

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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The California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) has published to date ten reports, the latest being that by Dunn (1988). It has been the intent of the Committee to publish these reports annually, to apprise birders and field ornithologists of our decisions, changes to the state list, revisions of our Review List or our Bylaws, and changes in CBRC membership. These have been features of all recent CBRC reports. The Committee agreed at the January 1990 annual meeting that a regular CBRC news and update article such as this would provide a more timely service to our readers and would report changes in the state list, our membership or rules, and in our Review List.

Since the mid-1980s, the Committee has attempted to obtain for review and permanent archiving not only details of all recent rarities, but documentation for all of the published records of species on our Review List, no matter how long ago the record had been published. We considered a record "published" for these purposes if it appears in any major ornithological journal (e.g., *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *Western Birds*, *Murrelet*), other significant ornithological publications (e.g. Grinnell and Miller 1944, Garrett and Dunn 1981, DeSante and Ainley 1980), or in the seasonal summaries of *American Birds* and its predecessor *Audubon Field Notes*. We do not consider reports in local Audubon Society or bird-club newsletters "published" in the ornithological literature and have not attempted to obtain information on them. The Committee also considers, of course, any documentation it receives of Review List species, including unpublished records. These, too, are included in our statistics. In 1983, the Committee had received documentation on only 49% of all published records. During the last six years, substantial progress has been made towards the goal of reviewing all records. We especially appreciate the effort of Peter Pyle for Point Reyes Bird Observatory, along with David DeSante and Phil Henderson, in submitting documentation on virtually every record from Southeast Farallon Island, and that of Gary S. Lester in obtaining details from reports from northwestern California. We have also had excellent cooperation with the regional editors for *American Birds* in recent years, as they have routinely forwarded all relevant documentation they receive. Through the spring season of 1989, we had received details on 2651 of 2908 published records, for a review rate of 91.2%.

This project, though, has delayed the annual publication of CBRC reports as our workload has doubled and even tripled in some recent years. We continue to review all reports thoroughly, and continue to obtain comments from experts outside our area when that seems prudent. We have also had an unusual number of interesting and controversial records to evaluate in the late 1980s, including some of several species of *Pterodroma* petrels, various Siberian ducks, Crested Caracara, difficult *Calidris* sandpipers, several gulls (e.g., Iceland, Band-tailed, and Swallow-tailed), Ruddy Ground-Dove, Alder Flycatcher, and Oriental Greenfinch. All of these have added to the time it has taken to produce timely reports. Currently, authors of the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth reports are at work writing reports that not only list our decisions but synthesize our reasoning (one report will also deal with the numerous old records recently reviewed).

State list. Dunn (1988) reported the state list at 563 species. The taxonomic decisions by the A.O.U. (1988) add two more, with the split of the Western Flycatcher into Pacific-slope *Empidonax difficilis* and Cordilleran *E. occidentalis* flycatchers and the separation of the California Gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica* from the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher *P. melanura*. As of January 1990, seven additional species have been added to the Califor-

nia state list, bringing the total to 572 species: Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*, Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*, Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*, Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*, Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis*, Xantus' Hummingbird *Hylocharis xantusii*), and Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus*. Details of some of these records have been published already; others will appear in upcoming CBRC reports.

Committee membership. I am currently the Secretary and all documentation and correspondence should be sent to me at the address above. The other current members of the CBRC are Stephen F. Bailey, Louis R. Bevier, Jon L. Dunn, Richard A. Erickson, Kimball L. Garrett, Paul E. Lehman, Michael J. Lippsmeyer, Guy McCaskie, and Joseph Morlan. Committee procedures have remained fairly consistent over our history, though refinements in the Bylaws continue to be adopted. One adopted in 1990 specifically identified our geographic coverage offshore as concurrent with the United States Fisheries Conservation Zone, which extends 200 nautical miles from the nearest point of land, including offshore islands (and south of the Oregon border at 42° N). Current copies of our Bylaws, our Review List, and a report form (whose use is not necessary) are available free for the asking from the Secretary (a self-addressed stamped envelope is appreciated).

Review list. In 1989, the Committee voted to remove Cook's Petrel from the Review List, along with *Pterodroma* petrels of the subgenus *Cookilaria*. The latter category had been added only in 1988 (see Dunn 1988) but was dropped once it became evident that the Cook's Petrel is a regular part of the avifauna far offshore. In 1990, the Committee voted to remove the Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Barred Owl, and Prothonotary Warbler from the Review List. These species no longer meet our general criterion of averaging four records or less over the most recent ten-year period, or, in the case of the Barred Owl, now appear to have a small resident population within the state. The Committee voted to add the Tricolored Heron to the Review List as of 1 January 1990. We will not attempt to review old records of this species, which at one time occurred more regularly but has become increasingly scarce during the past decade.

We thus solicit reports of species not yet accepted on the state list and the following species: Yellow-billed Loon, Least Grebe, Wandering Albatross, Short-tailed Albatross (1900 and later only), Mottled and Stejneger's petrels, Streaked, Greater, and Wedge-tailed shearwaters, Band-rumped and Wedge-rumped storm-petrels, White-tailed and Red-tailed tropicbirds, Masked, Blue-footed (1972 and later only), Brown, and Red-footed boobies, Olivaceous Cormorant, Anhinga, Tricolored Heron (1990 and later only), Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill (1977 and later only), Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Whooper and Trumpeter swans, Emperor Goose, Baikal Teal, American Black Duck, Garganey, Tufted Duck, King and Steller's eiders, Smew, Mississippi Kite, Common Black-Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Yellow Rail (1940 and later only), Purple Gallinule, Mongolian, Wilson's, and Piping plovers, Eurasian Dotterel, American Oystercatcher, Spotted Redshank, Gray-tailed Tattler, Terek and Upland sandpipers, Little Curlew, Hudsonian and Bar-tailed godwits, Rufous-necked, Little, and Long-toed stints, White-rumped, Curlew, and Buff-breasted sandpipers, Jack Snipe, Little, Common Black-headed, and Lesser Black-backed gulls, Sandwich and Sooty terns, Thick-billed Murre, Kittlitz's Murrelet, Parakeet, Least, and Crested auklets, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Groove-billed Ani, Snowy Owl (1900 and later only), Chuck-will's-widow, White-collared Swift, Broad-billed, Xantus', Violet-crowned, Blue-throated, and Ruby-throated hummingbirds, Red-headed and Three-toed woodpeckers, Greater Pewee, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied, Dusky-capped, Great Crested, and Sulphur-bellied flycatchers, Thick-billed Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Eurasian Skylark, Blue Jay, Sedge Wren, Dusky Warbler, Northern Wheatear, Veery, Gray-cheeked and Wood thrushes, Rufous-backed Robin, Gray Catbird, Curve-billed Thrasher, Yellow, White, White/Black-backed, and Black-backed wagtails, Red-throated and Sprague's pipits, Brown Shrike, White-eyed, Yellow-

throated, Philadelphia, and Yellow-green vireos, Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Blue-winged × Golden-winged, Golden-cheeked, Yellow-throated, Grace's, Pine, Cerulean, and Worm-eating warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, Connecticut, Mourning, and Red-faced warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Pyrrhuloxia, Varied and Painted buntings, Cassin's, Field, Baird's and Le Conte's sparrows, Rustic and Snow buntings, Common Grackle, Streak-backed Oriole, Brambling, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll.

LITERATURE CITED

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Gyrfalcon

Sketch by Narca Moore-Craig