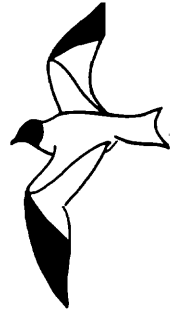


WESTERN BIRDS



Volume 11, Number 4, 1980

FOURTH REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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This report contains the decisions of the California Bird Records Committee agreed upon in 1979 and in the first half of 1980. Currently the committee consists of Laurence C. Binford, David DeSante, Richard Erickson (Vice Secretary), Kimball Garrett, Lee Jones, Paul Lehman, John Luther (Secretary), Guy McCaskie, Benjamin D. Parmeter and Philip Unitt. Former members Jon Dunn, Arnold Small and Richard Stallcup also worked on the records reported in this paper.

It is with tremendous thanks that the committee acknowledges all of the observers who took the time to submit their records. Without them the committee would not function. Please continue to support the committee in the documentation of rare birds as they occur in California. The committee needs documentation for the following species when seen in California (in addition to any species unrecorded in the state):

Yellow-billed Loon, Least Grebe, Wandering Albatross, Short-tailed Albatross, Laysan Albatross, Streaked Shearwater, Scaled Petrel, Galapagos Storm-Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Masked (Blue-faced) Booby, Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby, Olivaceous Cormorant, Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White Ibis, Bewick's Swan, Trumpeter Swan, Emperor Goose, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Baikal Teal, Garganey, Tufted Duck, King Eider, Mississippi Kite, Zone-tailed Hawk, Harris' Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Yellow Rail, Purple Gallinule, American Oystercatcher, Piping Plover, Wilson's Plover, Dotterel, European Jacksnipe, Upland Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Rufous-necked Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Thick-billed Murre, Parakeet Auklet, Black-billed Cuckoo, Groove-billed Ani, Snowy Owl, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Thick-billed Kingbird, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Coues' Flycatcher, Eastern Wood

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Pewee, Skylark, Blue Jay, Gray Catbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Rufous-backed Robin, Wood Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Wheatear, White Wagtail, Red-throated Pipit, Sprague's Pipit, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-green Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Pine Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Streak-backed (Scarlet-headed) Oriole, Common Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, Pyrrhuloxia, Varied Bunting, Painted Bunting, Black Rosy Finch, Common Redpoll, Baird's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Snow Bunting.

There are few comments following each species reported below, as this report is being published so soon after the third report (Luther et al., West. Birds 10:169-187, 1979). The file number assigned to each record is given in parentheses. All records are on file with the committee Secretary and are available for examination by interested persons. The initials of those persons who submitted documentation for a record follow each accepted record. If the person or persons finding a bird submitted a report, their initials are given first.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*). One adult female specimen (Pacific Grove Mus. Nat. Hist. 2348) (120-1977) 29 Dec 1968 to 1 Jan 1969, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (RB); photo on file. One (26-1977) 18 Feb - 7 Mar 1973, King Salmon, Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RLeV, RAE, TS). One (33-1977) 10 Nov 1973, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (LCB). One (34-1977) 9 - 10 Jan 1974, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (PM). One (25-1977) 24 Jan - 16 Feb 1975, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (RAE, GMcC). One (24-1977) 23 Feb 1975, King Salmon, Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RAE). One (9-1977) 20 Dec 1975, Tomales Bay, Marin Co. (SFB). One (28-1977) 19 Feb - 19 Mar 1977, Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co. (DR).

A review of all records in California through Aug 1974 is in print (Remsen and Binford, West. Birds 6:7-20, 1975).

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS (*Diomedea albatrus*). One (34-1978) 28 Aug 1977, about 90 mi W of San Diego, San Diego Co. (KCR).

This and the 20 Apr 1978 sighting (Helm, West. Birds 11:47-48, 1980) are the only records for California since 1946. Formerly quite common.

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). Two (35-1977) 15 Apr 1973, about 90 mi W of Eureka, Humboldt Co. (RLeV). One (36-1977) 19 Nov and one (36-1977) 2 Dec 1973, Pacific Grove shoreline, Monterey Co. (AB). Three (37-1977) 26 Jan 1974, Monterey Bay, Monterey Co. (SFB).

No longer on the review list.

SCALED PETREL (*Pterodroma inexpectata*). One specimen (Calif. Acad. Sci. 69933) (18-1978) 1 May 1977, Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. (BS); photo on file. (Figure 1).

For a thorough discussion of the occurrence and distribution of this species see Ainley and Manolis, West. Birds 10:113-124, 1979.



Figure 1. Scaled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) (18-1978), 1 May 1977, Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co., California.

Photos by Bruce Sorrie

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

GALAPAGOS STORM-PETREL (*Oceanodroma tethys*). One specimen (*O.t. kelsalli*, Calif. Acad. Sci. 68474) (123-1977) 21 Jan 1969, Carmel, Monterey Co. (RB) (Yadon, Auk 87:588-589, 1970); photo on file. One (94-1977) 24 Sep - 9 Oct 1977, Monterey Bay, Monterey Co. (AS, KLB, SFB, LCB, GMcC, VR, DR).

These are the only accepted records for California. Two recent records are presently being reviewed.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*). One (39-1977) 22 Sep and 6 Oct 1973, Monterey Bay, Monterey Co. (AB). Two to five (99-1977) 24 Sep - 16 Oct 1977, Monterey Bay, Monterey Co. (AS, JL, GMcC, JM); photo on file.

Found each fall in Monterey Bay.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*). One sub-adult (126-1977) first found 12 Jul 1968 and summered through 1973, San Rafael, Marin Co. (RS); photo on file. This bird was recorded on the following dates: 12 Jul - 25 Aug 1968, 3 May and 14 Jul - 3 Sep 1969, 30 Jun - 27 Jul 1970, 29 May - summer 1971, 28 May - 18 Jul and 5 Nov 1972, 8 Apr - 29 Jun and mid Oct 1973.

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus bewickii*). One adult (11-1977) 13 Dec 1975 - 4 Jan 1976, Victoria Island, San Joaquin Co. (FB, GB, DS, WS). One adult (160-1977) 21-30 Dec 1977, Victoria Island, San Joaquin Co. (DRu, RAE, GMcC, VR).

Most authorities now consider this and the Whistling Swan (*C. columbianus*) as one species.

TRUMPETER SWAN (*C. buccinator*). Four adults (2-1978) 27 Nov 1977, Mono Lake, Mono Co. (DDeS, SL).

A very rare winter visitant to California.

EMPEROR GOOSE (*Phalacrocorax canagica*). One immature (42-1977) 15 Oct 1972, near Chico, Butte Co. (TM); photo on file. One immature (23-1977) 11 Nov 1972, Eureka, Humboldt Co. (RAE). One immature (43-1977) 14 Nov 1972, south spit Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RM). One immature (1-1978) 8 - 14 Oct 1977, Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, Siskiyou Co. (RE). Three adults (29-1978) 29 Dec 1977 - 22 Apr 1978 with four present on the last date, Limantour Estero, Marin Co. (JH, GMcC, JM, DR, HS, BS, MW); photos on file.

A rare winter visitant to California.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). One (41-1978) 4 - 14 Aug 1977, Brawley, Imperial Co. (JA, GMcC).

A very rare straggler from Mexico. This is the fifth record for California.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*). One male (128-1977) 4 Feb - 7 Mar 1971, Palo Alto, Santa Clara Co. (RB); photo on file. One adult male (4-1977) 20 Dec 1976 - 6 Feb 1977, Tiburon, Marin Co. (GMcC). One male, one female (24-1978) 28 Oct - 12 Dec 1976 with male reappearing 22 Jan 1977 and remaining into Mar, Lake Merritt, Alameda Co. (VR). Probably this same male seen 19 - 28 Mar in nearby Alameda.

This straggler from southeast Asia has now been found every winter in California since fall 1976.

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*). One female (127-1977) 24 Dec 1969 - 7 Mar 1970 and 1 Jan - 28 Mar 1971, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (RB); photo on file.

Now about fifteen records of this species for California.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albonotatus*). One immature (102-1977) 11 Sep 1977, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (AS).

Reported annually since 1972 in southern California.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus palliatus*). Three (85-1977) 14 - 19 Aug 1977, Salton City, Imperial Co. (JL, GMcC); photo on file.

What were undoubtedly the same three birds were at nearby Salt Creek, Riverside Co., on the east side of the Salton Sea from 20-30 Aug 1977.

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

WILSON'S PLOVER (*Charadrius wilsonia*). One (74-1977) 27 - 29 Jun 1977, McGrath State Beach, Ventura Co. (GMcC, VR, BSc); photo on file. (Figure 2).

The third record of this species in California and the first since 1918.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). One (44-1977) 12 - 13 Oct 1966, Limantour Estero, Marin Co. (PL). One (45-1977) 22 Nov 1966, Abbott's Lagoon, Marin Co. (PL). One (125-1977) 13 Oct - 4 Nov 1969, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. (MS); photo on file. One (91-1977) 2 Oct 1977, Salinas River and one, probably same individual, 15 - 16 Oct 1977, Castroville Sewage Ponds, Monterey Co. (LCB, RB, BDP, JP, VR); photo on file. One (27-1978) 27 Oct - 1 Nov 1977, Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. (GMcC, DR). All of the above were juveniles.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*C. pusilla*). Two (68-1977) 20 May 1977, Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial Co. (GMcC, DR). One juvenile (73-1977) 13 Aug 1977, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. (LCB).

Now recorded annually in California.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*). One juvenile (86-1977) 5 -16 Sep 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (EG, JL, JSL, DP, VR); photos on file.

All reports are from the fall.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*). One (22-1977) 17 Jul - 3 Sep 1974, Arcata Bay, Humboldt Co. (TS).

The third accepted record.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). One adult male (54-1977) 15 Sep 1974 - 23 Feb 1975, Martinez, Contra Costa Co. (TS, RAE, SL). One (156-1977) 17 - 19 Sep 1977, Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co. (BE, GG, PM). One (132-1977) 27 Oct - 6 Nov 1977, Ano Nuevo State Reserve, San Mateo Co. (REM, PMR, TB, THD); photo on file. One (23-1978) 27 Dec 1977 - 28 Feb 1978, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. (JP, WD, JM, BDP, VR, DR); photos on file.

Now found annually in California.



Figure 2. Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) (74-1977), 28 Jun 1977, McGrath State Beach, Ventura Co., California.

Photo by Brad Schram

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). One adult (83-1977) 13 Apr 1977, Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz Co. (RW) and one adult (82-1977), very likely same individual as 83-1977, 16 Apr 1977, Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co. (BSa). One immature (29-1977) 14 - 22 Apr 1977, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PLe, GMcC, DR); photo on file.

The fifth and sixth records for California.

THICK-BILLED MURRE (*Uria lomvia*). One (121-1977) 2 Oct 1966, Monterey Harbor, Monterey Co. (RB); photo on file and in Yadon, Calif. Birds 1:109, 1970. One (55-1977) 7 Sep 1974, Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RLeV).

Now about 12 reports. The Humboldt Bay record is the first outside Monterey Bay.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Cyanthus latirostris*). One immature male (6-1977) 16 Jan - 10 Feb 1977, Agua Caliente Hot Springs, San Diego Co. (GMcC, DR).

A regular wanderer to southern California in recent years.

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*). One (163-1977) 29 Nov - 2 Dec 1972, near Hollister, San Benito Co. (BG). One (6-1978) 11 Dec 1974 - 2 Mar 1975, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Los Angeles Co. (JSL); photo on file. One (5-1977) 12 Jan - 9 Mar 1977 (and probably same individual there 9 Jan - 3 Mar 1976), Santee Lakes, San Diego Co. (GMcC). One (13-1978) 16 Nov 1977, Bolinas, Marin Co. (SJ).

No longer on the review list.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*). One (162-1977) 1 Sep 1972, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (TM). One (87-1977) 18 - 19 Sep 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (LCB, SJ, JM, DSh); photos on file. One (131-1977) 23 Sep 1977, Lake Merced, San Francisco Co. (DD). One (12-1978) 16 Oct 1977, Carmel River, Monterey Co. (PLe).

A rare but regular vagrant to California.

COUES' FLYCATCHER (*Contopus pertinax*). One (157-1977) 27 - 29 Dec 1968, Monterey, Monterey Co. (WR, RB); photos on file. One (28-1978) 18 - 21 Dec 1977, Irvine, Orange Co. (GMcC, DR). One (21-1978) 24 Dec 1977 - 19 Mar 1978 (and undoubtedly same individual 25 Nov 1978 - 1 Feb 1979), Parker Dam, San Bernardino Co. (GMcC, DR).

A casual fall and winter visitant to California.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE (*C. virens*). One (88-1977) 15 Jun 1975, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (DDeS); photos on file.

The second accepted record for California. The first was in Big Sycamore Canyon, Ventura Co., 18 - 19 Oct 1974.

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*). One (4-1979) 16 Dec 1978 - 19 Feb 1979 and presumably the same individual 27 Oct - 1 Nov 1979, Hall Ranch near Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (RAE, DG, AG, JM); photos on file.

This bird has been identified as one of the northeast asiatic races. This is the only record of a naturally occurring Skylark for California and the first North American record outside Alaska. A Skylark, also of one of the asiatic races (apparently *A. a. pekinensis*), was collected on Green Island, Kure Atoll, in the Hawaiian chain on 7 Oct 1963 [Clapp, R.B. and P.W. Woodward, Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus. 124 (3640):1-39, 1968]. The introduced populations in Hawaii and Vancouver Island are of the nominate race *A. a. arvensis*, eliminating these populations as sources for the Green Island bird and the Pt. Reyes bird.

BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*). One (137-1977) 21 Oct 1977, Point Diablo, Marin Headlands, Marin Co. (LCB). Two (14-1978) 30 - 31 Oct and one (probably one of the earlier two birds) 17 Dec 1977, Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co. (SV, RSW); photos on file.

Now over ten reports for California.

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*). One (70-1977) 26 May 1977, Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. (PU, GMcC, DR).

A casual vagrant to California.

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*). One (80-1977) 18 - 19 Jun 1977, Palomarin, Marin Co. (BS, JM); photo on file. (Figure 3).

The third record for California.

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). One (107-1977) 15 Sep 1977, Shelter Cove, Humboldt Co. (BC, GC); photo on file.

The second record for California. The first was on SE Farallon Island 11 Jun 1971.

WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*). One (169-1977) 10 Oct 1974, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (PH); photos on file.

The second record for California. The first was at McGrath State Beach 18 - 20 Oct 1972.

RED-THROATED PIPIT (*Anthus cervinus*). One immature (5-1978) 20 - 21 Oct 1977, Carson, Los Angeles Co. (JJ, KG).

Apparently a rare but regular vagrant in California.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*). One (65-1977) 7 - 8 Jun 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (DR, JM, GMcC, VR).

The second record for California. The first was on SE Farallon Island 4 Jun 1969.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*V. flavifrons*). One (30-1977) 30 Apr - 1 May 1977, Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. (DR). One (136-1977) 10 - 18 Sep 1977, near Olema Marsh, Marin Co. (JW); photos on file.

A casual spring and fall vagrant to California.

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO (*V. flavoviridis*). One (100-1977) 15 - 19 Oct 1977, Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. (DJD, GMcC, DR).

A casual fall vagrant in California.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*V. philadelphicus*). One (21-1977) 16 - 22 Sep 1975, Fairhaven, Humboldt Co. (RAE). One (101-1977) 27 - 28 Sep 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (DR, JM, VR). One (90-1977) 16 - 30 Oct 1977, Carmel River, Monterey Co. (BDP, BC, GC); photo on file. One (22-1978) 23 Oct 1977, Kelso, San Bernardino Co. (VR).

A rare but regular vagrant to California.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*). One (124-1977) 3 - 7 Dec 1967, Willow Creek, Monterey Co. (RB); photo on file. One (69-1977) 11 Jun 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (DR). One (37-1978) 17 - 18 Aug 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (TH). One (30-1978) 12 Oct 1977, Zuma Canyon, Los Angeles Co. (KG). One (16-1978) 29 Oct - 5 Nov 1977, Stovepipe Wells, Inyo Co. (RAE, GMcC, DR, DRu); photos on file.

A casual late spring and fall vagrant to California.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helminthos vermivorus*). One (170-1977) 16 May 1976, San Nicolas Island, Ventura Co. (LJ). One (66-1977) 23 Jun - 10 Jul 1977, Fort Piute, San Bernardino Co. (VR). One (105-1977) 30 Sep - 3 Oct 1977, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Co. (GMcC, DR). One (106-1977) 15 - 26 Oct 1977, Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. (GMcC, DR). One (3-1978) 29 Dec 1977 - 10 Mar 1978, Sunnybrae, Humboldt Co. (DRu).

A casual vagrant in late spring and fall in California.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). One male (61-1977) 31 May 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (VR, DR).

A casual vagrant in late spring and fall in California.

CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica cerulea*). One (31-1977) 2 - 5 Sep 1976, Fairhaven, Humboldt Co. (RAE).

The fourth report of this vagrant in California.

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS



Figure 3. Wood Thrush (*Hyalocichla mustelina*) (80-1977), 18 Jun 1977, Palomarin, Marin Co, California.

Photo by Bruce Sorrie



Figure 4. Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) (17-1978), 19 Jun 1976, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co., California.

Photo by Bruce Sorrie



Figure 5. Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacuta*) (14-1977), 6 Feb 1977, Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co., California.

Photo by Bruce Sorrie

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*D. dominica*). One (8-1977) 16 - 19 Sep 1976, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PLe). One (11-1978) 27 - 29 Oct 1977, Carmel River, Monterey Co. (THB, DP).

A casual spring and fall vagrant in California.

GRACE'S WARBLER (*D. graciae*). One (62-1977) 21 May 1977, Clark Mountain, San Bernardino Co. (VR, GMcC, DR). One (38-1978) 20 - 22 Sep 1977, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (RCS, CE, GMcC).

The fifth and sixth reports for California.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Oporornis formosus*). One (63-1977) 27 May 1977, Fort Piute, San Bernardino Co. (VR). One (111-1977) 8 Jun 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (DDeS).

A casual late spring vagrant to California.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*O. agilis*). One female (17-1978) 19 Jun 1976, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (BS); photo on file. (Figure 4).

A casual late spring and fall vagrant to California.

MOURNING WARBLER (*O. philadelphia*). One male (117-1977) 4 Jun 1977, Mesquite Spring, Inyo Co. (KVV).

A casual late spring and fall vagrant to California.

HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*). One male (20-1977) 2 Oct 1971, Fairhaven, Humboldt Co. (RAE). One male (166-1977) 30 May 1974, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (LK). One male (75-1977) 23 May 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC, DR). One male (76-1977) 29 May 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (GMcC, DR). One female (79-1977) 29 May 1977, Deep Springs College, Inyo Co. (GMcC, DR). One male (112-1977) 8 Jun 1977, Oasis, Mono Co. (DDeS). One female (39-1978) 24-26 Sep 1977, Tijuana River Valley, San Diego Co. (BB). One male (98-1977) 28 Aug - 15 Oct 1977, Forestville, Sonoma Co. (VR, JW).

No longer on the review list.

CANADA WARBLER (*W. canadensis*). Two (167-1977) 1 - 3 Sep 1972, SE Farallon Island, San Francisco Co. (TM). One (7-1977) 22 Sep 1976, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PLe). One (89-1977) 12 Sep 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (JM).

A rare but regular fall vagrant, accidental in spring. No longer on the review list.

COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*). One male (77-1977) 28 May 1977, Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. (DP, GMcC, DR); photo on file. One male (59-1977) 30 May - 8 Jun 1977, Deep Springs College, Inyo Co. (BDP, DDeS, GMcC, DR, VR). One male (2-1977) 9 Feb - 26 Mar 1977, Carlsbad, San Diego Co. (PLe, GMcC); photo on file.

The fourth, fifth and sixth records for California.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*). One female (103-1977) 14 - 19 Sep 1977, Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (DR). One immature male (104-1977) 17 - 19 Oct 1977, Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. (GMcC, DR). One female (31-1978) 20 Nov 1977, Zuma Canyon, Los Angeles Co. (KG).

A casual late spring and late fall vagrant to California.

PYRRHULOXIA (*Pyrrhuloxia sinuata*). One male and one female (67-1977) 6 Jun - 1 Jul 1977, Chemehuevi Wash, San Bernardino Co. (NG, GMcC, DR, VR).

The first record of a mated pair on territory in California. The female was seen on a nest in June. The success of the nesting is unknown since the area was not checked in July.

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*). One (15-1977) 24 Aug 1976, Princeton, San Mateo Co. (JM).

No longer on the review list.

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

LE CONTE'S SPARROW (*Ammospiza leconteii*). One (122-1977) 19 Oct 1974, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. (RB, EM, BY, CY); photos on file. One (64-1977) 21-24 May 1977, Furnace Creek, Inyo Co. (GMcC, DR, VR).

The Furnace Creek bird establishes the first spring record for California.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*A. caudacuta*). One (15-1978) 27 Dec 1970 - 20 Feb 1971, Dumbarton Point, Alameda Co. (BR, JSL); photo on file. One (151-1977) 20 Dec 1972 - 1 Jan 1973, Dumbarton Point, Alameda Co. (SL). One (14-1977) 4 - 6 Feb 1977 and probably same individual 14 Nov 1977 - 1 Jan 1978, Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. (BS, DR, VR); photos on file (Figure 5). One (9-1978) 4 Oct 1977, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co. (RAM).

Now found every winter in some coastal California marsh.

SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). One (153-1977) 30 Jan 1971, Flat Iron Rock, off Trinidad, Humboldt Co. (TM); photo on file. One (19-1977) 26 - 29 Oct 1971, Arcata, Humboldt Co. (RAE). One (18-1977) 29 Oct 1972 and one (18-1977) 11 Nov 1972, probably two different birds, south spit, Humboldt Bay, Humboldt Co. (RLeV, RAE, DSc). At least one and probably four different individuals (168-1977) 8 Dec 1972 - 5 Jan 1973, Arcata, Humboldt Co. (TS, DA). One (148-1977) 2 Dec 1972 - 11 Jan 1973, Alameda, Alameda Co. (SFB, JSL, SL). One (149-1977) 25 Nov 1973, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. (LWG). One (8-1978) 17 Nov 1977, Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. (AG, WG). One (129-1977) 19 Nov - 3 Dec 1977, Monticello Dam, Yolo Co. and Napa Co. (JH, JL, GMcC, DR, VR); photos on file.

Rare but somewhat regular along the California coast south to Marin Co.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, Identification uncertain

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*). One (10-1977) 8 - 26 Dec 1976, Grant Lake, Mono Co.

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). One (16-1977) 29 Sep 1967, Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED HERON (*Agamia agami*). One (113-1977) 24 Aug 1977, Salton Sea Beach, Imperial Co.

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus bewickii*). One immature (40-1977) 4 Feb 1975, Oroville, Butte Co.

HARRIS' HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*). One (33-1978) 25 Dec 1977, near Ridgecrest, Kern Co.

PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodus*). One (19-1978) 9 Sep 1977, Ano Nuevo State Reserve, San Mateo Co.

BRISTLE-THIGED CURLEW (*Numenius tahitiensis*). One (17-1977) 27 Aug 1973, Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). Two (97-1977) 14 Sep 1977, Lake Talawa, Del Norte Co. Two (138-1977) 10 Nov 1977, Lake Talawa, Del Norte Co.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*C. fuscicollis*). One (4-1978) 27 Nov 1977, Corte Madera, Marin Co.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*C. pusilla*). One (50-1977) 26 Apr 1973, Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co. One (51-1977) 8 Aug 1973, Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co. One (81-1977) 24 Apr - 2 May 1977, Orange Cove Sewage Lagoon, Fresno Co.

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, Identification uncertain (Cont.)

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*). One (135-1977) 8 Jul 1977, Mono Lake, Mono Co.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*L. haemastica*). One (95-1977) 12 Sep 1977, Lake Talawa, Del Norte Co.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). One (139-1977) 9 Jun 1977, Pt. Lobos, Monterey Co.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*). One (110-1977) 23 Feb 1977, San Diego, San Diego Co.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*). One (12-1977) 26 Sep 1974, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*). One (114-1977) 15 May 1977, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co.

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*). One (92-1977) 3 Oct 1977, Lake Merced, San Francisco Co.

GRACE'S WARBLER (*D. graciae*). One (155-1977) 14 Oct 1969, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co.

MOURNING WARBLER (*O. philadelphia*). One (57-1977) 28 May 1977, Deep Springs College, Inyo Co.

FIELD SPARROW (*Spizella pusilla*). One (150-1977) 8 Sep 1968, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, Origin uncertain (identification accepted)

HARRIS' HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*). One (32-1978) 21 Aug 1977, Sunland, Los Angeles Co.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the time and effort that the committee members have expended in reviewing these records and then in reviewing the drafts of this report.

Accepted 17 June 1980

CORRIGENDA

In our paper "Increasing populations of Ring-billed and California gulls in Washington State" (West. Birds 10:31-36, 1979), we made an error in Table 2 concerning the number of breeding gulls in three colonies. The actual numbers should be 60 Ring-billed Gulls and 960 California Gulls at the Miller Rocks Colony, 4710 Ring-billed Gulls and 3600 California Gulls at the Richland Colony, and 4492 Ring-billed Gulls and 5910 California Gulls at the Island 18 Colony. This increases the total number of Ring-billed Gulls breeding in the state during 1977 to 23,366 and the number of breeding California Gulls to 18,264. — *Michael R. Conover, Ecology Dept., Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, Connecticut 06504.*

A Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*), reported by me as occurring in the vicinity of Pipe Spring, Mohave County, Arizona (West. Birds 7:29, 1976), was identified incorrectly. The bird, now a specimen in the University of Arizona collection, is actually a Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). — *Richard A. Wilt, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220.*

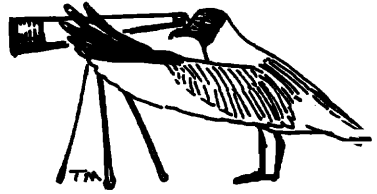
BULLETIN BOARD

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

I am currently updating the distributional check-list of the birds of Baja California, Mexico. I would like to receive notice of any published references (other than the "standard" journals and museum publications) or unpublished field notes that record new species or significantly change the known seasonal or distributional status of any species in Baja California. Contributors of unpublished material would of course be fully acknowledged in the report. — Sanford R. Wilbur, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 N.E. Multnomah, Suite 1692, Portland, OR 97232.

IDENTIFICATION NOTES

IDENTIFICATION OF WINTER-PLUMAGED LOONS: A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION



The differentiation of Common (*Gavia immer*) and Arctic (*G. arctica*) loons in winter has received considerable attention lately (e.g., McIntyre and McIntyre, Auk 91:413-415, 1974; Wallace, Brit. Birds 71:75-77, 1978; Leverich, Bird Obs. of E. Massachusetts, Oct:186-189, 1979), and a bevy of "new" field marks have been brought to light. A number of plumage patterns are discussed in these accounts, including: 1) the presence of white feathers around the eyes of winter-plumaged Common Loons (lacking on Arctics); 2) the blackness of the feathers between eye and bill on Arctics (lacking on Commons); 3) the differences in head profiles (more "peaked" in the case of Commons); and 4) the differences in plumage on the nape and neck regions.

Other marks such as presence of white "thigh" (flank) patches on Arctics (Dennis, Brit. Birds 71:225-226, 1978; Fitzpatrick, Brit. Birds 71:226, 1978; Jackson, Brit. Birds 71:226, 1978) and differences in diving patterns (Jackson, Brit. Birds 71:317, 1978) deserve closer scrutiny. For example, photos of winter-plumaged Red-throated (*G. stellata*) and Yellow-billed (*G. adamsii*) loons depicted in the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds: Western Region* (Udvardy, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1977) both exhibit white or whitish thigh patches. If these species (and occasionally perhaps even Common Loons?) can exhibit these patches, then the value of this field mark as a "diagnostic" feature of Arctic Loons is open to serious question (particularly at great distances, in which cases its value is most highly touted). As for diving patterns, Commons are supposed to "slide" under whereas Arctics leap slightly upward when diving. This may be true, but further quantitative observations of these behaviors for all four species of loon in different aquatic environments should be made before these habits can be safely applied in field identification. Likewise, all differences ascribed to the Arctic Loon need to be field tested with the Pacific coast race, *G. a. pacifica*.

Anyone who has information or suitable photographs pertaining to these or any other field marks of winter-plumaged loons is invited to submit material, for possible inclusion in a summary article, to the Identification Paper Committee, c/o Tim Manolis, EPO Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

Field Identification Paper Committee: Tim Manolis, Chairman, Laurence C. Binford, Guy McCaskie, Richard Stallcup, Bruce Webb.