

# THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2014 RECORDS

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**ABSTRACT:** The California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 184 records involving 176 individuals of 71 species and two species groups documented since the 39<sup>th</sup> report (Rottenborn et al. 2016), endorsing 152 records of 146 individuals. First accepted state records of the Salvin's Albatross (*Thalassarche salvini*) and Chatham Albatross (*T. eremita*) outlined in this report bring California's total list of accepted species to 660, 11 of which are established introductions. Other notable records detailed in this report include the return for a third winter of the state's first Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*), its second Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*), second Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), second Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*), and second and third Blue-throated Hummingbirds (*Lampornis clemenciae*).

This 40<sup>th</sup> report of the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or the committee), a committee of Western Field Ornithologists, summarizes assessments of 181 records involving 176 individuals of 71 species and two species groups. The committee accepted 152 of the 181 records (an acceptance rate of 83%) involving 146 individuals of 71 species and two species groups. We consider eight records involving nine individuals to represent returning or continuing birds that were accepted previously. Twenty-seven reports of 16 species and two species groups were not accepted because the identification was not considered to be substantiated, and two reports of two species were not accepted because natural occurrence was questionable. Reports of multiple individuals together are given the same record number for purposes of review; we report the total number of accepted individuals, which may be greater than the number of accepted records. Although the majority of the records in this report pertain to birds documented in 2014, the period covered spans the years 1987 to 2015.

Highlights of this report include the first acceptance to the California state list of two species: Salvin's Albatross (*Thalassarche salvini*) and the Chatham Albatross (*T. eremita*). Also included are the second state records of the Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*), Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), and Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*), second and third of the Blue-throated Hummingbird (*Lampornis clemenciae*), third of Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), and the return for a third winter of the state's first Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*).

At its 2016 annual meeting the committee reinstated the Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) on its review list; it had reviewed this species previously through 2013. The committee has recently accepted first California records in 2015 of the Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) and Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*), the details of which will be published in the next report.

Two additional species were added in 2016 as a result of taxonomic splits (Chesser et al. 2016), of the Western Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) into the California Scrub-Jay (*A. californica*) and Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (*A. woodhouseii*), both of which occur in California, and of Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) into three species, two of which, Leach's Storm-Petrel and Townsend's Storm-Petrel (*O. socorroensis*) have been recorded in the state. These records, plus the additions of the two albatrosses detailed in this report, bring the total number of accepted species on California's state list as of press time to 664. Potential additions to the state list currently being considered by the committee are of Jouanin's Petrel (*Bulweria fallax*), Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*), and Buff-breasted Flycatcher (*Empidonax fulvifrons*).

Species account headings are organized with English and scientific names first, followed in parentheses by the total number of individuals accepted in California (as of this report) and the number of new individuals accepted in this report. Following the heading are accounts for records accepted (as applicable), followed by records not accepted because identification was not established or because natural occurrence was questionable (as applicable). An asterisk (\*) preceding the species name indicates that records of the species after 2013 are no longer reviewed by the CBRC. A double asterisk (\*\*) following the number of accepted state records indicates that the species has been reviewed for a restricted interval so the number of accepted records does not represent the total number of records for the state. Date ranges for each record are those accepted by the CBRC. A dagger (†) following an observer's initials indicates submission of a photograph, (S) indicates submission of a sketch, (S) indicates submission of audio recordings, (#) indicates submission of a video, and (#) precedes a specimen number. The absence of a symbol following the observer's initials indicates the submission of only written details. Additional details regarding minutiae of formatting and abbreviations may be found in previous CBRC reports, at [www.californiabirds.org](http://www.californiabirds.org) and in CBRC (2007). Also available at the website is the California bird list, the review list, committee news, recent photos of rare birds in California, the CBRC's bylaws, a form for querying the CBRC database, and all annual reports through the 39th. Age terminology follows that used by CBRC (2007).

Observers are encouraged to submit documentation for all species on the CBRC's review list, sending it to Tom Benson, California State University San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407 (e-mail: [secretary@californiabirds.org](mailto:secretary@californiabirds.org)). In recent years, the proportion of records supported only by photographs, without any written documentation, has increased considerably. Nevertheless, even minimal written details on a bird's appearance, accompanying photographs, can assist significantly in documenting records of rare birds. Documentation of all CBRC records is archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA 93012, and is available for public review.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (32, 0). NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE: The single photo of one at Lake Balboa, LA, 8 Jul 2006 (KR†; 2006-228) does not show the legs or feet, so it is unknown whether the bird was wearing a band or had clipped or excessively worn toes that would indicate past captivity.

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FALCATED DUCK *Anas falcata* (3, 0). An adult male returned for a third winter to Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, COL, 30 Oct 2014–17 Feb 2015 (MV†; TF-H†, CAM†, MP†, BS†, SLS†; 2014-122).

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* (23, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The committee received additional documentation (1987-073A) for the previously reviewed (but not accepted) report of a first-winter or female at Arcata, HUM, 30 Jan–10 Feb 1987 (1987-073—see Pyle and McCaskie 1992). On the basis of the additional documentation, the record gained some support (3–6), but not enough to be accepted by the committee. This record was accepted by Harris (1996), along with a CBRC-endorsed record (1996-004).

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* (45, 3). A female remained with a large flock of scoters between the mouth of Redwood Creek and Mussel Pt. near Orick, HUM, 22 Jan–24 Feb 2014 (JA; KMB†, BE†; 2014-014). A first-spring male, with oil on its underparts, that walked up onto the beach at Pt. Mugu, VEN, 14 Apr 2014 (DP†, AJS†; 2014-037) was captured and taken to a rehabilitation facility in Santa Barbara, where it subsequently died; it is now a study skin/skeleton (SBMNH #10610) at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. A female or first-fall male was with scoters on the ocean at Ocean Beach in San Francisco, SF, 25 Oct 2014 (PS; 2014-178).

ARCTIC LOON *Gavia arctica* (12, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one in flight at Pt. La Jolla, La Jolla, SD, 9 Nov 2014 (2014-134) received virtually no support because of insufficient documentation.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (99, 3). One in its first spring inland at Clifton Court Forebay, CC, 23 May 2014 (AWL†; 2014-044), an adult in alternate plumage in flight off the north jetty at the entrance to Humboldt Bay, HUM, 29 Oct 2014 (BE†; 2014-124), and a second-year bird found dead (specimen not preserved) at Salmon Creek Beach, SON, 9 Nov 2014 (OO' C†; 2014-173) were the only three reported in California in 2014.

SALVIN'S ALBATROSS *Thalassarche salvini* (1, 1). The AOU (Chesser et al. 2014) now treats Salvin's Albatross, the Chatham Albatross (*T. eremita*), and the White-capped Albatross, (*T. cauta*), all formerly subsumed as subspecies of the Shy Albatross, as separate species. The White-capped Albatross was recorded off Mendocino and Sonoma counties in August and September 1999 (Cole 2000, CBRC 2007). A first-cycle Salvin's Albatross well documented 39 km southwest of Pillar Pt., SM, 26 Jul 2014 (AJ†; MDeF†, TG†, DSS†, SBT†, RW†; 2014-069; Figure 1; see also this issue's front cover) provided the first record in California. A subadult photographed near Kasatochi Island in the western Aleutians, Alaska, on 4 Aug 2003 (Benter et al. 2005) was the first and only other one recorded in North America.

CHATHAM ALBATROSS *Thalassarche eremita* (1, 1). Following the split of the Shy Albatross complex by the AOU (Chesser et al. 2014), the CBRC reconsidered the identities of two "Shy Albatrosses" off Marin County, from July to September 2000 and in July 2001. The committee now endorses the individual over Bodega Canyon 31 km west-northwest of Pt. Reyes, MRN, 27 Jul 2001 (DWN†; 2001-228; Garrett and Wilson 2003, including photo) as a Chatham Albatross, the first for North America. This bird, thought to be in its second cycle, had the gray hood shared by the Salvin's and Chatham Albatrosses, but extensive yellowish on the bill, including its sides (which are usually grayish in Salvin's), confirm the identification as a Chatham Albatross. A first-cycle Salvin's or Chatham reported in the same general area 29 Jul–10 Sep 2000 (2000-165) is still under review by the committee. Howell et al. (2014) considered both records as likely pertaining to the same bird, a Chatham Albatross on the basis of the characters outlined by Howell (2009, 2012).

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SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* (40\*\*, 1). One in its first spring was 39 km southwest off Pt. Buchon, SLO, 29 May 2014 (SWet; 2014-054).

STEJNEGER'S PETREL *Pterodroma longirostris* (10, 1). One was seen from the *R/V Ocean Starr* during a NOAA survey 324 km west-southwest of Pt. Arena, MEN, 7 Nov 2014 (MF; 2014-147).

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* (3, 1). One stayed around a boat 8–13 km off Fort Bragg, MEN, 28 Sep 2014 (JLD; RA†, RHD†, RFow, KAH, RHu†, RJK†, BM, DEQ†; 2014-097; Figure 2). One off Bodega Bay, SON, on 9 Aug 2003 (San Miguel and McGrath 2005) and one frequenting the Islas Los Coronados in northwestern Baja California in 2005, 2006, and 2007 (*N. Am. Birds* 59:658, 60:441, 468 and 61:515), seen in San Diego waters on 4 Sep 2007 (Singer and Terrill 2009), represent the other two records for California and the North Pacific Ocean. Of the two subspecies of Cory's Shearwater, both occurring in the Atlantic, only the larger *borealis*, is known to reach the Indian Ocean and has been recorded once in New Zealand (Oliver 1934).

RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon rubricauda* (43, 9). Nine were reported from the *R/V Ocean Starr* during marine mammal and ecosystem surveys sponsored by the Marine Mammal and Turtle Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), with an adult 330 km west of southwest Seal Rock, DN, 7 Sep 2014 (MF; 2014-163), a first-year bird 342 km west of Punta Gorda, HUM, 29 Sep 2014 (MF†; 2014-164), an adult 350 km southwest of Pt. Sur, MTY, 22 Nov 2014 (MF; 2014-165), an adult 363 km west-southwest of San Miguel I., SBA, 28 Nov 2014 (MF†; 2014-166), a second-year bird 342 km west-southwest of San Miguel I., SBA, 29 Nov 2014 (MF†; 2014-167), an adult 300 km southwest of San Nicolas I., VEN, 7 Dec 2014 (MF; 2014-168), and three adults together 295 km southwest of San Nicolas I., VEN, 7 Dec 2014 (MF; 2014-169). These birds were all far offshore west of the cold California Current, in warmer waters where the species is probably of regular occurrence in small numbers.

MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra* (21, 3). An adult was flying north over the ocean off Moss Beach, SM, 12 Aug 2014 (RST; 2014-140). Another adult was seen from the *R/V Ocean Starr* during a NOAA/ survey at 31° 50.1' N, 119° 24.8' W, 142 km southwest of San Clemente I., LA, 30 Nov 2014 (MF; 2014-158). A subadult found on the beach in Coronado, SD, 21 Sep 2014 (SC†; 2014-099) was recovered by Project Wildlife and cared for at Sea World but died 1 Dec 2014; the specimen is now at the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM #54336). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Documentation of an immature booby seen in flight off Imperial Beach, SD, 25 Aug 2014 (2014-076) was insufficient to distinguish among the Masked, Nazca, or Blue-footed Boobies.

NAZCA BOOBY *Sula granti* (2, 1). An adult well photographed from the Harbor Breeze Cruises' boat *Triumphant* during a whale-watching cruise 7.4 km west-southwest of Pt. Vicente, LA, 27 Jun 2014 (TH†; 2014-063; Figure 3) was the second Nazca Booby recorded in California. The characteristic pinkish orange bill and extensive white on the central rectrices are clearly evident in the photographs.

MASKED/NAZCA BOOBY *Sula dactylatra/granti* (18, 2). Single immature boobies, either Masked or Nazca, were seen from Pt. La Jolla, SD, 19 Jun 2014 (PEL; 2014-056), and off Moss Beach, SM, 25 Aug 2014 (RT; 2014-141). At this time no way to distinguish juveniles of these two species other than by genetic analysis is known; the pinker bill color of the Nazca does not appear until the bird is 4–8 months of age (Pyle 2008). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A booby seen from Pt. La Jolla, SD, 21 Jun 2014 (2014-057) may have been the same bird as seen there two days earlier, but conflicting descriptions led the committee to treat it as unidentified.



Figure 1. This Salvin's Albatross off Half Moon Bay, San Mateo Co., 26 Jul 2014 (2014-069) was the first recorded in California and only the second for North America. The mostly white underwings with a small black intrusion at the very base of the leading edge identify it as one of the Shy Albatrosses (see photo on this issue's front cover), the gray hood limits it to Salvin's or Chatham, and the gray bill lacking yellow coloration eliminates the Chatham Albatross.

Photo by Tom Grey

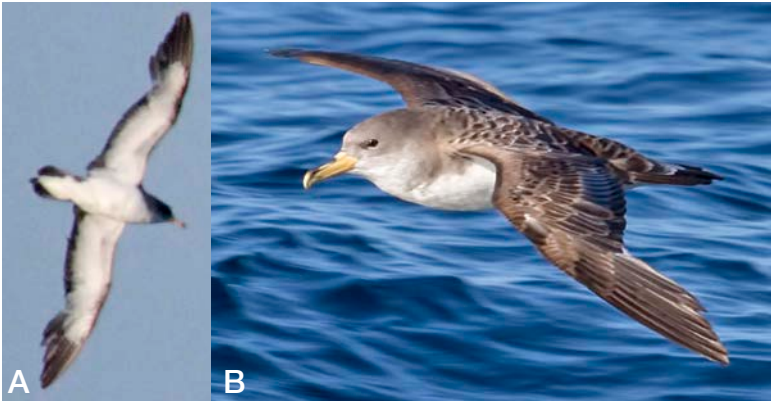


Figure 2. This Cory's Shearwater 8–13 km off Fort Bragg, Mendocino Co., 28 Sep 2014 (2014-097) was the third to be found off California and the North Pacific Ocean. (A) On the underside, note the white undertail and underwing coverts. The dark rather than white bases of the primaries specify subspecies *C. d. borealis* rather than *C. d. diomedea*. Note the primaries in molt, as expected in September for this species that breeds in the Northern Hemisphere. (B) The mostly yellowish bill distinguishes this large shearwater of the Atlantic from the somewhat similar Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus creatopus*) of the Pacific.

Photos by David E. Quady (A) and Roger Adamson (B)



Figure 3. California's second Nazca Booby was photographed during a whale-watching trip southwest of Pt. Vicente, Los Angeles Co., on 27 Jun 2014 (2014-063). The pinkish orange bill and extensively white central rectrices distinguish this bird from the Masked Booby.

Photo by Tim Hammond

**\*\*BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY** *Sula nebouxii* (352, 3). Up to two at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 5 Aug–4 Nov 2014 (JRT†, RW†; 2014-088) may have been returning birds associated with the major influx of Blue-footed Boobies in 2013 (Rottenborn et al. 2016); another was at Pt. La Jolla, SD, 13 Dec 2014 (GN†, PEL; 2014-151). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Two reportedly seen flying south over the open ocean off Samoa, HUM, 2 Oct 2013 (2013-158) were not documented well enough to establish the record. Most committee members considered the documentation of one, seen only from a moving vehicle, flying east along Interstate Highway 8, 4.8 km west of Winterhaven, IMP, 27 Sep 2014 (2014-101) inadequate to support the identification of the bird as this species. The committee discontinued evaluating Blue-footed Boobies recorded after 2014, deleting the species from the review list.

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** *Fregata magnificens* (41\*\*, 2). A juvenile that landed on a whale-watching boat 1.6 km off the mouth of Mitchell Creek, MEN, 7 Jan 2014 (RT†; 2014-006) was not only farther north than most frigatebirds recorded in California but also one of a very few in winter. One in La Jolla, SD, 22 Oct 2014 (GN; 2014-114) was somewhat late for a summer visitor, and it was an adult male rather than a more expected white-headed immature.

**MAGNIFICENT/GREATER/LESSER FRIGATEBIRD** *Fregata magnificens/minor/ariel* (6\*\*, 5). A white-headed juvenile frigatebird over Malibu Lagoon, LA, on the unexpected date of 2 Apr 2013 (KD; 2013-242), as well as one off Pt. La Jolla, SD, 1 Jul 2014 (BM‡; 2014-066), another over Morton Bay at the Salton Sea, IMP, 11 Aug 2014 (ZC†, RS; 2014-073), and one high over Jacumba, SD, 12 Aug 2014 (EGK; 2014-074), were all seen at too great a distance to allow identification to species. Views of one in Newport Beach, ORA, 10 Sep 2011 (CW; DMcH, JMCh, SW; 2011-276), previously not accepted as a Magnificent Frigatebird (2011-130—see Nelson et al. 2013), were too brief for the bird to be identified more precisely than as a frigatebird. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one at Ballona



Figure 4. Unlike California's first Marsh Sandpiper, photographed on a single day by a single observer, its second, southeast of Dixon, Yolo Co., 9–13 Apr 2014 (2014-032), lingered for five days and was seen and photographed by many observers. The long, thin, straight, dark bill and white wedge on the back help identify this species.

Photos by Joe Morlan (A) and David W. Nelson (B)

Creek, LA, 1 Sep 2011 (2011-278) failed to convince the majority of the committee that the bird was a frigatebird of any species.

WHITE IBIS *Eudocimus albus* (7, 1). A first-winter bird that frequented the Yuma East Wetlands on the Arizona side of the Colorado River from 1 Dec 2013 (*N. Am. Birds* 68:259) to 11 May 2014 (*N. Am. Birds* 68:408) roosted on the California side of the river in Winterhaven, IMP, on multiple days from 26 Jan to 18 Mar 2014 (CMcC; GMcC, TAB†, CAM†; 2014-011).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (32, 3). Single adults were at the Primm Valley



Figure 5. This immature male Blue-throated Hummingbird at Crestline, San Bernardino Co., 18 Sep 2014 (2014-090), was the third recorded in California. The more stippled blue throat, mixed brighter and duller upperpart feathers, and lack of visible molt clines in the wings suggested a partial rather than the complete preformative molt typical of this species (Pyle 1997), although the relatively fresh remiges did not appear to be juvenile feathers.

Photo by Curtis A. Marantz



Figure 6. This juvenile female Ruby-throated Hummingbird found in Eureka on 3 Sep 2014 (2014-080) was the second of that species recorded in Humboldt County. Distinguishing this species from the Black-chinned Hummingbird (*A. alexandri*) can be extremely difficult, but note the clean white throat, black mask, green crown, tail projecting well beyond the wingtips, and especially the narrow and tapered tenth primary just visible behind the broader ninth primary.

Photo by Brad Elvert





Figure 7. This Gray-cheeked Thrush at Primm, San Bernardino Co., 7 Jun 2014 (2014-048) represents both California's third spring record and its third inland record. Distinguishing the Gray-cheeked Thrush from other *Catharus* thrushes is challenging, but the uniform cold gray-brown of the plumage, splotchy pale whitish pattern around the eyes and cheeks not forming distinct spectacles or eye-ring, and heavily spotted breast are all typical of this species.

Photos by Thomas A. Benson

Golf Course 16 km northwest of Nipton, SBE, 24 May 2014 (TAB†; AEK; 2014-046), at the Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base, LA, 11 Jun 2014 (JSF†; 2014-052), and at the Davis Wastewater Ponds in Davis, YOL, 27 Jun 2014 (MiSt†; 2014-062).

BLACK VULTURE *Coragyps atratus* (10, 3). One was in Ferndale, HUM, 20–21 Feb 2014 (BE†; KMB†, RFow†; 2014-019). Occurrences at Tolay Creek Preserve, SON, 21 Mar 2014 (SPh; JCI; 2014-027), near Bodega, SON, 13–14 Apr 2014 (LHuS, LKaS, BMa; 2014-034), and near Laguna de Santa Rosa, SON, 16 Apr 2014 (GBe; 2014-061) were considered to represent one individual. One was in Jacumba, SD, 3 Aug 2014 (EGK†; 2014-071). One at Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo, SLO, 15 Nov 2014–24 Apr 2015 (DML†; TAB†, TME†, MLS†; 2014-162) was considered the same bird that has returned to Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties since September 2009 (Pyle et al. 2011).

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (48, 1). One in its first spring near Palo Verde, RIV, 22 May 2014 (TR†, MTo†; 2014-045) was only the second recorded in Riverside County and the first in 29 years.

GRAY HAWK *Buteo plagiatus* (1, 0). The bird first recorded in Carpinteria, SBA, in November 2012 (2012-193) returned for the third consecutive winter to the same location 29 Nov 2014–15 Feb 2015 (JBai†; TAB†, DD†, RFow†, BH, GK†; 2014-155; Culbertson 2016).

LESSER SAND-PLOVER *Charadrius mongolus* (14, 1). An adult in alternate plumage was at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 2 Aug 2014 (BED†; 2014-070). It showed the white forehead patches and black upper border to the breast band characteristic of the easternmost subspecies *stegmanni* (Hirschfeld et al. 2000, Garner et al. 2003.).



Figure 8. California's second Olive-backed Pipit at Yorba Regional Park in Anaheim, Orange Co., 1–5 Nov 2014 (2014-123), only the fourth of this species recorded in North America away from Alaska and Hawaii. Note the strong olive tinge to the upperparts, bicolored supercilium bordered above by a strong blackish lateral crown stripe, dark spot in the rear of the auricular, and heavily black-spotted breast with an underlying buffy wash contrasting with an unmarked white belly.

*Photos by Jeff Bray (A) and Christopher Taylor (B)*

WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia* (24, 1). One in its first spring, probably a female, was at the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay NWR in Chula Vista, SD, 10 Jun 2014 (MSa†; 2014-051). Well over 60% of the Wilson's Plovers recorded in California have been found in San Diego and Orange counties. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one along the Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, CC, 28 Jan 2014 (2014-012) was intriguing but the documentation was insufficient for acceptance; there is only one previous winter record of this species in California.



Figure 9. This first-fall male Red-faced Warbler at Galileo Hill Park, Kern Co., 7-8 Oct 2014 (2014-107) established the latest date for the species in California and the first record for Kern Co.

*Photo by Thomas A. Benson*



Figure 10. This Rustic Bunting, which lingered in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, from 6 Dec 2014 to 30 Mar 2015 (2014-148), was the first recorded in California since 1996 and only the fifth overall.

*Photo by Bob Steele*



Figure 11. Varied Bunting, along the San Gabriel River near Duarte, Los Angeles Co., 26 Mar–20 Apr 2014, representing the fourth record for California.

Photo by Michael Long

**SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus* (5, 0). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** One was reportedly seen, without the aid of optics, along the American River Parkway, SAC, 24 Aug 2014 (2014-098). It was described as in definitive basic plumage, unexpected on this date. With only five accepted records of this species for California, none since 1989, most committee members expressed reluctance to accept a record of so rare a bird in an atypical plumage without more documentation.

**MARSH SANDPIPER** *Tringa stagnatilis* (2, 1). One southeast of Dixon, SOL, 9–13 Apr 2014 (TFH†, EH†, MJM†, GMcC, MM†, JM†, DWN†, LS†, JCS†, CSw†, SBT; 2014-032; Figure 4) represented a second California record. Pyle judged this bird to be in its first spring because of its eccentric wing-molt pattern. California's first Marsh Sandpiper, near Mecca, RIV, 26 Oct 2013 (Rottenborn et al. 2016), may have been a juvenile, leading to speculation that both records may pertain to the same individual.

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT** *Limosa haemastica* (51, 1). A juvenile was near Pt. Mugu, VEN, 5 Sep 2014 (LS†; DP; 2014-085).

**BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER** *Calidris falcinellus* (0, 0). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** The report of one on Santa Rosa I., SBA, 12 Oct 1992 (1992-801) lacked details adequate for a species new to California. Rare in the western and central Aleutians and the Pribilofs, the Broad-billed Sandpiper has not been recorded along the Pacific coast southeast of those islands, though there is one unequivocal record from the northeast United States (Benner 1998).

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RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* (17, 1). An adult in Richmond, CC, 20–21 Jul 2014 represented a first for Contra Costa County and San Francisco Bay (LK†; JLD, LH†, MP†, JCS†; 2014-067).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (26, 1). An adult near Mecca, RIV, 8–14 Jan 2014 (CM†; TAB†, JLD†, GMcC, BJS†; 2014-003) was only the second Black-headed Gull recorded in the Salton Sink. The first was a first-cycle bird in the same area in 2007 (Singer and Terrill 2009).

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (116, 3). Single adults were seen during a pelagic trip approximately 3 km west-southwest of Dana Pt., ORA, 11 Jan 2014 (JLD; CM†; 2014-016) and at the Modesto wastewater-treatment plant, STA, 26 Jan 2014 (HR†; 2014-179). One in its first spring was at the Hacienda Evaporation Ponds ~11 km southwest of Alpaugh, KIN, 2–6 May 2014 (SLS†; JCS†; 2014-041).

BLACK-TAILED GULL *Larus crassirostris* (3, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One was reported from Venice Island, SJ, 4 Jan 2014 (2014-053). Despite a good description and sketch of some important characters, the brevity of the observation and the distance at which the bird was seen contributed to all but two members withholding support. With only three accepted records in California, most committee members concluded that more evidence was required for acceptance of a record of this accidental species.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* (0, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: An interesting second-cycle gull at the Elk R. mouth, HUM, 2–22 Aug 2014 (2014-172) posed an identification problem for observers and committee members. Considered by many to be a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*), it had some field marks apparently inconsistent with that species at this age. Incoming gray mantle feathers better matched the shade of those of a California (*L. californicus*) or Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), being notably paler than expected on a Lesser Black-backed Gull. While some committee members believed the Yellow-legged Gull couldn't be eliminated as a possible identification, most members thought the bird better fit the Lesser Black-backed Gull, possibly of an Asian subspecies paler than the *L. f. graellsii* known from California, and no members voted to accept the identification as the Yellow-legged.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides* (22, 1). One in its first cycle was at the mouth of Baldwin Cr., SCZ, 22 Jan 2014 (JP†; 2014-013). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of an adult at Bishop, INY, 23–29 Jan 2014 (2014-009) went four rounds before a final decision was reached. Two committee members were unwilling to accept as an Iceland a gull with more pigmentation in the outer primaries and a bill slightly longer than average, and so possibly a hybrid Iceland × Thayer's (*L. thayeri*) Gull. Similarly, most members expressed reservations over notable darkness in the tail, secondaries, and outer primaries of a supposed first-cycle Iceland Gull at Clear L., LAK, 27–29 Dec 2014 (2014-171). Both of these records exemplify the difficulty committee members frequently encounter with the Iceland Gull and its unresolved (and possibly unresolvable) issues of identification and taxonomy.

SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus schistisagus* (57, 4). Adults were in Tiburon, MRN, 7 Jan 2014 (NA†; 2014-002), near Dixon, SOL, 28 Feb–1 Mar 2014 (TE†; 2014-024), and at Crystal Springs Reservoir, SM, 4 Mar 2014 (RTh; 2014-039). A third-cycle bird was in Half Moon Bay, SM, 9 Jan 2014 (AJ†; 2014-005). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A majority of committee members concluded that a reported first-cycle Slaty-backed Gull in Arcata, HUM, 9 Nov 2013–5 Mar 2014 (2013-292) was unidentifiable on the basis of current knowledge. Even within this species' normal range in northeast Asia, distinguishing Slaty-backed Gulls of this age class from hybrids remains a considerable challenge. Efforts to expand our understand-

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ing of identification criteria continue (see McKee et al. 2014). Another first-cycle gull, this one near Orick, HUM, 25 Jan 2014 (2014-010) was possibly of this species, but garnered no votes for acceptance because of insufficient documentation. An adult along the Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline in Richmond, CC, 5–8 Feb (2014-015) had a mantle too pale for a Slaty-backed Gull, approaching that of nearby California Gulls. Another adult in Half Moon Bay, SM, 11 Feb 2014 (2014-018) also had a mantle paler than expected for the Slaty-backed, as well as an anomalous wingtip pattern.

SOOTY TERN *Onychoprion fuscatus* (14, 1). An adult was at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 5 Jul 2014 (RS†; 2014-065).

ELF OWL *Micrathene whitneyi* (7\*\*, 2). A nesting pair at Corn Spring, RIV, 17 Apr–30 Jun 2014 (EAE†; JBo†, CAMS, 2014-064) was presumably the same nesting pair first found at this location in spring 2010 (2010-050; Johnson et al. 2012) and recorded in all subsequent years (Pike et al. 2014, Rottenborn et al. 2016). Two fledglings were located 30 Jun. See Johnson et al. (2012) and Rottenborn et al. (2016) for the recent history of the Elf Owl in California.

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Lampornis clemenciae* (3, 2). One at Palomar Mountain, SD, 13 Jul 2014 (JBi†; 2014-120) furnished only the second record for the state and the first from southern California; the documentation did not allow assessment of age or sex. A second-year male at Crestline, SBE, 18 Sep 2014 (PR; TAB†, CAM†, BSi†; 2014-090; Figure 5) had been banded on 14 Jul 2013 in Portal, Arizona, where it had been recaptured three times, most recently on 8 Sep 2013. Remarkably, on 2 Dec 2014 the same individual was found with an injury in La Mesa, SD, and brought into a rehabilitation clinic (PH†, EL†; 2014-153); it was well enough to be released back at Portal on 26 Mar 2015.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris* (18, 3). A first-fall male in Nipomo, SLO, 30 Aug–2 Sep 2014 (JAL†; 2014-177) and an adult male in Arroyo Grande, SLO, 3–6 Sep 2014 (BKS†; DBe†, TAB†, BiB†, MBu†, MH†, CAM†, WM†, JO†, KP†, TS†, KZ†; 2014-079) provided the second and third records for San Luis Obispo County, and a first-fall female in Eureka, HUM, 3–10 Sep 2014 (BE†; JLD, EF†, RFow†, AL, CO, CRy†, SSt†; 2014-080; Figure 6) was the second Ruby-throated Hummingbird accepted from Humboldt County. The identification of first-fall and female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds out of range is difficult; that of the one in Humboldt County relied mostly on details of face pattern and flight-feather structure, especially the narrow tenth primary (Pyle 1997). The dates of these three records fit within the date range typical for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird in California.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris* (87, 3). Spring migrant males were at Montecito, SBA, 26–27 Mar 2014 (MS; JL; 2014-060) and at Chiriaco Summit, RIV, 22–23 May 2014 (LS†; TAB†, CAM†; 2014-043). A female was seen and heard briefly at a private residence near Blythe, RIV, 5 Dec 2014 (LBH; 2014-175).

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway* (17, 5). One at Borrego Springs, SD, 11 Mar 2014 (WH; 2014-026) is one of few records from California's desert regions, closer to the species' normal range. A strong majority of committee members considered the Crested Caracara at the Mid Hills Campground, Mojave National Preserve, SBE, 18 May 2013 (ES†; 2013-063) to be the same as the one near Oxnard, VEN, 11–14 Jun 2013 (AS, MZ†; 2013-108), on the basis of missing primaries on the left wing, while a lesser majority considered one moving among San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, and Santa Catalina Islands, SBA/LA, 6 Apr 2014–10 Sep 2014 (AMW†; MBr†, DaD†, RAe†, JLK†, MSt†, Yt†; 2014-031) also the same individual. One at Famosa Slough, SD, 9 Apr 2014 (CB†; 2014-033) was apparently the same bird as one 11 days later in Encinitas, SD, 21 Apr 2014 (SS†; 2014-038). Three records

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from the central California coast were accepted as representing one bird moving south: at Pescadero, SM, 13 Mar 2014 (JR†; 2014-030), at Elkhorn Slough, MTY, 4 Sep 2014 (PJD†; 2014-118), and near the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 20 Sep–10 Oct 2014 (TW†; AH†, SL†, MP†, MR†, DR†, CW†; 2014-094). Around the Salton Sea, one at Desert Beach, RIV, 9 Nov 2014 (DRa, NT†; 2014-131) was most likely the same individual as one at Rock Hill, IMP, 25–26 Nov 2014 (JO†, ES; TAB†; 2014-145) and near Signal Mountain, IMP, 9 Dec 2014 (CB†; 2014-149). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One in Lone Pine, INY, 12 Apr 2014 (2014-113) was variously identified as a Black Vulture and a Turkey Vulture by observers in the field and identified as the Crested Caracara only from a single photograph taken at a distance. After two rounds the record received little support. It serves as a reminder that written descriptions of a bird in the field can provide information more useful than long-range photographs. The report of one in Reliz Canyon, MTY, 6 Aug 2104 (2014-117) lacked any details of the bird's appearance.

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus* (14, 2). One in its first winter was observed at Bouldin I., SJ, 16 Jan 2014 (DY; 2014-020). California's first adult Gyrfalcon, a lightly marked gray-morph bird, was near Ferndale, HUM, 2–21 Feb 2014 (BE†; KMB†, MDD, EF, TLI†; 2014-017). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one near Orick, HUM, 29 Sep–2 Oct 2014 (2011-280), previously not accepted (2011-208; Pike et al. 2014), was recirculated on the basis of new information submitted to the committee but failed to garner enough support for the committee to reverse its decision. The report of one at Lake Earl, DN, 19 Nov 2014 (2014-142) lacked documentation sufficient for members to support it.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens* (13, 1). A one-year-old bird at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 6–7 Jun 2014 (DSS†; LK†; 2014-049) was accepted unanimously largely on the basis of recordings of the distinctive song. This is the second record from Marin County and Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris* (29, 1). The committee agreed that, except for a slight crest, a bird at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 10 Sep 2014 (DMax†; AJ†; 2014-089) showed all characters typical of this species, including a wide dark bar between the pale secondary fringes and the lower wing-bar (Baumann et al. 2014); this identification feature needs further field testing. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The committee concluded that the report of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded at Pt. Mugu Naval Base, VEN, 2 Oct 2009 (2009-262) did not eliminate the Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*).

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (101, 4). One in its first spring at Ralph Dills Park, Paramount City, LA, 7 Mar 2014–13 May 2014 (RB†; BDD†§, TF-H†, KLG†, CAM†, ES†, MAS†, MZ†; 2014-025) lingered quite late, although this is not unprecedented for a Dusky-capped Flycatcher in California (Rottenborn et al. 2016), and the bird likely wintered in the vicinity. One at Ocean Beach, SD, 4 May 2014 (TJ†; 2014-036) also likely wintered locally. An adult on San Clemente Island, LA, 20 Aug 2016 (JTS†; SMe†, Be†; 2014-075) was accepted unanimously on the second round on the basis of details of plumage and structure visible in photos and the observer's description of the call and size. This is the first record from the Channel Islands and the first for California in August. Most Dusky-capped Flycatchers in California are discovered in November or December, and there are no records for the state from September or October. One in its first fall at Pt. Reyes, MRN, was found 2 Nov 2014 (BA†, BA†; 2014-127).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (60, 1). One at Refugio State Beach, SBA, 4 Oct 2014 (DMC; PG†, HPR†; 2014-104) was found near the species' peak of occurrence in California.

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SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris* (18, 1). A first-fall immature made a brief appearance at El Polin Springs in San Francisco, SF, 6 Sep 2014 (BG†; 2014-083), representing a new early date for this species in California in fall. The similar Streaked Flycatcher (*M. maculatus*), a candidate for vagrancy to California (CBRC 2007), was eliminated by the prominent malar stripe.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (23, 1). An adult wintered at Horsethief Canyon Park in San Dimas, LA, 18 Jan–3 Feb 2014 (ESm†; JFi†, KL†, TGM†, JO†, GW†; 2014-007) and returned for a second winter 15 Nov 2014–19 Jan 2015 (TAB†, KLG; 2014-143). Another returned for its fifth winter to Otay Valley at the mouth of Poggi Canyon in Chula Vista, SD, 11 Dec 2014–25 Mar 2015 (SMR; SBr, JBr†, TF-H, GMcC, KR†, TWa†; 2014-152). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Most committee members commented that the description of one reportedly in the San Pasqual Valley near Escondido, SD, 6 May 2014 (2014-040) was too incomplete for an exceptionally late record, and no calls were heard.

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (75, 1). One at Oasis Ranch, MNO, 8–28 Jun 2014 (CMcC§; TAB†, CAM†, KNN, NJO†, SLS; 2014-050) was typical of California records of this species in that it was a singing male in spring, though the bird stayed longer than most and it may have attempted to summer.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius* (76, 1). An apparent first-fall male was at Bethany Curve Park in Santa Cruz, SCZ, 29 Sep 2014 (ARi†; 2014-102). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Photos of a vireo at Cottonwood Creek Park in Encinitas, SD, 2 Apr 2014 (2014-035) were difficult to evaluate as they appeared to show features of both the Blue-headed and Cassin's vireos; most committee members agreed that Cassin's Vireo could not be ruled out. Given brief views and the lack of photographs, the CBRC concluded that a bright Cassin's could not be ruled out for a vireo seen at Veterans Cemetery in Crescent City, DN, 14 Dec 2014 (2014-154).

\*YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (133, 10). Following an exceptional influx of this species in 2013 (Rottenborn et al. 2016), 2014 again brought California an unusually large number of Yellow-green Vireos. Given this recent increase and a large number of total records in the state, the CBRC is discontinuing review of reports of the Yellow-green Vireo after 2014. Single individuals were at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Pt. Loma, SD, 9–10 Sep 2014 (JBo†; CAM†; 2014-087) and 11–17 Oct 2014 (DMar†; DBr†, GD†, JLD, CAM†, BSc†, AJSt, JCS†, MSt†, SBT, CAM†; 2014-108), at Lincoln Park in San Francisco, SF, 19–20 Sep 2014 (HC†; DK, LC, LK, KJ, DMO, JFa; 2014-093), at Presidio Park in San Diego, SD, 20–21 Sep 2014 (EA; CA†, RyA†, RJTS†; 2014-091), along Carbonera Creek in Santa Cruz, SCZ, 22–23 Sep 2014 (SG†; CS†, AJSt, 2014-095), at Half Moon Bay, SM, 25 Sep 2014 (AJ; 2014-096), in Owl Canyon at Bodega Bay, SON, 10–11 Oct 2014 (GB; 2014-109), banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 11 Oct 2014 (KNN†; RR; 2014-174), at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, MRN, 29 Oct 2014 (DSS†; 2014-121), and along the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail, LA, 30 Oct 2014 (JoB†; 2014-146). All fall within the species' typical window of occurrence. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Reports from Carpinteria, SBA, 2–7 Oct 2014 (2014-103), Golden Gate Park, SF, 2–5 Oct 2014 (2014-105), and Laguna Road near Oxnard, VEN, 9 Oct 2014 (2014-160) may have represented Yellow-green Vireos but did not adequately eliminate other species including the Red-eyed (*V. olivaceus*) and Warbling (*V. gilvus*) vireos.

BLUE JAY *Cyanocitta cristata* (17, 1). One at Willow Creek, HUM, 1–9 Nov 2014 (RFow†, CAM†; 2014-137), probably in its first fall, occurred at a date and site typical for this species in California; Humboldt County has now hosted seven of California's 17 Blue Jays.



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WINTER WREN *Troglodytes hiemalis* (17, 1). The report of one at Central Park in Huntington Beach, ORA, 30 Dec 2014–31 Jan 2015 (JEP†, MB†, JeB†, JLD, TAB†, ES†, RS†, TF-H†, TEWS; 2014-161) was accepted largely on the basis of recordings of its call, the most easily evaluated feature distinguishing this species and the Pacific Wren (*T. pacificus*). This is the second record for this location; 11 of California's 17 records come from the coastal slope.

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens* (16, 0). One at Bassett's Station, SIE, 11–16 Jun 2014 (EP§, GG§; 2014-055) had returned for its second consecutive summer (2013-129; Rottenborn et al. 2016).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus* (24, 1). One at the Primm Valley Golf Club, SBE, 7 Jun 2014 (TAB†, AEK; 2014-048; Figure 7) represents the third inland and third spring record for California, aligned temporally with the previous two (28 May and 11 June; 1989-021 and 1989-022, respectively). It is also the first away from Southeast Farallon I. since 1998. The CBRC continues to consider the possibility of a vagrant Bicknell's Thrush (*C. bicknelli*) in California unlikely enough that records of the Gray-cheeked Thrush need not eliminate this species (see CBRC 2007), although the Primm Valley bird did show the colder gray and brown tones in the face and tail typical of the Gray-cheeked.

RUFIOUS-BACKED ROBIN *Turdus rufopalliatu*s (20, 1). An adult at Twentynine Palms, SBE, 25–29 Oct 2014 (TAB†; DA†; 2014-119) near the early end of the late fall to winter season in which the Rufous-backed Robin has been recorded in California.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre* (31, 1). One was singing at Parker Dam, SBE, 2–13 Mar 2014 (DAG†; DVPT†; 2014-022). Like California's previous Curve-billed Thrashers it showed blurry ventral spotting and indistinct white tail tips typical of the western subspecies *palmeri*. Most records from southeastern California are from the winter months.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni* (2, 1). One was at Yorba Regional Park in Anaheim, ORA, 1–5 Nov 2014 (JeB†; TAB†, MAC†, JLD, EE†, MFr†, NF†, KLG†, RHo†, GMcC, JO†, LS†, SLS†, JCS†, MSt†, CT†; 2014-123; Figure 8). In Alaska the species is an intermittent migrant in spring and casual in fall to the western Aleutians, where it probably nested in 1998 (Gibson and Byrd 2007). It is casual elsewhere in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015). Elsewhere in North America, it has been collected near Reno, Nevada, on 16 May 1967 (Burleigh 1968) and seen at Cataviña, Baja California, 18–19 Oct 1996 (Hamilton et al. 2000). Small numbers (12–15 birds) have also been recorded on Kure Atoll, the northwesternmost island of Hawaii (Pyle 1984). California's only previous record was of one on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 26–29 Sep 1998 (1999-010; Capitolo et al. 2000). Features that identified the bird at Yorba Regional Park as an Olive-backed Pipit included the strong olive tinge to the upperparts, the interrupted and bicolored supercilium bordered above by a strong blackish lateral crown stripe, a dark spot in the rear of the auriculars, and heavy black spots on a buff-washed throat and breast contrasting with an unmarked white belly. The largely unstreaked back strongly suggests that the bird was of the more northerly and migratory subspecies *yunnanensis*, although, Alström and Mild (2003) cautioned that throughout its range of nominate *hodgsoni* some examples are "only slightly more distinctly streaked above than *yunnanensis*." All Alaska specimens are *yunnanensis* (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (131, 4). Two were near Ferndale, HUM, 2–17 Nov 2014 (BE†; CAM†, SBT†; 2014-125); another was in Tennessee Valley near the Marin Headlands, MRN, on 18 Nov 2014 (JCa†; 2014-150). In the interior, one was at Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, MOD, 17–19 Nov 2014 (DB†; 2014-176).

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WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum* (126, 2). One was seen at the Laguna Road tamarisks at Oxnard, VEN, 15 Oct 2014 (JB†; 2014-115). Another wintered at the Village Green community in Los Angeles, LA, 20 Dec 2014–30 Mar 2015 (DSt†; TAB†, JG†, KLG†, TF-H†, ES†; 2014-156).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (121, 2). A first-fall female was at the fish docks at Pt. Reyes National Seashore, MRN, 28 Sep 2014 (CC†; EB, DRM†; 2014-100), and another was on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 20 Sep 2014 (JRT; AJSt†, 2014-112).

MOURNING WARBLER *Geothlypis philadelphia* (148, 2). Southeast Farallon I., SF, had a first-fall female 10–12 Sep 2014 (DMax†, AJSt†, JRT; 2014-111) and one of uncertain age and sex (good description but poor photos) on 20 Sep 2014 (AJSt†; 2014-130).

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Setophaga tigrina* (35\*\*, 6). A first-fall female was at Pt. Loma, SD, 2 Nov 2014 (JTS†; 2014-126). Five first-fall males turned up at Pt. Reyes National Seashore, MRN: at the lighthouse 4 Sep 2014 (MaF, JMi; 2014-081) and 19–21 Sep 2014 (CAr†, KGi†, DDK†, RLeB†, MP†; 2014-092), at nearby Nunes Ranch 6 Sep 2014 (DGe, EH, DDK†, KSo; 2014-086) and 21 Sep 2014 (DDK†; 2014-106), and at Mendoza Ranch, 21–22 Sep 2014 (EC, RHa, MSa†; 2014-129). Good descriptions and/or photos informed the committee's decisions to treat all these as distinct individuals.

GRACE'S WARBLER *Setophaga graciae* (70, 3). One was at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Pt. Loma, SD, 6–10 Sep 2014 (RyA†; CAM†, 2014-084). A first-fall female at Pacific Grove, MTY, 6 Sep 2014, was only the third recorded in northern California (DR†; 2014-110). One at the North Campus Open Space, Goleta, SBA, 7 Nov 2014–10 Mar 2015 (JL; MGr†, CAM†, BMi, PSch†, DTh†; 2014-159) had evidently returned for a second winter (Rottenborn et al. 2016).

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons* (25, 1). A first-fall male at Galileo Hill Park, KER, 7–8 Oct 2014 (BK & KK†; TAB†, JCh†, JLD, HBK†, CAM†, JOH†, NJO†, ASH, BSt†, SLS, JCS†; 2014-107; Figure 9) established a first record for Kern County and was the latest Red-faced Warbler recorded in California in fall.

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Peucaea cassinii* (52, 1). A singing male was west of Lancaster, LA, 22–28 May 2014 (JSF; TAB†, JLD†, KLG†, CAM†§, LSc, AJSt†, JTS§, SLS; 2014-042).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (36, 1). One wintering at Abbots Lagoon on Pt. Reyes National Seashore, MRN, 30 Dec 2014–24 Jan 2015 (KS†; CAM†, JM, DSS†, SSK & DSkt†, SBT†; 2014-157) established a first record for well-birded Marin County.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* (5, 1). One at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, SF, 6 Dec 2014–30 Mar 2015 (ASH; TAB†, WBr†, JLD, JFa†, TF-H†, JM†, TPo†, SLS, BSt†, BLS†; 2014-148; Figure 10) was the first Rustic Bunting recorded in California since 1996. In this species, the sexes differ little if at all in the nonbreeding plumage; by the end of its stay this bird showed no sign of incoming male plumage. Only one previous Rustic Bunting is known to have stayed an entire winter like this one (23 Dec 1995–17 Mar 1996 at Hoopa, HUM; 1996-008), although the one at Stone Lagoon, HUM, 7–8 Jan 1984 (1984-033) may have done so.

VARIED BUNTING *Passerina versicolor* (5, 1). An adult male along the San Gabriel River near Duarte, LA, 26 Mar–20 Apr 2014 (ML†; JLD†, JSF†, TF-H†, CAM†, DEQ†, LS†; 2014-028; Figure 11) established the first record of the Varied Bunting for the coastal slope of California. The previous records involve two specimens from a flock of 15 to 20 birds near Blythe, RIV, 8–9 Feb 1914 (1977-145; Daggett

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1914), an adult male at Mesquite Springs, Death Valley N.P., INY, 18–21 Nov 1977 (1977-130; Luther et al. 1979), and a first-fall immature at Horsethief Springs in the Kingston Mountains, SBE, 10–12 Oct 2012 (2012-155; Pike et al. 2014). While the identification was not an issue, this record went three rounds as the committee considered the bird's natural occurrence and subspecies, the nearer *pulchra* breeding in southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico and western Mexico, or the more distant *versicolor* from southeastern New Mexico, western Texas, and north-central and northeastern Mexico. Some authors (e.g., Dickinson and Christidis 2014) have treated the populations in western mainland Mexico and southeastern Arizona as subspecies *dickeyae* different from the resident population in Baja California Sur (*pulchra sensu stricto*), while others (Monson and Phillips 1981) have not. If the bird near Duarte was eastern *versicolor* it may more likely have been an escapee. To assess the subspecies issue, Curtis Marantz and Brian Daniels visited the Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, with James Maley, John McCormack, and Janet Scheel. They examined about 300 specimens, about a third of them adult males. They found that adult males from across northern Mexico showed extensive individual variation, corroborating the conclusion of Ridgway (1901), who identified no subspecies on the basis of adult males—the subspecies of the Varied Bunting currently recognized are defined primarily or exclusively by the color of the female and first-year male plumages (van Rossem 1934, Phillips et al. 1964). In the Moore Laboratory collection three March specimens show evidence of some prealternate molt, as reported by Groschupf and Thompson (1998). The Varied Bunting at Duarte was also molting some body feathers. After three rounds of circulation the Duarte record passed with two dissenting votes on natural occurrence.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus* (\*\*45, 7). Females were at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Ocean Park, SBA, 1 Jan 2014 (JF; 2014-001), at Huntington Central Park in Huntington Beach, ORA, 25 Jan–3 Mar 2014 (RScf; TAB†, JLD, TF-H†, MM†, LS†; 2014-008), and at Harkins Slough, Watsonville, SCZ, 28 Feb–15 Mar 2014 (CS†, BA†, JB†, MBol†, WB†, PF†, JG†, LFL†, LP†, DR†, CR†, LR†, NS†, DS†, PSot†, GT†, SBT†, DW†, NZ†; 2014-021). An unusual spring migrant was a male at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 12–18 Mar 2014 (BW; AnL†; AS†; 2014-029). A male was at Baker, SBE, 9 Nov 2014 (BD†; 2014-132). A female, probably in its first fall, along Santa Fe Grade Road near Gustine, MER, 13–22 Nov 2014 was the first recorded in Merced County and one of the few ever recorded in the Central Valley (SM†; JD, JLD, RJE†, JM†, JGa†, LP†, KVV†; 2014-139). A male was at Mendoza Ranch at Pt. Reyes National Seashore, MRN, on 16 Nov 2014 (RMalt†; 2014-144). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A singing male along the Mad River in Blue Lake, HUM, 31 May 2014 (2014-078) was substantiated by marginal photos and a brief audio recording. Six members of the committee questioned the identification during the one round of circulation.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (94, 3). Males were at the Pt. Reyes National Seashore lighthouse, MRN, 3 Jun 2014 (MD†; 2014-047) and at Lake Tamarisk, Desert Center, RIV, 3 Nov 2014 (BS†; 2014-128); a female was at Baker, SBE, 9 Nov 2014 (TAB†; MM†; 2014-133). The two November records fit the species' peak of occurrence in California. All three birds were of the northern and western subspecies *versicolor*, the Bronzed Grackle, the only subspecies recorded in the West.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* (8, 3). Four Bramblings occurred in California in the fall of 2014, remarkable because only five records had been accepted previously (CBRC 2007). An adult male was at Rolling Hills Estates, LA, 10–22 Oct 2014 (CWot†; 2014-116), another male was in Trabuco Canyon above Lake Forest, ORA, 6–10 Nov 2014 (SD†; 2014-138), and a first-year male wintered at a feeder in Arcata, HUM, 10 Nov 2014–12 Mar 2015 (GJ†; TAB†, JLD, RFow†, SBT†; 2014-136). These represent the first records of this species since 1992. NATURAL

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OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE: One female was on a cargo ship “within sight of land” off San Mateo Co. on 20 Oct 2014 (2014-135). It was one of six Bramblings that landed on this vessel just south of the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, on 15 Oct. By 19 Oct all were gone but one. The ship eventually docked on 22 Oct in Long Beach, LA. The record was not accepted by eight members on the basis of questionable natural occurrence, though one member considered such records acceptable unless the bird was physically restrained during transit. Though vagrants’ hitchhiking on ships is always a possibility, this Asian species has a pattern of occurrence across North America, so most Bramblings have likely arrived under their own power.

### MISCELLANEOUS

The long-staying Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*; 2012-058) first seen at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 25 Apr 2012, the female Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*; 2008-053) resident near Santa Rosa, SON, since 14 Apr 2008, and the Curve-billed Thrasher (2012-091) found at Starlite Estates near Bishop, INY, on 11 Jun 2012 were all still present on 31 Dec 2014.

### CORRIGENDA

The following corrections are made to the 39<sup>th</sup> report: the observers for Blue-footed Booby record 2013-130 should be listed as “DWN†, AIW†.” The sentence regarding Blue-footed Boobies occurring at Southeast Farallon I. should read, “Farther north, up to 4 were at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 18 Sep–8 Oct 2013 (DM†, CR†, JRT; 2013-259).” The date span for the Gray Hawk (2012-193) should be 25 Nov 2012–16 Mar 2013. The initials “DLS” pertained to Debra L. Shearwater for Hawaiian Petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*) 2013-100 and to David L. Suddjian for Blue-footed Boobies 2013-271 and 2013-280 and for Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*) 2013-066. Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) 2006-227 was not banded but was captured, photographed, and released unbanded.

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