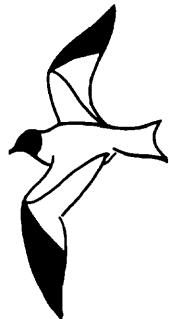


# WESTERN BIRDS



Volume 16, Number 3, 1985

## EIGHTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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This report contains 154 records of 63 species, documented by 109 contributors. Only 18 records are unaccepted, for an acceptance rate of 88.4%, the highest since 1975. Particularly encouraging is the high number of contributors. In fact, the ratio of total contributors to total records is 0.71, the highest since the committee began. This ratio, I believe, reflects a realization on the part of many birders of the value and importance of participating in the committee review process.

Nevertheless, we have not always been successful in obtaining all the evidence we would like. This report cites several cases in which photographs have not been submitted. In these cases, the record has been judged only on written descriptions. Photographers or curators who have rare bird photographs from California are urged to submit copies for our files. This practice will greatly aid us in our primary function, that of providing a central data base of rare bird records. All records are ultimately housed at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, where they are available for further study. Sound recordings are housed at the California Academy of Sciences, Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy.

*State list.* This report officially adds five species to the California state list: Steller's Eider, Spotted Redshank, Sooty Tern, White-collared Swift and Yellow Wagtail. These additions bring the state list to 548 species. I extended the state list analysis of Jehl (1980) by adding the 17 species and deleting the 2 species officially treated since his study. The reanalysis reveals that the growth of the California state list has continued at the identical rate of 4.0 species per year through mid-1983. Of the species added since Jehl's study, 17% were North American, 17% Mexican, 58% Arctic/Asian and 8% pelagic. These percentages compare to Jehl's predictions of 31% North American, 12% Mexican, 42% Arctic/Asian and 15% pelagic.

*Format.* The format is similar to past reports with several changes. The Committee's record number follows the initials of contributors. Each locality is followed by an abbreviation for the county and the date. Species marked with an asterisk (\*) are no longer being reviewed. Information on age and sex has been included when unambiguous. Plumage and molt terminology

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follows that suggested by Amadon (1966). All records are sight records unless stated otherwise. If the person or persons who found or first identified the bird submitted details, their initials are given first, followed by a semicolon.

I have attempted to provide a full span of dates for each record. This information has kindly been provided by committee members. In most cases these dates are the same as published in the seasonal reports of *American Birds*. In cases where our dates differ from those, I have italicized our date, indicating that I believe it is correct. Previously unpublished records are annotated as such. Citations of previously published photographs are also given.

All annotations are mine, although most of the information comes from committee files. The purposes of the annotations are to provide the reader with an understanding of the reasons for some committee decisions, to supply additional information about the records, and to refer the reader to recent publications treating identification. Most of these articles were published since the major survey by Roberson (1980). In a few cases identification tips have been included directly in the annotations. Attempts to correct factual errors in previous publications have also been included.

*Abbreviations.* *American Birds* and *Audubon Field Notes* are abbreviated AB and AFN respectively. County abbreviations follow Garrett and Dunn (1981) for southern California and Roberson (1980) for northern California as follows: ALA Alameda, BUT Butte, CC Contra Costa, DN Del Norte, HMB Humboldt, IMP Imperial, INY Inyo, KRN Kern, LAS Lassen, LA Los Angeles, MRN Marin, MRP Mariposa, MOD Modoc, MNO Mono, MNT Monterey, ORA Orange, RIV Riverside, SBE San Bernardino, SD San Diego, SBA Santa Barbara, SJ San Joaquin, SLO San Luis Obispo, SM San Mateo, SCL Santa Clara, SCZ Santa Cruz, SIS Siskiyou, SON Sonoma, TRN Trinity, VEN Ventura.

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*Acknowledgments.* The committee greatly appreciates the critical reviews of records by the following consultants: Bruce Elliott, Peter J. Grant, R.F. Porter, J.T.R. Sharrock, Peter Harrison and J.V. Remsen. I gratefully acknowledge the help of the current members of the California Bird Records Committee in reviewing this paper and providing valuable data: Laurence C. Binford (Vice-Secretary), Jon L. Dunn, Richard A. Erickson, Kimball L. Garrett, Paul Lehman, Guy McCaskie, B.D. Parmeter (Secretary), Don Roberson and Richard E. Webster. Ron LeValley and Kurt F. Campbell also reviewed the manuscript and provided valuable comments. The following former members voted on some or all of the records in this report: H. Lee Jones, John Luther, Arnold Small and Richard Stallcup. The following curators generously provided committee members access to the collections in their care: Luis F. Baptista, California Academy of Sciences; Eugene A. Cardiff, San Bernardino County Museum; Stanley W. Harris, Humboldt State University; Ned K. Johnson, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology; Thomas R. Howell, University of California, Los Angeles; Dennis M. Power, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History; Amadeo M. Rea, San Diego Natural History Museum; Ralph W. Schreiber, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. I wish to thank Lloyd Kiff for making available past records housed at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Albert Ghiorso for preparing internegatives from color slides, and Stephen F. Bailey and Luis F. Baptista for preparing the sonogram.

## ACCEPTED RECORDS

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*). One adult in breeding plumage was seen flying north past Point Dume LA 20 Apr 1977 (KLG: 88-1980). An immature female was at Goleta SBA 23 Feb-12 Apr 1982 and was found dead on the last date (JLD; PL. GMcC. JO. REW: 48-1982; specimen 4543 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History); photographs appeared in *AB* 36:330 and on the front page of the 28 Apr 1982 *Daily Nexus*, the campus newspaper for the University of California, Santa Barbara.

These are the first and second records for southern California. A previous report from Point Mugu VEN 5-9 May 1976 was rejected (Luther et al. 1983).

\*LAYSAN ALBATROSS (*Diomedea immutabilis*). One was photographed 4½ miles off Point Pinos MNT 26 Jan 1980 (DR: 95-1982); photograph published by Roberson (1980). One was seen at the Cordell Banks MRN 23 Mar 1981 (BDP, JP: 16-1981).

This species is not always easy to distinguish from Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophris*), which regularly reaches the North Atlantic and which could reach the North Pacific. Subadult Black-browed Albatrosses have a dark bill tip, and an underwing and tail pattern very similar to that of Laysan. A useful distinction, not mentioned in current field guides, is the greater extent of dark mantle coloration onto the lower back of Laysan. This area is white on Black-browed.

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MOTTLED PETREL (*Pterodroma inexpectata*). One was seen through a scope from shore at Point Mugu VEN 30 Dec 1981 (REW: 31-1982). For the first time in California this species was seen doing something besides dying.

STREAKED SHEARWATER (*Calonectris leucomelas*). One was photographed 2 km west of Moss Landing MNT 26 Sep 1982 (AB, BB, AC, JM, SWi; 97-1982); see Figure 1; this is the third accepted record for California and for North America. A previous report from Monterey Bay 14 Oct 1978 (AB 33:209, Roberson 1980, AOU 1983) has not yet been submitted.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*). Up to two were seen in Monterey Bay MNT 26 Aug-14 Nov 1982 (GMcC, REW: 116-1982). According to AB 37:219 up to three birds were present, but the Committee received details for only two.

BROWN BOOBY (*Sula leucogaster*). One immature was found dead at the south end of the Salton Sea IMP Oct 1967 (photograph of specimen by RAE; 36-1982); this record was not published in *AFN* or by McCaskie (1970) and its exact date is unknown. It was included in the summary by Garrett and Dunn (1981), and is number 1388 in the Humboldt State University collection.

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*). One adult was photographed at the north end of the Salton Sea RIV 1 Aug-10 Sep 1982 (DSia; JLD,

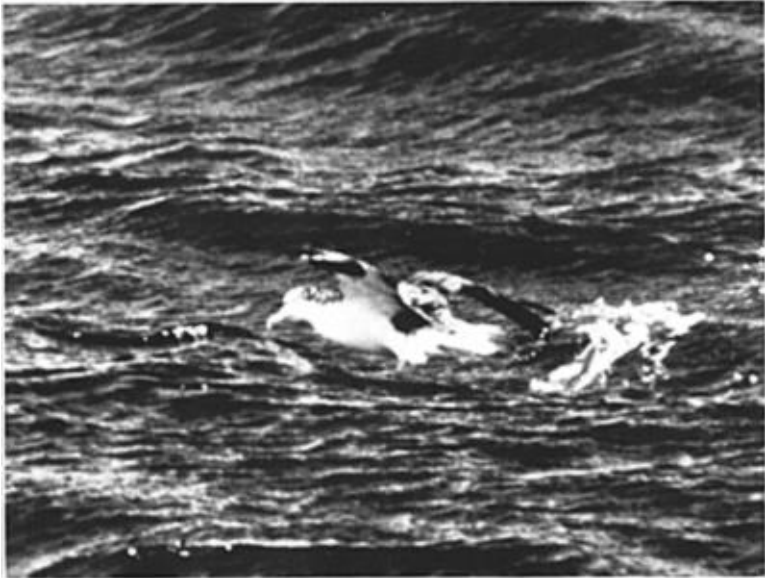


Figure 1. Streaked Shearwater. 26 Sep 1982. Monterey Bay, CA. See record 97-1982 under Accepted Records.

Photo by Steve Wilson

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GRH, GMcC, REW: 76-1982). An adult was building a nest at the south end of the Salton Sea IMP 27 Feb-5 Mar 1983 (GMcC; 37-1983); the nesting was unsuccessful since there was only one bird involved and the nest site was taken over by a pair of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax violaceus*). Reports of an adult at San Elijo Lagoon SD 30 May-19 Jul 1982 (REW; 81-1982) and 20 Feb-29 Aug 1983 (GMcC; 36-1983) pertain to the same bird which has been at this locality on and off since 25 Oct 1981. Record 88-1981 (Binford 1985) is also probably of the same individual. One reported in nearby La Jolla SD 23 May-1 Jun 1983 (AB 37:912) was probably this same bird, although considered different by Unitt (1984).

BAIKAL TEAL (*Anas formosa*). A male collected at Niland IMP 29 Dec 1946 (photograph of specimen by SFB; 107-1983) is number 97120 at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology; Laughlin (1947) and Garrett and Dunn (1981) incorrectly attribute this specimen to Calipatria, but the specimen label says "5 miles west of Niland." A male collected along the Santa Ana River near Riverside RIV 12 Jan 1974 (photograph of specimen by EAC; 108-1983) is number 2J75 at the San Bernardino County Museum. A male collected at Honey Lake LAS 27 Nov 1974 (photograph of specimen by RAE; 109-1983) is number 3315 in the Humboldt State University collection; the correct date is *vide* Eugene Makishima; AB 29:736, McCaskie et al. (1979) and Roberson (1980) all give the incorrect date of 1 Dec. A male collected at Gray Lodge BUT 4 Jan 1975 (photograph of specimen by RAE; 110-1983) is number 3490 in the Humboldt State University collection.

Although the AOU (1983) considers records from southern California "may be based on escapes," the Committee has accepted these records because this species is a long distance migrant and there is enough of a pattern to indicate that this Asiatic species occasionally reaches California naturally. This species appears on the official state list (Jones et al. 1981) but the Committee has not previously validated any particular record. Don Roberson compiled details on five specimens, four of which were accepted on the first circulation. The fifth specimen record (Brentwood CC 13 Dec 1931) is pending final Committee action.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*). One male at Cuddy Valley KRN 15 Jan 1980 (REW; 80-1982) may have been the same bird as record 49-1980 at nearby Quail Lake LA (Binford 1985). One male was at Point Mugu VEN 7-28 Feb 1981 (REW; 27-1982); Garrett and Dunn (1981) incorrectly state that this bird stayed through March. One male at Mill Valley MRN 7 Feb-8 Mar 1982 (RHo; 46-1982) was also present 12 Dec 1980-13 Feb 1981 and is assumed to be the same individual as record 71-1980 (Binford 1985) returning to the same locality in subsequent winters; it is not the same bird attributed to "Tiburon ponds" in AB 35:332 but is one of two listed in AB 35:715 for the southern Marin Christmas Bird Count. The second bird has not yet been submitted to the Committee. A male was at Ferndale HMB 23-24 Feb 1982 (RAE; 25-1982). A female was at Foster City SM 20 Feb-2 Apr 1983 (JM; 33-1983). Two males were at Lake Perris RIV 22 Jan-21 Feb 1983 (GMcC, REW: 53-1983).

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*). An immature male collected at the mouth of the Eel River HMB 19 Nov 1975 (photograph of specimen by RAE; 25-1983) is number 3568 in the Humboldt State University collection. An adult male was photographed at Imperial Beach and Coronado SD 4 Dec 1982-25 Jan 1983 (JLD, GMcC, REW: 109-1982); photograph published in AB 37:338; Unitt (1984) and AB 37:338 both give an incorrect discovery date of 3 Dec. A female was seen at Huntington Beach ORA 18 Dec 1982-31 Jan 1983 (JLD, GMcC, REW: 3-1983); photographs deposited in the San Diego Natural History Museum are not in Committee files. A

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female was photographed at Emeryville ALA 19 Dec 1982-7 May 1983 (JAG; SFB, LCB, RL, JM; 7-1983). A female was photographed at Newport harbor ORA 26 Dec 1982-16 Jan 1983 (GMcC, REW; 52-1983). A female was photographed at Ventura marina VEN 23 Jul-18 Sep 1983 (JLD, PL, GMcC, REW, KZ; 56-1983); photograph published in AB 37:1027.

1982-83 was the best flight year for this species on record in California. The last significant flight was in 1973-74.

STELLER'S EIDER (*Polysticta stelleri*). An immature female was photographed at Crescent City harbor DN 16 Jan-30 May 1983 (JAR, RAE; LCB, HC, JLD, KH, GMcC, JM, BDP, DR, REW, AW; 9-1983); photograph published in AB 37:333.

This is the first North American record south of Vancouver Island.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). One photographed at Mono Lake MNO 31 May 1981 (MLM; 106-1982) was not the same individual as record 65-1981 (Binford 1985) seen 24-25 May 1981 at Furnace Creek Ranch INY, contrary to speculation in AB 35:858; the two birds were of different ages. One was seen at Olancho INY 30 May 1982 (JWil; 68-1982). One was seen at Imperial Beach SD 18 July 1982 (GMcC; 75-1982). One was photographed near Dulzura SD 12 Jun-30 Jul 1983 (GMcC, REW; 55-1983); the departure date of 28 Jul 1983 given by Unitt (1984) is incorrect.

All four of these records were subadults in their first spring or summer plumage.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*). An adult was seen at Corn Springs RIV 23 Apr 1982 (AS; 70-1982).

MONGOLIAN PLOVER (*Charadrius mongolus*). An adult was photographed at McGrath State Beach VEN 7-13 Aug 1982 (KLG, PL, GMcC, REW; 74-1982); photograph published in AB 37:224.

This is the second record for California.

SPOTTED REDSHANK (*Tringa erythropus*). One male in breeding plumage was photographed at the north end of the Salton Sea RIV 30 Apr-4 May 1983 (DDeL, AS; JLD, GMcC, DR; 49-1983); see Figure 2.

This is the first record for California.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*). A male in breeding plumage was photographed at Arcata HMB 17-20 May 1983 (RAE; 45-1983); two photographs published in AB 37:908 are not in Committee files.

RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT (*Calidris ruficollis*). One in breeding plumage photographed at McGrath State Beach VEN 11-17 Jul 1982 (RH, PL, GMcC, REW; 73-1982) is probably the same individual at this locality 12-17 July 1981 (record 42-1981, Binford 1985). Another in breeding plumage was photographed near Lancaster LA 23-29 Jul 1983 (JLD, PL, GMcC, LR, REW; 57-1983).

For information on the identification of this and other stints see Grant (1984) or Veit & Jonsson (1984).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*). A juvenal was photographed near Petaluma SON 2-8 Sep 1982 (LCB; DKB, BDP; 77-1982). Another was seen at Point Mugu VEN 10-15 Sep 1982 (TEW; 100-1982).

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). One first winter bird photographed at Oceanside SD 27 Dec 1981 (REW; GMcC; 30-1982) was taken to Sea World in San Diego after it

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became entangled in a fishing line and nearly drowned; it died in captivity 27 Mar 1982 and is now specimen 41883 at the San Diego Natural History Museum. An adult seen at Kelly Lake, Watsonville SCZ 1-2 Jan 1982 (JML, DR; 44-1982) was possibly the same bird as seen at the mouth of the Salinas River MNT 1 Jan-20 Feb 1983 (JLD, DR; 35-1983). An immature was at Goleta SBA 10 May 1982 (PL; 49-1982). An immature was seen at Crescent City DN 19 May 1982 (RAE, GSL; 56-1982). One in first summer plumage photographed at the north end of the Salton Sea RIV 6 Jun 1982 (REW; GMcC, JO; 61-1982) was found dead 12 Jun 1982 and is now specimen 41796 at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*). An adult seen at Huntington Beach ORA 13 Dec 1981 (GMcC; 94-1981) could have been the same bird as seen there the previous winter (records 219-1980 and 59-1981 in Binford 1985).

SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis*). One at San Diego Bay SD 15 May-13 Jun 1982 (FAH; DDei, GMcC, DR, REW; 58-1982) was probably the same individual seen there in May 1980 (record 80-1980 in Luther et al. 1983), which is the only other record for California.

SOOTY TERN (*Sterna fuscata*). An immature seen at the San Diego River mouth SD 27 Sep 1982 (REW; 19-1983) is the first for California.

Hurricane Olivia passed over several areas where this species breeds including a recently discovered colony at Alijos Rocks (Pitman 1983) about 500 miles south of



Figure 2. Spotted Redshank, 30 Apr 1983, Salton Sea, CA. See record 49-1983 under Accepted Records.

Photo by Arnold Small

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San Diego, and probably displaced this bird northward. The statement in AB 37:224 that this species "does not normally occur within 1500-2000 miles of California" is incorrect. Although Unitt (1984) regarded this sight record as inadequate, it was accepted unanimously by the Committee.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). One found dead at Humboldt Bay HMB 3 Oct 1979 (photograph of specimen by RAE; 37-1982) is specimen 4688 in the Humboldt State University collection; it was estimated to have been dead for 1 or 2 weeks when found.

**BARRED OWL** (*Strix varia*). One seen at Howland Hill east of Crescent City DN 5 Mar 1983 through at least 20 Apr 1983 (RAE; 28-1983) is the same individual present continuously since 12 Mar 1982 (record number 26-1982 in Binford 1985). Another heard at Salyer TRN, in the summer of 1981, was rediscovered there in Aug 1982 and was still present through at least 27 Jun 1983 (RAE; 47-1983); it was actually the first for California, but was not reported until after the Crescent City bird above. Another was heard at Willow Creek HMB 30 Apr-2 May (RAE; 48-1983).

These three birds are the result of this species' rapid range expansion in the Pacific Northwest over the last two decades. They appear to be permanent residents in the area.

**WHITE-COLLARED SWIFT** (*Streptoprocne zonaris*). One was studied at length through a scope at Point Saint George DN 21 May 1982 (RAE, GJS, GSL, RT, LB; 57-1982).

This is the first California record. Other United States records were discussed by Hardy and Clench (1982) and Lasley (1984). Although this species normally ranges north on the west coast only to Guerrero, Mexico (AOU 1983), there are at least four unpublished sight records from southern Sinaloa. A detailed analysis of the descriptions and sketches of this bird by J.V. Remsen Jr. at Louisiana State University indicates that this bird was probably an immature of the northern race *S. z. mexicana*. It had pale dusky feathers on the forehead, typical of this race, and a scaly or mottled breast band, characteristic of immatures.

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Cynanthus latirostris*). An immature male photographed at Fremont ALA early Jan-9 Mar 1982 (NM; 47-1982) was not the first northern California record as stated in AB 36:327 but the second, although the previous record (McCaskie et al. 1979) has not yet been reviewed. An adult male was seen in Short Canyon northwest of Inyokern KRN 18 Apr 1982 (RBH; 12-1983). A male was photographed in Santa Barbara SBA 13-17 Oct 1982 (PL; 101-1982). A male seen in Santa Barbara SBA 10 Jan-15 Feb 1983 (JLD, PL; 29-1983) was reportedly photographed, but the photographs were not submitted.

**GREATER PEWEE** (*Contopus pertinax*). One seen at Montana de Oro State Park SLO 26 Sep 1982 (GPS; CM; 26-1983) was exceptionally early; most previous records were of wintering birds.

**EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE** (*Contopus virens*). An adult male was photographed and song recorded near San Joaquin City SJ 18 Aug-17 Sep 1983 (DY; LCB, JLD, AG, KH, JML, GMcC, JM, BDP, DR, REW; 60-1983); see Figure 3.

This is the second acceptable California record. A previously accepted record from Big Sycamore Canyon VEN (record 27-1975 in Luther et al. 1979) has been withdrawn by the observer based on new information on pewee calls and should be disregarded pending a final Committee decision. Another previous record from the Farallon Islands (record 88-1977 in Luther 1980) was discussed at the Committee



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meeting of 18 Feb 1984 in view of recent published statements that the record was questionable (AOU 1983, Dunn and Garrett 1983b). The committee decided to take no action and this record stands as accepted.

\*LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*). One seen on San Nicolas Island VEN 8-9 Jun 1974 (JLD, HLJ, GMcC: 133-1980) was not published in *American Birds* but was included in Garrett and Dunn (1981). One was seen at Point Reyes MRN 27 Sep 1979 (JM: 191-1980).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*). One seen at Montana de Oro State Park SLO 30 Sep 1979 (PV: 81-1980) was not included in *American Birds* but was published by Garrett and Dunn (1981).

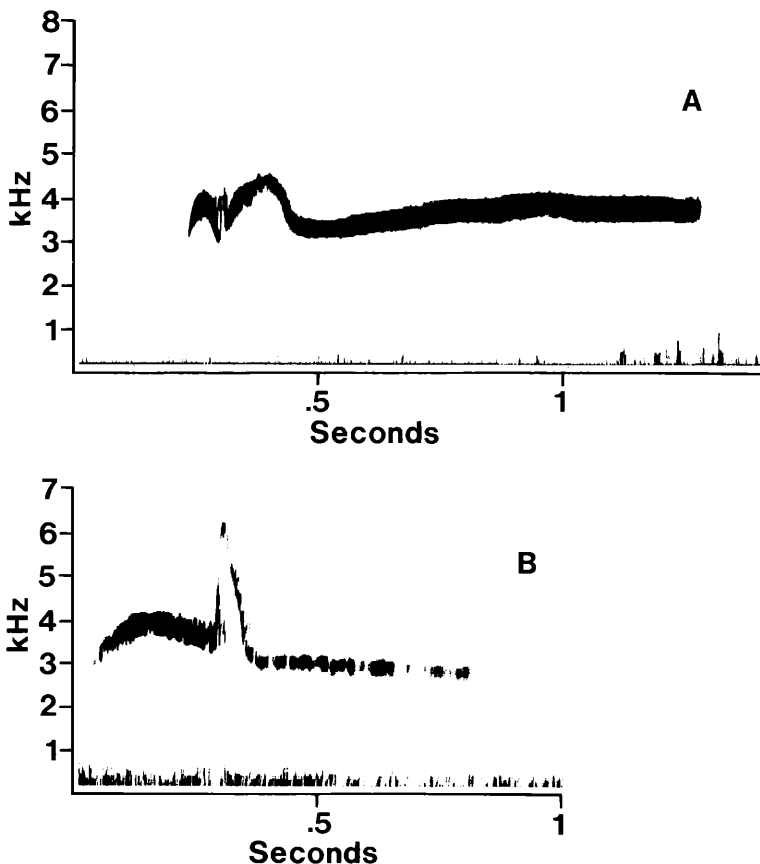


Figure 3. Eastern Wood-Pewee. 8 Sep 1983. San Joaquin City, CA. See record 60-1983 under Accepted Records.

Recorded by Jeri M. Langham

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THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus crassirostris*). One was photographed in Peters Canyon in Lemon Heights near Tustin ORA 19 Dec 1982-9 Apr 1983 (JLD, GMcC, DR, REW; 110-1982); photograph was published in AB 37:339.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*). An adult was seen near Gazos Creek mouth SM 13 Sep-5 Oct 1974 (LCB; 39-1982). One was seen at Hearst Castle, San Simeon SLO 10 May 1982 (GPS; 65-1982). Speculation in AB 36:894 that this might be the same bird as one at Point Piedras Blancas SLO 3-10 May 1982 seems unwarranted, as both were seen the same day. The Piedras Blancas bird has not yet been submitted.

VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*). One was seen at Point Reyes lighthouse MRN 20 Jun 1982 (JML; JM; 87-1982). According to AB 36:1013, this bird was present through 24 Jun 1982, however the 21-24 Jun observations were at another locality at Point Reyes. The Committee considers the additional published dates as a separate record, possibly of a different individual, for which no documentation has been received. The Committee hopes to receive details from the many observers who saw it.

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*). One was photographed at Point Loma, San Diego SD 1-25 Nov 1982 (GMcC, REW; 114-1982).

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*). One was seen at Guadalupe SBA 25 Apr 1982 (JD; 50-1982). One was seen at Point Reyes MRN 3 Jul 1982 (HAG; 90-1982).

These records are unseasonal for this species; most previous records are late fall or spring.

YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*). One was seen and heard at Abbott's Lagoon, Point Reyes MRN 17 Sep 1978 (JPM, LPM; 114-1978). An adult was seen and heard flying over Bodega Bay harbor SON 16 Sep 1979 (BJM; 81-1979). An immature seen at Cayucos SLO 7 Sep 1981 (TE; JEM; 46-1981) is published here for the first time. One was seen and heard at Point Pinos MNT 19 Sep 1982 (JLD; RB, MM; 107-1982). An immature was photographed at Younger Lagoon and Wilder Creek mouth SCZ 4-6 Sep 1983 (DSin, CF, BL; LCB, JLD, AG, KH, GMcC, JM, JP, DR, DSie; 59-1983); see Figure 4.

These are the first five records for California. The call of the Yellow Wagtail is a distinctive slightly rising "tzzzeet," quite high and penetrating. It has been likened to one of the calls of the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). The only wagtail with a similar call is the Citrine (*Motacilla citreola*) which is unrecorded in North America. An excellent account of the identification of immature wagtails has been published (Svensson 1977), but observers should be aware that immatures of the northeast Asian and Alaskan races are usually much duller than European forms. The exact subspecies of any of the California birds cannot be determined.

RED-THROATED PIPIT (*Anthus cervinus*). An adult was at Imperial Beach SD 8 Oct 1979 (GMcC; 162-1980). One was seen at Imperial Beach SD 11 Oct 1979 (GMcC; 163-1980). Another adult was at Imperial Beach SD 22 Oct 1979 (GMcC; 164-1980). These three individuals are the "two or three near Imperial Beach 8-22 Oct 1979" published in AB 34:202 and in Unitt (1984). Each bird was present only one day. One was photographed at Imperial Beach SD 10-11 Oct 1982 (REW; GMcC; 117-1982). Another was photographed at Imperial Beach SD 16-17 Oct 1982 (GRH; CM, GMcC, REW; 108-1982). Another was photographed at Imperial Beach SD 7 Nov 1982 (REW; GMcC; 112-1982).

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WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*). A singing male was photographed at Goleta SBA 18 May-14 Sep 1982 (PL: JLD, JMG, GMcC, BDP: 62-1982); a photograph was published in *AB* 36:895. One was at Point Loma SD 7 Jun 1982 (REW: GMcC: 60-1982). One was seen at Point Reyes MRN 19 May 1983 (DHE: 39-1983).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*). A male was seen at Los Osos SLO 22-24 Apr 1982 (DStE: PL: 51-1982). One was photographed in Irvine ORA 19 May 1982 (DW: REW: 71-1982). One seen at Pico Creek near San Simeon SLO 3 Oct 1982 (JR: 22-1983) is previously unpublished.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*). One seen at the Carmel River mouth MNT 12 Oct 1980 (DR: 225-1980) was not published as a separate record in *AB* 35:223 but was presumably included in the total of eight records summarized there. One seen at the Big Sur River mouth MNT 3 Oct 1981 (DR: 43-1982) is previously unpublished. One was seen at Arroyo Grande SLO 22 May 1982 (PS: 52-1982). One was at Point Loma SD 29-31 May 1982 (NBB: 69-1982). One was seen at Oasis MNO 29-30 May 1982 (GMcC, DR: 63-1982). One was at Point Loma SD 30 Sep 1982 (REW: 113-1982). One was at Harbor Lake, Harbor City LA 15-18 Oct 1982 (BED: 20-1983). One seen at Huntington Beach ORA 26 Nov 1982-1 Jan 1983 (REW: SJR: 118-1982) was the second winter record for California.

For a useful discussion of the identification of this and other vireos see Terrill and Terrill (1981).



Figure 4. Yellow Wagtail. 6 Sep 1983. Santa Cruz, CA. See record 59-1983 under Accepted Records.

Photo by Dianne Sierra

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GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). A male was seen at Agoura LA 2 Nov 1981 (SWo; NBB; 40-1982). A female was at Oasis MNO 23 May 1982 (GMcC, REW; 64-1982). A male was photographed at Santa Barbara SBA 22-23 Oct 1982 (JMG, PL, REW; 104-1982). A female was seen at Fullerton ORA 24 Oct 1982 (KT, JT; 18-1983).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*). A singing male seen at Samoa HMB 24 May 1982 (RAE; 55-1982) was identified entirely by song and was not seen well enough to determine its subspecies group. However the statement in AB 36:891 that a yellow-lored form has occurred on the Farallon Islands in spring and fall is incorrect. All Farallon records were white-lored (DeSante and Ainley 1980). A singing male at Pacific Grove MNT 27 May 1983 (DR; 50-1983) was also white-lored.

CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica cerulea*). One was seen at Mirror Lake, Yosemite Valley MRP 12 Oct 1981 (KLG; 22-1982).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*). One was seen at Big Morongo Wildlife Preserve SBE 19 Sep 1981 (CM; 24-1983). One was at the University of California, Los Angeles campus, West Los Angeles LA 3-4 Oct 1981 (KLG; 21-1982). A male was seen at Santa Barbara Island SBA 24-25 May 1982 (CD; 67-1982). A singing male was photographed at Goleta SBA 2-3 Jun 1982 (JMG, PL; 53-1982). One was seen at San Diego SD 14 Sep 1982 (GMcC; 83-1982). A male photographed at Point Reyes MRN 30 Sep 1982 (RH; 34-1983) is previously unpublished. One was seen at Baker SBE 3 Oct 1982 (EAC; 15-1983). One was at Point Loma SD 8 Oct 1982 (REW; 115-1982).

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorus*). One was photographed at Point Reyes MRN 28-29 Oct 1981 (BY, JE; 34-1982). One was seen at Goleta SBA 29 May 1982 (MD; 54-1982). Another was at Goleta SBA 9-17 Sep 1982 (PL; 103-1982). One was seen at Sausalito MRN 9 Oct 1982 (MVMa, RLM; 88-1982). One was at Furnace Creek INY 30 May 1983 (LCB, GMcC, REW; 42-1983).

MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*). A female was seen at Point Reyes MRN 20-22 Jun 1982 (JM; 86-1982). One was seen at Carpinteria SBA 24 Sep-4 Oct 1982 (PL; 105-1982). A male seen at Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge SIS 22 May 1983 (RLL; 43-1983) is previously unpublished. A singing male was photographed at Oasis MNO 28 May 1983 (LCB, JLD, EH, DK, GMcC, REW; 41-1983); see Figure 5.

A recent study indicates that there is more overlap between the measurements of this species and the MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*) than previously known (Kowalski 1983).

RED-FACED WARBLER (*Cardellina rubrifrons*). One was seen at Point Loma SD 11-12 Sep 1982 (LCB, GMcC, BDP; 79-1982); Unitt (1984) states that this bird was photographed, but photographs have not been submitted to the Committee.

\*PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*). Up to two were seen at Big Bear Lake SBE 14 Jun-3 Jul 1982 (GMcC, BDP; 72-1982); AB 36:1017 states that three birds were in this area but we have documentation for only two. One was photographed at Oxnard VEN early Nov 1982-20 Feb 1983 (AN, MN; JLD, PL, REW; 30-1983). One was photographed in Santa Barbara SBA 11 Nov 1982-12 Mar 1983 (JMG, PL, GMcC; 31-1983).

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SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*). One was seen at Point Fermin, San Pedro LA 8-11 Nov 1981 (BED; 10-1983). An immature male seen at Huntington Beach ORA 25 Nov 1982 (JLD, GMcC: 1-1983) was reportedly photographed, but the photographs are not in our files. A male was seen at Point Reyes MRN 20 Jun 1982 (JM; 85-1982). A female was at Point Loma SD 29 May-2 Jun 1983 (GMcC, REW: 54-1983). For information on identification, see Garrett and Dunn (1983).

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). One was seen at Earp SBE 9 Dec 1981 (REW: 28-1982).

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*). One was photographed at Point Loma SD 10-15 Sep 1982 (LCB, GMcC, BDP, REW; 78-1982). Another was photographed at Point Loma SD 14-15 Sep 1982 (REW; GMcC: 84-1982). One seen at Goleta SBA 17-26 Aug 1983 (JLD, PL, GMcC, REW: 58-1983) was reportedly photographed, but the photographs are not in our files.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). One seen at Bolinas Lagoon MRN 4 Nov 1978-1 May 1979 (LCB; 38-1982) was one of up to four reported here in AB 33:804, but we have documentation for only one; it may have been the same bird returning for an additional winter as record 14-1977 (Luther 1980). Another at Bolinas Lagoon MRN 23 Oct 1982-26 Mar 1983 (BDP, GMcC: 120-1982) was one of two reported here in AB 37:336, but we have documentation for only one which was probably one of three individuals (but not the banded bird)



Figure 5. Mourning Warbler, 28 May 1983, Oasis, CA. See record 41-1983 under Accepted Records.

Photo by Ed Harper

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seen here the previous winter (record 222-1980 in Binford 1985). One seen at Dumbarton Point ALA 11 Dec 1981 (KFC: 35-1982) was not published as a separate record in AB 36:329 but was presumably included in the total of four birds summarized there. One seen at Palo Alto Baylands Refuge SCL 11 Oct 1982-1 Mar 1983 and another there 29 Jan-1 Mar 1983 (JM: 32-1983) were reportedly photographed, but the photographs are not in Committee files; they are probably different from records 79-1978 and 14-1979 (Luther et al. 1983) since none were seen here in 1979-80; but they could be the same as the maximum of three seen here 9 Jan-6 Feb 1982, and two seen here 22 Nov 1980 (unpublished), but probably different from one seen at the Palo Alto Dump 22 Dec 1980 (unreviewed by the Committee).

### UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*)**. One photographed at Bodega Bay SON 29 Apr 1980 (15-1981); see Figure 6.

This record was based entirely on one slide and two color prints. The observers originally identified the bird as a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) but concluded it was *adamsii* after noting that the slides showed an all pale culmen. This record was rejected by a vote of 3 in favor and 7 opposed on the third ballot. Those in favor pointed out that the pale culmen is the only completely reliable field character, and that the relatively small eye, distinct auricular patch, pale neck and distinctly curved lower outline to the lower mandible are all characteristic of *adamsii*. However the majority of the Committee were of the opinion that the apparent pale culmen could have been caused by photographic effect or aberration, that there should have been some dusky color at the base of the bill, and that the back color and pattern were wrong for an immature *adamsii*. The bird was an immature because of its curved culmen, relatively short bill and winter-like plumage in late April. The majority felt the plumage was entirely typical of Common Loon. For more information on identification of this species see Binford and Remsen (1974).

**WHITE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albicaudatus*)**. An immature at Whittier Narrows Nature Center LA 22 Nov 1981 (75-1981).

This report would have constituted a first state record, but was defeated on the second ballot by a vote of 2-8. The pattern of the scapulars was not seen. On White-tailed they are dark with rufous edges; on Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) they have prominent pale patches. Also the drawing which accompanied the description showed four emarginate outer primaries; there should have been only three. The flanks and undertail coverts should have been barred or mottled, not pure white as sketched; and the tail should have been shorter.

Despite these discrepancies, many committee members agreed that the bird looked more like a White-tailed Hawk than anything else. However, the west Mexican population is believed to be seriously declining, and the species is essentially resident. Thus it may not have much chance of reaching California as genuine vagrant. Many members admitted that, even if it was a White-tailed Hawk, they would probably reject it as an escape (origin questionable).

**\*SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*)**. One juvenal seen at Pescadero Marsh SM 17 Aug 1980 (189-1980).

This record was defeated on the fourth ballot by a vote of 7-3. The majority felt that the description was fine; the bill shape, size, call, foot webbing, and coloration were all perfect for this species. The minority was troubled by the dark brown back feathers

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### UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

with "chestnut" fringes, arguing that a Semipalmated Sandpiper should not show this coloration. There appears to be confusion among Committee members and birders in general concerning color terminology. Observers are cautioned against using color terminology that may be misinterpreted: reference to a color chart (e.g. Smithe 1975) or to other bird species is advisable if not imperative.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*). One first-summer bird at Point Reyes MRN 18 Jul 1981 (81-1983).

This would have been a first state record if accepted. It was rejected by a vote of 0-10 on the first round. Members noted that it could not have been this species, because the bird was wearing a band and no Iceland or Thayer's gulls (*Larus thayeri*) were known to have been banded in the summer of 1980. Most members thought that it could have been a worn and/or bleached California (*L. californicus*), Glaucous-winged (*L. glaucescens*) or Western (*L. occidentalis*) Gull.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Cyanthus latirostris*). An adult male at Joshua Tree National Monument (county not specified) 13 Apr 1974 (42-1982).

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (*Picoides tridactylus*). One at Summit Camp west of Eagle Lake, Lassen National Forest LAS 16 Jun 1983 (46-1983).



Figure 6. Unknown species of loon, 29 Apr 1980. Bodega Bay, CA. See Yellow-billed Loon (record 15-1981) under Unaccepted Records, identification questionable.

Photo by Peter Kennedy

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### UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus virens*). One heard and photographed at Point Loma SD 18-26 May 1982 (94-1982).

This record was defeated 3-7 on the second round. Identification was based primarily on calls. This bird gave a variety of calls, some of which may be given by both species. Committee members disagreed as to which species gives which call and when. A majority felt that the calls attributed to this bird could have been given by Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*), but a minority considered the described vocalizations diagnostic for *C. virens*. Clearly more research is needed. Any suspected *C. virens* seen in California should be voice-recorded to provide a permanent record that later may prove diagnostic. No specimen should be collected without prior voice recording. Phenotypically, most individuals of the two species are indistinguishable in the field and sometimes even in the hand. For further information on identification, see Dunn and Garrett (1983b) and Rising and Schueler (1980).

VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*). One on Santa Barbara Island SBA 3 May 1982 (66-1982). One at Big Morongo Canyon SBE 17-18 May 1983 (40-1983).

See Dunn and Garrett (1983a) for notes on identification.

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*). A male at Twin Oaks Valley north of San Marcos SD 28 Dec 1980 (8-1981). A male at Point Reyes MRN 14 Sep 1981 (32-1982).

The first was published in AB 35:720 and by Unitt (1984) but was defeated 6-4 on the fourth round. Most members felt the description was fine for an adult, but a minority were troubled by the incorrectly described wing coverts, dusky greenish-brown, instead of dark gray or blackish; the absence of a partial yellow collar setting off the darker face; and the average, instead of large, bill size.

The second was rejected 3-7 on the first circulation. Most members thought that it was a Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). The face, described as "unremarkably similar to Orange-crowned Warbler," would tend to eliminate Pine Warbler. There was no mention of the amount of exposed tail past the undertail coverts. It is much longer on Pine than on Blackpoll. For a recent discussion of this identification problem, see Whitney (1983).

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermicivorus*). One at Pacific Grove MNT 12 Oct 1981 (93-1982).

This record was accepted in AB 36:215 but the observer credited with the observation did not see the bird. He only reported it on behalf of another.

\*PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*). One near Duncans Mills SON 15-26 Feb 1982 (23-1982).

OLIVE WARBLER (*Peucedramus taeniatus*). A male in Placerita Canyon LA 23 Apr 1983 (38-1983).

### UNACCEPTED RECORDS, origin questionable (identification accepted)

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*). An adult photographed at Bolinas Lagoon MRN 14-19 May 1971 and at San Rafael MRN 27 June-15 Sep 1971 (14-1981).

This bird was rejected as an escaped captive by a vote of 6-4 on the fourth ballot (nine votes needed for acceptance). It was accepted as wild in AFN 25:794, in McCaskie et al. (1979) and by Roberson (1980). The AOU (1983) regarded it as an escape.



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### UNACCEPTED RECORDS, origin questionable (identification accepted)

Those in favor of wild origin for this bird pointed out that all the zoos in northern California were contacted and all known captive birds were present and accounted for. There is a weak pattern of spring and summer occurrences between the Mexican breeding grounds and the southwestern United States. The species has been shown to be capable of long-range vagrancy in North America, and this bird left in September—a pattern shown by other northward wandering individuals.

Those opposed to the wild status of this bird pointed out that all the recent coastal reports from southern California have been suspect since a number of White Ibis escaped from Busch Gardens in Los Angeles and elsewhere in the mid-1970s. Because all coastal records from southern California are questionable, they could not accept a coastal record from northern California.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). One at Thermolito Afterbay, Oroville BUT 27 Sep 1969 (24-1982).

This was accepted as the first regional record for northern California by AFN 24:90 but was regarded as an escape by McCaskie et al. (1979) and Roberson (1980). It was defeated on the first round by a vote of 3-7. Of the seven negative votes, five questioned its origin and two questioned its identification.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). A male visiting a feeder in Castro Valley ALA 29 Jun 1982 (89-1982).

### UNACCEPTED RECORD, viable status of population questionable

GRAY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*). Multiple introductions over a 30+ year period: claimed road kills (three in four years) prior to 1976 near Cedarville MOD (140-1977).

Information provided by Bruce Elliott indicates that all these introductions failed and that no self-sustaining population ever existed. The claimed road kills were actually Chukars (*Alectoris chukar*). The record was rejected 0-10 and the species removed from the state list (see Jones et al. 1981).

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