

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

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ABSTRACT: In 2000, the California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 165 records of 78 species, endorsing 116 of them. New to California were the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), seen and photographed west of Calipatria, Imperial County, and Nutting's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nuttingi*), extensively documented in Irvine, Orange County. From Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, in the late 1980s, one specimen and one in-hand record of the Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) predate other accepted records. California's bird list now stands at 616 species, nine of which are not native.

This 26th report of the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the CBRC or the Committee) details the evaluation of 165 records of 78 species. Although most records pertain to birds found in 2000, the period covered by this report spans the 37 years from 1964 to 2001. Eleven of these records were reassessments of earlier Committee decisions. The Committee accepted 116 records, four of them reassessed, involving 52 species. The acceptance rate of 70.3% was below the Committee's mean but consistent with percentages through the 1990s; Morlan and Rottenborn (2000) discussed trends in acceptance rates through the CBRC's history. Forty-two records were not accepted because of insufficient documentation or because descriptions were inconsistent with known identification criteria. Seven additional records were not accepted because of questions concerning the bird's natural occurrence. Counties best represented by accepted records were San Diego (15 records), San Francisco (15, 14 of which were from Southeast Farallon I.), Imperial (11), Inyo (9), Orange (9), Monterey (7), and San Mateo (7). Records were accepted from 15 other counties.

Highlights of this report include the addition of two species to the California list, the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and Nutting's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nuttingi*). Reports of Markham's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma markhami*), Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*), Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa gareola*), and Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), potential first state records, were not accepted because documentation for these reports was insufficient to establish identification or inconsistent with known identification criteria. The Pink-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*), Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*), and Blue Mockingbird (*Melanotis caerulescens*) were not accepted because of concerns over questionable natural occurrence. The CBRC placed the Blue Mockingbird on the Supplemental List (see Patten and Erickson 1994) at its January 2002 meeting. With these changes, California's list stands at 616 species, nine of which are nonnative and two of which have been extirpated within historical times. Acceptance of the Greater Sandplover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*), Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), and Eyebrowed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*) to the state list will be addressed in the next report. Records of the Nazca Booby

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

(*Sula granti*), Falcatad Duck (*Anas falcata*), Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*), Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*), and Black-backed Oriole (*Icterus abeillei*) are currently under consideration. Other highlights of this report include the state's second Shy Albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*) and Smew (*Mergellus albellus*), the state's first two Alder Flycatchers (*Empidonax alnorum*), a juvenile Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*), two Dark-rumped Petrels (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*), a Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*), a Eurasian Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*), a Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*), and a Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). California's first spring record of Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) and second interior record of Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) were accepted. Species recorded in especially high numbers in 2000 included the Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*; four accepted records, double any previous year's) and Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*; nine, the highest ever in a year).

The list of species reviewed by the CBRC is posted at the Western Field Ornithologists' website (<http://www.wfo-cbrc.org>). This site also includes the entire California state list, the Committee's bylaws, a reporting form for the direct e-mail submission of records to the CBRC, the addresses of current Committee members, a photo gallery of recent submissions (including several birds published in this report), a list of relevant publications by CBRC members, and other information about the CBRC, WFO, and its journal, *Western Birds*.

All documentation reviewed by the CBRC, including copies of descriptions, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings and Committee comments, is archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA 93012, and is available for public review. The CBRC solicits and encourages observers to submit documentation for all species on the review list, as well as species not on the state list. Documentation should be sent to Guy McCaskie, CBRC Secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, CA 91933-0275 (e-mail: guymcc@pacbell.net).

Committee News. The Committee's voting membership after the 19 January 2002 annual meeting consisted of Luke W. Cole, Jon L. Dunn, Richard A. Erickson (chairman), Kimball L. Garrett (vice chairman), Tristan McKee, Joseph Morlan, Michael M. Rogers, Mike San Miguel, Scott B. Terrill, and John C. Wilson. Guy McCaskie continued his role as nonvoting secretary. Recent Committee members who also voted on many of the records in this report include Robert A. Hamilton, Matthew T. Heindel, Alvaro Jaramillo, Guy McCaskie, Michael A. Patten, Peter Pyle, Stephen C. Rottenborn, and Daniel S. Singer.

At the January 2002 meeting, the Committee voted to remove the Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) from the review list. The Committee also voted to establish three groups in which records may be accepted at the species-pair level: Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia/sandwichensis*), Masked/Nazca Booby (*Sula dactylatra/granti*), and White/Black-backed Wagtail (*Motacilla alba/lugens*). To be admitted to the review list, pairs must involve closely related species in which the species-level

identification of a significant percentage of records cannot be resolved. We nonetheless encourage observers to make every reasonable effort to establish the identification of all individuals to species.

Format and Abbreviations. As in other recent CBRC reports, records are generally listed geographically, from north to south, and/or chronologically by first date of occurrence. Included with each record is the location, county abbreviation (see below), and date span. The date span usually follows that published in *North American Birds* (formerly *American Birds* and *Field Notes*) but, if the CBRC accepts a date span that differs from a published source, the differing dates are italicized. Initials of the observer(s) responsible for finding and/or identifying the bird(s)—if known and if they have supplied supportive documentation—are followed by a semicolon, then the initials, in alphabetized order by surname, of additional observers submitting supportive documentation, then the CBRC record number consisting of the year of submission and chronological number assigned by the secretary. All records are sight records unless otherwise indicated: initials followed by dagger (†) indicate the observer supplied a supportive photograph, (‡) indicates videotape, (§) indicates a voice recording, and (#) indicates a specimen record, followed by the abbreviation (see below) of the institution housing the specimen and that institution's specimen catalog number.

An asterisk (*) before a species' name indicates that the species is no longer on the CBRC review list. The first number in parentheses after the species' name is the number of records accepted by the CBRC through this report; the second is the number of new records accepted in this report (because this number excludes records thought to pertain to returning individuals, it may be zero). Two asterisks (**) after the species' total indicate that the number of accepted records refers only to a restricted review period or includes records accepted for statistical purposes only; see Roberson (1986) for more information.

When individual birds return to a location after a lengthy or seasonal absence, each occurrence is reviewed under a separate record number, and Committee members indicate whether or not they believe the bird is the same as one accepted previously. Such decisions follow the opinion of the majority of members and, if a bird is considered a returning individual, the total number of records remains unchanged.

Although the CBRC does not formally review the age, sex, or subspecies of each bird, information on these subjects is often provided during the review process, and in some cases the Committee achieves a strong or unanimous consensus. We report much of this information.

The CBRC uses standard abbreviations for California counties; those used in this report are COL, Colusa; DN, Del Norte; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; LA, Los Angeles; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MOD, Modoc; MNO, Mono; MTY, Monterey; ORA, Orange; RIV, Riverside; SAC, Sacramento; SBE, San Bernardino; SD, San Diego; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SBA, Santa Barbara; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SIE, Sierra; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; VEN, Ventura. A full list of county abbreviations is available on the WFO-CBRC website. Other abbreviations

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

used: I., island; L., lake; Mt., mountain; n. miles, nautical miles; N.W.R., national wildlife refuge; Pt., point; R., river; W.M.A., wildlife management area.

Museum collections housing specimens cited in this report, allowing access to Committee members for research, or otherwise cited, are the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS), Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles (LACM), San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM), and Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo (WFVZ).

RECORDS ACCEPTED

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (68, 3). One in basic plumage was at Pt. Mugu, VEN, 26 Mar–2 Apr 2000 (DP, ST; WJP, MSM; 2000-071). The viewing distance prevented a detailed study of the upperpart pattern, and neither the observers nor the Committee reached a consensus on the bird's age. Another in basic plumage at Pt. Reyes lighthouse, MRN, 4 Jun 2000 (RS; KMB; 2000-089) furnished only the third accepted record of a bird apparently summering in California. Pyle (pers. comm.) considered this bird to be one year old. A juvenile was on Monterey Bay, MTY (36° 38' N, 121° 55' W), 18 Dec 2000–15 Jan 2001 (AJ; LWC†, EP†; 2001-008).

SHY ALBATROSS *Thalassarche cauta* (2, 1). An immature at Cordell Bank, MRN (38° 07.74' N, 123° 30.64' W), 29 Jul 2000 (MWE†, EP†, SBT†; 2001-144) was considered the same individual seen at 38° 05.8' N, 123° 32' W on 10 Sep 2000 (AME, LH, DEQ†, RMS†, MSM†; 2000-129; Figure 1; another photograph was published in *N. Am. Birds* 55:120). The extent of gray on this bird's head and neck led Australian experts and most CBRC members to consider it the subspecies *salvini*, although others were uncomfortable with the identification of immature Shy Albatrosses at this level. Another report from 17 Sep 2000 (*N. Am. Birds* 55:98) has not been submitted to the CBRC. *T. c. salvini* occurs in the Humboldt Current as far north as 6° S (Murphy 1936, Tickell 2000). Adults previously documented in the North Pacific have been assigned to the *cauta/steadi* group (Cole 2000), although a bird seen from shore in San Luis Obispo County, tentatively identified as *salvini*, is being reconsidered by the CBRC. Its identification originally was not accepted at the species level (Rottenborn and Morlan 2000).

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* (9**, 1). One was 26 n. miles WSW of Pt. Buchon, SLO (35° 04.6' N, 121° 20.1' W), 15 Jan 2000 (DR, TME; NCH†, CAM; 2000-038; Figure 2). This bird's uniformly dark plumage and lack of white eye crescents may suggest juvenal plumage (Rogers and Jaramillo 2002), although age criteria in this species are still under debate.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* (61, 8). Two newly submitted reports from 1997 brought the total of accepted records from that year to 11, down slightly from the previous year's high of 13 records. One was W of Pt. Pinos, MTY, 17 Sep 1997 (JLD; 2001-044), and one was seen from shore at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 28 Sep 1997 (PP; 2001-035). Four more records were also accepted from 1999, bringing that year's total to 11: one was seen from shore at Pt. Piedras Blancas, SLO, 28 Apr 1999 (RAR; 2001-160), one was in a feeding flock 26 n. miles WSW of Pt. Pinos, MTY, 6 Sep 1999 (DR; 1999-147), another was on Monterey Bay, MTY (36° 50' N, 122° 06' W), 14 Sep 1999 (JLD; 2001-045), and one was on Monterey Bay, SCZ (36° 49'17" N, 122° 12'27" W), 9 Oct 1999 (SGM, MMR; 1999-191). Only two reports from 2000 have received a decision: one at Pigeon Pt., SM, 23 Apr 2000 (RST; 2000-111) and one on Monterey Bay, SCZ, 9 Oct 2000 (TMcK; GE; 2000-



Figure 1. California's second Shy Albatross, *Thalassarche cauta*, at Cordell Bank, off Marin County, 10 September 2002. The distinctly gray head led most experts to conclude that the bird belonged to the subspecies *salvini*.

Photo by David E. Quady

142). There are now nine spring records, mostly from shore. June is the only month lacking any accepted records, although a report from Mendocino Co. 2 Jun 2002 will be reviewed by the CBRC. Three summer records are from mid-July onward and may be the first arrivals of the fall, which has accounted for 41 of our records. Most reports from farther north along the Pacific coast are from summer (e.g., *N. Am. Birds* 55:475), which may explain the gap in California reports at this season. Less observer coverage offshore and minimal shore-based seawatching during early summer may also be partially responsible. Indeed, this species' seasonal pattern of occurrence closely mirrors the seasonal frequency of birding-related boat trips and seawatching efforts in California.

DARK-RUMPED PETREL *Pterodroma phaeopygia* (8, 2). Two records from 2000 were accepted by the CBRC before the American Ornithologists' Union (Banks et al. 2002) recognized the Galapagos (*P. phaeopygia*) and Hawaiian (*P. sandwichensis*) Petrels as separate species. The CBRC then voted to add this species pair to the review list, so that unresolved records can be accepted under the category of Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel. All California records of "Dark-rumped Petrels" will be brought to the next annual meeting for discussion. One was well documented over the W end of Cordell Bank, MRN (37° 99.166' N, 123° 48.483' W), 15 Jul 2000 (RS; KMB, AD, GG, LH, CL, LML‡, BDP, EPr†; 2000-101). Another was about 8 n. miles W of Fort Bragg, MEN (39° 27.76' N, 123° 58.67' W), 19 Aug 2000 (LH, PP; 2000-155). Accepted records span 3 May–24 Aug, but the six since 1996 all occurred



Figure 2. Short-tailed Albatross, *Phoebastria albatrus*, 26 nautical miles WSW of Point Buchon, San Luis Obispo County, 15 January 2002. The uniformly dark plumage suggests a juvenile; the apparent beginnings of a pale upperwing patch may be a result of wear.

Photo by Norwood C. Hazard

between 15 Jul and 24 Aug. This concentration of records toward the end of the species' window of occurrence may be another reflection of the larger number of offshore birding trips in late summer and fall.

MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra* (15, 1). An adult was in a Brandt's Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) colony on San Nicolas I., VEN, 5-24 Jun 2000 (SDH; 2000-113). Its bill color was described as yellow, which nine members felt was adequate to eliminate the Nazca Booby (*S. granti*); the lone dissenter felt that more detail on the exact shade of the bill was needed to eliminate that species. The record stands accepted as a Masked Booby, *sensu stricto*.

MASKED/NAZCA BOOBY *Sula dactylatra/granti* (3, 3). Three records accepted as immature Masked Boobies prior to recognition of the Nazca Booby as a distinct species (AOU 2000) were reconsidered and accepted only as pertaining to this species pair: 2 miles W of Pt. Lobos, MTY, 5 Apr 1990 (DL†; 1990-052; Patten and Erickson 1994), Newport Beach, ORA, 30 Jun 1992 (DRW, BED; 1992-210; Heindel and Patten 1996), and 23 n. miles SW of San Miguel I., SBA, 16 Jul 1996 (RLP, SES; 1996-115; Rottenborn and Morlan 2000). The Nazca Booby is unrecorded in California, but a report of one that rode a boat from Mexican waters into San Diego Bay in May 2001 is currently under review. Identification of immatures is problematic (see Pitman and Jehl 1998, Roberson 1998).

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (69, 1). An adult female was seen in flight 1 km NW of Southeast Farallon I., SF, 29 Aug 2000 (SG; 2001-025). A pale-headed adult male of the race *brewsteri* on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 22-28 Oct 2000 (RDB†; 2001-055) was considered a returning bird from the previous year (2000-017; Rogers and Jaramillo 2002).

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

RED-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula sula* (13, 1). A brown-morph bird was 160 n. miles off San Diego, SD (31° 65' N, 119° 95' W), 14 Oct 2000 (NC; 2001-024). Its red feet and blue bill indicated a bird at least two years old.

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (29**, 1). An immature was in Chula Vista, SD, 14 Oct 1999 (GMcC; 2001-161). An adult at the Tijuana R. estuary, SD, 24 Aug 2000–10 Jan 2001 (KMB, MGM; 2000-141) was considered a returning bird (same as 2000-002, Rogers and Jaramillo 2002) that first appeared as an immature in the winter of 1997–1998 (Rottenborn and Morlan 2000).

*REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (80, 1). A returning adult at Imperial Beach, SD, 26 Aug 2000–24 Jan 2001 (GMcC; KMB, MGM; 2000-115; same as 1999-083, Rogers and Jaramillo 2002) was the individual with a slightly deformed bill that first appeared in 1982 (Roberson 1986). An immature was at San Elijo Lagoon, SD, 11–24 Sep 2000 (DT; MGM, AMa†, GMcC; 2000-120). The CBRC voted to remove this species from the review list at the 19 Jan 2002 meeting. Members supporting this change felt that coastal San Diego County is at the edge of the species' normal wintering range and that its pattern of occurrence there is well established. The species has nested as close to California as I. Todos Santos, Baja California, since 2000 (*N. Am. Birds* 55:352).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (18, 0). A returning adult was at La Jolla, SD, 9–10 Apr 2000 (2000-074; AME; GMcC; same as 1998-083, Erickson and Hamilton 2000), where it first appeared in 1981 (Binford 1985).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (1, 1). A well-documented adult in alternate plumage W of Calipatria, IMP, 1–15 Jul 2000 (PAG; GMcC, KZK†; 2000-096) represents the first accepted record of this species in the state, although one record from earlier that year is still in circulation. Details of the facial pattern distinguishing the Glossy from the White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) were well illustrated in the photographs and descriptions. Patten and Lasley (2000) published a photograph of the bird and discussed this identification problem and the westward expansion of the Glossy Ibis in the North America. Two other reports from the Imperial Valley in 2000 are still under review as the CBRC attempts to address the identification of basic-plumaged birds, the possibility of White-faced × Glossy Ibis hybrids, and questions of date spans. Another report was received from Santa Clara and Alameda counties in 2001 (*N. Am. Birds* 55:352). Details of these records will appear in future reports.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (19, 3). One was near Obsidian Butte at the Salton Sea, IMP, 29 Apr 2000 (TEB†; 2000-076). Most records are from summer and fall; the only other record before late May was of a flock of nine birds at Finney L., IMP, 20 Apr 1990 (Patten and Erickson 1994). Two adults were on the SW shore of the Salton Sea, IMP, 27 May–22 Jun 2000 (AKK†; HD†, KZK†, GMcC; 2000-090); a color photograph of them appeared in *N. Am. Birds* 54:432. Another was near Obsidian Butte, IMP, 19 Aug 2000 (VH; 2000-157). All were considered separate individuals, although it is possible that some of the same birds were involved in more than one record.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* (35, 1). A first-winter male was at the fish docks, Pt. Reyes, MRN, 23 Dec 2000–20 Jan 2001 (SK; KMB, LWc†, EDG†, RWL, CL, LML‡, GMcC, JM, EPA, DEQ, RS†, JW†; 2000-164).

SMEW *Mergellus albellus* (2, 1). An adult male on the Old R., SJ, 20 Jan–29 Feb 2000 (TR; MD‡, TLE, SH, WH, MSM, DN; 2000-036) was California's second. The Committee voted unanimously to accept the bird's natural occurrence, following the precedent of the first record, a male that spent the winters of 1981–82 through 1983–84 in Foster City, SM (Binford 1985, Roberson 1986). There was some disagreement about the prevalence of this species in captivity in western North

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

America, although it appears to be regular, at least in small numbers. The natural occurrence of a male in British Columbia was brought into question after a waterfowl collector reported to have lost one nearby, although the location of the bird was the same as that of a male present 1989–1990, at which time the collector had not lost any Smews (*N. Am. Birds* 46:304). Clearly, the natural occurrence of extralimital Smews, like most waterfowl, should be assessed cautiously.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (29, 1). A brief description of one at Lucerne Valley, SBE, 12 Jun 2000 (JE; 2000-094) portrayed the bird catching and eating insects on the wing, a behavior shared by few North American raptors. This behavior, combined with general plumage details, left nine members comfortable with the identification. The lone dissenter felt that a Plumbeous Kite (*I. plumbea*) was not eliminated. Another CBRC member familiar with that species felt that the described pale head better fit the Mississippi and that the pale tail bands and orange primaries of Plumbeous would not have been overlooked in the close view reported. Biever (1990) discussed a previous Mississippi Kite record that received a 9–1 vote for similar reasons. The Plumbeous Kite is a common species in Central and South America that has been known to overshoot its normal range during spring migration in Argentina (Jaramillo 2000), but it has never been recorded north of southern Tamaulipas in Mexico and is unknown from western Mexico (AOU 1998).

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* (8**, 2). A molting adult was at Riverside, RIV, 27 Jun–23 Jul 1995 (MAP†; 1996-080F), and two were at Santee, SD, 26 Nov 1994–29 Jan 1995 (SEF, EDG†, CAM, GMcC, JM, MMR†, DSS, DGY; 1996-080C). Patten and Erickson (2000) had a strong influence on the Committee's treatment of this species, but they considered both of these records "debatable" in terms of natural occurrence. Each finally received a 9–1 vote on its fourth circulation.

WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia* (9, 1). A male in first alternate plumage at Coronado, 5 May 2000 (RP; TRC, GMcC; 2000-080), provided San Diego County's fourth record.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* (7, 1). Nine CBRC members considered the description of a bird at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 22 Aug 2000 (DGA; 2001-026) adequate to identify the bird to species. Details suggested a bird in juvenal plumage but did not allow for certain age determination.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (18, 2). One was at Alviso, SCL, 26–31 May 2000 (AJ; LCh, MH, NL, RWR, MMR†, SBT; 2000-088). The limited alternate feathering suggested a bird in first alternate plumage, but the sex was uncertain. A juvenile was near Goose L., MOD, 14 Oct 2000 (JTr; 2001-140).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (28, 2). An adult male was at the San Diego R. mouth, SD, 4–5 Sep 2000 (DVB†, CGE, GMcC, MSM; 2000-117). A juvenile was at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 25 Aug–23 Sep 2000 (JT†; RDB†, PP; 2001-015). Both showed characters of the expected Asian subspecies *L. l. baueri*.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* (15, 1). An alternate-plumaged bird at China L., KER, 25–29 May 2000 (SS, RS†; JLD; 2000-099; Figure 3) fit the expected pattern of spring migrants in late May to mid June, which provide two-thirds of our accepted records.

CURLREW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (26, 1). A juvenile was on the Santa Ana R. between Huntington Beach and Costa Mesa, ORA, 21–24 Nov 2000 (MD†, RF, MSM, MP†, RWR, JW†; 2000-147). This exceptionally late record exceeded the previous late date by 23 days.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* (77, 1). An adult was at Alviso, SCL, 21 Apr 1999 (SCR; 2001-040).

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (19. 1). One at Red Hill, Salton Sea, IMP, 16 Sep–24 Oct 1999 (BMu; KCM, MAP, GMcC; 1999-176) appeared to be in its fourth prebasic molt. The rectrices showed some black in September and were all white by late October, but the outer primaries still lacked white mirrors, and it was unclear whether these feathers had been molted by that time. An adult with one or two small mirrors appeared at Obsidian Butte, IMP, 21 Nov 1999 (GMcC; 1999-194) and was unanimously considered the same individual, having completed its fourth prebasic molt. The same adult returned to Salton Sea N.W.R., IMP, 30 Sep–13 Oct 2000 (GMcC; 2000-123). Another returning adult was at Salton Sea State Recreation Area, RIV, 25 Jan–17 Mar 2000 (PJ; DSP, ARS; 2000-050; same as 1998-025, Erickson and Hamilton 2001). In N. California, returning adults were at Alviso, SCL, 8 Oct 2000 (JMa; 2000-125; same as 2000-140, Rogers and Jaramillo 2002) and L. Cunningham, SCL, 29 Oct 2000–9 Mar 2001 (MMR†; MWE; 2000-139; same as 1999-188, Rogers and Jaramillo 2002).

LONG-BILLED MURRELET *Brachyramphus perdix* (7. 1). One in basic plumage was seen and photographed from a boat at the entrance to Bodega Harbor, SON, 10 Sep 2000 (LH, DEQ†, MSM†; 2000-132). The brownish wings indicated a bird one year old. See also Records Not Accepted.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti* (72. 2). Females at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 10 Jul 2000 (MJSM; 2000-107) and 9–22 Oct 2000 (MSM†, JLD; 2000-151) may have involved the same individual.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (15. 0). An accepted record from Big Sycamore Canyon, VEN, 24 Sep 1974 (HLJ; 1980-235A; Binford 1985) was reconsidered. A majority vote is required to overturn an accepted record, but only two members voted against its continued acceptance.



Figure 3. White-rumped Sandpiper, *Calidris fuscicollis*, at China Lake, Kern County, 26 May 2000.

Photo by Robert Steele

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris* (56, 1). A female was at Upper Otay Lake, SD, 12 Dec 1999-10 Mar 2000 (GM, DGrt; 2001-145).

XANTUS'S HUMMINGBIRD *Hylocharis xantusii* (2, 0). Like the cuckoo record above, this one, of an adult male at Yaqui Wells, SD, 27 Dec 1986 (RK; 1987-174A), was accepted previously (Hainebach 1992, Pyle and McCaskie 1992) and withstood reanalysis. The three members voting against the record in the second circulation emphasized that the only first-hand information from the observer was written over two years after the observation, that although reported to local "birders" in the area, the sighting was not reported in a more typical fashion until four days later, that CBRC members had no first-hand, or even direct second-hand, knowledge of the observer, that despite having seen the species before, the observer did not identify the bird until after the observation was over, and that the first record for the United States should be unassailable.

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (34, 1). One at Bonsall, SD, 2 Dec 2000 (PAG; 2001-010) was the tenth recorded in the county.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* (4, 2). An immature female at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 2 Sep 1987 (PPT, RPH; 1993-098; #CAS 85542) and an unsexed immature banded there 27 Aug 1988 (PPT; 1993-102; Figure 4) preceded the two other accepted records for California (singing birds in Kern County 11 July 1991 and 30 May 1992; Patten et al. 1995, Heindel and Garrett 1996). The records fared poorly on their first circulations in 1994 and were placed on hold. Record 1993-098 received unanimous support on its second circulation in 2001; 1993-102 was accepted on its third circulation in 2002, with one member expressing concern that the eastern subspecies of the Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii traillii* and *E. t. campestris*, often considered synonymous) was not conclusively eliminated.

The turnaround in these records was due to commentary and unpublished data provided by Philip Unitt. Unitt used an electronic colorimeter to quantify comparisons with a series of Alder and Willow flycatcher specimens. Alder Flycatchers, and the Farallon specimen, are greener on the crown and back than Willow Flycatchers and lack the head/back contrast typical of the Willows. Juvenile Alder Flycatchers and the Farallon specimen have yellowish wingbars, not the ochre of the western subspecies of the Willow. The wings of the Farallon bird are long and pointed even for an Alder Flycatcher. Eastern Willow Flycatchers are more similar to the Alder than are western Willows (subspecies *brewsteri*, *adastus*, and *extimus*), but the Farallon specimen fell outside the range of all Willow Flycatchers.

In-hand photos of the banded bird show upperpart and wingbar colors typical of a juvenile Alder Flycatcher, according to Unitt. Likewise, the wing chord (74.3 mm) and pointed wings (difference between the longest primary and P6 and P5 were 6.3 and 10.5 mm, respectively) would be extreme for the eastern Willow Flycatcher.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (60, 5). Birds at Año Nuevo State Reserve, SM, 2 Jan-7 Feb 2000 (PJM, RST, AW†; 2000-064), Fountain Valley, ORA, 10 Jan-27 Feb 2000 (BEE, LDT; MD†, KSG†, RAH, GMcC, JM, MJSM; 2000-039), and 3 miles SW of Brawley, IMP, 23 Mar 2000 (GMcC; 2000-069) brought to four the number of accepted records for the 1999-2000 season (cf. Rogers and Jaramillo 2002). Additional birds were at Golden Gate Park, SF, 1-12 Nov 2000 (KM; SJD†, MWE, JM; 2000-159) and Santa Barbara, SBA, 10 Dec 2000-6 Jan 2001 (DC; JLD, HR; 2000-011).

NUTTING'S FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus nuttingi* (1, 1). One in Irvine, ORA, 11 Nov 200-26 Mar 2001 (LDT; MBi, AB, JB, MD†, DDesJ†, JLD, BEE†§, DRF†, RF, KLG, LML†, MJM, MM, GMcC, JM, RWR, MMR, MJSM, MSM†, MP†, LS†, JW†; 2000-161; Figure 5) was seen by hundreds; another photograph appeared on the cover of *W. Birds* vol. 32, no. 1. From his examination of the bird's molt pattern, Pyle (in comments) identified it as probably an immature. Patten (in comments), initially

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

concerned about the limited rufous in the rectrices (the bird was first identified as a Dusky-capped Flycatcher for this reason), examined specimens at WFVZ, emphasized the amount of variation in rectrix pattern in this species (cf. Howell and Webb 1995), and wondered if there may be a taxonomic basis for it. Nutting's Flycatcher, resident on the Pacific slope from northern Mexico to Costa Rica, has been recorded only twice in Arizona (ABA 2002) and so was unexpected in California.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (15, 0). Adults returned to the campus of California State Polytechnic University Pomona, LA, 29 Oct–23 Dec 2000 (MSM; JeH; 2000-152; ninth winter; Erickson and Terrill 1996, Rogers and Jaramillo 2002) and to Half Moon Bay, SM, 10 Dec 2000–27 Mar 2001 (PJM, JM; 2001-063; third winter; Erickson and Hamilton 2001, Rogers and Jaramillo 2002).

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (40, 1). A singing male was along the Sweetwater River in the Otay–Sweetwater Unit of San Diego N.W.R., Spring Valley, SD, 5–15 Jul 2000 (PAG, GMcC, AMe†, GLR; 2000-108).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius* (9**, 3). A singing male at Huntington Beach, ORA, 13 May 2000 (MD†, RF, JM; 2000-081) provided the first spring record accepted by the CBRC. More typical were individuals at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 23 Sep 2000 (PS; 2001-122) and Southeast Farallon I., SF, 6 Oct 2000 (JT†; 2001-027).

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (71, 5). Five accepted records in October 2000 were typical of recent years (Rogers and Jaramillo 2002): Montara, SM, 5 Oct 2000 (AJ; 2000-124); San Gregorio Creek, SM, 6 Oct 2000 (RST; 2001-042); Oceano, SLO, 8 Oct 2000 (DDi†; 2001-050); Carmel R. mouth, MTY, 14–17 Oct 2000 (MMR; 2000-137); and the Oxnard Plain, VEN, 20–25 Oct 2000 (RAH; AB, DVP; 2000-145).

SEDGE WREN *Cistothorus platensis* (6, 1). A record of one in Saline Valley, INY, 12 Nov 1999 (REM; 2000-005) reached unanimous approval on its third circulation. It furnished the second interior record, the first for fall. Coastal records span 15 Oct–8 Nov.

BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL *Motacilla lugens* (10, 1). An adult male at Alviso, SCL, 17 Dec 2000–7 Apr 2001 (DMc†; LCh, LWC, AJ, MJM, JM, BP, RWR, MMR†, SBT†; 2000-160; Figure 6) did not present the identification challenge that other age/sex classes do and was the second known to have wintered in California.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii* (28, 1). One was in Saline Valley, INY, 30 Oct 1999 (REM; 2000-006).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (63, 3). A singing male was at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 4 Jun 2000 (LJE; KB, MH, KCK; 2000-087), another male was at the South Fork Kern River Preserve, KER, 3 Aug 2000 (PH; 2001-051), and a female was at Lompoc, SBA, 23 Nov 2000–2 Mar 2001 (BKH†; KB, LWC, DC, JLD, GEP, SBT; 2000-162). Although there were up to five "winter" records, the species had not been documented previously in the month of January; April is now alone without a record. There were only two previous August records.

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (61, 3). One at the University of California campus, Riverside, RIV, 1 Oct 1987 (DAG, EWA; 1988-052A) was accepted previously (Pyle and McCaskie 1992) and withstood reanalysis with a vote of 8–2. Its date now stands as the earliest in fall for the state, as two September records accepted previously were overturned during reconsideration (see Records Not Accepted). Three recent records included two at El Dorado Park, Long Beach, LA (fourth consecutive winter there): a male 9 Nov–29 Dec 2000 (RWR, MSM; 2000-149) and an unsexed bird 11 Nov–29 Dec 2000 (MSM; 2001-002), and a male in Santa Ana, ORA, 28 Dec 2000–3 Mar 2001 (DRW; RF, JM; 2001-037).

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helminthos vermivorus* (89, 2). One at Huntington Beach, ORA, 2 Jan–16 Mar 2000 (KSG; 2000-070) was the second of two birds wintering there that season (Rogers and Jaramillo 2002). Another was at Montecito, SBA, 26 Dec 2000 (JEL; DC; 2001-065).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH *Seiurus motacilla* (14, 4). Four individuals in two or three seasonal roles made 2000 an exceptional year. Single birds were at Huntington Beach, ORA, 30 Apr 2000 (DRW; 2000-116), Southeast Farallon I., SF, 7 Sep 2000 (RDB; 2001-017), Yucca Valley, SBE, 18–22 Sep 2000 (SK; VH, MAP; 2000-122), and Lompoc, SBA, 23 Nov–6 Dec 2000 (BKH†; DC; 2001-009). Patten and Marantz (1996) discussed the recent increase in records of this and other southeastern wood warblers.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (85, 3). Individuals were at Ridgecrest, KER, 7 Sep 1999 (JAS; 2000-049), Southeast Farallon I., SF, 3 Sep 2000 (JT†, RDB; 2001-018), and Galileo Hill Park, KER, 7 Sep 2000 (KSG†; MSM; 2000-131). Although most records are for September, only five have been as early in the month as these.

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (103, 2). Because of its unseasonal date, California's third accepted record, from Dana Point, ORA, 23 Aug 1964 (GMcC, EAP; 1986-108A; Roberson 1993), was reconsidered but ultimately reaffirmed. Although the plumage description was marginal, the voice description ("chip-burr" call note) was considered diagnostic by most members. Several Committee members suggested the bird summered in southern California, as fall records range from 14 Sep to 13 Dec, with only five records for September. Typical were individuals at Pt. Loma, SD, 5 Oct 2000 (GMcC; 2000-126) and Wilmington, LA, 26–29 Oct 2000 (MSM; 2000-153).

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Aimophila cassinii* (41, 1). An immature at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 10 Oct 2000 (JT, RDB, PP†; 2001-016) was the twelfth to be recorded at that famous location.

FIELD SPARROW *Spizella pusilla* (7, 1). One at Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 5 Oct 2000 (ADeM; 2001-013) represented only the third typical fall vagrant record for California, all from Inyo and Kern counties.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (70, 2). Immature males were at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 13 Nov 2000 (PP; 2001-029) and Año Nuevo State Reserve, SM, 15–20 Nov 2000 (GJSt; 2001-022).

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* (82,9). The nine accepted records from 2000 were more than for any previous year, and documentation for nine more records published in *N. Am. Birds* (55:101, 105) has yet to be submitted to the CBRC. The frequency of records in Arizona has increased as well (*N. Am. Birds* 55:466). Single green-plumaged birds were at Big Pine, INY, 20–21 Aug 2000 (imm. male; JoH, TH; 2001-003; #LACM 111517); Big Pine, INY, 21 Aug 2000 (JoH, TH; 2001-061); Furnace Creek Ranch, INY, 27 Aug 2000 (MSM; 2000-130); Baker Creek Meadows, INY, 30–31 Aug 2000 (SH; JLD, JoH, TH; 2000-118); Pilarcitos Creek, SM, 13 Sep 2000 (RST; 2001-041); Southeast Farallon I., SF, 26 Sep 2000 (PC†; 2001-030); Galileo Hill Park, KER, 30 Sep–1 Oct 2000 (DSC; MF, NF, LS†; 2001-043; Figure 7); Ragged Pt., SLO, 2 Oct 2000 (WB; 2001-049); and W of Calipatria, IMP, 6 Oct 2000 (GMcC; 2000-127).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (51,3). Individuals were near Agua Caliente Springs, SD, 14 Apr 2000 (DS†, JEH, GCH; 2000-092), at Pt. Sur, MTY, 16 Nov 2000 (LCo†; 2000-163), and on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 19 Nov–8 Dec 2000 (PP†; 2001-031). Details of a second bird reported at Pt. Sur (*N. Am. Birds* 55:100) have not been submitted to the CBRC.

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED

ARCTIC LOON *Gavia arctica*. One in basic plumage was reported at the Ventura R. mouth, VEN, 2 Jan 2000 (2000-144). Although the bird was described as having white flank patches, many details were lacking. Observers should carefully describe all features that differ from the similar Pacific Loon (*G. pacifica*; see Reinking and Howell 1993, Birch and Lee 1997) while ensuring that other loon species are also eliminated (cf. Rottenborn and Morlan 2000).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii*. One in juvenal plumage was reported at Monterey, MTY, 27 Feb 2000 (2000-144). Although the description of the large ivory bill and warm brown upperparts with whitish feather edges supported the Yellow-billed, important specific details of bill shape and head pattern were not noted. Observers should make careful note of the exact culmen and lower mandible shape on suspected Yellow-billed Loons, as descriptions such as "upturned bill" lack the level of detail desired by most CBRC members.

MARKHAM'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma markhami*. One was tentatively identified 28 n. miles W of Fort Bragg, MEN (39° 32.09' N, 123° 23.40' W), on 19 Aug 2000 (2000-154). Markham's is one of several large dark Pacific species of *Oceanodroma* that are difficult to separate at sea. A Markham's was seen 293 n. miles WSW of San Nicolas I., VEN, on 27 July 1991 (Pyle 1993), and it has often been considered a potential visitor to California waters. The Fort Bragg bird exhibited most of the known field marks for this species (outlined by Brown 1980, Harrison 1983, and Pyle 1993), including brownish plumage, narrow distinct bars extending onto the carpal area, shallow wingbeats, high-arcing flight, all-dark rump, and long tail. However, the sighting was rather brief (1-2 minutes), and sea conditions were not ideal. Observers of the bird, being familiar with the similar Black (*O. melania*) and Tristram's (*O. tristrami*) storm-petrels, were confident that it was not one of those two species, but no one on board had experience with significant numbers of Markham's. Most CBRC members felt that more tangible evidence or a longer, more complete view would be necessary to add this species to the state list.

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster*. A report from Newport Pier, ORA, 11 Jan 2000 (2000-085) was supported by a brief description and several simple sketches, which conveyed the correct general pattern for an adult Brown Booby. Although the majority of the Committee supported the record on the first circulation, only four members endorsed its identification on the second circulation, mainly because of the sparse details and concern that a Masked or Nazca Booby was not eliminated. The CBRC continues to struggle with sparsely detailed reports of white-bellied "brown" boobies, as all four species recorded in California share this general pattern in some plumages. Careful description of the exact pattern on the throat and breast, as well as the underwings, should alleviate this problem (cf. Harrison 1987). Two birds described at the New R. mouth, Salton Sea, IMP, 6 Mar 2000 (2000-059) failed to receive the necessary support on the second round; most members were not convinced that the described birds were indeed boobies.

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor*. A brief description of a heron at the Whitewater R. delta, RIV, 16 Jun 2000 (2000-097) failed to gain acceptance. Several Committee members were concerned that a Little Blue Heron (*E. caerulea*) was not eliminated.

WHITE IBIS *Eudocimus albus*. A bird seen in flight from a moving vehicle on Highway 99 north of Maxwell, COL, 1 Jul 2000 (2000-102) was not supported, although most members felt that it could have been a White Ibis. Interestingly, Oregon and Washington both received their first records of this species in Nov/Dec 2000 (N. Am. Birds 55:94, 220).

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

MASKED DUCK *Nomonyx dominicus*. The descriptions of a duck at Mecca, RIV, 29 Feb 2000 (2000-058) fit the general characteristics of this species, but most members felt the details were insufficient to establish a first state record. Several members were concerned that the behavior of swimming in the open, away from thick vegetation, would be unusual for this species. In addition, other observers reported a melanistic Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) bearing a superficial resemblance to a male Masked Duck from the same location.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus*. One was reported in Santa Rosa, SON, 14 Oct 2000 (2000-156) by an experienced observer. The two accepted records of this species are from Riverside County in April and May (Daniels et al. 1989, Rottenborn and Morlan 2000). This report from far north of the species' range was unexpected. Although most details supported this species, CBRC members were variously concerned over the elimination of the Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*), Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*), and Solitary Eagle (*Harpyhaliaetus solitarius*). The last two species would be surprising anywhere in California, but the possibility of non-natural occurrence was considered. Some members felt that the described call note and behavior (it was eating a Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*) better fit a Zone-tailed Hawk. Members supporting the identification felt the natural occurrence was questionable.

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway*. A brief description of a bird perched atop a snag in the Antelope Valley, SIE, 15 Jun 2000 (2000-104) was accompanied by a tape recording of a Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) and received no support.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda*. A bird heard calling over Rush Creek, MNO, 30 May 2000 (2000-103) was tentatively identified as this species. While some Committee members felt that an Upland Sandpiper was likely involved, most were uncomfortable with voice-only records of this species. In addition, several members felt that the call as described could have come from a Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa gareola*. A juvenile was reported near Mare I., SOL, 22 Sep 2000 (2001-104). Although the distinct supercilium and boldly patterned underparts suggested this species and most CBRC members felt the identification was likely correct, a few critical details were not noted. In addition, some members were concerned that the described structure and leg color of the bird did not fit their experiences with this species. The Wood Sandpiper is a small *Tringa* with an upright posture and short bill; several members commented that its structure is more reminiscent of a small Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*) than a Solitary Sandpiper (*T. solitaria*), the North American species closest in plumage. The legs of Wood Sandpipers are usually yellowish, differing from the olive-gray of the described bird and most Solitary Sandpipers. The rump and underwings were not seen, and no vocalizations were heard. Considering these difficulties, the Committee felt that the single-observer report was not sufficient to establish a first state record, although some members expect that this species will eventually be documented in California.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*. Single-observer reports of adults at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, SBA, 13 Jul 2000 (2001-052) and Bolsa Chica, ORA, 5 Aug 2000 (2001-062) failed to receive adequate support. Although the accompanying descriptions suggested this species, both were based on rather brief periods of observation and lacked important details. The identification of stints should always be approached with caution; sight records without exhaustive details are unlikely to be supported.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*. One was reported at Lodi,

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

SJ, on the extremely early date of 21 Apr 2000 (2000-075). The description mentioned a white rump and other suggestive characteristics, but most members were unwilling to endorse a single-observer record in April without highly detailed documentation.

BAND-TAILED GULL *Larus belcheri*. A controversial record of a gull identified as this species on San Nicolas I., VEN, 9 Nov 1987–23 Feb 1988 originally was not accepted (Heindel and Garrett 1995). It was resubmitted (1988-076A) after the acceptance of a widely seen Band-tailed Gull in San Diego (Rottenborn and Morlan 2000). After four rounds, the San Nicolas bird again failed to gain acceptance. Although the identification is supported by a sketch and brief written description that suggest this species, a minority of the Committee felt that a sight record of this significance should be supported by more extensive details or the corroboration of other observers.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*. A record of a juvenile at the Santa Clara R. estuary, VEN, 18 Jan 1991 (1991-168A) was tabled after receiving a 2–8 vote on its first circulation (see Rottenborn and Morlan 2000). The Committee reconsidered it in order to judge whether it was acceptable on the basis of the CBRC's latest understanding of this species' identification and taxonomy. Supported by two photographs, the record received three and one "accept" votes, respectively, on its first and second circulations following resubmittal. Committee members were split on the question of whether it belonged to the Iceland/Thayer's (*L. thayeri*) Gull complex. Some felt it more closely resembled a hybrid Glaucous × Herring Gull (*L. hyperboreus* × *L. argentatus*). Most agreed, however, that the bird could not be identified with certainty without written details or photos addressing the spread wing and tail patterns. Hybrids can closely resemble Iceland and Thayer's gulls in both plumage and structural features, and only small-billed, round-headed female Iceland/Thayer's are likely to avoid this controversy. Howell and Corben (2000a) discussed this problem in greater detail.

SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus schistisagus*. A gull apparently near the end of its fourth prebasic molt at Salton City, IMP, 21 Feb–7 Mar 1998 (1998-050; Figure 8) barely failed to gain acceptance on the fourth and final round. This record was supported by a series of photographs and written descriptions from a number of experienced observers, including several CBRC members. Although most of the features evident on the bird were within the range of variation of this species, a few points did not fit the CBRC's expectations of a "classic" Slaty-backed Gull, and two members felt that the addition of this species to the state list should not be based on such a bird. Asian experts reported that most Slaty-backed Gulls have completed their primary molt by December, but supporters of the record pointed out that some gull species can delay their molt considerably in unusual circumstances (cf. Howell and Corben 2000b). Several later-molting Asian taxa, especially *L. fuscus heuglini*, caused concern, especially with regard to the limited knowledge of the extent of hybridization involving these forms. This bird's leg color, somewhat paler than the dark pink normally associated with this species, and the width of the white trailing edge of the wings, which was variously regarded as supportive or damaging, were further considerations that left two members believing that the bird was best left unidentified. Goetz et al. (1986), Gustafson and Peterjohn (1996), King and Carey (1999), and various other authors have described and debated variation in this species.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*. A report from Los Angeles, LA, 21–23 Jun 2000 (2000-106) was supported by brief written details. The CBRC felt that a hybrid Sandwich × Elegant (*S. elegans*) Tern was not eliminated. Indeed, an apparent hybrid was present nearby on 26 Jun 2000 (*N. Am. Birds* 54:423). Collins (1997) described apparent hybridization between these two species in California.

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

BRIDLED TERN *Sterna anaethetus*. A report from three observers at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 12 Jun 1993 (1993-144A) was formerly not accepted as the state's first Bridled Tern (Erickson and Terrill 1996). It was resubmitted after the acceptance of a Bridled Tern from the same location in 1998 (Erickson and Hamilton 2001). In two further circulations, the Committee continued to express concern over the elimination of the Gray-backed Tern (*S. lunata*), a species of the tropical Pacific that breeds as close as the Hawaiian Islands. Gray-backed Terns are normally clear gray on the back and upperwings, with contrastingly darker primaries and secondaries. McKee examined heavily worn Gray-backed Terns at Midway Atoll at the beginning of their prebasic molt in August and found that a slightly darker, brownish cast developed on the outer secondary coverts, but the inner coverts and back remained medium gray, readily distinguishable from the dark brown of the Bridled. In addition, Gray-backed Terns maintained a distinct contrast between gray tertials and blackish primaries, which is less obvious in the Bridled. Although the written descriptions of this individual better fit the Bridled, most CBRC members felt that the views of the bird were insufficient to establish a record of this significance. Harsh lighting can easily complicate judgment of gray and brown shades, particularly on distant birds. Various authors' descriptions of the back and wing color of the Gray-backed vary widely (cf. Mostello et al. 2000), underscoring the subjectivity of this assessment, even on museum specimens.

LONG-BILLED MURRELET *Brachyramphus perdix*. Reports of one in basic plumage just off Pt. St. George, DN, 14 Jul 2000 (2000-100) and one largely in alternate plumage 2 km. off L. Earl, DN, 5 Aug 2000 (2000-112) were accompanied by brief descriptions from a highly experienced murrelet surveyor. Although most of the important features used to distinguish this species from the Marbled Murrelet (*B. marmoratus*) were depicted, the majority of the CBRC felt that more extensive details were necessary for acceptance. All three accepted records of alternate-plumaged birds thus far have been of specimens from Mono L. in late summer (Rogers and Jaramillo 2002). Lethaby (2000) discussed the identification of birds in this plumage. Our four accepted records of birds in basic plumage have been along the coast between 29 Jul and 27 Dec (Rottenborn and Morlan 2000, Erickson and Hamilton 2001). The surprising resemblance of juvenile Pigeon Guillemots (*Cepphus columba*) to basic-plumaged Long-billed Murrelets complicates the identification of these birds. Relative size is difficult to judge on lone birds at sea and, indeed, experienced observers have confused these two species. Juvenile guillemots may not have fully developed bills by the time they are encountered at sea, and they show white mottling in the mantle. Care must be exercised to distinguish these features from the very thin bill and crisper, more solid white scapular lines of the Long-billed Murrelet.

KITTLITZ'S MURRELET *Brachyramphus brevirostris*. The identification of a bird near the north jetty of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 5 Sep 2000 (2000-119) rested on the apparently small bill, compared to the Marbled Murrelet. The CBRC considered this insufficient to establish such a rare occurrence.

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti*. The wing linings of a female reported at Ramer L., IMP, 5 Feb 2000 (2000-072) were described as chestnut, precluding the Ruddy Ground-Dove.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. There was no Committee support for a record of a bird heard only at Scotty's Castle, Death Valley N.P., INY, 26 May 2000 (2000-091).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris*. Most members believed that one reported at Wilder Ranch S.P., SCZ, 14 Oct 2000 (2000-134) may have been correctly identified, but only two members voted to accept. Several members considered the observation too brief.

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus*. In the Committee's opinion, one reported from Pt. Loma, SD, 23 Sep 2000 (2001-005) was not seen well enough to confirm the identification.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons*. One reported at Rancho Cucamonga, SBE, 2 Nov 2000 (2000-143) was described briefly and received only two accept votes.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius*. One reported at Eureka, HUM, 3 Nov 1999 (1999-215) was seen rather briefly and described incompletely, but it enjoyed majority acceptance on its first two circulations before receiving a final tally of 4-6.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus*. One reported at Yucca Valley, SBE, 23 Sep 2000 (2001-006) was incompletely described.

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae*. One was reported at San Marcos, SD, 8 Oct 2000 (2001-007). What was apparently the same bird was later identified by others as a Blackburnian Warbler (*D. fusca*).

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus*. Records from Southeast Farallon I., SF, 21 Sep 1973 (1973-084A) and Briceland, HUM, 25 Sep 1985 (1987-218A) were accepted previously by the Committee (Winter and McCaskie 1975 and Pyle and McCaskie 1992, respectively). Upon reconsideration, both received the required majority of votes to overturn the records on their second circulations. Most members allowed that these birds may have been correctly identified, but early seasonal records are reviewed with special caution; there are now no CBRC-accepted records for September.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorus*. The "reddish" breast described on a bird reported at the Cosumnes R. Preserve, SAC, 14 Oct 2000 (2000-128) was more than most Committee members could reconcile.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH *Seiurus motacilla*. One reported near Blythe, RIV, 23 Sep 2000 (2001-168) received a single accept vote.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis*. One reported at Goleta, SBA, 8 Oct 1999 (2000-028) generated lively debate and received four accept votes on each of two circulations through the Committee. The bird was not seen walking on the ground in the manner typical of this species.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia*. Reports from Pt. Reyes, MRN, 18 Sep 1999 (1999-153) and White Slough W.M.A., Lodi, SJ, 28 May 2000 (2000-093) received split votes on their first circulations but lost support thereafter. The Lodi bird was especially interesting. It was a male with weak eye crescents, pale lores, a black breast patch, and a song considered unlike MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*). Several members wondered about the possibility of hybridization with MacGillivray's, variously regarded as unproven (Dunn and Garrett 1997, Garrett in comments) or occurring rarely (Cox 1973, Hall 1979, Patten in comments).

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea*. One reported from Sacramento, SAC, 8 Jan 2000 (2000-078) received a unanimous decision; there are no accepted winter records for California.

BAIRD'S SPARROW *Ammodramus bairdii*. Most CBRC members considered one reported from Pt. Reyes, MRN, 12-13 Jan 2000 (2000-048) likely to have been a Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula*. Parkes (1999) criticized the CBRC's use of head color in not accepting one reported NW of Bishop, INY, 29 Sep 1993 (1993-186A; Garrett and Singer 1998), so the record was reconsidered. The record

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

failed to gain acceptance in two more circulations, on the basis of other inadequacies. Another bird reported from Los Banos, MER, 22 Oct 2000 (2000-135) was incompletely described.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE (IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED)

PINK-BACKED PELICAN *Pelecanus rufescens*. An adult shocked observers as it associated with Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 22-24 Oct 2000 (JTi; IS†, RDB†; 2001-019; Figure 9). Most CBRC members felt that this species was highly unlikely to reach North America on its own, and commentary from outside experts supported captive origin. Small numbers of Pink-backed Pelicans are kept in captivity in the U.S., but captive waterbirds can be difficult to track, as they are not always banded or registered. The limited movements of this African species, and its questionable ability to cross a major ocean, weighed heavily against its natural occurrence. Members were intrigued, however, that the bird flew at least 32 km between the mainland and the island, and that it was in alternate plumage, suggesting that it had recently been in the Southern Hemisphere and perhaps supporting a recent migration of even longer distance.

DARTER *Anhinga melanogaster*. A female at Finney L., IMP, 17 Nov 1999 (LWC; 1999-210) and one at adjacent Ramer L., IMP, 19 Jun-13 Jul 2000 (SO, GMcC, KZK†; 1999-210; Figure 10) were considered the same individual, after creating considerable confusion. This bird was initially circulated as an Anhinga (*A. anhinga*), receiving considerable support as such. The bird was later refound and identified as the African subspecies of the Darter, *A. m. rufa*, sometimes considered a species separate from the Darters of Australia and Asia (AOU 1998, Johnsgard 1993). This species is kept in southern California zoos and should be considered carefully in the identification of apparent Anhingas (cf. McCaskie and San Miguel 1999). The CBRC felt that this species is an unlikely candidate for natural occurrence in California. Subsequent reports of Darters have come from San Diego County (P. Untit pers. comm.) and Ensenada, Baja California (*N. Am. Birds* 56:111).

BLUE MOCKINGBIRD *Melanotis caerulescens*. An adult in Long Beach, LA, 5 Dec 1999-25 Mar 2000 (KSG, RAH; LWA, JWB, JLD, RF, KLG†, KCK, CAM, GMcC, JM, MP†, WJP, MMR†, MSM†, MMT, JW†; 1999-208; Figure 11) was seen by many observers and generated considerable debate. Most members believed it possible for this species to reach California naturally, but the record received only one accept vote in each of two circulations. Location, age, and the presence of a short white tenth primary (possibly suggesting a response to stress from prior captivity) all weighed against the record. The Blue Mockingbird is an endemic resident in Mexico with extralimital records for Arizona (AOU 1998). The origin of a long-staying individual in Texas has been controversial (*N. Am. Birds* 53:302, 56:73). On the basis of the Long Beach record, the Blue Mockingbird was added to the Supplemental List of California birds at the CBRC's January 2002 meeting.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris*. Adult males were at Borrego Springs, SD, 31 Jul-1 Aug 1998 (LLJ†; 1998-182), Camarillo, VEN, 22-23 Oct 2000 (GS; CS†, WW; 2000-136), and Costa Mesa, ORA, 17-27 Nov 2000 (PO; 2000-150). A female was in Long Beach, LA, 13 Feb-22 Mar 2000 (LWC, KLG, KSG, GEP, MSM†, RSO; 2000-061). Only the Borrego Springs record had substantial support. It received the minimal vote for non-acceptance of 7-3 on its fourth and final circulation.



Figure 4. California's second Adler Flycatcher, *Empidonax alnorum*, on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, 27 August, 1988. See text for a discussion of characters used to distinguish this individual from the similar Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*).

Photo by Peter Pyle



Figure 5. California's first Nutting's Flycatcher, *Myiarchus nuttingi*, in Irvine, Orange County, 23 December, 2000. Rufous in the rectrices was not so evident under most viewing conditions.

Photo by Larry Sansone



Figure 6. Adult male Black-backed Wagtail, *Motacilla lugens*, at Alviso, Santa Clara County, 17 December 2000.

Photo by Michael M. Rogers

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REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report would not have been possible without the 190 observers who submitted reports to the Committee. Geoff Carey, David Fisher and the Seychelles Bird Records Committee, Jon R. King, Douglas J. Long, Peter Milburn, Tony Palliser, Bruce Peterjohn, Lindsay E. Smith, and Philip Unitt provided helpful commentary on some of the records in this report. Committee members Cole, Dunn, Garrett, Hamilton, McCaskie, Morlan, Patten, Pyle, Rogers, and San Miguel provided helpful comments on the manuscript. Peg Stevens and Jon C. Fisher continued to archive the Committee's materials at WFVZ. H.T. Harvey and Associates, San Jose, hosted the 2002 meeting. We extend our thanks to all.

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Figure 7. Immature Painted Bunting, *Passerina ciris*, in supplemental/transitory plumage at Galileo Hill Park, Kern County, 1 October 2000. Occurrences of this species in the West have increased, and a record nine individuals were accepted in California in 2000.

Photo by Larry Sansone

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Figure 8. Possible Slaty-backed Gull, *Larus schistisagus*, at Salton City, Imperial County, February 1998. The outermost primaries are still growing in, several months later than expected for the Slaty-backed and most other Northern Hemisphere gulls. This and other unusual features caused the bird's identification to be left unresolved.

Photos by Matthew T. Heindel



Figure 9. Pink-backed Pelican, *Pelecanus rufescens*, at Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco County, 23 October 2000. This bird's natural occurrence was considered questionable, but it is remarkable that even a presumed escaped bird made it to this remote locale.

Photo by Ivan Samuels

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Figure 10. Female Darter, *Anhinga melanogaster*, at Ramer Lake, Imperial County, 13 July 2000. Presumed to be escaped from captivity, Darters have appeared at several locations in southern California and adjacent Baja California and may cause confusion with the Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*. Note the chestnut cap and nape, pale line leading back from the eye, and whitish throat merging into the rufous breast.

Photo by Kenneth Z. Kurland

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Figure 11. Adult Blue Mockingbird, *Melanotis caerulescens*, in Long Beach, Los Angeles County, 31 January 2000. The species was placed on the Supplement List because this individual was considered a possible escape from captivity. Note the aberrant tenth primary.

Photo by Kimball L. Garrett

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2000 RECORDS

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Accepted 16 July 2002

