such birds as of unknown age.

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Aimophila cassini* (48, 1). A singing male, whose performance included one "skylarking" flight song, was in open Joshua tree scrub with abundant exotic annual grasses at the intersection of Panorama and Largo Vista roads southeast of Pearblossom, LA, 27 May 2003 (JSk; 2006-032).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (111, 2). Two were together on the north jetty of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 3 Dec 2006 (DCt; 2006-199); photos showing

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the two birds together were submitted after the record circulated. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus* (8\*\*, 3). The committee discontinued reviewing the Rusty Blackbird in 1974 then resumed in 2006 after California reports of this boreal forest breeder declined steeply. The drop-off in California coincided with a major decline of the species' population as a whole (Niven et al 2004). A female was at the Alexandre Dairy near Ft. Dick, DN, 4–15 Feb 2006 (OHT; 2006-022). One was on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 31 Oct–4 Nov 2006 (AP, JE, BW†; 2007-043; Figure 12). One was at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 21 Oct 2006 (RS†; 2006-158). See also records not accepted, identification not established.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (73, 1). A first-winter female at Kuhn's Dairy west of Seeley, IMP, 1 Dec 2006–20 Jan 2007 (GMcC; JLo, MJB; 2006-197) was the second Common Grackle found in Imperial County. See also records not accepted, identification not established.

STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE *Icterus pustulatus* (8, 1). A striking adult male was at Zzyzx, SBE, 9–16 Oct 2006 (MJSM; HC†, PAG†, CAM, GMcC, TMG†, MSanM, SJM, RS†; 2006-145). The relatively fine and interrupted back streaking and deep orange-red tones to the head confirmed this bird as the expected northernmost subspecies *microstictus*. Photographs are on the front cover of *Western Birds* 38(3), in CBRC (2007:H28), and *N. Am. Birds* 61:184.

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* A report of six near Weed, SIS, 14 Nov 2006 was not supported by much detail (2006-184). The lack of yellow on the bill, as reported in this case, is of no value in distinguishing swans, as many Tundra Swans (*C. columbianus*) lack yellow. Furthermore, judging size without direct comparisons is nearly impossible and can be difficult even when both species are together. Observers should provide as much detail as possible on characteristics of the head and bill, as outlined by Patten and Heindel (1994).

SELLER'S EIDER *Polysticta stelleri*. An adult male, an age-sex class relatively unlikely in California, was reported from Humboldt Bay, HUM, 22 Dec 2005 (2006-208). Many committee members suspect that the identification was correct, as hunters, who reported this bird, are often quite skilled at identification. Although an adult male is possible, a thorough, convincing description is needed. In this case, the description of the flanks as grayish or whitish, rather than buff or tan, was enough to cause concern. California has only three accepted records of Steller's Eider.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. An incomplete description of one reported from Pt. Delgada, HUM, 1 Nov 2006 (2007-023) had mixed support. While some details were intriguing, key field marks, such as an auricular mark, specific color of the culmen, and age of the bird (or sufficient detail from which its age could be deduced), were described minimally or not at all.

GALAPAGOS/HAWAIIAN PETREL *Pterodroma phaeopygia/sandwichensis*. One reported off Pt. Pinos, MTY, 25 Aug 2006 (2006-120) may have been identified correctly, but key field marks such as the dark carpal bars on the underwing were not described.

STEJNEGER'S PETREL *Pterodroma longirostris*. This bird was originally reported as a Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel (*P. phaeopygia/sandwichensis*), 2 mi. west of Moss Landing, MTY, 4 May 2003 (2005-019A). Steve N. G. Howell reviewed the photograph and maintained it was of a Stejneger's. Acceptance as a Stejneger's



Figure 11. This Rufous-backed Robin (*Turdus rufopalliatus*) was fortuitously documented on camera during a brief visit to a remote desert feeding station east of the Salton Sea in Riverside County on 23 October 2006; the photograph and accompanying details had been submitted through the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's "Project Feederwatch."

*Photograph by Ann Kern*



Figure 12. This first-year female Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) was captured and banded on Southeast Farallon Island on 31 October 2006. Opportunities for finding and documenting Rusty Blackbirds in California have declined steeply in recent years in parallel to the species' overall significant decline.

*Photograph by Bobby Walsh*

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was complicated when a second-hand report relayed that the observer thought the bird was approximately the size of a large shearwater, clearly too large for one of the *Cookilaria* petrels. The photos are blurry, and the observers wrote no description. California's six previous Stejneger's Petrels have been at least 60 n. miles from shore and in July (two) or November (four).

LITTLE SHEARWATER *Puffinus assimilis*. One photographed on Monterey Bay, MTY, 29 Oct 2003 was previously accepted as the only record for California (San Miguel and McGrath 2005, 2003-149A). Steve N. G. Howell challenged this conclusion, offering as an alternative hypothesis that the bird was an aberrant Manx Shearwater (*P. puffinus*). He suggested that molt and lighting compounded some plumage oddities, even though other features, such as leg color, were incorrect for Manx. His analysis was comprehensive and compelling, and the decision to remove this species from the state list was unanimous. The committee is grateful to Howell for his contribution.

There is still disagreement over the identification of the bird depicted in these photographs. Some committee members believe it is a Manx, although a majority believes it is more likely a Little. Despite these differences, the entire committee, which includes one of the observers, agrees that a record of this significance needs to be irreproachable to be accepted. Beyond the complications of interpreting features that seem to vary from one image to the next, the taxonomic status of the Little Shearwater complex is unsettled. If the bird was a Little Shearwater in the broad, traditional sense (e.g., Jouanin and Mougin 1979), its identification to subspecies or species in a narrower sense remains problematic. Several committee members (and Howell) emphasized that this sighting could involve an undescribed taxon; the last chapter on the record may yet be written.

\*BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster*. A report of one 12 mi. nw. of San Diego, SD, 12 Aug 2006 (2006-103) lacked detail sufficient to distinguish a Brown from a Red-footed Booby (*S. sula*). Another solid off Imperial Beach, SD, 15 Oct 2006 (2006-162) was seen at too great a distance for boobies to be distinguished; the observer acknowledged that he could not eliminate a Blue-footed Booby (*S. nebouxii*) with certainty. Given the recent trends in booby sightings off San Diego (see Records Accepted), both of these were most likely Brown boobies. At its 2008 meeting, the committee voted to discontinue reviewing records of Brown boobies seen after 2007.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*. The report of an adult in basic plumage near Calipatria, IMP, 29-31 Jul 2006 (2006-094) failed because the two observers' descriptions of certain marks conflicted and one of the observers expressed some doubt about the identification. Given the hybridization between the Glossy and White-faced Ibises, the committee approaches reports of the Glossy cautiously. Any indication of red in the eye or facial skin, or white facial stripes, however slight, will likely lead to a vote not to accept.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus*. A second-hand report of one seen while the observers were stuck in traffic near Cajalco, SBE, 6 Jan 2006 had detail insufficient for any committee member to support it (2006-013). A juvenile reported from Montclair, SBE, 15 Jan 2006 did not inspire confidence as the details were sparse, and the described proportions (lanky instead of stocky) were wrong. Acceptance of a juvenile Common Black-Hawk, an age unrecorded for this species in California, would require far more complete details (2006-011).

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway*. One reported from Monterey Bay 15 Feb 1916 was published in *Condor* (Heath 1919) and had been previously rejected by the committee (Roberson 1993; 1993-155A). While a majority of members agreed the bird in question must have been a caracara, there was no description of the bird whatsoever, so again the committee did not accept the record.

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AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus*. According to Jehl's (1985) index, an oystercatcher at Long Beach, LA, 29 Apr 2006 (2006-059) was likely a hybrid. Since some features were not visible, complete scoring was impossible, and the committee declined to accept the record.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica*. The report of one near Davis, YOL, 1 Sep 2006 lacked the detail necessary for acceptance (2007-022). Although the wings were said to have had a diagnostic pattern, there was no description of this pattern; the tail was said to be all black, but the Hudsonian and Black-tailed (*L. limosa*) godwits both have white at the base of the tail.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucopterus*. The committee concluded that a first-winter gull reported as a Iceland from Orick, HUM, 11–2 Feb 2006 (2006-019) was either a Thayer's or a bird intermediate between Thayer's and Iceland gulls. The primaries were a little too dark, the tertials were not as finely marked as expected for the Iceland, and the written details were too sparse for a species of this rarity.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. The report of an adult at Goleta, SBA, 18 Jan 2006 (2006-043) was not accepted on the second round. The description lacked some important characteristics of the claimed species, such as streaking around the eye and contrastingly pale eye; it is possible that these details were missed because the flock of gulls flew before the bird was viewed through a telescope. Given the problems with hybrid gulls, the committee takes a conservative stance with incompletely described gulls.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens*. A pewee reported as the Eastern from Thompson Reservoir, Santa Catalina I., LA, 12 May 2006 (2006-065) was seen briefly, photographed, and heard to vocalize. Because of the date three weeks earlier than any Eastern Wood-Pewee previously accepted for California, the committee needed especially thorough documentation. Several members were not convinced that the described upslurred call ruled out some rising whistled vocalizations given by the Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*). Most members believed the single photograph was consistent with but not diagnostic for the Eastern, especially given the low angle of the sun, which may have over-emphasized olive coloration. They concluded that the documentation was insufficient to support so unusual a record.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris*. A bird observed fairly briefly by a single observer on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 7 Oct 2006 (2007-035) was identified solely on the basis of plumage characters; the description did not mention structural characteristics, and no vocalizations were heard. This record received no support from the committee.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius*. Six records, mostly predating the AOU's (1997) split of the Solitary Vireo complex, lacked documentation sufficient to make the difficult discrimination of the Blue-headed from Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*). The rejections of these records, four of which came from observers with a combined 56 years of experience on the CBRC, stemmed from the brevity of documentation written before this taxon was reviewed by the CBRC: Tijuana River valley, SD, 27 Sep 1972 (2002-065); Southeast Farallon I., SF, 25–27 Sep 1974 (2002-067); Santa Barbara, SBA, 7 Jan 1981 (2002-073); and Carpinteria, SBA, 30 Sep–5 Oct 1985 (2002-077). The documentation was also too brief for birds reported from Shipley Nature Center, Huntington Beach, ORA, 22 Sep 1990 (2002-101) and Capetown, HUM, 10 Sep 2005 (2006-112). Photographs accompanying the latter report suggested the Blue-headed to some committee members, Cassin's to others. Virtually all committee members believe that this identification problem is more complex than appreciated even a few years ago.

SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus platensis*. One reported near the junction of Big Chico Cr. and the Sacramento R., BUT, 28–29 Oct 2006 (2006-194) was seen briefly by

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different observers on two consecutive days, but the only documentation was submitted by the observer on the latter day. A slight majority of the committee concluded that the description failed to eliminate a drab Marsh Wren (*C. palustris*); in particular, it did not mention the hallmark bright buff coloration on the breast, sides, and flanks of a Sedge Wren, and no vocalizations were heard.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*. One was reported at Joshua Tree National Park, RIV, 5 May 2006 (2006-064) by an observer visiting from out of state. Although the description strongly suggested a bird in the White Wagtail complex, committee members were troubled by the lack of useful behavioral information. The report did not mention the exaggerated tail-wagging so typical of wagtails.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii*. One seen near Blythe, RIV, 19 Dec 2004 (2005-041) was in an area and in habitat (alfalfa field) where this species is now almost "expected" in winter. But the brief description was insufficient for several committee members to accept the record.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysopera*. One at Butterbredt Spring, KER, 12 May 2005 (2005-062) received the support of a majority of committee members on all but the fourth and final round of voting; concerns centered on the brevity of the observation and the early spring date. Only one accepted California record is earlier, from Oasis, MNO, 8 May 1992 (Howell and Pyle 1997).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis*. The report of one on Southeast Farallon I, 1 Oct 2006 (2007-040) was not accepted because the two observers' descriptions conflicted on whether the bird walked (as expected in the Connecticut) or hopped and the description conflicted internally on whether the head was grayish (unexpected in the Connecticut in fall) or olive brown.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. One reported at the mouth of Redwood Cr., HUM, 19 Oct 2006 (2007-006) failed to gain acceptance because of the brevity of the description, relayed through a second party. If the record had been accepted, the date would have been the earliest for a Snow Bunting in California.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus*. One reported in Santa Maria, SBA, 27 Sep 2006 (2006-138) gained little support. The date is earlier than previous fall records by five days, and the single photo appears to show an unusually brownish first-fall male Brewer's Blackbird.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*. One at Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, MRN, 19 Jun 2006 (2006-105) was supported only by a two-line description. The report of one from Kelso, SBE, 10 Oct 2006 (2006-147) did not convince several committee members that the Great-tailed Grackle was eliminated.

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*. A flock of ten was reported at Fredonyer Peak near Susanville, LAS, 21 Dec 2005 (2006-174), but the description was rather brief. Furthermore, there was no significant flight of redpolls into the northwestern United States during winter 2005–06, so a flock of ten in California would have been most surprising.

### RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED BUT NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK *Netrocygna autumnalis*. A previously rejected record from Newport Beach, ORA, 18 Jul–1 Aug 1970 (1986-358) was reconsidered because of recent increases in the number of reports from California and adjacent areas. But because of the possibility of escapees from the nearby Lion Country Safari the committee did not reverse itself.

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TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator*. One was photographed in Long Valley and at Crowley L., MNO, 16 Jun–22 Oct 2006 (JeZ†; 2006-113). The neck collar indicated that the bird had been relocated to Idaho, and the committee questioned whether it would have reached California without the relocation.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*. One at Bishop, INY, 26 Sep–15 Oct 2006 (DDu; JLD, JHe, TSH†, KHL†, TV†, JeZ†; 2006-209) was seen, upon close study after the initial observations, to be wearing a faded band, apparently not a metal band issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Raptors suspected of having escaped from captivity should be scrutinized closely for leg bands, which may not be obvious.

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway*. A photograph of one near Oceano, SLO, 1 Jan 1967 (2004-032A) was published in the *San Luis Obispo Telegram Tribune*. No details accompanied the photograph, however, and the bird seemed to allow very close approach, leading the committee to withhold acceptance. One at Alameda, ALA, 7–10 Aug 1972 (1987-369A) was rejected by five committee members concerned by the bird's being near a major human population center and to the north of where they expected a natural vagrant.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### CORRIGENDA

The following corrections are for the CBRC's previous report (Iliff et al 2007): The Hawaiian/Galapagos Petrel (2005-109) was seen during a survey cruise, not an organized pelagic trip as reported. The Brown Booby at Piedras Blancas, SLO, was seen through 21 Aug 2005 (2005-053). There are three records of the Glossy Ibis away from Imperial County, not two as reported. The American Golden-Plover at Arcata Marsh, HUM, 28 Aug–3 Sep 2004 (2004-134) was found by Rob Fowler (RFo). The Long-billed Murrelet (2003-151) was reported without the year; it was seen in 2003. The Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*) in Mendocino County (2005-118) was found by Dorothy Tobkin. The Blue-winged Warbler 7 Jul 2005 at Hayfork, TRI (2005-093), was photographed but not banded, as reported. We thank Bruce Deuel, Rob Fowler, Steve N. G. Howell, Robert Keiffer, Curtis Marantz, and David Suddjian for bringing these discrepancies to our attention.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Sightings from 2006 published in *North American Birds*, for which **no** documentation was submitted to the CBRC: Three Trumpeter Swans at Shasta Valley Wildlife Area, SIS, 22 Dec 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:321); one Manx Shearwater on Monterey Bay, MTY, 4 May 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 60:432) and 12–15 off the coast between Humboldt and Monterey counties during fall 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:136; the CBRC received documentation for 9 or 10 birds); one Brown Booby at Pt. St. George, DN, 1 Nov 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:136); one Crested Caracara near Gilroy, SCL, 8 Oct 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:137); two American Golden-Plovers in Marin County in Sep 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:137); one Little Gull at Patrick's Pt., HUM, 4 May 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 60:433); three Blue-headed Vireos in northern California between 9 Sep and 3 Oct 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:139); one Connecticut Warbler on Pt. Reyes, MRN, 27–29 Aug 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:140); and one Scarlet Tanager on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 20 May 2006 (*N. Am. Birds* 60:434). In addition, from the *Central Valley Bird Club Bulletin*, spring 2007, is a report of three Kumlien's Iceland Gulls near Davis, YOL. We welcome submission of details on these records, but until the committee has documentation to review, we recommend they not be treated as valid records.

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