

# A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA

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## INTRODUCTION

Twenty-five years have elapsed since Grinnell and Miller published *The Distribution of the Birds of California*, the only comprehensive list of the birds of the state. In that time additional species have been recorded in the state and much has been learned about the status and distribution of others. The need for an up-to-date reference has prompted the following list, which includes all the species recorded in California through 1969. A specimen, a photograph, or a sonagram is deposited in a museum to substantiate the occurrence of all but four species, which have been included on the basis of valid sight records. The species on the list have been carefully reviewed, and it is believed that all reached the state under their own power; however, the possibility that records of a few species pertain to escapees cannot be entirely eliminated. Although it is beyond the scope of this paper to discuss the status and distribution of each species, the following broad categories are indicated:

- N   Nested successfully at least once in the state.
- X   Irregular, casual, or accidental in the state.
- E   Extinct in the state.
- S   Sight record only for the state.
- I   Introduced in the state, or reached it as a result of introduction elsewhere.

## NOMENCLATURE

The nomenclature and classification used in this list essentially follow the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (1957). This Checklist is now somewhat out of date, for no supplements dealing with taxonomic revisions suggested since its publication have yet appeared. In several instances we have deviated from the Check-list at the species level in order to conform with recent evidence. These changes are based upon published studies and upon the application of recently proposed species criteria. Whenever our treatment differs from that of the A.O.U., we discuss the reasons leading to the change. Most of these changes are clear-cut cases of sympatry without

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hybridization, or the result of applying the criterion suggested by Short (1969). In brief, Short's criterion is to consider populations which form "hybrid zones" as conspecific, and to consider populations which form "zones of overlap and hybridization" as specifically distinct. "Hybrid zones" are defined as areas where only hybrids occur, and "zones of overlap and hybridization" as areas occupied by numerous hybrids as well as pure birds of both parental forms.

The generic arrangement and sequence of species utilized in the A.O.U. Check-list have been followed without alteration; however, this should not be interpreted as indicating a preference for that sequence, or for the generic divisions within it. Certain changes, particularly toward broader genera, are no doubt desirable, but, for a number of reasons, we have refrained from following any of the changes that have been suggested. The treatment given to the generic classification of various families so far is extremely unequal, and many questions are far from being settled. The genus, unlike the species, is an artificial division, and decisions pertaining to genera are always somewhat arbitrary. A correct delineation of genera is not considered essential for most field work, nor for a checklist intended primarily for field observers; nonetheless, we do not intend to under-rate the importance of understanding generic relationships for certain aspects of field work. Since no arrangement and sequence of species has met with international agreement, it seems best to follow a system familiar to everyone in this country.

### CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). The A.O.U. treats the Pacific Loon as a race of a Holarctic species, the Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*); however, they include a footnote stating that *G. a. viridigularis* and *G. a. pacifica* have been found by Bailey breeding in the same area at Cape Prince of Wales in Alaska, and could possibly be distinct species. According to Vaurie (1965), Portenko found the two forms breeding at the same locality in Anadyrland, Siberia without signs of interbreeding. Vaurie discusses the morphological differences between Arctic Loon and Pacific Loon, and follows Bailey and Portenko in treating them as distinct species.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*). This common name, which indicates the correct family relationship of the species, is used instead of the misleading "Wood Ibis".

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Brant (*Branta bernicla*). The Black Brant (*B. nigricans*) of the A.O.U. is included in the Brant as proposed by Delacour and Mayr (1945), and as widely accepted by all modern reviewers of the Anatidae (Delacour, 1954-64 and Johnsgard, 1965). *B. b. nigricans* is the common form occurring in California, *B. b. hrota* being found occasionally.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). We follow Delacour and Mayr (1945), Cooch (1961), and Cooke and Cooch (1968) in treating the Blue Goose (*C. caerulescens*) and the Snow Goose (*C. hyperborea*) of the A.O.U. as color phases of a single species. The white phase is the normal form in California, but a few individuals of the blue and intermediate phases occur.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*). The North American Green-winged Teal (*A. carolinensis*) of the A.O.U. is treated as a race of the Eurasian Common Teal (*A. crecca*) as proposed by Delacour and Mayr (1945). McKinney (1965) found no differences in behavior between the two forms. *A. c. carolinensis* is the race occurring in California, but a few drakes of the Eurasian race *A. c. crecca* have been detected.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). The American White-winged Scoter (*M. deglandi*) is considered conspecific with the Palearctic Velvet Scoter (*M. fusca*) after Delacour and Mayr (1945); however, as mentioned by Vaurie (1959), the matter is not completely settled.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). We have followed Brown and Amadon (1968) in treating the Harlan's Hawk (*B. harlani*) of the A.O.U. as a color phase of the Red-tailed Hawk. A few individuals showing the characters of the "Harlan's Hawk" have been found in California, along with the common Red-tailed Hawk.

Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*). Three sibling species are involved in what was formerly known as *Alectoris graeca*: the Rock Partridge (*A. graeca*) of southern Europe, the Chukar Partridge (*A. chukar*) of Asia, and the Przewalski's Rock Partridge (*A. magna*) of northern China (Watson, 1962; Vaurie, 1965). The birds introduced into North America belong to *A. chukar*.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). This common name is preferable to the usual "Upland Plover" since the species is not a plover.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*). We have followed Vaurie (1965) and others in treating the Black-necked Stilt (*H. mexicanus*) as a race of the cosmopolitan Black-winged Stilt (*H. himantopus*).

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Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). Recent work by Macpherson (1961) and Smith (1966) has shown that the Thayer's Gull, formerly considered a race of the Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), is specifically distinct from that form. Both species occur sympatrically, with little if any hybridization, in the Canadian Archipelago.

Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). In lumping the Yellow-shafted Flicker (*C. auratus*), the Red-shafted Flicker (*C. cafer*), and the Gilded Flicker (*C. chrysoides*) of the A.O.U., we follow the recommendations of Phillips (1961), Short (1965 and 1969), and others. The "Red-shafted Flicker" occurs throughout most of California, the "Gilded Flicker" is resident in a very limited area, and the "Yellow-shafted Flicker" regularly reaches the state in small numbers.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), Red-naped Sapsucker (*S. nuchalis*), and Red-breasted Sapsucker (*S. ruber*). Short (1969) classifies the regions of contact between those sapsuckers studied by Howell (1952) as "zones of overlap and hybridization", and he concludes that the races *S. v. varius*, *S. v. nuchalis*, and *S. v. ruber* of the A.O.U. should be treated as three separate species. This treatment is followed by Mayr and Short (MS).

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). Stein (1958 and 1963) has shown that the popularly called "fitz-bew" and "fee-be-o" types of the Traill's Flycatcher (*E. traillii*) of the A.O.U. represent two species, sympatric without interbreeding in certain regions. There appears to be some confusion surrounding the names on the type specimens, and Short (pers. comm.) advised us the "fitz-bew" type should be *E. traillii* and the "fee-be-o" type should be *E. alnorum*. We follow Stein in using Willow Flycatcher as the common name of the "fitz-bew" type.

Pine Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*). The study of the allopatric Pygmy Nuthatch (*S. pygmaea*) and Brown-headed Nuthatch (*S. pusilla*) of the A.O.U. by Norris (1958) shows how similar the two birds are. Though Norris' recommendation was to keep them apart, many have felt that the case for uniting them was strengthened, and this is the course followed by Mayr and Short (MS). Sutton (1949) has suggested the common name, Pine Nuthatch. Only the western "Pygmy Nuthatch" occurs in California.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). The relationship between the Myrtle Warbler (*D. coronata*) and Audubon Warbler (*D. auduboni*) of the A.O.U. has been studied by Hubbard (1969), who recommended an intermediate treatment of the two forms as semi-species. The contact area is clearly a "hybrid zone" as defined

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by Short (1969), and we follow Mayr and Short (MS) in treating them as conspecific. Both the "Myrtle Warbler" and the "Audubon's Warbler" occur in California.

Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). We have included the Baltimore Oriole (*I. galbula*) and the Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*) of the A.O.U. in one species as recommended by Short (1969) and Sibley and Short (1964). The California population belongs to the *bullockii* group, but individuals of the nominate race *I. g. galbula* are recorded casually.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix mexicanus*). Selander and Giller (1961) recommended that the Boat-tailed Grackle (*C. mexicanus*) of the A.O.U. be treated as two species: the Great-tailed Grackle (*C. mexicanus*) and the Boat-tailed Grackle (*C. major*). Both species appear to coexist in Texas without interbreeding, even in mixed colonies.

Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte arctoa*). The Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (*L. tephrocotis*), Black Rosy Finch (*L. atrata*), and Brown-capped Rosy Finch (*L. australis*) of the A.O.U. are treated as races of the Asiatic Rosy Finch (*L. arctoa*) by Vaurie (1959), and we have followed this arrangement since it is in agreement with the modern concepts for the treatment of allopatric and very similar populations. French (1959) found a contact area between the "Gray-crowned Rosy Finch" and the "Black Rosy Finch" that would apparently qualify as a "hybrid zone" as defined by Short (1969). The "Gray-crowned Rosy Finch" is resident in California, and there are a few records of the "Black Rosy Finch".

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). We have included all the dark eyed juncos of North America in one species *J. hyemalis*, as suggested by Mayr (1942), Dickinson (1953), Phillips (1961), and Short (1969), since "hybrid zones" are clearly formed. Representatives of the "Slate-colored Junco", "Oregon Junco" and "Gray-headed Junco", as well as intermediate populations, occur in California.

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### GAVIIDAE

- Common Loon *Gavia immer* N
- Yellow-billed Loon *Gavia adamsii* X
- Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*
- Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*

### PODICIPEDIDAE

- Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
- Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*
- Eared Grebe *Podiceps caspicus* N
- Least Grebe *Podiceps dominicus* X N
- Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis* N
- Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* N

### DIOMEDEIDAE

- Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* X
- Short-tailed Albatross *Diomedea albatrus* X
- Black-footed Albatross *Diomedea nigripes*
- Laysan Albatross *Diomedea immutabilis* X

### PROCELLARIIDAE

- Cape Petrel *Daption capensis* X S
- Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*
- Pink-footed Shearwater *Puffinus creatopus*
- Pale-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes* X
- New Zealand Shearwater *Puffinus bulleri*
- Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*
- Slender-billed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* X
- Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

### HYDROBATIDAE

- Fork-tailed Petrel *Oceanodroma furcata* N
- Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* N
- Ashy Petrel *Oceanodroma homochroa* N
- Galapagos Petrel *Oceanodroma tethys* X
- Black Petrel *Loomelania melania*
- Least Petrel *Halocyptena microsoma* X
- Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* X

### PHAETHONTIDAE

- Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* X
- White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* X

### PELECANIDAE

- White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* N
- Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* N

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### SULIDAE

Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii* X

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* X

### PHALACROCORACIDAE

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* N

Brandt's Cormorant *Phalacrocorax penicillatus* N

Pelagic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* N

### FREGATIDAE

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* X

### ARDEIDAE

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* N

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* N

Little Blue Heron *Florida caerulea* X

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Reddish Egret *Dichromanassa rufescens* X

Common Egret *Casmerodius albus* N

Snowy Egret *Leucophoyx thula* N

Louisiana Heron *Hydranassa tricolor*

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* N

Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* X

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* N

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* N

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

### THRESKIORNITHIDAE

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi* N

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus* X

Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaja ajaja* X

### ANATIDAE

Whistling Swan *Olor columbianus*

Trumpeter Swan *Olor buccinator* X

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* N

Brant *Branta bernicla* N

Emperor Goose *Philacte canagica* X

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens* N

Ross' Goose *Chen rossii*

Black-bellied Tree Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* X

Fulvous Tree Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* N

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* N

Black Duck *Anas rubripes* X

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- Gadwall *Anas strepera* N  
Pintail *Anas acuta* N  
Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* N  
Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* N  
Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* N  
European Widgeon *Mareca penelope*  
American Widgeon *Mareca americana* N  
Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* N  
Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* N  
Redhead *Aythya americana* N  
Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* N  
Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*  
Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*  
Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* N  
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* X  
Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*  
Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* N  
Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* N  
Oldsquaw *Clangula hyemalis*  
Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* N  
King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* X  
White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca*  
Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*  
Common Scoter *Oidemia nigra*  
Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* N  
Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* N  
Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* N  
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

### CATHARTIDAE

- Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* N  
California Condor *Gymnogyps californianus* N

### ACCIPITRIDAE

- White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus* N  
Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* X  
Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* N  
Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* N  
Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* N  
Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* N  
Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* N  
Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* X



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- Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* N  
Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* X  
Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*  
Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*  
Harris' Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus* X N  
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* N  
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* N  
Marsh Hawk *Circus cyaneus* N

PANDIONIDAE

- Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* N

FALCONIDAE

- Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* X  
Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus* N  
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* N  
Pigeon Hawk *Falco columbarius*  
Sparrow Hawk *Falco sparverius* N

TETRAONIDAE

- Blue Grouse *Dendragapus obscurus* N  
Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus* N  
Sharp-tailed Grouse *Pedioecetes phasianellus* E  
Sage Grouse *Centrocercus urophasianus* N

PHASIANIDAE

- California Quail *Lophortyx californicus* N  
Gambel's Quail *Lophortyx gambelii* N  
Mountain Quail *Oreortyx pictus* N  
Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* I N  
Chukar *Alectoris chukar* I N  
Gray Partridge *Perdix perdix* I N

MELEAGRIDIDAE

- Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* I N

GRUIDAE

- Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis* N

RALLIDAE

- Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris* N  
Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola* N  
Sora *Porzana carolina* N  
Yellow Rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis* X N  
Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis* N  
Purple Gallinule *Porphyryla martinica* X  
Common Gallinule *Gallinula chloropus* N  
American Coot *Fulica americana* N

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HAEMATOPODIDAE

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* X

Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus bachmani* N

CHARADRIIDAE

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* N

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* X

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* N

Mountain Plover *Eupoda montana*

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Black-bellied Plover *Squatarola squatarola*

Surfbird *Aphriza virgata*

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Black Turnstone *Arenaria melanocephala*

SCOLOPACIDAE

Common Snipe *Capella gallinago* N

European Jacksnipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* X

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* N

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* X

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* N

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

Wandering Tattler *Heteroscelus incanum*

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* N

Greater Yellowlegs *Totanus melanoleucus*

Lesser Yellowlegs *Totanus flavipes*

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Rock Sandpiper *Erolia ptilocnemis*

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Erolia acuminata* X

Pectoral Sandpiper *Erolia melanotos*

White-rumped Sandpiper *Erolia fuscicollis* X

Baird's Sandpiper *Erolia bairdii*

Least Sandpiper *Erolia minutilla*

Curlew Sandpiper *Erolia ferruginea* X

Dunlin *Erolia alpina*

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus*

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Ereunetes pusillus* X

Western Sandpiper *Ereunetes mauri*

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* X

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* N

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Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* X

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* X

Sanderling *Crocethia alba*

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* N

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* N

PHALAROPODIDAE

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Wilson's Phalarope *Steganopus tricolor* N

Northern Phalarope *Lobipes lobatus*

STERCORARIIDAE

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* X

Skua *Catharacta skua*

LARIDAE

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* X

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*

Western Gull *Larus occidentalis*

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri*

California Gull *Larus californicus* N

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* N

Mew Gull *Larus canus*

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* X S

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* N

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* X

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*

Little Gull *Larus minutus* X

Heermann's Gull *Larus heermanni*

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* N

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* N

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Least Tern *Sterna albifrons* N

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* N

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* N

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* N

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* N

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RYNCHOPIDAE

Black Skimmer *Rynchops nigra* X

ALCIDAE

Common Murre *Uria aalge* N

Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* X

Pigeon Guillemot *Cephus columba* N

Marbled Murrelet *Brachyramphus marmoratus* N

Xantus' Murrelet *Endomychura hypoleuca* N

Craveri's Murrelet *Endomychura craveri* X

Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus*

Cassin's Auklet *Ptychoramphus aleuticus* N

Parakeet Auklet *Cyclorhynchus psittacula* X

Rhinoceros Auklet *Cerorhinca monocerata*

Horned Puffin *Fratercula corniculata* X

Tufted Puffin *Lunda cirrhata* N

COLUMBIDAE

Band-tailed Pigeon *Columba fasciata* N

Rock Dove *Columba livia* I N

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* N

Mourning Dove *Zenaidura macroura* N

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* I N

Ringed Turtle Dove *Streptopelia risoria* I N

Ground Dove *Columbigallina passerina* N

Inca Dove *Scardafella inca* N

CUCULIDAE

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* N

Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* X

Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus* N

TYTONIDAE

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* N

STRIGIDAE

Screech Owl *Otus asio* N

Flammulated Owl *Otus flammeolus* N

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* N

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* X

Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium gnoma* N

Elf Owl *Micrathene whitneyi* N

Burrowing Owl *Speotyto cunicularia* N

Spotted Owl *Strix occidentalis* N

Great Gray Owl *Strix nebulosa* N

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* N

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* N

Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus* N

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CAPRIMULGIDAE

- Whip-poor-will *Caprimulgus vociferus* X  
Poor-will *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* N  
Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* N  
Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis* N

APODIDAE

- Black Swift *Cypseloides niger* N  
Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* X  
Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi* N  
White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis* N

TROCHILIDAE

- Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri* N  
Costa's Hummingbird *Calypte costae* N  
Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna* N  
Broad-tailed Hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus* N  
Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* N  
Allen's Hummingbird *Selasphorus sasin* N  
Calliope Hummingbird *Stellula calliope* N  
Broad-billed Hummingbird *Cynanthus latirostris* X S

ALCEDINIDAE

- Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* N

PICIDAE

- Common Flicker *Colaptes auratus* N  
Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* N  
Gila Woodpecker *Centurus uropygialis* N  
Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus* N  
Lewis' Woodpecker *Asyndesmus lewis* N  
Red-naped Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus nuchalis* N  
Red-breasted Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus ruber* N  
Williamson's Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thyroideus* N  
Hairy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos villosus* N  
Downy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos pubescens* N  
Ladder-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos scalaris* N  
Nuttall's Woodpecker *Dendrocopos nuttallii* N  
White-headed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos albolarvatus* N  
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides arcticus* N

TYRANNIDAE

- Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* X  
Thick-billed Kingbird *Tyrannus crassirostris* X  
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* X  
Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* N

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- Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* N  
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Muscivora forficata* X  
 Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* X  
 Wied's Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* N  
 Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* N  
 Olivaceous Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* X  
 Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* X  
 Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans* N  
 Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* N  
 Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii* N  
 Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* X  
 Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondi* N  
 Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri* N  
 Gray Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii* N  
 Western Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis* N  
 Coues' Flycatcher *Contopus pertinax* X  
 Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus* N  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher *Nuttallornis borealis* N  
 Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* N

ALAUDIDAE

- Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* N

HIRUNDINIDAE

- Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* N  
 Tree Swallow *Iridoprocne bicolor* N  
 Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* N  
 Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* N  
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* N  
 Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* N  
 Purple Martin *Progne subis* N

CORVIDAE

- Gray Jay *Perisoreus canadensis* N  
 Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* X S  
 Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri* N  
 Scrub Jay *Aphelocoma coerulescens* N  
 Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica* N  
 Yellow-billed Magpie *Pica nuttalli* N  
 Common Raven *Corvus corax* N  
 Common Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* N  
 Piñon Jay *Gymnorhinus cyanocephala* N  
 Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana* N

A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA

PARIDAE

- Black-capped Chickadee *Parus atricapillus* N
- Mountain Chickadee *Parus gambeli* N
- Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Parus rufescens* N
- Plain Titmouse *Parus inornatus* N
- Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps* N
- Common Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus* N

SITTIDAE

- White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis* N
- Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* N
- Pine Nuthatch *Sitta pusilla* N

CERTHIIDAE

- Brown Creeper *Certhia familiaris* N

CHAMAEIDAE

- Wrentit *Chamaea fasciata* N

CINCLIDAE

- Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus* N

TROGLODYTIDAE

- House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* N
- Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* N
- Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii* N
- Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* N
- Long-billed Marsh Wren *Telmatodytes palustris* N
- Cañon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus* N
- Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus* N

MIMIDAE

- Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* N
- Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* X
- Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum* X
- Bendire's Thrasher *Toxostoma bendirei* N
- Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre* X
- California Thrasher *Toxostoma redivivum* N
- Le Conte's Thrasher *Toxostoma lecontei* N
- Crissal Thrasher *Toxostoma dorsale* N
- Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus* N

TURDIDAE

- Robin *Turdus migratorius* N
- Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius* N
- Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* X
- Hermit Thrush *Hylocichla guttata* N

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- Swainson's Thrush *Hylocichla ustulata* N  
Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana* N  
Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* N  
Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* N

SYLVIIDAE

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* N  
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila melanura* N  
Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* N  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* N

MOTACILLIDAE

- Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*  
Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* X

BOMBYCILLIDAE

- Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrula* X  
Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* N

PTILOGONATIDAE

- Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens* N

LANIIDAE

- Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor*  
Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* N

STURNIDAE

- Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* I N

VIREONIDAE

- White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* X  
Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni* N  
Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii* N  
Gray Vireo *Vireo vicinior* N  
Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* X  
Solitary Vireo *Vireo solitarius* N  
Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis* X  
Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* X  
Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* X  
Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* N

PARULIDAE

- Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* X  
Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* X  
Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus* X  
Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* X  
Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus* X



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- Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina* X  
 Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata* N  
 Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla* N  
 Virginia's Warbler *Vermivora virginiae* N  
 Lucy's Warbler *Vermivora luciae* N  
 Parula Warbler *Parula americana* X N  
 Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* N  
 Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia* X  
 Cape May Warbler *Dendroica tigrina* X  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens* X  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* N  
 Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens* N  
 Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi*  
 Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens* X  
 Hermit Warbler *Dendroica occidentalis* N  
 Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica cerulea* X  
 Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca* X  
 Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica* X  
 Grace's Warbler *Dendroica graciae* X  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica* X  
 Bay-breasted Warbler *Dendroica castanea* X  
 Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* X  
 Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus* X  
 Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor* X  
 Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum* X  
 Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* X  
 Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* X  
 Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla* X  
 Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus* X  
 Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis* X  
 Mourning Warbler *Oporornis philadelphia* X  
 MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei* N  
 Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* N  
 Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* N  
 Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* X  
 Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla* N  
 Canada Warbler *Wilsonia canadensis* X  
 American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*  
 Painted Redstart *Setophaga picta* X

PLOCEIDAE

- House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* I N

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### ICTERIDAE

- Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* X
- Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta* N
- Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* N
- Redwinged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* N
- Tricolored Blackbird *Agelaius tricolor* N
- Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* X
- Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* N
- Scarlet-headed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus* X
- Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum* N
- Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula* N
- Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus* X
- Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus* N
- Great-tailed Grackle *Cassidix mexicanus* N
- Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* N
- Bronzed Cowbird *Tangavius aeneus* N

### THRAUPIDAE

- Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* N
- Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* X
- Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava* X
- Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra* N

### FRINGILLIDAE

- Cardinal *Richmondia cardinalis* N
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* X
- Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus* N
- Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea* N
- Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* X
- Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena* N
- Varied Bunting *Passerina versicolor* X
- Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* X
- Dickcissel *Spiza americana* X
- Evening Grosbeak *Hesperiphona vespertina* N
- Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus* N
- Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii* N
- House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus* N
- Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* N
- Rosy Finch *Leucosticte arctoa* N
- Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* X
- Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus* N
- American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis* N

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- Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria* N  
 Lawrence's Goldfinch *Spinus lawrencei* N  
 Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* N  
 Green-tailed Towhee *Chlorura chlorura* N  
 Rufous-sided Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* N  
 Brown Towhee *Pipilo fuscus* N  
 Abert's Towhee *Pipilo aberti* N  
 Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys* X  
 Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* N  
 Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* N  
 Baird's Sparrow *Ammodramus bairdii* X  
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow *Ammospiza caudacuta* X  
 Vesper Sparrow *Poocetes gramineus* N  
 Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* N  
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps* N  
 Cassin's Sparrow *Aimophila cassinii* X  
 Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata* N  
 Sage Sparrow *Amphispiza belli* N  
 Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* N  
 Tree Sparrow *Spizella arborea* X  
 Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* N  
 Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida* X  
 Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri* N  
 Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla* X  
 Black-chinned Sparrow *Spizella atrogularis* N  
 Harris' Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula* X  
 White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* N  
 Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla*  
 White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*  
 Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca* N  
 Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni* N  
 Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana* X  
 Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* N  
 McCown's Longspur *Rhynchophanes mccownii* X  
 Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*  
 Chestnut-collared Longspur *Calcarius ornatus* X  
 Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* X

A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA  
SPECIES DELETED FROM THE LIST

The hypothetical list of Grinnell and Miller (1944) includes a number of records of species which are clearly escapees, are of dubious origin, or are cases of misidentification. We do not differ from their point of view on these records and have not included them in this paper. Since 1944 records have been published in *The Condor* and *The Auk* which we feel should not be accepted for this list, and, in addition, we reject three species originally accepted by Grinnell and Miller and the A.O.U. These records are discussed, and our reasons for rejecting them are given.

Cape Petrel (*Daption capensis*). The record cited by Grinnell and Miller (1944) of a specimen "from the coast of California, opposite Monterey", taken sometime before 1853, has been discarded by Bourne (1967) as an unsatisfactory record.

Black-tailed Shearwater (*Adamastor cinereus*). The specimen from "off the coast of California, near Monterey," taken prior to 1853 and referred to by Grinnell and Miller (1944) has been considered by Bourne (1967) as inadequately substantiated.

Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*). To date there are at least six records, involving seven individuals, from California. Anthony (1929) reported one acquired in a San Francisco game market which apparently was shot in the wheat fields north of San Francisco during the winter of 1892-93. Huey (1961) reported one shot near Carlsbad, San Diego County, on 18 September 1960. A specimen in the Los Angeles County Museum was shot near Lancaster, Los Angeles County, sometime in early November 1963. One deposited in the San Bernardino County Museum was shot near Redlands, San Bernardino County, on 20 November 1965. One was shot near Gray Lodge, Butte County, on 1 December 1968, and two were present at the Salton Sea, Imperial County, between 28 December 1968 and 11 January 1969, with one remaining until at least 16 February 1969 (Audubon Field Notes 23:515, 519). This species breeds in Western Siberia, at least 1800 miles west of the westernmost breeding populations of Snow Geese, and migrates southwestward to the Caspian Sea in the fall. There are many records of strays from Europe, but very few from Asiatic U.S.S.R. according to Dement'ev and Gladkov (1967), and none from Alaska or Canada. Therefore its occurrence as a genuine vagrant in California is most unlikely. Since Red-breasted Geese are commonly bred in captivity there is a strong possibility of escaped birds, and all California records are best treated as such.

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Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*). Hedgpeth (1954) reported one present in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco County, between 5 April and 21 May 1953, and expressed his opinion that the bird was an escapee. One was present on Newport Bay, Orange County, between 2 January and at least 21 February 1969 (Audubon Field Notes 23:519). Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) show that this species has come no closer to the North American mainland than St. George Island, which is at the longitude of East Cape in Siberia. There is no indication that genuine strays have reached the North American mainland, and both of these records are best treated as escapees.

Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*). Moffitt (1932) reported an adult male shot near Brentwood, Contra Costa County, on 15 December 1931, and Laughlin (1947) reported one shot near Calipatria, Imperial County, on 29 December 1946. When commenting on the Brentwood record, Swarth (1932) pointed out that this species was the second most common waterfowl handled by San Francisco dealers in wild birds, and that he had records of 527 entering San Francisco between 1 January 1928 and 30 June 1932. The 1931 and 1946 records are more likely to pertain to escapees than to genuine vagrants.

Spectacled Eider (*Lampronetta fischeri*). Grinnell and Miller (1944) refer to the head of an adult male preserved in the California Academy of Sciences. According to Moffitt (1940) it was donated by Mr. True, of the California State Division of Fish and Game, who received it from Game Warden Sellick, who had stated his father shot the bird on Bitterwater Lake, San Benito County, during February 1893. This is the only specimen of this species from any locality in North America outside of Alaska. Records of other eiders far south of their normal ranges usually pertain to immature birds. The likelihood of an adult male Spectacled Eider appearing on an inland lake in central California is very remote, and it is much more believable that the bird was shot in Alaska, and that the story concerning its origin became somewhat muddled in the 47 years the head was being passed around from father to son.

Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*). Monroe (1955) reported collecting an adult female on San Diego Bay, San Diego County, on 28 November 1954. This is a common gull along the Pacific Coast of Asia between the Kurile Islands and the coast of southern China. Many U.S. Naval vessels operating out of San Diego spend some time within the normal range of this gull, and it is likely this individual was induced to stay aboard one of these vessels until it reached San Diego. The likelihood of this species ever reaching California as a

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genuine stray is very remote.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). Marqua (1963) reported finding an adult bird, which had been dead for a considerable length of time, on the highway near La Puente, Los Angeles County, on 20 May 1962. There is a good possibility that this woodpecker had been killed outside the state and had been transported to the Los Angeles area in some manner, such as against the radiator of a car.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Davis and Howell (1951) reported the finding of a mummified bird in Pasadena, Los Angeles County, on 19 July 1950. There is no way of knowing whether this bird reached California as a genuine stray, or whether it was brought here as a mummified specimen and discarded. We should await a record of a living bird before placing the species on the list.

Kiskadee Flycatcher (*Pitangus sulphuratus*). Harvey (1958) reported one in San Jose, Santa Clara County, which was present from about 1 November 1957 until at least 6 June 1959 (McCaskie, pers. notes). A truly vagrant flycatcher is not likely to remain for such a long time in one locality, and this individual was almost certainly an escapee.

In addition, records of a few species covered by the A.O.U. and reported in Audubon Field Notes are omitted because they are based on sight records which lack sufficient details. They are listed without comment:

American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

Ruddy Sheld-duck (*Casarca ferruginea*)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Whiskered Owl (*Otus trichopsis*)

Veery (*Hylocichla fuscescens*)

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)

Crested Myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)

Pyrrhuloxia (*Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*)

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Rustic Bunting (*Emberizarustica*)

We are also aware of records of a number of imported species, some of which are attempting to breed, and we feel these have no place on the list at this time.

## A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA

### SUMMARY

This checklist of the birds of California consists of: (1) A list of 501 species recorded in the state. Species which breed, those which are recorded only casually, and those which are introduced in the state are so designated. (2) A brief taxonomic discussion of species which are lumped or split, and other species which involve a change in nomenclature from that used in the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (fifth edition). (3) A discussion of species which have been removed from the state list, giving reasons for their removal.

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Lester L. Short reviewed a portion of the first draft of this paper and offered many valuable comments and suggestions. In addition, he gave us useful information from the forthcoming Mayr and Short paper on the species taxa of North American birds. We are indebted to him for his very generous assistance and encouragement.

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Photo by P. van GROENENDAEL.

Above, Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), June.  
Below, Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), June.

Note the different silhouettes, the Arctic Tern having the part of the body situated in front of the wings much shorter than the part situated behind the wings. The more rounded appearance of the head of the Arctic Tern is also visible in this photograph.



Photo by A. DOBRSKI.



*Photo by A. DOBRSKI.*

Above, Arctic Tern, June.

Below, Common Tern, June.

Note the long semi-transparent zone of the wings (all the primaries and secondaries) of the Arctic Tern; the Common Tern has only a small semi-transparent window in the inner primaries.



*Photo by P. van GROENENDAEL.*



Above, Arctic Tern, June.

Below, Common Tern, June.

Note here the more slender silhouette of the Common Tern, and its long, black-tipped bill.





*Photo by A. DOBRSKI.*

**Photographic study of an Arctic Tern, showing the transparency of the wings.**