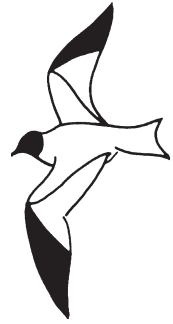


WESTERN BIRDS



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THE 49TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2023 RECORDS

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ABSTRACT: From its last report through 2023, the California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 163 records involving 210 individuals of 56 species, endorsing 139 records of 185 individuals. Especially notable records detailed in this report include those of California's second Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), third Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*), fourth Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris borealis*), an astonishing 72 Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels (*Hydrobates tethys*), and the state's first Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) in 24 years.

This 49th report of the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC), a committee of Western Field Ornithologists, summarizes evaluations of 163 records involving 210 individuals of 56 species. The committee accepted 139 of the 163 records, involving 185 individuals of 46 species, for an acceptance rate of 85.3%. A record is considered accepted if it receives 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 16 records of 16 individuals to represent returning or continuing birds. Twenty-two records, involving 23 individuals of 16 species, were not accepted because the identification was not considered to be substantiated. In two cases, involving two individuals of one species, the species was correctly identified but the records were not accepted because of questions regarding the birds' natural occurrence. For review, reports of multiple individuals together are given the same record number; we report the total number of accepted individuals, which may be different from the number of accepted records. Most of the records in this report are of birds first documented in 2023, although a few are from previous years.

At its January 2024 meeting, the committee removed the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), and Cassin's Sparrow (*Peucaea cassinii*) from the review list. Since the period covered by this report, the committee has accepted the first California records of the

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), Blue Rock-thrush (*Monticola solitarius*), Siberian Pipit (*Anthus japonicus*), and Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*), the details of which will be published in the next (50th) report. These additions bring the California list to 690 species. The committee is currently evaluating a record of the Common Gull (*Larus canus*), representing a potential further 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 submission of written documentation only. Following the initials of the observer(s) is the identifying number assigned by the CBRC's secretary. A (#) precedes a specimen number; we cite the collections of the California Academy of Sciences (CAS), Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM), San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM), and Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (SBMNH) in this report.

As of the 43rd CBRC 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 (2008, 2022). If, in the species accounts, we do not specify the age or sex of a bird, 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 *Rare Birds of California* (CBRC 2007), both available via the CBRC website, 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 bylaws, and a form for querying the CBRC database. Observers are encouraged to submit documentation for all species on the CBRC review list to the secretary via e-mail (secretary@californiabirds.org) or the website. Documentation of all records is archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (www.wfvz.org) and is available for public review by appointment or by contacting the CBRC's secretary.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE *Anser serrirostris* (6, 1). California's sixth Tundra Bean-Goose was in Lancaster and Willowbrook, LA, 6 Mar–22 Nov 2023 (JS†,

DJB†, TAB†, KLG, RH†‡, GMcC, DMcG†, JMo†‡; 2023-009). It was first discovered in formative plumage with an injured right wing at the Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base, LA, 6 Mar 2023, and remained in Lancaster at the sewage ponds and Apollo Park through 8 Jul 2023. It was then rediscovered 92 km to the south in Willowbrook at Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area a few days later on 13 Jul 2023, having recently molted its primaries. It is presumed to have flown from Lancaster to Willowbrook under its own power, though human-mediated transport is not impossible. It completed its second prebasic molt and remained at the park through 22 Nov 2023, when it was captured and taken to Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center in Huntington Beach, Orange Co., at the direction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Examination revealed that the bird had been shot in the right wing with a pellet gun and, because of this injury, would be incapable of high-altitude, long-distance migration (D. McGuire pers. comm.). It was subsequently transferred to the Pinola Aviary in Louisiana.

GARGANEY *Sptaula querquedula* (31, 1). One in formative plumage was at Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, HUM, 14–24 Oct 2023 (KA†, RF†; 2023-092).

MEXICAN DUCK *Anas diazi* (23, 4). Adult males were at the Inyokern water-treatment plant, KER, 20 Mar–5 Apr 2023 (DJH†, BS†, SLS; 2023-010); Wister Wildlife Unit, IMP, 27 Sep 2023 (CAD†; 2023-086); and Rancho Jurupa Park, RIV, 5–22 Nov 2023 (LCi†, TAB†; 2023-110). A male of unknown age was on the Colorado River at Big River, SBE, 15 Oct 2023 (MLB†; 2023-093).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris* (31, 4). First-fall males (undergoing preformative molt or in formative plumage) were at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 2 Sep 2023 (JRT†; 2023-067); El Carmelo Cemetery in Pacific Grove, MTY, 4–7 Sep 2023 (ST†, FT; 2023-068); and El Centro, IMP, 11–14 Sep 2023 (JLD†, JSF†, CAD†, KZK†, GMcC; 2023-073), the last furnishing the first record for Imperial County. A first-fall female at Greenwood State Beach, MEN, 7 Sep 2023 (LK†; 2023-069) was also a first for Mendocino County. Over three-quarters (77.4%) of California's 31 records of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird are of fall migrants from the last half of August or the first half of September. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Photos of a hummingbird at Ardenwood Farm, ALA, 15 Sep 2023 (2023-087) showed a first-fall Black-chinned Hummingbird (*A. alexandri*).

PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyrio martinicus* (7, 1). An adult at Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, HUM, 24 Nov–30 Dec 2023 (LCo†, RF†, MFr†, CVB†; 2023-119; Figure 1) was a first for Humboldt County and the latest and northernmost recorded in California. California's six prior accepted Purple Gallinules occurred between 2 September and 12 November, four in coastal southern California and one each in Inyo and Alameda counties.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* (4, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A brief description of two cranes from Cinder Flats, SHA, 16 Oct 2019 (2019-217) omitted any mention of black on the head or neck and thus did not eliminate the Sandhill Crane (*Antigone canadensis*).

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* (8, 2). Two males, one an adult and the other in formative plumage, at the Salinas water treatment plant, MTY, 17–18 Sep 2023 (AJS†, ST†, FT; 2023-096) represented California's first record of more than one individual in the same location. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The committee did not accept a single photo of a *Charadrius* plover in formative plumage at Ocean Beach, SF, 22 Aug 2016 (2016-155) as representing the Common Ringed. The softly focused photo showed a bold white supercilium extending posterior to the eye, an apparent dark orbital ring, a lack of white feathering above the gape, a relatively long bill, a domed head shape, and an apparent lack of



FIGURE 1. This adult Purple Gallinule was an unexpected surprise at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, Humboldt County, furnishing the seventh record for California and the northernmost for the state (2023-119).

Photo by Cedric Von Briel on 26 November 2023

webbing between the toes, all of which are suggestive of the Common Ringed Plover. But most committee members agreed that the photo's quality was insufficient to show some of these subtle distinctions from the Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*) conclusively and were hesitant to endorse this report of a silent bird identified from a single photo seven years after the original observation. Photos of a plover reported at the Lincoln water-treatment plant, PLA, 26 May 2023 (2023-027) showed an adult Semipalmated Plover in alternate plumage. To date, all of California's records of the Common Ringed have been of fall migrants between 16 August and 15 October.

WILSON'S PLOVER *Anarhynchus wilsonia* (26, 1). One in formative plumage was photographed at Border Field State Park, SD, 20 Mar 2023 (MSad†; 2023-011). Nearly two-thirds (65.4%) of California's 26 records of Wilson's Plover are from coastal San Diego County, unsurprising for a species that reaches California from the south.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (58, 0). The committee considered an adult at Coast Casey Forebay, SCL, 5–9 Sep 2023 (PD†; 2023-072) and the Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, 4–22 Dec 2023 (MMR†; 2023-123) to have been the same individual moving between various locations around South San Francisco Bay and returning for its third winter (2021-165 et seq.; Terrill et al. 2024).

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* (29, 1). One in first alternate plumage was at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, YOL, 29–30 Aug 2023 (ZP†, AB†, JG†, JK†; 2023-064).

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* (42, 4). One in formative or basic plumage at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, RIV, 27 Jan–20 Apr 2023 (TAB†, CAM†, BWat†; 2023-006) was only the second Little Stint known to have wintered in California. The other

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individual returned to south San Diego Bay, SD, 16 Oct 2023–24 Apr 2024 (*MSad*†; 2023-098) for its sixth consecutive winter (2018-219 et seq.; Benson et al. 2020). One in alternate plumage at Goleta Slough Ecological Reserve, SBA, 8 Jun 2023 (*NLet*, *SuC*†, *WTF*†, *HPR*†; 2023-032) was a first for Santa Barbara County and only the fourth spring migrant recorded in California. More typical was a fall migrant in juvenile plumage at Lake Earl, DN, 26 Sep 2023 (*CAM*†; 2023-084). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A *Calidris* sandpiper in basic plumage photographed near Nelson, BUT, 19 Aug 2023 (2023-065) did not receive support from a majority of the committee, as the size and shape of the bill and lack of a gape notch more suggested a short-billed Western Sandpiper (*C. mauri*).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* (40, 3). Two in alternate plumage were photographed together at Doran Regional Park, SON, 8 Jun 2023 (*EC*†; 2023-031), and an adult in mostly basic plumage was at the Ventura County Game Preserve, VEN, 11–16 Sep 2023 (*LSa*†, *CAD*†, *JLD*†; 2023-076). The White-rumped Sandpiper has been noted in California about twice as many times in spring (27) as in fall (13).

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocryptes minimus* (2, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One was described from Orick, HUM, 27 Apr 2023 (2023-019). Even though the description was consistent with this species, most committee members were hesitant to endorse a potential third state record because of the observer's distance from the bird, paucity of other spring records from North America, and lack of photos. The bobbing behavior described by the observer, seen in a video of a Jack Snipe in Kent, England (<https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/201078021>), resulted in some committee support for the record.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* (2, 1). California's second Common Greenshank, a juvenile that had commenced its preformative molt, was at Lake Earl, DN, 19 Sep–17 Oct 2023 (*LB*†‡, *TK*†\$, *MLB*†, *RF*†, *MFr*†, *MAG*†\$, *EI*†, *EGM*†; 2023-082; Figure 2). Amazingly, what the committee considered the same individual (by a 7–1 vote) was photographed a week later and 615 km to the south at



FIGURE 2. California's second Common Greenshank, a juvenile, spent four weeks at Lake Earl, Del Norte County, to the satisfaction of many birders (2023-082).

Photo by Rob Fowler on 24 September 2023

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Fort Ord National Monument, MTY, 25 Oct 2023 (IR†; 2023-102). California's only previously recorded Common Greenshank was a fall migrant in Humboldt County, 27 Aug–17 Sep 2001 (2001-137; Garrett and Wilson 2003) that returned 18–25 Oct 2002 (2002-174; Cole and McCaskie 2004).

SWALLOW-TAILED GULL *Creagrurus furcatus* (5, 1). On the basis of similarities in the contrastingly worn outermost rectrices and the patterns of the outer primaries and primary coverts, the committee considers an adult in alternate plumage at Goleta Beach County Park, SBA, 19 Jul 2023 (ES†, StC†, DMC; 2023-047) to be the same individual that was at San Gregorio State Beach, SM, 1 Sep 2023 (AMa†, MFr†‡, JMo†‡, LST†, SBT†; 2023-066; this issue's front cover).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (36, 1). An adult in basic plumage at the mouth of Aptos Creek, SCZ, 27 Dec 2023–30 Jan 2024 (AF, MFr, JMo†, SBT†; 2023-138) was the first Black-headed Gull recorded for Santa Cruz County.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* (53, 2). One in second basic plumage 128 km west-southwest of San Miguel Island, SBA, 20 Jan 2023 (MFo†; 2023-004) was the only one reported in California in 2023. Another in second basic plumage was 48 km northwest of Fort Bragg, MEN, 11 Nov 2018 (HS†; 2018-261).

WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates tethys* (85, 72). On the afternoon of 20 Aug 2023, Hurricane Hilary made landfall as a tropical storm along the west coast of Baja California, Mexico, weakening to a post-tropical low as it moved north over land into California around midnight (Reinhart 2024). Strong winds and heavy rain preceded Hilary, arriving in southern California in the early afternoon. The most intense weather was centered over the Peninsular and Transverse ranges and the western Mojave Desert, dissipating as the storm moved north into the western Great Basin (Reinhart 2024). Winds from Hilary pushed numerous seabirds into inland southern California (as well as Nevada and Arizona), primarily Least (*H. microsoma*) and Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels, but also small numbers of Black Storm-Petrels (*H. melania*), Sooty Shearwaters (*Ardenna grisea*), Magnificent Frigatebirds (*Fregata magnificens*), and Red-billed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon aethereus*). The first Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels were found on the afternoon of 20 Aug 2023, but most were discovered the following day, 21 Aug 2023, with about half of the documented individuals occurring on bodies of water in the southwestern Mojave Desert (Figure 3) or Lake Isabella, Kern Co. In California, Hilary-transported seabirds were recorded as far north as Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley, Tulare Lake in the Central Valley, and Lake Sherwood, Ventura Co., on the coastal slope. Almost all of the storm-petrels had departed or perished before 22 Aug 2023, though a few remained through 24 Aug 2023. Details for the 32 records (of 72 individuals) accepted by the CBRC are provided in Table 1. Most birds could not be confidently aged but of those that could, nine were adults and four were juveniles. These included three salvaged specimens: a male from Spring Valley Lake, SBE, 21 Aug 2023 (2023-061A; #SDNHM 57575); a female from Stovepipe Wells, INY, 21 Aug 2023 (2023-059B; #SDNHM 57662); and a female from Lake Isabella, KER, 24 Aug 2023 (2023-060; #SBMNH AV11995). All three were significantly underweight and undergoing limited to extensive body molt, but only the Spring Valley Lake specimen was undergoing flight-feather molt, finishing the replacement of its outer primaries. On the basis of wing chord, two of the three specimens represented the smaller Peruvian subspecies *H. t. kelsalli*, while measurements of the Lake Isabella specimen were equivocal; both of California's previous specimens were also of *kelsalli*, as well as two individuals captured and released at Southeast Farallon Island (Yadon 1970, Kammerichs-Berke 2018).

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris borealis* (4, 1). An adult undergoing pre-



FIGURE 3. In late August 2023, Tropical Storm Hilary brought with it to California at least 72 Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels, including this juvenile at Spring Valley Lake, San Bernardino County (2023-061A).

Photo by Thomas A. Benson on 21 August 2023

basic molt, 23 km west-northwest of the mouth of the Eel River, HUM, 8 Oct 2023 (EI, TK, RF†, OS†; 2023-089; Figure 4), was only the fourth for California and the first for Humboldt County. The American Ornithological Society recently split Cory's Shearwater (*C. diomedea*, *sensu lato*) into two species, Cory's Shearwater



FIGURE 4. This adult Cory's Shearwater, only the fourth for California, was photographed 23 km west-northwest of the Eel River mouth, Humboldt County, on 8 October 2023 (2023-089). The dark bases to the outer primaries, clearly visible in this photo, help distinguish it from the similar Scopoli's Shearwater.

Photo by Owen Sinkus

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TABLE 1 Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels Carried to California by Tropical Storm Hilary

Location	Date	<i>n</i>	Record no.	Observers
San Diego Co.				
Lower Otay Reservoir	20 Aug 2023	1	2023-054A	<i>JTS</i> , <i>PEL</i> , <i>NT</i> †, <i>GMcC</i>
Lake Henshaw	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-054B	<i>GBN</i> †, <i>JHa</i> †, <i>PEL</i>
Nine Mile Bank	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-054C	<i>JMM</i>
South San Diego Bay	22 Aug 2023	1	2023-054D	<i>MSad</i> †
La Jolla	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-054E	<i>AHi</i>
Orange Co.				
Newport Pier	20 Aug 2023	1	2023-055A	<i>KeC</i> †
Newport Pier	21 Aug 2023	5	2023-055B	<i>JX</i> ‡, <i>LYW</i> †, <i>ESa</i>
Los Angeles Co.				
Lake Palmdale	21–24 Aug 2023	9	2023-056A	<i>JSF</i> , <i>OA</i> †, <i>DJB</i> †, <i>KG</i> †, <i>JHe</i> ‡, <i>RH</i> , <i>NJO</i> †, <i>NS</i> †
Bouquet Reservoir	21 Aug 2023	2	2023-056B	<i>LYW</i> †, <i>NS</i> †
Castaic Lake	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-056C	<i>JSF</i>
Castaic Lagoon	21 Aug 2023	3	2023-056D	<i>JSF</i> †
Elizabeth Lake	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-056E	<i>JSF</i> †
Bonelli Regional Park	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-056F	<i>DS</i> †, <i>ARB</i> \$
Cabrillo Beach Park	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-056G	<i>CJ</i> †
near Neenach	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-056H	<i>RC</i>
Ventura Co.				
Lake Sherwood	21 Aug 2023	2	2023-057	<i>SDC</i> †, <i>SCS</i> †
Kings Co.				
Tulare Lake	21 Aug 2023	2	2023-058	<i>MES</i> †
Inyo Co.				
Panamint Springs	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-059A	<i>AO</i> †
Stovepipe Wells ^a	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-059B	<i>AS</i> †‡, <i>CBH</i> †, <i>PU</i> †
Kern Co.				
Lake Isabella ^b	21–24 Aug 2023	8	2023-060	<i>SR</i> †, <i>TL</i> †, <i>RN</i> †, <i>AMS</i> , <i>BS</i> †, <i>SLS</i>
San Bernardino Co.				
Spring Valley Lake ^c	21 Aug 2023	5	2023-061A	<i>TAB</i> †, <i>MAG</i> †, <i>PU</i>
Silver Lakes	21 Aug 2023	6	2023-061B	<i>TAB</i> , <i>MAG</i> †
Newberry Springs	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-061C	<i>DAG</i>
Lake Havasu	21 Aug 2023	3	2023-061D	<i>MSaw</i> †
Moovalya Lake	23 Aug 2023	1	2023-061E	<i>EH</i> †
Riverside Co.				
North Shore	20 Aug 2023	2	2023-062A	<i>TAB</i> , <i>BHo</i> †
Lake Elsinore	21–23 Aug 2023	3	2023-062B	<i>ChH</i> †
Mystic Lake	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-062C	<i>DAG</i>
Lake Perris	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-062D	<i>OA</i> †
6 km east of Desert Center	21 Aug 2023	1	2023-062E	<i>JY</i> †
Palo Verde Diversion Dam	21–22 Aug 2023	1	2023-062F	<i>JS</i> †, <i>BHo</i> †
Imperial Co.				
south end Salton Sea	21 Aug 2023	3	2023-063	<i>RBr</i> †, <i>CAD</i> †, <i>GMcC</i> , <i>VP</i> †

^aSpecimen, #SDNHM 57662.

^bOne specimen, #SBMNH AV11995.

^cOne specimen, #SDNHM 57575.

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and Scopoli's Shearwater (*C. diomedea*, *sensu stricto*; Chesser et al. 2024). Though this is the first record the CBRC has reviewed since the species was split, all three previously accepted birds were also identified as *C. borealis*.

WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER *Ardenna pacifica* (16, 4). An astonishing four Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were found in California in fall 2023; no more than one had been recorded in the state in any previous year. The committee considered sightings of a dark-morph juvenile 22 km southwest of Santa Cruz Harbor, SCZ, 19 Aug 2023 (AF†, TFR†; 2023-048) and 12.5 km south-southwest of Younger Lagoon, SCZ, 23 Aug 2023 (NLev†, AMR; 2023-050) to represent the same individual. An adult was photographed among a raft of Black-vented Shearwaters (*Puffinus opisthomelas*) over Hueneme Canyon, VEN, 22 Aug 2023 (RT†; 2023-049), providing the first record for Ventura County. A juvenile was seen 9 km west of Ocean Beach, SD, 26 Aug 2023 (PEL, SMI†, SAV†, MLW†; 2023-051). Given the timing, these three individuals were likely pushed north into California by Tropical Storm Hilary. A dark-morph adult 51 km west of Point Reyes, MRN, 15 Oct 2023 (EGM, LCo†; 2023-094) was the first recorded for Marin County and the northernmost in California. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The committee did not endorse a second Wedge-tailed Shearwater described from 49 km west of Point Reyes, MRN, 15 Oct 2023 (2023-095). Most members concluded that the bird was so distant and poorly seen that it was best left unidentified.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Ardenna gravis* (18, 1). An adult was photographed 65 km west-northwest of the North Farallon Islands, SF, 12 Nov 2023 (AB†, LCo†, MFR; 2023-112; Figure 5). Thirteen (72%) of California's 18 accepted Great Shearwaters have occurred off the central coast between Monterey and Sonoma counties between 30 July and 29 November.

WOOD STORK *Mycteria americana* (2 **, 1). Returning for its fourth consecutive year (2020-043 et seq.; Benson et al. 2022), an adult was at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, San Pasqual, SD, 20–23 Apr 2023 (EL†, AHi†; 2023-017), before moving to Lindo Lake, Lakeside, SD, 25–26 Apr 2023 (AD†; 2023-017), summering in the Prado Basin, RIV, 7 Jul–13 Oct 2023 (JEP†; 2023-044), and eventually returning south via the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, SD, 19–22 Nov 2023 (DT†; 2023-115). The committee considered a Wood Stork seen in flight over Redwood Shores, SM, 3 Sep 2023 (LFB\$, RST; 2023-085) to be the same as an adult moving north from the Saticoy spreading ponds, VEN, 25–31 Aug 2023 (LFB†, RST; 2023-052).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (49, 2). Adults in definitive alternate plumage were at the Susanville effluent ponds, LAS, 17 Apr 2023 (SJS†; 2023-015) and the Davis Wetlands, YOL, 4–10 Jul 2023 (SH, JK†, TP†; 2023-043).

BLACK VULTURE *Coragyps atratus* (14, 1). An adult photographed at Weldon, KER, 28–31 Aug 2023 (SR†; 2023-053; Figure 6) constituted the first record for Kern County. There is little seasonal pattern to the records of this species in California, and the tendency of some individuals to wander widely and/or for prolonged periods makes it challenging for the committee to estimate how many individuals have actually reached the state.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (69, 6). Four individuals were found on the northern deserts in late spring. Second-year birds in formative plumage were at Edwards Field in Lone Pine, INY, 25–26 May 2023 (RK†; 2023-025), Panamint Springs, INY, 1 Jun 2023 (LST†, SBT†; 2023-026), and China Ranch, INY, 7 Jun 2023 (FE†; 2023-029); an adult was at the golf course in Yucca Valley, SBE, 10–11 Jun 2023 (KaC†; 2023-030). A Mississippi Kite at the Inyo Sports Complex in Lone Pine, INY, 15–22 Jul 2023 (RK†; 2023-045) presumably summered locally. Additionally, one in formative plumage was on the coast at Alta Mesa in Santa Barbara, SBA, 17 Jun 2023

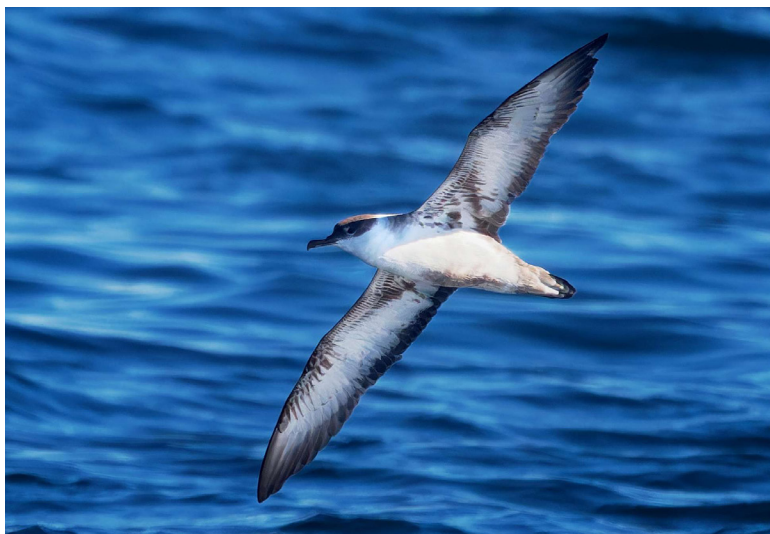


FIGURE 5. This adult Great Shearwater was found 65 km north-northwest of the Farallon Islands, San Francisco County, 12 November 2023 (2023-112). Over two-thirds of California's 18 Great Shearwaters have been fall migrants off the central California coast.

Photo by Aidan Brubaker

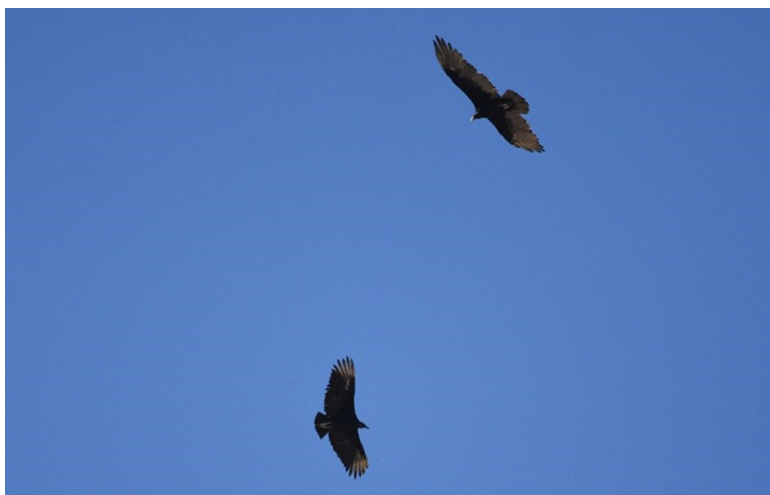


FIGURE 6. This adult Black Vulture, below, at Weldon, Kern County, remained in the area for several days (2023-053). The shape and plumage differences between the Black Vulture and the accompanying Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), above, an abundant species in the Weldon area, are clear in this photo.

Photo by Sasha Robinson on 28 August 2023

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(HPR†; 2023-036). Thirty percent of California records come from Inyo County. The committee discontinued reviewing records of the Mississippi Kite after 2023.

COMMON BLACK HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* (15, 0). The committee inferred that an adult at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, RIV, 16 Apr–23 Jul 2023 (JS†; 2023-014) was the same as the one there April–August 2022 (2022-011 and 2022-027; Benson et al. 2025); two different Common Black Hawks were also recorded at this locality in 2015 (2015-027; Searcy et al. 2018).

GRAY HAWK *Buteo plagiatus* (3, 1). An adult was at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, RIV, 11 Jun 2023 (JS; 2023-034). The record circulated for two rounds, eventually being accepted with one dissenting vote. The bird was not photographed and although heard calling there were no audio recordings. Another was at this locality 12 Apr–24 Jun 2018 (2018-032; Benson et al. 2020). Excellent riparian habitat, likely increasing the site's attractiveness to both the Gray and Common Black Hawks, has developed since planting was completed in 2013 at this >750-ha restoration project on the lower Colorado River's floodplain, administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (6, 1). One at Lands End, Golden Gate Recreation Area, SF, 30 Jun–16 Jul 2023 (LM†; DA†, LFB†, TAB†, SB†, MFr†, TFr†, AK†, RAL†, JMo†, DM†, PP†, MJR†, LST†, SBT†, AW†; 2023-040; Figure 7) was the first for San Francisco County, the sixth for California, and the first in the state since 1999. All but one of California's six Red-headed Woodpeckers have occurred in late spring or summer between 20 May and 22 August.

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara plancus* (22, 1). One at the Ballona Wetlands, Playa del Rey, LA, 4 Jun 2023 (VP†; ARB†, HW†; 2023-028), was seen again at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Irvine, ORA, 7 Jun 2023 (JB†; 2023-028) and then, the committee inferred, at Cabrillo National Monument, Point Loma, SD, 2–11 Jul 2023 (SL†; LR†; 2023-042).

GREAT KISKADEE *Pitangus sulphuratus* (0, 0). **NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE:** Two published reports of this species from California had not previously been reviewed by the committee. One completing its second prebasic molt was collected at a cemetery pond in Inglewood, LA, 4 Sep 1926 (Wyman 1927; 1926-101; #LACM 14319). The specimen's measurements and plumage suggest that it represents one of the widespread South American subspecies, *bolivianus*, *maximiliani*, or *argentinus*; the subspecies that occur closest to California, *derbianus* and *texanus*, can be eliminated by measurements and restricted rufous edgings to the wings. Southern populations of the Great Kiskadee are not known to be austral migrants, though some movements have been documented (R. T. Chesser pers. comm). Subspecies *derbianus* is resident as far north as southern Sonora, Mexico, with extralimital records from New Mexico and Arizona (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2020), so natural vagrancy to California, at least of this subspecies, is conceivable. Another Great Kiskadee was in San Jose, SCL, from about 1 Nov 1957 to at least 6 Jun 1959 (GMCC, Harvey 1958; 1957-101). McCaskie et al. (1970) dismissed this occurrence as likely representing an escapee, citing its long stay. It is not possible to determine the bird's subspecies or geographical origin from the brief written description, and one committee member questioned whether other South American flycatchers were ruled out.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris* (26, 3). All three Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers reported in California in 2023 were in formative plumage: one at Point Loma, SD, 2 Jul 2023 (SBM; KMay†; 2023-041); one at the Golden Shore Marine Reserve, Long Beach, LA, 10 Sep 2023 (NS†; 2023-071); and one (the second for Humboldt County) at the Russ Ranch Wetlands near Centerville Beach County Park, HUM, 29 Oct 2023 (KA†, RF†; 2023-104; Figure 8). Except for this



FIGURE 7. This striking Red-headed Woodpecker stayed at Golden Gate Recreation Area in San Francisco, San Francisco County (2023-040), for over six weeks. Although the plumage is like that of an adult, the dark bars on the outer two secondaries indicate a one-year-old in formative plumage.

Photo by Rachel A. Lawrence on 30 June 2023



FIGURE 8. This Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in formative plumage was at the Russ Ranch Wetlands near Centerville Beach County Park, Humboldt County, on 29 October 2023 (2023-104). It and one from Arcata in October 2007 represent the northernmost records of this species, a more regular fall vagrant along the coast farther south.

Photo by Rob Fowler

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one at Point Loma and two others in mid-June, all of California's Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers have occurred in fall between 10 August and 29 October. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A report of one seen briefly at the Ventura settling ponds, VEN, 21 Sep 2023 (2023-079) did not eliminate similar species. California's first record of this species came from Ventura County in the fall of 1974 (1974-069; Luther et al. 1979), but none has been accepted from that county since.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (34, 0). All three records accepted from 2023 involved adults returning for their second winter: one at Bellevue Memorial Park, Ontario, SBE, 14 Oct 2023–13 Apr 2024 (TAB†§; 2023-091) was presumably the same bird as 2022-102 (Benson et al. 2025); one at the Wilson–Harding Golf Course and Los Angeles Zoo grounds, Griffith Park, LA, 23 Oct 2023–21 Apr 2024 (GS†§; 2023-101) was presumably the same bird as 2022-129 (Benson et al. 2025); and one in the Tijuana River Valley, SD, 29 Oct 2023–8 Apr 2024 (PEL†; 2023-103), was presumably the same bird as 2022-100 and 2023-003 (Benson et al. 2025).

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus savana* (3, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The committee unanimously agreed that the bird reported from El Dorado Regional Park, Long Beach, LA, 18 Sep 2023 (2023-078) was almost certainly a male Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macroura*) in alternate plumage; this rapidly increasing naturalized species has become common in urban southern Los Angeles County. This misidentification would appear to be a classic example of the “single field-mark syndrome” (Garrett 1986), in this case a long tail.

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (50, 3). Three birds fit the Greater Pewee's well-established pattern of late fall and winter vagrancy to California. An adult at Bartlett Park, Porterville, TUL, 8 Nov 2023–31 Mar 2024 (SSu†; 2023-111) was the first for Tulare County, and an adult along the Ennisbrook Nature Trail in Montecito, SBA, 16–19 Dec 2023 (BHa†; 2023-130) was the second for Santa Barbara County. An unprecedented montane winter record involved another adult at Idyllwild, RIV, 24–31 Dec 2023 (EJY†; TAB†, MAG†§; 2023-134); California's four prior montane records have been in summer (27 May–5 July). That these three records involved adults suggests that the birds may have been returnees that were overlooked in previous years.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE *Contopus virens* (19, 1). One was photographed and audio-recorded at the Point Reyes fish docks, MRN, 9–12 Jun 2023 (CCo†§; 2023-033). Over half of California's accepted Eastern Wood-Pewees (11 of 19) have occurred in June. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A supposed Eastern Wood-Pewee at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, ORA, 17 Jun 2023 (2023-037) was photographed and described in detail but never heard to vocalize. The photos showed a pale mandible and relatively pale underparts, suggesting the Eastern Wood-Pewee. Morphological characters distinguishing the Eastern and Western (*C. sordidulus*) wood-pewees are outlined in Lee and Birch (2023), although many of these characters are difficult to assess under field conditions and nearly all of California's accepted records of the Eastern Wood-Pewee have included documentation of diagnostic vocalizations.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris* (38, 2). Single individuals in formative plumage were at La Jolla, SD, 19–21 Sep 2023 (NT†; 2023-077), and McDaniel Slough, Arcata, HUM, 13 Dec 2023–26 Mar 2024 (RF†, MFr†§; 2023-127), the first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher to overwinter in California. Only one other of the state's 38 records, from Smith River National Recreation Area, DN, 11 Jun 2012 (Benson et al. 2025), is outside the fall migration window of 27 August–17 October.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* (12, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A flycatcher photographed and audio-recorded at California City's

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Central Park, KER, 28 May 2023 (2023-038) was most likely a Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*), an abundant migrant on the deserts in late May and early June—the one brief recording of a song better matched the Willow Flycatcher.

BLUE JAY *Cyanocitta cristata* (20, 1). One in formative plumage visited a suet feeder at Loleta, HUM, 30 Oct 2023 (CyH†; 2023-105; Figure 9). The majority (55%) of California's Blue Jay records come from the three northwesternmost counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, and Siskiyou.

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (24, 1). One in formative plumage was along the Guadalupe River Trail in San Jose, SCL, 6–8 Oct 2023 (SP†§; MFr†; 2023-088), establishing the first record for Santa Clara County. All of California's accepted records of this Palearctic species come from the fall interval of 24 September–3 November.

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis* (0, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A *Phylloscopus* at Oceano Campground in Pismo State Beach, SLO, 28 Sep–1 Oct 1996 (BED, NBB, JLD, RAE, RL, CAM, JMa, GMcC, BMcK†, JMo, DR, MSM, BKS†, GPS†; 1996-158A) was previously accepted as an Arctic Warbler (*sensu lato*; 1996-158; McCaskie and San Miguel 1999), prior to the decision by the American Ornithologists' Union's North American Checklist Committee to split it into three species (Chesser et al. 2014). The committee agreed to re-evaluate this particular record because of the description of call notes included in the documentation, coupled with an extensive analysis in 2016 by Peter Pyle and Jim Tietz of California records of this complex with respect to the separation of the Arctic and Kamchatka (*P. examinandus*) Leaf Warblers. On the basis of plumage and structural details and descriptions (without audio recordings) of call notes, this analysis considered the Oceano Campground record to “probably” pertain to the Arctic (*sensu stricto*). After



FIGURE 9. A one-day feeder visitor, this Blue Jay in formative plumage was in Loleta, Humboldt County, 30 October 2023 (2023-105).

Photo by Cynthia Hammond

the new circulation it was still not accepted as the Arctic (*sensu stricto*), with the majority of committee members concluding that this individual was unidentifiable without an audio recording to corroborate the described vocalizations. This record remains accepted as an Arctic/Kamchatka Leaf Warbler, along with nine additional California records, per the committee's prior decision to recognize this species pair for the state list (Rottenborn et al. 2016).

EURASIAN WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* (0, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of a Eurasian Wren photographed and audio-recorded at Clear Lake State Park, LAK, 15 Dec 2021–7 Feb 2022 (2022-010A) garnered no support. The CBRC had previously reviewed and not accepted this bird as a Winter Wren (*T. hiemalis*, 2022-010; see below), but the observer then analyzed the plumage and vocalizations and concluded it better fit the Eurasian Wren. This close relative of the Winter/Pacific Wren (*T. pacificus*) complex occurs across Eurasia, northeast to the Russian Far East, but has never been recorded in North America. Subspecies *T. t. pallescens* of the Commander Islands and possibly the Kamchatka Peninsula closely approaches the range of the Pacific Wren in the western Aleutian Islands, and in fact might better be assigned to the latter species (K. Winker pers. comm. to J. L. Dunn). Across its vast range the Eurasian Wren varies widely in plumage, morphology, and vocalizations, with 28 (Dickinson and Christidis 2014) or 29 (Kroodsma et al. 2020) subspecies recognized. The northeasternmost mainland subspecies, *T. t. fumigatus* and *T. t. dauricus*, are said to be at least partially migratory (Kroodsma et al. 2020), but committee members expressed skepticism that this species is likely to stray to California. Furthermore, the committee concluded that the audio recordings, spectrographic analysis, and rather poor photos submitted did not present any diagnostic features of Eurasian Wren to the exclusion of its Nearctic relatives.

WINTER WREN *Troglodytes hiemalis* (45, 11). The 13 accepted records listed here, 11 of which represent new individuals, point to the increasing frequency with which the Winter Wren is being detected in California. Nevertheless, both vocal and morphological characters are difficult to analyze, with ranges of variation in plumage and calls within Winter and Pacific Wrens (and occasional hybrids of these two species) still uncertain. One in formative plumage at Dry Creek Regional Park, STA, 15 Feb–5 Apr 2023 (DJG†§; 2023-007) was the first for Stanislaus County. At the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, RIV, were one (in formative plumage) on 7 Apr 2023 (EWH†§; 2023-013) and another on 15 Nov 2023 (LK†§; 2023-114). One at Lake Solano County Park, SOL, 24 Oct 2023–16 Feb 2024 (SSc†§; 2023-133) was judged to be the same bird present there the previous winter (2022-108; Benson et al. 2025). Along Putah Creek, one was at Hwy. 128, SOL, 30 Oct 2023 (EGM§; 2023-106), >1 km away from where one occurred the previous winter, one was at fishing access #3, YOL, 26 Nov 2023–11 Feb 2024 (SSc§, JG§; 2023-142), and another at fishing access #2, YOL, 30 Nov 2023–3 Mar 2024 (JG§; 2023-118) was considered to be the same as one there the previous winter (2022-120; Benson et al. 2025). One was in Big Pine Canyon, INY, 13 Nov–14 Dec 2023 (JLD†, CBH†§, RH†§; 2023-116). One was along the San Luis Rey River in Pala, SD, 8 Dec 2023–2 Feb 2024 (JP†§; 2023-125). One was along the Sky Trail, Point Reyes National Seashore, MRN, 16 Dec 2023 (LN†§; 2023-128). One was at Mountain Lake Park, SF, 19 Dec 2023–5 Jan 2024 (DW§, AK§, KMal, PP; 2023-132). One was at Cattle Call Park in Brawley, IMP, 20 Dec 2023–22 Mar 2024 (TAB†§, AHi†; 2023-131). One was at Castaic Lagoon, LA, 31 Dec 2023–11 Feb 2024 (CJP†§; TAB§, ARB†§; 2023-139).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: An audio recording made at the San Francisco Botanic Garden, SF, 3 Jan–4 Mar 2023 (2023-002) sounded to most members more like a Pacific than a Winter Wren. The committee could not agree that a wren photographed at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 28–29 Nov 2023 (2023-124) showed plumage diagnostic of the Winter Wren; the report lacked an audio

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recording or description of the calls. Photographs and audio recordings of wrens along Rincon Creek, VEN/SBA, 14 Dec 2022 (2022-121) and at the Mokelumne River Day Use Area, SJ, 1 Jan–20 Feb 2023 (2023-001) were not considered diagnostic of the Winter Wren. A wren audio-recorded at Olema Marsh, MRN, 17 Dec 2022 (2022-136) sounded more like a Pacific Wren to most committee members. Finally, one photographed and audio-recorded at Clear Lake, LAK, 15 Dec 2021–7 Feb 2022 (2022-010) was not accepted but subsequently resubmitted to the committee as a Eurasian Wren (see above). Identification criteria and the range of variation in both vocalizations and plumage in both species continue to be researched. Martin Freeland and Ethan Monk reported some initial results at the Western Field Ornithologists' meeting in San Diego in October 2024, concluding that a reanalysis of some previous CBRC decisions may be necessary.

SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus stellaris* (14, 1). One singing at outer Point Reyes, MRN, 21–22 May 2023 (CCot\$, DL†\$, AMet†, MSc\$, 2023-024; Figure 10) was evidently in first alternate plumage; only males of this species are known to sing (Herkert et al. 2021). All but two of California's accepted Sedge Wrens occurred in late fall or winter (October–March); the outliers include this one at Point Reyes and a male that summered in Siskiyou County 8 Jun–4 Jul 1986 (1986-263; Bevier 1990).

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens* (15, 0). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** The description of one from the fish docks at Point Reyes, MRN, 7 Oct 2023 (2023-100), did not receive adequate support, being insufficiently detailed to eliminate the Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus*).

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (43, 1). One in formative plumage at Irvine Regional Park, ORA, 16–23 Oct 2023 (TAB†, MLB†, CCat†, BAL†, MM†, ESa†; 2023-097) was the first for Orange County. Of California's 45 recorded Wood Thrushes, 26 were fall migrants between 28 September and 10 December; one earlier



FIGURE 10. This Sedge Wren in first alternate plumage was on outer Point Reyes, Marin County, 21–22 May 2023 (2023-024). This is the first record of a spring vagrant of this species from California; a dozen other records come from late fall and winter; there is also a single summer record.

Photo by Connor Cochran on 21 May 2023

September record and two later December records may represent early or late fall migrants, or summering or wintering birds, respectively.

RUFIOUS-BACKED ROBIN *Turdus rufopalliatu*s (33, 3). An adult female at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, RIV, 13 Jun 2023 (CAD†, LYW†; 2023-035) represented California's first spring record; all previous records have been of fall migrants or winter visitors between October and April. Over the last five years there has been a noticeable increase in spring records in Arizona (G. Rosenberg pers. comm.). A Rufous-backed Robin in formative plumage at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 8 Nov 2023 (LK†; 2023-121) and an adult at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, SBE, 25 Nov–3 Dec 2023 (KS†; 2023-120) fit California's more typical pattern of occurrence.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* (15, 0). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** The report of a supposed wheatear from the Carrizo Plain National Monument, SLO, 12 Dec 2023 (2023-126) had inconsistencies in the described behavior; the bird was supposedly in alternate plumage in December, the observation was brief, and the late date is outside the interval of previous California records, 15 September–10 November, except for the spring migrant collected on Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 11 Jun 1971 (#CAS 68566; 1984-154; Manuwal and Lewis 1972, Dunn 1988).

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* (59, 4). A male in alternate plumage at Coyote Hills Regional Park, ALA, 19–24 Apr 2023 (AHe†, SBT†, BT†; 2023-016) showed the gray upperparts of the subspecies *ocularis*. A White Wagtail at Clam Beach, HUM, 10 Oct 2023 (CNR\$§; 2023-099), an adult female in basic plumage at Sand Beach in Goleta, SBA, 11 Oct 2023 (AA†; 2023-090), and a wagtail in formative plumage along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach, LA, 1 Dec 2023 (RBA†; 2023-122) all showed characters consistent with the subspecies *lugens*. The committee discontinued review of records of the White Wagtail after 2023.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius pictus* (14, 1). A male in formative plumage was photographed and audio-recorded at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 31 Oct 2023 (MLB†\$, NB†; 2023-107; Figure 11). Ten of California's 14 records have been of fall migrants between 9 September and 8 November.

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Peucaea cassinii* (111, 8). An adult in first alternate plumage at the Ventura settling ponds, VEN, 26–27 Apr 2023 (SDC†; 2023-018) furnished the first record for Ventura County. Five individuals at Carrizo Plain National Monument, SLO, 9–21 May 2023 (RJB†, CAM†\$, KJZ†; 2023-020; Figure 12) included four singing and displaying males and a presumed female paired with one of the males. A male in definitive alternate plumage singing at Winchester, RIV, 10–18 Jun 2023 (RSW†‡; 2023-039) was the only other spring migrant recorded in 2023. That year saw the third largest incursion of this species into California, following larger irruptions in 1978 and 2019 in the Lanfair Valley in the eastern Mojave Desert (Luther et al. 1983, Benson et al. 2021). A Cassin's Sparrow in formative plumage at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 15–16 Sep 2023 (SGD†; 2023-074) was the only fall migrant reported in the state in 2023. The committee discontinued reviewing records of the Cassin's Sparrow after 2023.

FIELD SPARROW *Spizella pusilla* (22, 1). The second Field Sparrow known for Humboldt County and northernmost known in California was one in formative plumage at the Arcata Bottoms, HUM, 26 Dec 2023–12 Feb 2024 (LuS†, MFr; 2023-135). It, like most Field Sparrows recorded in California, appeared to be of the western subspecies *arenacea*, with a broad gray central crown stripe and overall grayish coloration to the underparts.

LECONTE'S SPARROW *Ammospiza lecontei* (48, 1). One in formative plumage was at Quail Hill, ORA, 12 Nov–15 Dec 2023 (KMi†, RS†; 2023-113; Figure 13).



FIGURE 11. This male Smith's Longspur in formative plumage at Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, 31 October 2023 (2023-107), represents only the 14th record of this species in California.

Photo by Ned Bohman



FIGURE 12. This adult Cassin's Sparrow in definitive alternate plumage was actively singing and displaying at Carrizo Plain National Monument, San Luis Obispo County (2023-020).

Photo by Curtis A. Marantz on 13 May 2023



FIGURE 13. This LeConte's Sparrow in formative plumage at Quail Hill represented only the second record for Orange County (2023-113).

Photo by Kiandra Mitchell on 12 November 2023

California's 48 recorded LeConte's Sparrows have included 11 presumed wintering birds (including this one), 33 fall migrants, and four spring migrants.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH *Parkesia motacilla* (25, 2). Individuals in formative plumage were photographed along Atascadero Creek in Goleta, SBA, 21–22 Sep 2023 (AC†§; 2023-080), and along Santa Ysabel Creek in the Santa Ysabel Preserve, 4.5 km north of Julian, SD, 5–9 Nov 2023 (SL†; 2023-109). The November date for the latter is more typical of a wintering bird, as previous fall migrants in California have occurred much earlier, from 7 August to 28 September.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (92, 6). Females found in the spring included an adult at Coronado, SD, 20 May 2023 (PEL, BW†; 2023-023); one in formative plumage in El Centro, IMP, 17 May 2023 (CAD, GMcC, CAM†; 2023-022) that was the first for Imperial County; and one of unknown age at Butterbrecht Spring, KER, 17 May 2023 (SLS; 2023-021). In the fall, males in formative plumage were at Southeast Farallon Island, SF, 16 Sep 2023 (SGD†; 2023-075) and Hilleary Park in Poway, SD, 25–26 Sep 2023 (LR†, JJ†, NT†; 2023-083; Figure 14). A male of unknown age at the Tilden Nature Area, CC, 22 Sep 2023 (EGM; 2023-081) provided the first record for Contra Costa County. The male at Poway had a yellow wash across the breast under the dark throat patch, implying potential hybridization with the Blue-winged Warbler (*V. cyanoptera*). However, carotenoid deposition in these two species is still not well understood and may not always suggest the degree of hybridization (Baiz et al. 2020).

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons* (30, 1). An individual undergoing preformative molt was photographed at Rancho Palos Verdes, LA, 7–8 Sep 2023 (TFa†, CLY†; 2023-070). Nearly one-third (30%) of California's records are of fall migrants, with the majority of those from coastal southern California.



FIGURE 14. Male Golden-winged Warbler in formative plumage capturing and consuming a marsh crane fly (*Tipula oleracea*) at Hilleary Park in Poway, San Diego County, 25–26 September 2023 (2025-083).

Photo by Joshua Joun on 25 September 2023

PYRRHULOXIA *Cardinalis sinuatus* (33, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The brief description of one from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, SD, 8 Jul 2023 (2023-046) did not receive majority support after two rounds of deliberation.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

CORRIGENDA

The initial date published in the CBRC's 41st report (Searcy et al. 2018) for a Field Sparrow at Aspendell, INY (2015-164), was erroneous; the correct date span is 26 Dec 2015–18 Mar 2016. The late dates of four other records are extended following the receipt of additional documentation. A King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) at Cabrillo Beach, LA (2009-238; Pyle et al. 2011), remained until 19 Jan 2010 per photos provided by Tommy Pedersen. A Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) at Prado Regional Park, SBE (2011-212; Nelson et al. 2013), was last seen 30 Dec 2011 per written documentation by Howard B. King. At least one Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*) remained on Anacapa Island, VEN (2013-179; Rottenborn et al. 2016), through 25 Oct 2014 when it was photographed by Justyn T. Stahl. And the date

span of a Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*) at Gene Pumping Plant, 3 km west of Parker Dam, SBE (1991-211; Patten et al. 1995), is extended by a day to 19 Dec 1991 per written documentation from Steve Goodbred.

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