

## THE 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2022 RECORDS

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**ABSTRACT:** From its last report through 2022, the California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 161 records of 70 species, endorsing 129 records. The first accepted records for California of Ainley's Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates cheimomnestes*), Small-billed Elaenia (*Elaenia parvirostris*), Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), Wood Warbler (*P. sibilatrix*), and Siberian Rubythroat (*Calliope calliope*) are outlined in this report. These additions bring California's total list of accepted bird species to 685, of which 17 represent established introductions. Other notable records in this report include California's second Gray-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*) and fourth Oriental Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*), Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), and Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrus furcatus*).

This 48<sup>th</sup> report of the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC), a committee of Western Field Ornithologists, summarizes evaluations of 161 records involving 171 individuals of 70 species. The CBRC accepted 129 of the 161 records, involving 128 individuals of 56 species, for an acceptance rate of 80.1%. A record is considered accepted if it received no more than one "not accept" vote from the nine voting members on the grounds of questionable identification, or no more than two "not accept" votes on the grounds of questionable natural occurrence. We considered 17 records of 15 individuals to represent returning or continuing birds that were accepted previously. Twenty-nine records, involving 39 individuals of 25 species, were not accepted because of questionable identification, and three records of two species were not accepted because of questionable natural occurrence. Reports of multiple individuals together were given the same record number; we therefore report the total number of accepted individuals as well, which may be different from the number of accepted records. Most of the records in this report were of birds first documented in 2022.

At its January 2023 meeting, the CBRC removed the Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) and Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) from the review list. At the same time, it added the Yellow Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysopheplus*) to the supplemental list on the basis of a record not accepted because of questionable natural occurrence at Keough Hot Springs, Inyo County, 31 Jul–2 Aug 2006 (2006-093; Singer and Terrill 2009). Since the period covered by this report, the committee has accepted the first California records of the White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Blue Rock-thrush

(*Monticola solitarius*), Siberian Pipit (*Anthus japonicus*), and Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*), the details of which will be published in the 50th report. These additions bring the California list to 689 species. The committee is currently evaluating a record of the Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), representing another potential addition to the state list.

Species account headings are organized with English and scientific names first, followed in parentheses by the total number of individuals accepted for California (this report included) and the number of new individuals accepted in this report. Accounts summarize records accepted (as applicable), followed by records not accepted because the identification was not established, the date or location was uncertain, or the natural occurrence was questionable (as applicable). A double asterisk (\*\*) following the number of accepted individuals indicates that the species has been reviewed for a restricted period, so the number of accepted individuals does not represent the total number known for the state. When the observer(s) who originally discovered the bird provided documentation, their initials are listed first in italics, followed by the initials of subsequent observers supplying documentation. A symbol following an observer's initials indicates that he or she submitted a photograph (†), sketch (\$), audio recording (§), and/or video (‡). The absence of a symbol following the observer's initials indicates the submission of written documentation only. Following the initials of the observer(s) is the identifying number assigned by the CBRC's secretary.

As of the CBRC's 43<sup>rd</sup> report (Singer et al. 2020), age terminology follows that of Humphrey and Parkes (1959) as modified by Howell et al. (2003) and Howell and Pyle (2015). Age determinations largely follow the criteria of Pyle (1997, 2008). If, in the species accounts, we do not specify a bird's age or sex, those characteristics could not be assessed from the information available. Definitions of abbreviations (including counties) and additional details regarding minutiae of formatting may be found in the CBRC's previous annual reports and in CBRC (2007), both available via the CBRC's website, [www.californiabirds.org](http://www.californiabirds.org). Also available through this website are the California bird list, the review list, an online form for submitting documentation of review species, committee news, the CBRC's bylaws, and a form for querying the CBRC's database. Observers are encouraged to submit documentation for all species on the CBRC's review list to the secretary via e-mail ([secretary@californiabirds.org](mailto:secretary@californiabirds.org)) or the website. Documentation of all records is archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology ([www.wfvz.org](http://www.wfvz.org)) and is available for public review by appointment or by contacting the CBRC's secretary.

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

EMPEROR GOOSE *Anser canagicus* (104, 2). Two birds—one in definitive basic plumage and the other of unknown age but probably in formative plumage—were at the South Spit of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 19–20 Dec 1996 (GSL†, JCP; 1996-180).

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* (30, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The photos of a supposed Garganey at Virgin Creek Beach, MEN, 11 Dec 2022 (2022-119) showed a female-plumaged Green-winged Teal (*A. crecca*).

MEXICAN DUCK *Anas diazi* (17, 8). The CBRC recently reviewed 13 records of 10 individual Mexican Ducks (including two returning in subsequent years) and

endorsed 11 records of eight individuals, all males. The three older records were of one apparently in definitive basic plumage at the San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera, LA, 23–26 Dec 2014 (JFG†, MP†; 2014-189); one in formative plumage at Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, LA, 1 May 2016 (CS†; 2016-152); and one at Lindo Lake, Lakeside, SD, 2 Dec 2019 (AN†; 2019-215). One shot at the Santura Duck Club near Wasco, KER, 8 Jan 2021 (KN†; 2021-092) made the 5 March edition of the *Bakersfield Californian*—yet we do not know if the specimen was preserved. One at Carr Park, ORA, 25 Jan–8 Mar 2021 (TABe†, CC†, Cj†, Jj†, JL†, GMcC, NJO†, NSalt†, ES†, RSc†, MASi†; 2021-012) was in formative plumage when found, then returned the two following winters, 19 Nov 2021–20 Feb 2022 (DH†, CC†, PEL†; 2021-144) and 19 Oct 2022–20 Feb 2023 (AMR†; 2022-082). One in definitive alternate plumage at Lower Otay Reservoir, SD, 15 Aug 2021 (JPa†; 2021-170) presumably returned 29 Jul–23 Sep 2022 (JPa, MSA†, RF†, GMcC; 2022-038) and another was at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), IMP, 10 Aug 2022 (GMcC; 2022-043); and one in formative plumage was at Bishop City Park, INY, 2 Nov 2022 (CBH†, RH†, JLD†; 2022-095). Of the 17 Mexican Ducks accepted for California, all have come from southern California and 12 have occurred in fall or winter (late July to early March). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One along San Luis Obispo Creek, SLO, 15 Dec 2018 (2018-258) and another at Lower Otay Lake, SD, 29 Dec 2018–11 Feb 2019 (2018-259) showed multiple characters suggesting hybridization with the Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*).

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina* (5, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The brief written descriptions of two males seen on the Mattole River near Whitethorn, HUM, 15 Nov 2021 (2021-178) and 13 Feb 2022 (2022-012), did not eliminate the Redhead (*A. americana*) or Canvasback (*A. valisineria*).

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* (49, 2). Two females—one in definitive basic and the other in formative plumage—first seen at Rincon Island, VEN, 17–20 Dec 2022 spent the remainder of their stay to 5 Feb 2023 at the Ventura pier, VEN (HPR†, TABe†, AlH†, CBH†, RH†, DVP†; 2022-124). These same individuals were later discovered at Crissy Field, SF, 10 Feb 2023 (DA†; 2023-005) and Asilomar State Beach, MTY, 16 Feb–13 Apr 2023 (DR†, MAC†; 2023-008). Interestingly, two female-plumaged King Eiders, one in definitive basic and the other in formative plumage, were at Lake Hattie Reservoir, Albany County, Wyoming, 12–18 Nov 2022 (Rudd 2023); photos of these birds were of a resolution insufficient to determine if they were the same individuals that reached California, but it seems possible.

ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE *Streptopelia orientalis* (3, 1). An adult wintered in Palo Alto, SCL, 2 Feb–16 Mar 2022 (AnB†, MFr†, LK†, KCK†, GMcC, EGM, JM†, MJR†, SCR, SBT†, ANW†; 2022-007; Figure 1). It had gray rather than white tips to the rectrices, a characteristic of the *orientalis* subspecies group, and was likely of the northeasternmost subspecies, *S. o. orientalis*, which is partly migratory and breeds from central Siberia east to Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands (Baptista et al. 2020). Records of the Oriental Turtle-Dove from Alaska have also been tentatively assigned to this subspecies (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

GROOVE-BILLED ANI *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (14, 1). One in formative plumage, following an incomplete preformative molt, was at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, RIV, 11–13 Nov 2022 (TABe†§; 2022-103).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW *Antrostomus carolinensis* (4, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The written description of an unseen bird singing at Lava Beds National Monument, SIS, 26–27 Oct 2022 (2022-098) failed to garner support from the committee. This species is not known to sing during fall migration (Straight and Cooper 2020), and at least one committee member thought the description of the song matched the Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*). It is worth



FIGURE 1. This adult Oriental Turtle-Dove wintered in Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, 2 February–16 March 2022 (photographed here 4 February; 2022-007), furnishing the third record for California. The gray tips to the rectrices visible in this photo indicate this bird is of the *orientalis* subspecies group.

Photo by Joseph Morlan

noting, however, that California's four accepted Chuck-will's-widows occurred 16 October–4 January.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** *Archilochus colubris* (27, 4). A female in definitive basic plumage captured and measured at the Palomarin Field Station in Bolinas, MRN, 29 Jul 2022 (*MDet*†; 2022-041) establishes the earliest record of a fall migrant Ruby-throated Hummingbird in California. Three additional records fit a more typical pattern of early September occurrence: juvenile males that may have begun preformative molt were at Goleta, SBA, 8–11 Sep 2022 (*BH*†, *NL*; 2022-061) and Bernal Hill, SF, 8–9 Sep 2022 (*RR*†§; 2022-053), and a juvenile female undergoing preformative molt was at the DeAnza Mobile Home Park, Santa Cruz, SCZ, 7–11 Sep 2022 (*PH*†, *GMA*†, *ST*, *NU*†; 2022-052).

**XANTUS'S HUMMINGBIRD** *Basilinna xantusii* (1, 0). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** The committee voted to re-evaluate this record of a male reported at Yaqui Well, SD, 27 Dec 1986 (1987-174B). The record was initially accepted (1987-174; Pyle and McCaskie 1992), and upon re-evaluation in 2000 a majority of the CBRC voted not to reverse this decision (1987-174A; McKee and Erickson 2002). During the most recent re-evaluation, eight members ultimately voted against acceptance. The single-observer sight record, of what would constitute the first record of a Xantus's Hummingbird in North America away from the Baja California peninsula, contained no first-hand written documentation from the day of the encounter, and there were numerous inconsistencies between the second-hand account submitted in 1987 and the six-page manuscript the observer provided over two years later.

**SIBERIAN SAND-PLOVER** *Anarhynchus mongolus* (17, 1). An adult male in alternate plumage was at San Pablo Bay NWR, SOL, 28 Jun 2022 (*EGM*; 2022-031). This species was recently split from the Tibetan Sand-Plover (*A. atrifrons*; Chesser et al. 2024). All California (and North American) records pertain to *A. mongolus*.

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2022 RECORDS

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (58, 1). An adult in definitive basic plumage wintered at the Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, 4 Dec 2022–18 Feb 2023 (MMR†; 2022-114), where presumably the same bird had spent the previous winter (2021-165; Terrill et al. 2024). A juvenile was at Bodega Bay, SON, 27 Aug 2022 (LS†, MS†; 2022-049). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The descriptions of a supposed Curlew Sandpiper seen at the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary, ALA, and Alameda Reserve, SF, 11–13 Oct 2022 (2022-074), were inadequate.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* (28, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A written description of an adult at the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary, ALA, 28 Jul 2022 (2022-039) was not endorsed by the majority of the committee.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* (38, 2). An adult, presumably back for its fifth winter (2018-219 et seq.; Benson et al. 2020), was at the salt works within the San Diego Bay NWR, San Diego Bay, SD, 18 Jul 2022–19 Apr 2023 (RTP†, AN†; 2022-036). Additional adults in alternate plumage were at Alexandre Dairy, 4 km northwest of Fort Dick, DN, 8 Aug 2022 (LB†; 2022-042) and the Tulare Lake Drainage District's Hacienda Basin, 28 km south-southwest of Corcoran, KIN, 31 Jul 2022 (MES†; 2022-045). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Nearly the entire committee thought that the photos of a bird at the Arcata Bottoms, HUM, 17 Apr 2002 (2022-017), showed a bright Least Sandpiper (*C. minutilla*).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* (37, 2). An adult, well-studied in flight after a brief encounter on the ground, was at Lake Tolowa, DN, 19 Aug 2022 (LB; 2022-047). Another adult, well-studied on the ground at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 2 Oct 2022 (MDet; 2022-064), showed the characteristic white rump in flight.

GRAY-TAILED TATTLER *Tringa brevipes* (2, 1). One in definitive alternate plumage was at the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve, San Diego Bay, SD, 12–16 Jul 2022 (MSa†S, GMcC, EGM, KR†; 2022-034; Figure 2). California's only previously accepted Gray-tailed Tattler was an adult in alternate plumage at the Lancaster sewage ponds, LA, 23 Jul 1981 (1981-043; Binford 1983).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* (4, 1). Found on the San Jacinto Lake Christmas Bird Count, an adult was at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, RIV, 20 Dec 2022–13 Apr 2023, during which time it underwent its definitive prealternate molt (TABe†, TABl†, CC†, MAG†, AIH†, GMcC; 2022-126; Figure 3). This is the first winter record of the Wood Sandpiper for California (and the United States); California's previous records were two in fall and one in spring. Thus the four records show neither a clear seasonal pattern nor a strong geographic pattern, as there are two each from coastal and inland sites and three from southern California and one from northern California.

THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia* (51, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Photos of a murre flock taken at MacKerricher State Park, MEN, 20 Jan 2022 (2022-004) purporting to show four Thick-billed Murres were, in the majority opinion, overexposed images of alternate-plumaged Common Murres (*U. aalge*). The CBRC has accepted only three records of the Thick-billed Murre involving more than one bird, none since 2002.

SWALLOW-TAILED GULL *Creagrurus furcatus* (4, 1). An adult was photographed at Saint Malo Beach at the mouth of Buena Vista Lagoon, SD, 25 Oct 2022 (JCav†; 2022-089). It represents the southernmost record for California and the first for San Diego County; the three previous California records extend from Monterey County north to Sonoma County. This species breeds almost exclusively on the Galapagos Islands.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (35, 1). The committee treated an adult in definitive basic plumage at the Modesto wastewater-treatment





FIGURE 2. This adult Gray-tailed Tattler in definitive alternate plumage, 12 July 2022, at the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve, San Diego County (2022-034), shows the finer barring, white vent and underparts, and supercilium extending behind the eye distinguishing it from an alternate-plumaged Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incana*).

*Photo by Matt Sadowski*

plant, STA, 18 Dec 2022 (HMR†; 2022-125) as the same bird seen at this location 21 Nov–11 Dec 2021 (2021-145; Terrill et al. 2024). Most of California's Black-headed Gulls have been along the coast, associating with Bonaparte's Gulls (*C. philadelphia*), but an adult in definitive basic plumage was found inland among a large flock of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) at San Jacinto, RIV, 20–22 Dec 2022 (LW†;



FIGURE 3. This cooperative adult Wood Sandpiper, photographed here on 20 December 2022 at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, Riverside County (2022-126), might recall a smaller, browner Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) with a more distinct supercilium.

*Photo by Matthew A. Grube*

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2022 RECORDS

2022-127). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A report from Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, 21 Aug 2022 (2022-048) lacked sufficient documentation.

ROSS'S GULL *Rhodostethia rosea* (3, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: An adult reported from the Klamath River mouth, DN, 20 May 2022 (2022-023) was seen under difficult viewing conditions, and the documentation provided was inconclusive.

SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus schistisagus* (89, 5). Adults in definitive basic plumage were at Half Moon Bay State Beach, SM, 31 Jan 2022 (AJ†; 2022-006) and along both the San Gabriel River in Pico Rivera and the Los Angeles River in Vernon, LA, 5–11 Feb 2022 (SK†; 2022-009). Two birds seen at the Landfill Loop East Bay Regional Park, CC, included one in its second cycle, 15–16 Mar 2022 (EGM†; 2022-013), and an adult in definitive basic plumage, 16–24 Dec 2022 (EGM†; 2022-123). From similarities of markings on the rectrices, the committee considers a second-cycle Slaty-backed Gull at Moss Landing, MTY, 24 Apr 2022 (ST†; 2022-018) to be the same individual seen almost a month later at MacArthur Park, LA, 19–21 May 2022 (ARB†; 2022-022; Figure 4), by which time it had begun its third prebasic molt. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of an adult photographed at Half Moon Bay State Beach, SM, 23 Dec 2021 (2021-166) failed to receive sufficient support from the committee because of concerns about hybridization with the Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. glaucescens*). The committee discontinued review of records of the Slaty-backed Gull after 2022.

SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis* (3, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Written descriptions and poor photos of a tern at the Limantour Estuary, MRN, 5 Aug 2021 (2021-070) were suggestive of the Sandwich Tern, but the committee ultimately concluded that the East Asian subspecies of the Common



FIGURE 4. This worn, second-cycle Slaty-backed Gull was at MacArthur Park, Los Angeles County, on the unexpectedly late dates of 19 (when this photo was taken) to 21 May 2022 (2022-022). With 89 accepted records for California through 2022, the committee removed the Slaty-backed Gull from its review list in January 2023.

Photo by Andrew R. Birch



FIGURE 5. This adult Arctic Loon in definitive alternate plumage on 12 May 2022 (2022-028) off San Mateo County shows the white on the flanks extending upward along the sides and thick white lines along the throat distinguishing it from the Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*).

Photo by Alvaro Jaramillo

Tern (*Sterna hirundo longipennis*) could not be eliminated given the bird's having a full black cap in August. California's only three accepted records of the Sandwich Tern have come from Los Angeles County south.

ARCTIC LOON *Gavia arctica* (18, 2). An adult in definitive alternate plumage was beautifully photographed 5 km offshore from Miramontes, SM, 12 May 2022 (AJ†; 2022-028; Figure 5). An individual in worn formative plumage was at the Huntington Beach pier, ORA, 18 Jun 2022 (RSc†; 2022-030). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Photographs of a loon near Cavern Point, Santa Cruz Island, SBA, 13 Jan 2022 (2022-003) did not provide detail sufficient to eliminate the Pacific Loon (*G. pacifica*).

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* (51, 6). A juvenile photographed at the Nine Mile Bank, SD, 1 Jan 2022 (SGB†, CKS; 2022-002) was the first Short-tailed Albatross documented in San Diego County since 1896 (Unitt 2004). A juvenile observed four times at Monterey Bay, MTY, 18 Jan–11 Jun 2022 (CT†; 2022-005) was found dead on the beach 30 Jun 2022 (specimen not collected, *fide* D. Roberson); the CBRC considered it the same as the Short-tailed Albatross in Monterey Bay 8 Nov–3 Dec 2021 (2021-157; Terrill et al. 2024). A banded Short-tailed Albatross in its third prebasic molt was observed on Monterey Bay, MTY/SCZ, on 30 Mar and 9 Jul 2022 (DL†, CO†; 2022-033). Because of its age, wing injury, and band, the committee considered it the same individual initially seen in southern California 5–7 Jun 2021, then sporadically on Monterey Bay from July 2021 onward (2021-046 et seq.; Terrill et al. 2024). Two additional Short-tailed Albatrosses (for a total of four) in Monterey County in 2022 included one in worn second basic plumage on Monterey Bay 17 Apr 2022 (FH†; 2022-021), and a juvenile 93 km west-southwest of Cypress Point 24 Apr 2022 (MFo†; 2022-040). A bird in worn, second basic plumage was 42.5 km east-southeast of Mussel Point, SON, 7 Nov 2022 (MR†; 2022-099).

AINLEY'S STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates cheimomnestes* (1, 1). California's first accepted record of this cryptic species, of one 73.2 km south of San Nicolas Island, VEN, 11 Dec 2021 (FM; 2021-179), was based not on a visual encounter but from an individual fitted with a GPS logger on its breeding grounds on Isote Negro off Guadalupe Island between December 2021 and February 2022, then recovered on the islet later that same breeding season. The Ainley's Storm-Petrel breeds on the islets off Guadalupe Island, Mexico, from October through April,



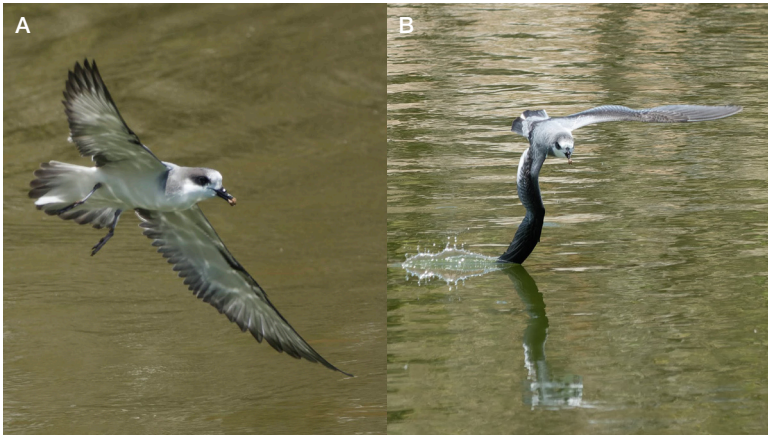


FIGURE 6. This Stejneger's Petrel at the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park, San Diego County, 10 June 2022 (2022-135), was identified by the small bill, broad white forehead, lack of a white supercilium, upward extension of white behind the dark patch around the eye, and partial gray breast band (A), plus the dark nape contrasting with the paler back and strong "M" pattern on the upper surface of the wings (B). Both Cook's Petrel and the Masatierra Petrel have larger or longer bills, an obvious white supercilium, and a more evenly colored upper wing.

Photos by Kris McMillan

but its nonbreeding distribution is poorly understood (Ainley 1980, Medrano et al. 2023). Ainley's and Townsend's (*H. socorroensis*) Storm-Petrels were split from the Leach's Storm-Petrel (*H. leucorhous sensu lato*) in 2016 (Ainley 1980, Howell et al. 2010, Chesser et al. 2016). On the basis of current knowledge Ainley's and Leach's cannot be distinguished from one another at sea, although differences in stage of molt and feather wear may prove useful for identifying some individuals in the field (Sieburth et al. 2023).

The committee received documentation only for one individual at one specific location; up to ten additional individuals were tracked into California waters (Medrano et al. 2022), and we may receive additional details. This is the CBRC's first acceptance of any species based solely on remote-tracking technology.

WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates tethys* (15, 1). One seen 250 km west-southwest of San Miguel Island, SBA, 31 July 2021 (CW†; 2021-067) differed from the similar Townsend's Storm-Petrel in having a shorter and thicker bill and a more extensive white rump patch covering more than half of the tail.

STEJNEGER'S PETREL *Pterodroma longirostris* (11, 1). California's first inland Stejneger's Petrel was a first-year bird photographed 28 km from the coast at the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park, San Pasqual, SD, 10 Jun 2022 (KM†, GWV†; 2022-135; Figure 6). This highly pelagic species breeds in the Juan Fernández Islands off Chile and spends its nonbreeding season in subtropical waters of the northwest Pacific Ocean (Carboneras et al. 2020). This unprecedented inland occurrence was not associated with any unusual weather in California.

This bird was originally assumed to be a Cook's Petrel (*P. cookii*) before Oscar Thomas, a birder from New Zealand, identified it as a Stejneger's Petrel. With additional expert analysis, the committee unanimously endorsed the identification



FIGURE 7. The Wedge-tailed Shearwater is polymorphic with light-morph individuals, such as this adult photographed 11 September 2022 near Point Loma, San Diego County (2022-054), predominating in the North Pacific part of its range.

Photo by Victor Stoll

as Stejneger's. See Figure 6 for field marks distinguishing this bird from the similar Cook's Petrel and Masatierra Petrel (*P. defilippiana*).

**STREAKED SHEARWATER** *Calonectris leucomelas* (20, 1). One completing definitive prebasic molt was near Santa Rosa Island, SBA, 1 Oct 2022 (SBT†; 2022-065). The first and only other Streaked Shearwater known from southern California was also around the Channel Islands, near Santa Cruz Island, SBA, 7 Sep 2002 (2002-156; Cole and McCaskie 2004).

**WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER** *Ardenna pacifica* (12, 1). A light-morph adult, 34.6 km west of Point Loma, SD, 11 Sep 2022 (GN†, DM†, TM†, AN†, VS†; 2022-054; Figure 7), was the third Wedge-tailed Shearwater recorded for San Diego County.

**MASKED BOOBY** *Sula dactylatra* (53, 1). One in its second prebasic molt photographed 18.2 km west of Point Loma, SD, 3 Oct 2021 (TAB†; 2021-108) required four rounds of review before being accepted. With the species now reaching California annually, the committee discontinued review of records of the Masked Booby after 2021.

**WOOD STORK** *Mycteria americana* (1\*\*, 0). The adult observed at the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park, San Pasqual, SD, 27 Mar 2022 (EL; 2022-014) and at the Prado Basin, RIV, 29 Mar–20 Oct 2022 (JEP†; 2022-015) is considered the same individual returning to these locations since May 2020 (2020-043 et seq.; Benson et al. 2022). It has demonstrated a seasonal pattern of movement that has included visits to the Safari Park in spring and fall, and various locations in Riverside County, including Perris, Lake Elsinore, Mystic Lake and the Prado Basin, in summer. The Safari Park, with its collection of captive water birds, has long proven a magnet for wild water birds.

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus* (48, 2). Adults in alternate plumage were at Durham, BUT, 26 May 2022 (LH†; 2022-025) and Olivehurst, YUB, 3 June 2022 (APe†; 2022-026). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The written documentation and low-resolution photos of a purported Glossy Ibis at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, YOL, 12 June 2022 (2022-113) did not eliminate a hybrid with a White-faced

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2022 RECORDS

Ibis (*P. chihii*), and a written description of six at Susanville, LAS, 16–20 Aug 1993 (1993-214) almost certainly pertained to juveniles of the White-faced Ibis. High-quality photos are needed for assessment of facial skin pattern and color, and eye, bill, and leg color, the features distinguishing these species.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL *Platalea ajaja* (154, 2). Two juveniles were at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 20 Aug–14 Sep 2022 (GMcC, NKo†; 2022-046).

BLACK VULTURE *Coragyps atratus* (13, 0). The committee treats an adult in Inverness, MRN, 21 May 2022 (AM; 2022-024) as the same individual that has frequented the general area since March 2014 (2014-027 et seq.; Singer et al. 2016).

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (63, 4). Three early-summer reports from coastal locations were of one-year-old birds in formative plumage at Kit Carson Park, Escondido, SD, 26 Jun 2022 (ID†; 2022-029); Cornucopia Community Garden in Ventura, VEN, 16 Jul 2022 (FD†; 2022-035); and La Mesa, SD, 26 Jul 2022 (PEL; 2022-037). A fall migrant in juvenile plumage was in Bolinas, MRN, 6 Oct 2022 (MDett†; 2022-068).

COMMON BLACK HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* (15, 1). The committee considers an adult at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, RIV, 13 Apr 2022 (BoW†; 2022-011) and 17 Jun–10 Aug 2022 (LW†, CAD†; 2022-027) to be the same individual, having gone undetected for the two intervening months. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A brief written description of a supposed Common Black Hawk from Modjeska Canyon, ORA, 15 Apr 2022 (2022-016) did not provide detail sufficient to establish the identification or eliminate the Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*).

SNOWY OWL *Bubo scandiacus* (62, 0). NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE: From similarities of plumage and molt stage, the committee treats a female in formative plumage in San Pedro, LA, 12 Nov 2022 (PC†, THi†, KK, JSu†‡; 2022-107) as the same bird as in Cypress, ORA, 5 Dec 2022–16 Jan 2023 (unknown†, JLD, HH†, CBH†, RH†, NKa†, BAL†, GMcC, TGM†; 2022-131; Figure 8). Members who questioned the owl's natural occurrence pointed to its proximity to the port of Los Angeles, increasing the likelihood of ship assistance, its presence in a highly urbanized area, and its occurrence in a year with no irruption of this irruptive species. Committee members' opinions on whether ship-assisted birds should be considered naturally occurring vagrants differed, but in this case a majority of members took a conservative approach, especially given that acceptance would have established the southernmost record in California. The CBRC has accepted only four records of the Snowy Owl, all from northern California, since 1978. DATE AND/OR LOCATION UNCERTAIN: The committee reviewed a record of a Snowy Owl from Big Horn Mine (2100 m elevation) in the San Gabriel Mountains, May 1913 (1913-101), based on a privately held mounted specimen (Bond 1945, including photo). The specimen was not appropriately labeled, and the reported provenance of the specimen was based on collector William G. Ritter's recollection of events 32 years prior. Lacking more definitive documentation, the committee did not accept this record because it would have been the first for southern California, the latest in spring, and the highest in elevation. Most accepted California records of the Snowy Owl are from open coastal locations in northern California, and all fall between 1 November and 1 April.

SMALL-BILLED ELAENIA *Elaenia parvirostris* (1, 1). One in formative plumage on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 4 Sep 2022 (NC†, JRT†; 2022-051; Clements and Tietz 2023, which see for photo) furnished the first record for California of this austral migrant flycatcher that breeds in southeastern South America and winters in northwestern Amazonia. The Small-billed and the austral migratory Chilean

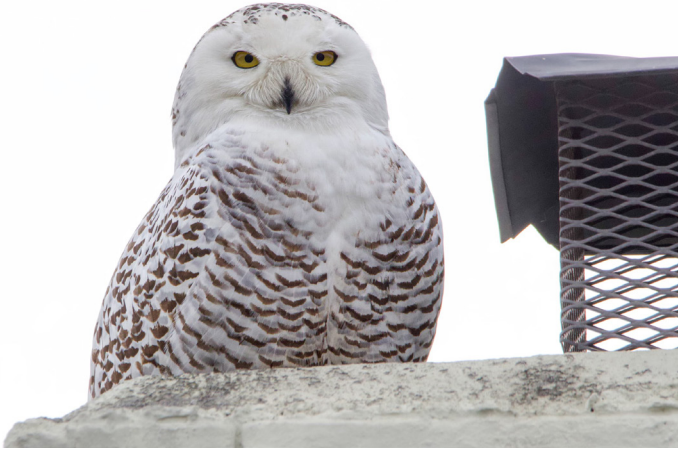


FIGURE 8. This female Snowy Owl in formative plumage, photographed 27 Dec 2022, was seen by hundreds, if not thousands, as it roosted on rooftops in Cypress, Orange County, during its stay from 5 December 2022 to 16 January 2023 (2022-131). While its identification is not in question, the committee did not accept this record because of questionable natural occurrence.

Photo by Braxton A. Landsman

population of the White-crested Elaenia (*E. albiceps*) have both been recorded as vagrants in North America, and discrimination of these two species is notoriously difficult (Gorleri and Areta 2022). This bird's presence in California in fall likely represents inverse migration with the bird traveling northwest instead of southeast to its intended summering grounds (D. DeSante pers. comm.). This is the fourth record of the Small-billed Elaenia north of Mexico and the first for the western United States (Clements and Tietz 2023).

**GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus crinitus* (79, 7). First-fall individuals, most undergoing preformative molt, were in Atascadero, SLO, 26 Sep 2022 (DB†; 2022-059); Del Rey Park, Del Rey Oaks, MTY, 1 Oct 2022 (MK, MFr†, DR†, CR†; 2022-062); Golden Gate Park, SF, 1 Oct 2022 (SB†, 2022-063); Booker T. Anderson Jr. Park, Richmond, CC, 10–11 Oct 2022 (BF†‡, EGM†; 2022-072); Bodega Bay, SON, 17 Oct 2022 (PBC†; 2022-083); and Los Osos, SLO, 20–24 Oct 2022 (JSR, TME†; 2022-084). An adult in definitive prebasic molt was at Point Loma, SD, 26 Oct 2022 (KR†; 2022-087). These records fit the species' typical pattern of occurrence in California, where 75 of the 79 accepted records are from September or October and 70 are from coastal counties. The committee discontinued review of records of the Great Crested Flycatcher after 2022.

**THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD** *Tyrannus crassirostris* (34, 5). An adult at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, SBE, 29 Apr 2022 (AEM†; 2022-019) and one at Mayflower County Park, RIV, 1 May 2022 (KH; 2022-020) represent the first spring migrant Thick-billed Kingbirds recorded in California; the former was the first recorded for San Bernardino County. More typical for this species in California were a wintering adult at Bellevue Memorial Park in Ontario, SBE, 11 Nov 2022–4 Apr 2023 (TABe†\$, JLD†, DJH†§; 2022-102) and one in formative plumage at Griffith Park, LA, 31 Oct 2022–1 Apr 2023 (CAM†; 2022-129). The first California record of two Thick-billed

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2022 RECORDS

Kingbirds together came from the Tijuana River valley, SD, 7–13 November 2022 (PEL†, BaW†; 2022-100), with one in formative plumage continuing through the winter at nearby Nestor Park, SD, 7 Jan 18–Mar 2023 (MCl†; 2023-003).

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (47, 0). An adult in Pacific Palisades, LA, 1–2 Jan 2022 (NSat\$, MASc†\$; 2022-001) was returning for its fifth winter at this location. Similarly, an adult in Balboa Park, SD, 18 Oct 2022–13 Mar 2023 (CBH†, RH†; 2022-081) had returned for at least its fifth winter. Most Greater Pewees recorded in California are known to have wintered for at least a month, and of those, ten have returned for multiple winters.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens* (18, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Photographs of a suspected Eastern Wood-Pewee reported from California City Central Park, KER, 2 Jun 2022 (2022-032) did not eliminate the Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*). The call was heard only twice and believed to be from an Eastern Wood-Pewee, but observers' accounts were inconsistent, and it was unclear if the pewee seen was indeed the calling bird. Though the date of occurrence would be consistent with the majority of state records, which are mostly of calling or singing birds, the committee decided that the documentation was insufficient to endorse this record.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris* (36, 6). One at Smith River National Recreation Area, DN, 11 Jun 2012 (LB\$; 2012-257) was reviewed from a recently submitted description and recording of the song. Accepted, this represents California's first spring record and Del Norte County's first record of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Other individuals were at Scorpion Ranch on Santa Cruz Island, SBA, 14 Sep 2022 (HPR†; 2022-056); Pine Lake Park, SF, 16 Sep 2022 (LK\$, HCS, EGM†; 2022-057); Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 20–21 Sep 2022 (JMB†, JRT, NC†; 2022-058); and Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, SD, 6–7 Oct 2022 (GBN†, KR†; 2022-067). One at Avalon on Santa Catalina Island, LA, 16–17 Oct 2022 (AdH†, CH†, MBa\$; 2022-078) was the first recorded for Los Angeles County. Except for the one in June, these birds fit the species' pattern of reaching California in juvenile plumage in September or October. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A supposed Yellow-bellied Flycatcher photographed along the Smith River near Fort Dick, DN, 26 Jul 2018 (2018-260) was well outside of the species' typical period of occurrence in California. The photographs showed characters inconsistent with the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and most committee members thought the bird was a Western Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*).

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* (12, 1). One in juvenile plumage was seen, then netted and banded on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 9 Oct 2022 (JMB†; 2022-070; Figure 9). It was silent but the overall appearance and wing and tail measurements confirmed its identity. It was the latest Alder Flycatcher recorded in California by nine days (2018-165; Benson et al. 2020) and the fourth recorded in fall on Southeast Farallon Island.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* (1, 1). One in formative plumage at Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, 18–23 Oct 2022 (WL†, TABe†, JLD†, MFr†, GMcC, MJR†, ANW†; 2022-080; Figure 10) was the first recorded not only in California but on the North American mainland, as previous Alaska records are from islands in the Bering Sea. The plain wings without wingbars, overall gray-brown color with a yellowish wash to the upperparts and off-white underparts, long primary extension, grayish cheeks, and pale legs distinguished this bird from other similar *Phylloscopus* warblers. Its vocalizations, a two-syllable call, were also consistent with a Willow Warbler.

The Willow Warbler breeds across northern Eurasia from northern Europe to northeastern Russia and winters in sub-Saharan Africa (Clement 2020a). It is a casual





FIGURE 9. This Alder Flycatcher on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, 9 October 2022 (2022-070), was the twelfth for California and the fourth for the island.

*Photo by Jonah M. Benningfield*



FIGURE 10. The first Willow Warbler for California and mainland North America, photographed here 19 October 2022, was at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin County, 18–23 October 2022 (2022-080). The distinct supercilium, plain wings, long primary projection, and pale legs and feet visible here were important in distinguishing this species from other *Phylloscopus* warblers.

*Photo by Alan N. Wight*

fall migrant to North America from late August to mid-September, with over two dozen records from Alaska's islands (Lehman 2019, Gibson et al. 2023) and a single specimen record from northeast Greenland (Bird and Bird 1941). Though subspecies of the Willow Warbler are somewhat unclear, the individual at Rodeo Lagoon was consistent with those populations in eastern Russia (*P. t. yakutensis*) that are drabber than the western subspecies *P. t. trochilus* and *P. t. acredula* (Svensson et al. 2009, Howell et al. 2014, Shirihai and Svensson 2018). The records from Alaska are also tentatively assigned to this subspecies (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (1, 1). One in formative plumage at Willow Springs Park, Long Beach, LA, 15–24 Oct 2022 (DJB†, TABe†, ARB†, JLD†, PAI†, BAL†, GMcC, EGM, KR†; 2022-077; see this issue's front cover) represented the first record for California and mainland North America. This bird was originally reported as a Tennessee Warbler (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) but was quickly correctly reidentified because of its bright yellow throat contrasting with white belly, long primary projection and undertail coverts, and pale bill and legs. Its bright green upper parts and yellow supercilium and face further distinguish this species from other species of *Phylloscopus*.

The Wood Warbler is a monotypic species that breeds in temperate forests from western Europe east only to Kazakhstan and winters in sub-Saharan Africa (Clement 2020b). Despite its known breeding range being over 5000 km distant, this species is a casual fall migrant to Alaska in late September and early October, with nine records from the western Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea islands and one from Middleton Island in the Gulf of Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015, Lehman 2019, D. D. Gibson pers. comm.). The timing of the California record fits well within the pattern of fall migrants to Alaska.

WINTER WREN *Troglodytes hiemalis* (34, 5). Wintering individuals were at Lake Solano County Park, SOL/YOL, 15 Nov 2022–13 Feb 2023 (KCK†, EGM, KR†; 2022-108); Arroyo Burro Creek, SBA, 19 Nov 2022–20 Mar 2023 (HPR†§; 2022-110; Figure 11); Carson Creek in the El Dorado Hills, ED, 26 Nov 2022–3 Jan 2023 (AiB†§, LG†; 2022-111); Putah Creek State Wildlife Area, YOL/SOL, 11 Nov 2022–5 Feb 2023 (EGM†§; 2022-120); and the Presidio of San Francisco, SF, 27–29 December 2022 (JMB§; 2022-132). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one photographed and recorded in Point Mugu State Park, VEN, 15–23 Nov 2021 (2021-146) went through four rounds of committee voting, but in the end, members found that too many characteristics in the recording were not diagnostic of either the Winter Wren or Pacific Wren (*T. pacificus*). Likewise, the calls of a wren at Palomar Mountain State Park, SD, 10 Dec 2022 (2022-117) were intermediate between these two species.

SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus stellaris* (13, 2). Two Sedge Wrens, representing the first and second records for Los Angeles County, were at Griffith Park, LA, 29–31 October 2022 (KL†, DJB†, TABe†, KR†; 2022-092; Figure 12) and the Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base, LA, 14 Nov 2022–7 Jan 2023 (KLG†; 2022-106).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre* (42, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The brief description of a reported Curve-billed Thrasher from Black Meadow Landing, SBE, 3 Feb 2022 (2022-008) did not rule out Bendire's Thrasher (*T. bendirei*). Nevertheless, Black Meadow Landing was the location of six records of the Curve-billed Thrasher between 2004 and 2015, suggesting a single long-lived individual or a small nearby population.

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (42, 6). A remarkable six Wood Thrushes, all in formative plumage, occurred in California in the fall of 2022. One was banded at the Palomarin Field Station, MRN, 12 Oct 2022 (MDe†; 2022-075). Others were photographed at Scorpion Ranch on Santa Cruz Island, SBA, 16–17 Oct

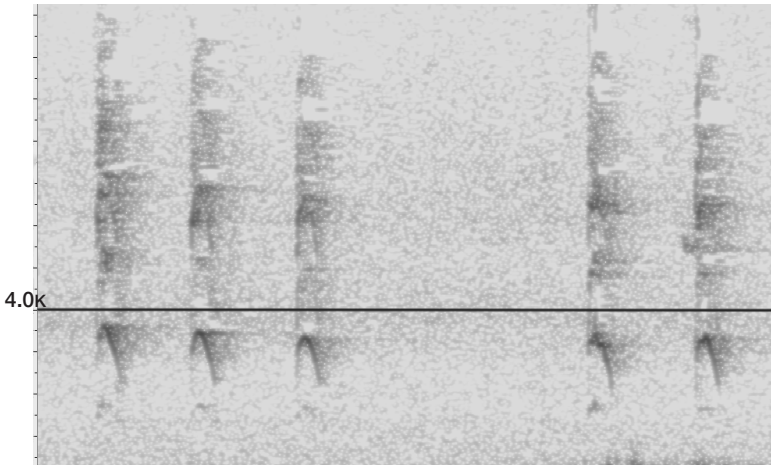


FIGURE 11. Winter Wrens were reported from various locations around California during October and November 2022 with some remaining through the winter. Accepted records were supported by audio recordings of calls more musical than the drier calls of the Pacific Wren. These calls of a Winter Wren along Arroyo Burro Creek, Santa Barbara County, were recorded on 19 November 2022; the bird remained through 20 March 2023 (2022-110). Note the distinct harmonic bands with the most intense element lower than 4 kHz.

*Recording by Hugh P. Ranson*



FIGURE 12. The two Sedge Wrens found in California during the fall of 2022 were the first and second recorded for Los Angeles County. The first was at Griffith Park, Los Angeles County, 29 (date of this photo) to 31 October 2022 (2022-092).

*Photo by Kevin Lapp*

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2022 RECORDS

2022 (HPR†; 2022-076); in Cerritos, LA, 28 Sep–4 Oct 2022 (CAD†; 2022-079); at Luckie Park, Twentynine Palms, SBE, 22–25 Oct 2022 (TABe†; 2022-085); at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 5–6 Nov 2022 (CHag†; 2022-097); and at Palomar Mountain State Park, SD, 25 Nov–10 Dec 2022 (BT†; 2022-112).

RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN *Turdus rufopalliatu*s (30, 2). One in formative plumage was in Calipatria, IMP, 20–24 Dec 2022 (PEL†; 2022-128), following the species' pattern of late fall and winter occurrence in the southeastern California. At its January 2024 meeting, the committee voted to re-evaluate a report from Parker Dam, SBE, 4 Jan 1983 (1990-039; Roberson 1993) after the observer found and submitted original field notes and a sketch. The main reason this record was not originally accepted was that the observer had previously specified the date as 4 Jan 1982, contradicting the claim that it had occurred during an irruptive winter for this species. With the date corrected and coinciding with other records, and the accompanying notes and sketch, the committee unanimously endorsed this record (FTS; 1990-039A).

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT *Calliope calliope* (1, 1). A male, apparently in formative plumage, was photographed by an automated trail camera on a Google campus in Mountain View, SCL, 19 Nov 2022 (JC-V†; 2022-134), representing the first record of the Siberian Rubythroat for California and the contiguous United States (Sowa et al. 2023, which see for the photo). This distinctive species was identified by the red throat, a white malar stripe, and a dull gray breast, which in combination distinguish it from the four other species in the genus *Calliope*.

The Siberian Rubythroat breeds across much of north Asia with an isolated population in central China, and winters in southern and southeastern Asia (Collar 2020). It is a rare to casual migrant on the Aleutian and Bering Sea islands (Gibson and Withrow 2015, Lehman 2019); Sowa et al. (2023) summarized the five records from the Alaska mainland. The only other record from North America is of a male found dead near Hornby, Ontario, Canada, 26 Dec 1983 (Brewer et al. 1983). The California record is noteworthy for representing the only species on the California list to be supported only by a photograph taken by an unmanned, automated camera.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus* (6, 1). More than 22 years elapsed between California's first record in 1989 (Patten and Erickson 1994) and its second in 2011 (Nelson et al. 2013), but there have now been four additional records within four years (CBRC 2024). One in formative plumage was at Lighthouse Field State Beach, SCZ, 28 Dec 2022–26 Mar 2023 (MLB, MFr†, CHay†, EGM, DR†, SBT, ANW†; 2022-133). Like California's only other Red-flanked Bluetail recorded on the mainland (2018-239; Benson et al. 2020) this individual spent the winter and was seen by many observers.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* (55, 4). Females in formative plumage were on Haskell's Beach, Goleta, SBA, 27 Sep 2022 (PAG†; 2022-060) and at the Baker sewage ponds, SBE, 8 Oct 2022 (TABe†; 2022-069), and a male in formative plumage was at Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District and nearby (~8 km) Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area, MRN, 24 Oct–3 Dec 2022 (MJR†, ANW†; 2022-086); all three were consistent with *M. a. ocellaris*. An adult female of *M. a. lugens* in basic plumage was on Struve Slough, Watsonville, SCZ, 9–14 Oct 2022 (PH†; 2022-071).

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* (10, 1). A male Brambling in formative plumage banded on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 2–3 Nov 2022 (JMB†, JRT; 2022-094) was a long-awaited first for this migrant trap.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius pictus* (13, 2). The two Smith's Longspurs observed in California in 2022 both had two generations of secondary coverts so were in formative plumage: one at Abbotts Lagoon, MRN, 10–14 Oct 2022 (TF† MDet†; 2022-073), the other on the Tejon Ranch, KER, 21 Dec 2022 (DS†; 2022-130).



CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2022 RECORDS

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Peucaea cassinii* (102, 2). One, likely in formative plumage, was along the Chah-GAH-Cho Trail in McKinleyville, HUM, 4–6 Oct 2022 (GG†, RF†; 2022-066). Another in formative plumage was at the mouth of Villa Creek, Estero Bluffs State Park, SLO, 4–9 Dec 2022 (MLS†; 2022-115).

FIELD SPARROW *Spizella pusilla* (21, 1). An adult at the Piute Ponds, Antelope Valley, LA, 27 Oct 2022 (CAD†; 2022-090) showed the indistinct postocular stripe, broad central crown stripe, and narrow back streaks of the subspecies breeding on the Great Plains, *S. p. arenacea*.

LECONTE'S SPARROW *Ammospiza lecontei* (47, 2). LeConte's Sparrows in formative plumage were photographed on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 13 Nov 2022 (JRT†; 2022-104) and at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, RIV, 25 Nov 2022 (SL†; 2022-109).

EASTERN TOWHEE *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (0, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: An apparent male Eastern Towhee in formative plumage photographed and audio-recorded at Jacumba, SD, 6–8 Nov 2021 (2021-138; Figure 13) generated much discussion within the committee and with outside experts. The bird's plumage matched the Eastern Towhee, but some of its recorded vocalizations better matched calls of the Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*). Since these calls could represent a trait inherited through hybridization between these two species that have a known hybrid zone in the Great Plains, the majority of committee members were unwilling to accept this potential first state record. An apparent female was well described from Terwer Valley, DN, 23 Oct 2022 (2022-088) but not photographed or audio-recorded. Most committee members were hesitant to endorse a potential first state record of a species with a known hybrid zone with the Spotted Towhee without recordings and analyses of vocalizations. Additionally, females of the subspecies *P. m. oregonus*, of which some individuals winter south to California, have reduced white spotting on the upperparts and wing coverts (Bartos Smith and Greenlaw 2020).

STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE *Icterus pustulatus* (11, 1). A male in formative plumage spent the winter in a private yard in Lone Pine, INY, 10 Dec 2022–19 April 2023 (RKO†, AIH†, CBH†, RH†; 2022-116).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (86, 1). One was in Tustin, ORA, 27 Sep 2020 (CB†; 2020-209). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The description of one reported at Foothill Technology High School in Ventura, VEN, 8–9 Nov 2022 (2022-101) did not garner enough support to be accepted.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora cyanoptera* (57, 1). A male in formative plumage was photographed in Sycamore Canyon, VEN, 30 Aug 2022 (DS†; 2022-050). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The committee did not endorse a report of a poorly seen, singing Blue-winged Warbler in Terwer Valley, DN, 14 Jun 2017 (2017-179); several members noted that a hybrid with a Golden-winged Warbler could not be ruled out from the written description.

CERULEAN WARBLER *Setophaga cerulea* (20, 1). A male in formative plumage at Avalon on Santa Catalina Island, LA, 27–28 Oct 2022 (LV†; 2022-091; Figure 14) was the first for Los Angeles County and the Channel Islands. Thirteen of California's 14 fall Cerulean Warblers have occurred in the relatively narrow interval 1–28 October, the dates of the early outlier being 2–5 Sep 1976 (1977-031; Luther 1980).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Setophaga castanea* (10\*\*, 1). The committee endorsed a written description of a male in alternate plumage from Westmorland, IMP, 13 Jun 1953 (EAC; 1953-101), antedating California's previous earliest record by a little over three years (6 Oct 1956; CBRC 2007). The committee reviews records of the Bay-breasted Warbler through 1975 only.





FIGURE 13. In this photo taken 8 November, this male towhee in formative plumage at Jacumba, San Diego County, 6–8 November 2021 (2021-138) appears identical in plumage to an Eastern Towhee. It uttered vocalizations typical of both the Eastern and Spotted towhees, however, leading the committee to not accept this record because of the possibility of hybridization.

*Photo by Andrew Newmark*



FIGURE 14. The Cerulean Warbler is among the rarest of eastern wood-warblers to reach California. This confident male in formative plumage, photographed on the last day of its 27–28 October 2022 stay on Santa Catalina Island, Los Angeles County (2022-091), spent much of its time foraging on the ground.

*Photo by Laura Vandezande*

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2022 RECORDS

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons* (29, 1). One was photographed in the Laguna Mountains, SD, 12 Aug 2022 (RSt, VS†; 2022-044).

PYRRHULOXIA *Cardinalis sinuatus* (33, 1). A male in formative plumage remained at Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park, Coachella Valley, RIV, 3 Nov 2022–18 Apr 2023 (JLD, TABe†, SJM†; 2022-096; Figure 15). At its January 2023 meeting, the committee voted to re-evaluate the report of a Pyrrhuloxia at Westminster, ORA, 1–7 May 2013 that was originally not accepted because of concerns about natural occurrence (2013-106; Rottenborn et al. 2016). Upon re-evaluation, the committee endorsed this record (MC†, RC†; 2013-106A) on the basis of a pattern of spring records in California, including the coastal slope, and to strive for consistency with its treatment of similar records.

PARROT-BILLED SEEDEATER *Sporophila peruviana* (0, 0). IDENTIFICATION ESTABLISHED, NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE: The committee unanimously considered a male photographed at Lake Hodges, SD, 7 Apr 2015 (TW†; 2015-181) to be a likely escapee. This generally sedentary species is endemic to coastal Ecuador and Peru (Jaramillo 2020), making it an extremely unlikely candidate for natural vagrancy to California.

MISCELLANEOUS

The long-staying Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*; 2012-058) first seen at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 25 Apr 2012 (Pike et al. 2014) was still present at the time of the preparation of this report in February 2025.

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FIGURE 15. This male Pyrrhuloxia in formative plumage, photographed here 15 January 2023, wintered at Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park, La Quinta, Riverside County, 3 November 2022–18 April 2023 (2022-096).

Photo by Thomas A. Benson

lished in *Rare Birds of California* (CBRC 2024; [www.californiabirds.org/cbrc\\_book/update.pdf](http://www.californiabirds.org/cbrc_book/update.pdf)) and to Joseph Morlan for maintaining the CBRC's website. Peter Pyle reviewed and provided input on the age and sex determinations of the birds covered in this report. Andrew Engilis, David Vander Pluym, and Richard Webster provided expert opinions on multiple Mexican Duck records. Alvaro Jaramillo provided expert opinion on the Stejneger's Petrel record. Lauryn Benedict, Louis Bevier, Lucas DeCicco, and Van Remsen provided expert opinions on the 2021 Eastern Towhee record. The following past and present CBRC members commented on drafts of the manuscript: Andrew Birch, Jon Dunn, Kimball Garrett, and Peter Pyle. We also thank Lucas H. DeCicco, Daniel D. Gibson, and Philip Unitt for their review and comments on the draft report.

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