

## THE 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2010 RECORDS

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**ABSTRACT:** The California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 244 individuals of 79 species and two species pairs documented since the 35<sup>th</sup> report (Pyle et al. 2011a), endorsing 170 of them. The Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*) was added to the California state list, bringing the total accepted to 644 species, 10 of which are non-native. Notable records of the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*), Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*), and Great-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*) are detailed in this report. At its 2012 annual meeting, the committee removed the Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) and Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) from its review list.

This 36<sup>th</sup> report of the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or the committee), a formal standing committee of Western Field Ornithologists, summarizes decisions on 207 records of 79 species and two species pairs involving 244 individuals. We accepted 156 of the 207 records, involving 170 individuals of 68 species and two species pairs, for an acceptance rate of 75%. We consider 18 records to represent returning or continuing birds. Forty-seven reports of 28 species were not accepted because the identification was not substantiated, and four reports of three species were not accepted because the natural occurrence was not substantiated. Reports of multiple individuals together are given the same record number for purposes of review; the committee reports the total number of accepted individuals, which may be greater than the number of accepted records. Although the majority of the records in this report pertain to birds documented in 2010, the period covered spans the years 1974 through 2011.

Highlights of this report include the first acceptance to the California state list of the recently split Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*), the second state record of the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*), the third state records of the Great-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*) and Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*), notable records of the Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tethys*), Elf Owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*), and Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*), and the first record of breeding of the White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). The committee has recently accepted first California records of the Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) and Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), the details of which will be published in the next CBRC report. In addition, the committee is currently reviewing potential first state records of the Taiga/Tundra Bean-Goose (*Anser fabalis/serrirostris*) and Common Crane (*Grus grus*).

Species account headings are organized with English and scientific names first, followed in parentheses by the total number of accepted state records

(number of individuals) and the number of new records accepted in this report. Following the heading are accounts for records accepted (as applicable), followed by records not accepted—identification not established and records not accepted—natural occurrence questionable (as applicable). An asterisk (\*) preceding the species' name indicates that the species is no longer reviewed by the CBRC. A double asterisk (\*\*) following the number of accepted state records indicates that the species has been reviewed for a restricted time span so the number of accepted records does not represent the total number of records for the state. Date ranges for each record are those accepted by the CBRC, and instances where these differ from those published in *North American Birds* are indicated with italics. A dagger (†) following an observer's initials indicates submission of a photograph, (S) indicates submission of a sketch, (A) indicates submission of an audio recording, (V) indicates submission of a video, and (#) precedes a specimen number. The absence of a symbol following the observer's initials indicates the submission of a sight record alone. Additional details regarding minutiae of formatting and abbreviations may be found in previous CBRC reports, available at [www.californiabirds.org/](http://www.californiabirds.org/), and in Hamilton et al. (2007). Also available at the website is the California bird list, the review list, committee news, recent photos of rare birds in California, the CBRC's bylaws, a form for querying the CBRC database, and all annual reports from 1996 through 2009. Age terminology follows that used by Hamilton et al. (2007). In this annual report we revert to the format of Pike and Compton (2010) and previous reports while recognizing that the information in the tabular format of Pyle et al. (2011a) can be accessed online via the update to *Rare Birds of California* (Hamilton et al. 2007) available at [www.californiabirds.org/cbrc\\_book/update.pdf](http://www.californiabirds.org/cbrc_book/update.pdf).

Observers are encouraged to submit documentation for all species on the CBRC's review list, sending it to Guy McCaskie, CBRC secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, CA 91933-0275 (e-mail: [secretary@californiabirds.org](mailto:secretary@californiabirds.org)). Documentation of all CBRC records is archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA 93012, and is available for public review.

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

\*TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (96, 7). Two family groups, including two adults with two first-winter birds and an adult with two first-winter birds, were in the Surprise Valley south of Eagleville, MOD, 31 Dec 2010 (SCR†; 2011-035). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A report of a first-spring swan from Modoc N.W.R., MOD, 19 Mar 2009 (2009-064) went several rounds in the committee, but most members ultimately thought that the description did not adequately rule out a first-spring Tundra Swan (*C. columbianus*). A first-winter swan reported at the intersection of highways 108 and 395, MNO, 15–19 Nov 2010 (2010-152) showed characteristics of a first-winter Tundra Swan. Identification of lone first-year swans is very difficult, and a better study of the head and bill would have been needed for these birds to be confirmed as the Trumpeter. NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE: A first-spring Trumpeter Swan at Auburn Regional Park, PLA, 6–9 Apr 2009 (RPe†; RPot, SR†; EP; 2009-122) was accepted on the first round of voting, but when it returned the following year with another bird 17 Feb–23 Mar 2010

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(RPe†; 2010-014), local birders provided information about a waterfowl breeder who might have released Trumpeters nearby, convincing the committee that these were likely escapees, and both records were rejected on the basis of questionable natural occurrence. The committee reviews records of the Trumpeter Swan through 2011.

ARCTIC LOON *Gavia arctica* (7, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported at Stone Lagoon, HUM, 24 Nov 2010–2 Jan 2011 (2010-186) was not well documented, and some of the original observers retracted their support for the record after submitting it. The photos show a loon with some white on the flanks, but the white is toward the center instead of near the thighs. Nothing else in the description rules out the Pacific Loon (*G. pacifica*). One at Dillon Beach, MRN, 31 Dec 2010–1 Jan 2011 (2010-187) received mild support in the first round but did not pass a second round of voting. The sketches of the bird are suggestive of an Arctic Loon, but again, the white was more prominent on the sides than on the rear flanks. Pacific Loons often show white sides that extend highest in the middle. See Reinking and Howell (1993) and Birch and Lee (1997) for a discussion of the identification of the Arctic and Pacific loons.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (88, 4). The four new accepted records are of one at L. Havasu, SBE, 28 Mar 2002 (TABe†; 2010-133), which was thought to be the same bird as one seen on the Arizona side of the lake 1 Feb–13 Apr 2002 (Rosenberg et al. 2007), one at Castaic Lagoon, LA, 8 Mar–30 Apr 2010 (JA†; AA†, MSanMt, LSa†, WTF†, ABL†; 2010-023; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:498), an adult in breeding plumage flying past Pt. Piedras Blancas, SLO, 8 May 2010 (RiR; 2010-054), and one first-winter individual moving between the Berkeley Pier, the Alameda shoreline, and the Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA/CC, 26 Nov 2010–5 Jan 2011 (BP†, BMa†, LT†, SBT†, AD†, MN, BR; 2010-155). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Reports that lacked sufficient documentation were of two together at O'Neill Forebay, MER, 14 Nov 2008 (2008-199), single birds at Pt. Piedras Blancas, SLO, 21 Apr 2010 (2010-052) and 5 May 2010 (2010-053), and three together at the latter location 22 May 2010 (2010-055). Given the difficulty of identification of distant and flying first-year loons, the committee believes that the extraordinary number of Yellow-billed Loons reported from the latter location over the years requires further documentation, in the form either of multiple-observer sightings or photographs.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* (32\*\*, 1). One in its first fall was photographed 48 km west-southwest of Bodega Head, SON, 20 Nov 2010 (DSS†, TMcG†, GT†; 2010-153). This species continues to be found increasingly in California waters, where it is now annual. The committee reviews records of the Short-tailed Albatross from 1900 onward.

GREAT-WINGED PETREL *Pterodroma macroptera* (3, 1). One was well photographed and observed by many over Cabrillo Canyon, roughly 29 km southwest of Santa Cruz, SCZ, 18 Sep 2010 (DBr†, DSS†, RW, MVe†; 2010-104; color photo on the cover of *W. Birds* 42:1; color photo in *N. Am. Birds* 65:197). This is only the third record for California, and it falls seasonally between the previous two records, 21 Jul–24 Aug 1996 (1996-133, 1997-068, Rottenborn and Morlan 2000) and 18 Oct 1998 (1998-163, Rogers and Jaramillo 2002). Like the other two recorded in California, this bird showed the pale face typical of the subspecies *P. m. gouldi*, which is sometimes elevated to species status (Howell 2012).

HAWAIIAN PETREL *Pterodroma sandwichensis* (13, 1). One 16 km southwest of Ft. Bragg, MEN, 15 Aug 2010 (PP†, SBT†; 2010-087; photos in *N. Am. Birds* 65:157) fit well with the pattern of occurrence established by this species. Twelve of 13 accepted records have fallen between 15 Jul and 6 Sep, with 10 of those in August. This individual showed head and other markings allowing identification to species (see below; Force et al. 2007, Pyle et al. 2011b). Satellite tracking has revealed Hawai-

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ian Petrels tagged on Maui reaching California waters, and the species may in fact be a regular component of California's offshore avifauna (Adams and Flora 2010).

**GALAPAGOS/HAWAIIAN PETREL** *Pterodroma phaeopygia/sandwichensis* (24, 3). Three sightings were accepted as this pair of species difficult to distinguish from each other (see Force et al. 2007). One 289 km southwest of San Clemente I., LA, 4 Apr 2010 (GSM; 2010-037) had some support as a Hawaiian Petrel, but the majority of the committee believed that the details did not conclusively support the species-level identification. One 61 km southwest of Salt Pt. S.P., SON, 30 Apr 2010 (TSHa, RMe; 2010-051) was seen well enough to be acceptable as the species pair. One 101 km southwest of Pt. Sur, MTY, 25 Jul 2010 (PP; 2010-074) better fit the late-summer pattern of occurrence typical of this species pair but was also not seen well enough for species identification. **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** Six reports from experienced observers aboard offshore research vessels were not adequately documented to establish the species pair: one 327 km west of Pt. Saint George, DN, 12 Aug 2008 (2009-016), one 319 km west of Cape Mendocino, HUM, 22 Sep 2008 (2009-017), one 332 km west of Cape Mendocino, HUM, 22 Sep 2008 (2009-018), one 190 km southwest of Pt. Arguello, SBA, 14 Apr 2010 (2010-038), one 218 km west-southwest of Pt. Arguello, SBA, 16 Apr 2010 (2010-039), and one 40 km west of Pt. Arena, MEN, 30 Apr 2010 (2010-071).

**STEJNEGER'S PETREL** *Pterodroma longirostris* (9, 1). One was 148 km southwest of Pt. Conception, SBA, 14 Apr 2010 (GSM; 2010-036). This spring record falls outside of the window of occurrence for the other eight California records, which are about evenly split between July and mid-October to mid-November. **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** The report of one 282 km west-southwest of Punta Gorda, HUM, 21 Oct 2008 (2009-031) was likely correct, but the documentation was not strong enough to support it.

**STREAKED SHEARWATER** *Calonectris leucomelas* (18, 0). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** One reported on Monterey Bay, MTY, 9 Sep 2010 (2010-100) was seen briefly by only a few people aboard an organized pelagic trip, and while the majority of the committee believed that the bird was likely correctly identified, there was not enough detail in the documentation to support the report.

**GREAT SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis* (8, 1). One photographed at Cordell Bank and vicinity, MRN/SON, 26 Apr 2010 (SNGH†; KS; 2010-035; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:493) represents the first spring record for California. The previous seven records are spread widely through the fall and winter.

**WEDGE-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** *Oceanodroma tethys* (8, 1). One was photographed with a large flock of Least (*O. microsoma*) and Black (*O. melania*) storm-petrels southeast of 30-Mile Bank off San Clemente I., LA, 2 Oct 2010 (JSF†, WTH†, PEL, MSa†; 2010-120; Figure 1). Although the bird was not seen well in the field, an excellent series of photographs allowed the committee to assess key field marks, and the record was accepted unanimously. California's only specimen is of the southern breeding subspecies *O. t. kelsalli* (Yadon 1970). This record falls at the tail end of the expected window of occurrence, in early October. The date span for seven of the eight state records is 23 Jul–9 Oct; one winter record—the only one for California and North America—is of a bird found in a backyard in Carmel, MTY, 21 Jan 1969 (1977-123, Yadon 1970).

**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** *Fregata magnificens* (12\*\*, 2). Because of a decrease in records since 2000, the CBRC added this species back to the review list in 2009, after a hiatus of 35 years. A juvenile was photographed being chased by Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) at Sutro Park in San Francisco, SF, 13 Jan 2010 (JMst†; 2010-006; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64-646), and another juvenile was near

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San Clemente and Carlsbad, ORA/SD, 28–29 Jun 2010 (BF†; MJB†, GMcC, MSa†; 2010-063).

MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra* (15, 1). An adult seen at China Pt., San Clemente I., LA, 10 Jul 2010 (RLS S, AEW; 2010-069) was satisfactorily substantiated by a beautiful sketch.

MASKED/NAZCA BOOBY *Sula dactylatra/granti* (10, 2). A one-year-old individual 22 km west-southwest of Pt. Loma, SD, 23 Jul 2010 (MHS†; 2010-077) was just beginning its second prebasic molt yet was not showing characters definitive of either species. A juvenile at Nine-Mile Bank off Pt. Loma, SD, 29 Aug 2010 (BJSt†; 2010-090) was thought to be a different individual.

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii* (112, 2). Two birds found dead at the Salton Sea were photographed but not collected: an adult at Red Hill, IMP, 21 Dec 2009 (OJ†; 2009-242) and a first-winter bird at Obsidian Butte, IMP, 26 Dec 2009 (ES†; 2010-020). These two records followed an influx of at least 15 immature Blue-footed Boobies at the Salton Sea during late summer and fall 2009 (see CBRC records 2009-139, 2009-159, 2009-201, and 2009-211; Pyle et al. 2011a). The committee ultimately accepted the second bird (2010-020) as a new individual while admitting that there was no way to be certain if it was the same as any of the previous 15 individuals from summer/fall 2009.

\*BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (122, 1). A first-winter bird at Estero Bay near Morro Rock, SLO, 20 Dec 1997 (BB; TME; 2010-132) adds to California's long list of records for this species. The identification was not in question, but some committee members thought that the bird could have been the same as the one at San Simeon, SLO, 19 Jan 1998 (1998-054, Erickson and Hamilton 2001). As is often the case with "same bird" issues, a definitive conclusion could not be drawn, and thus this record is treated as representing a new individual. The committee reviews records of Brown Booby through 2007.

RED-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula sula* (18, 0). NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE: One in its first fall landed on a sport-fishing boat in Mexican waters, then rode into San Diego Bay, 29–30 Sep 2008 (JMCD†; DWA†, TABI, DK, JWF†; 2008-126). The identification was not in question, but the committee had a difficult time reaching a consensus on "natural occurrence," given the bird's behavior. The decision was made to reject the record on grounds of questionable natural occurrence, to stay in keeping with the decision made on the state's only report so far of the Nazca Booby (*S. granti*), which also rode a boat from Mexican waters into San Diego Bay (2001-107, Garrett and Wilson 2003).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (25, 7). Numbers of Neotropical Cormorants in California continue to increase, with four new accepted records involving seven birds, all from Imperial County: an adult was at Ramer L., 13 Jun 2010 (KLG†; 2010-057), a two-year-old was at Ramer L., 10 Jul 2010 (DAB†; 2010-067), up to four adults were at Fig Lagoon near Seeley, 23 Sep–12 Dec 2010 (GMcC; MJM†, EGK†, MSa†, RBMcN†, JM†; 2010-108), and one adult was at the north end of Lack Rd., Salton Sea, 5 Nov 2010 (GMcC; 2010-139). Four together (2010-108) represents a new state high count: one 23 Sep was joined by another 20 Nov, then two more on 28 Nov.

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (58\*\*, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, 14–15 May 2010 (2010-064) was likely correct but lacked the details necessary for verification. The Tricolored Heron was added to the California review list in 1990.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (51, 5). One in its

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second winter was at Goleta, SBA, 29 Jan–19 Mar 2010 (WTF†; DiR†, DMC†, DVP†, OJ†; 2010-008). Two adults were in the San Diego R. flood-control channel, SD, 15 May–8 Aug 2010 (RC†, GMcC, DMr†, TAB†, LP†, JP†, BeM†, PEL; 2010-041). These two adults were considered to be the same birds as those present at the same location off and on since 27 Apr 2006 (2006-056, 2007-166, 2008-092, and 2009-085; Pyle et al. 2011a) and an adult first present at this location 10 May–30 Jul 2009 (2009-085; Pyle et al. 2011a). One in its second spring at the San Diego R. flood-control channel, 15 May–12 Jul 2010 (GMcC, DMr†, JP†, PEL; 2010-042) was considered to be the same as a one-year-old seen there 9 Jul–20 Aug 2009 (2009-112; Pyle et al. 2011a). Three juveniles were in a nest at the Imperial Beach Sports Park, Imperial Beach, SD, 14 Aug 2010 (GMcC; MSa†; 2010-086), and a juvenile was at Encinitas, SD, 5 Oct 2010 (SBr†; 2010-116). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of an adult at the north end of Poe Road, IMP, 19 Nov 2010 (2010-151) was likely correct but lacked the necessary documentation, especially for this unusual inland location. A juvenile night-heron at Malibu Lagoon, LA, 4 Aug–31 Oct 2010 (CY†; TMcG†, CA†, HK†, KLG, DTi†; 2010-082; Figure 2) was endorsed as a hybrid Yellow-crowned × Black-crowned (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), an intergeneric hybrid recorded previously in southern California. A mixed-species pair has been successfully producing young in San Diego since 2007 (Platter-Rieger et al. 2008), and another attempted breeding unsuccessfully at La Jolla, SD, in 1989 and 1992 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992, Heindel and Patten 1996). A hybrid was collected in Arizona in 1951 (Monson and Phillips 1981).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (25, 2). Adults were photographed at Sierra Valley, PLU, 10 Jun 2010 (RoL†; 2010-060) and at Yolo Basin Wildlife Area near Davis, YOL, 25 Jul 2010 (RFo†; 2010-119). Reports of non-adult Glossy Ibis continue to confound the committee, as does the issue of hybrids between the common White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) and the vagrant Glossy Ibis. All reports of non-adult Glossy Ibis in California should be supported by extensive photos and written details to allow accurate identification to age and species. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: An adult reported at the intersection of Brewer and Kempton roads, SUT, 2 Sep 2008 (2009-041) was problematic. There was no written documentation, and the bird's age was not clear from the photos provided, making it difficult to identify conclusively. While it was perhaps a Glossy, more detail was required for committee support. A report of a one-year-old at Mill Cr. in Chino, SBE, 23–24 Jul 2010 (2010-076) was also a complicated record to assess. Because of an apparent reddish cast to bird's eyes, a majority of the committee believed that a hybrid could not be ruled out.

BLACK VULTURE *Coragyps atratus* (4, 1). On the basis of details of molt sequence and facial-skin patterns, the committee concluded that four separate records represented the same wandering adult. It was first seen in Goleta, SBA, 10–13 Sep 2009 (HPR†; BKS†, DWA†, CAM†, DMC, MVi†, JLD, MSanM; 2009-156), then at Santa Paula, VEN, 29 Nov–4 Dec 2009 (DP†, DVP†, TABe†, CAM†; 2009-221) and at L. Casitas and Ojai, VEN, 4 Jan–22 Feb 2010 (JVH†; KEK†, MMe, EL†, DAB; 2010-016) before returning to the area where it was first seen in 2009 in Goleta, SBA, 18 Jul–6 Nov 2010 (NAL†; DMC, RFi, OJ, GMcC, MSa†; 2010-073; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:647). This individual represents the first record for both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* (53, 3). Always a difficult species to assess on the basis of natural occurrence and numbers of individuals, and in this report we add three new records. An adult at Aguanga and Warner Springs, RIV/SD, 30 Jun–23 Nov 2008 (FB†, CSw†, SQ†, EE†, JCH†; 2008-085) was thought to be the same bird as that at Dripping Springs Campground and Oak Grove, RIV/SD, 20 Sep 2006–14 Feb 2007 (2007-044, Heindel and Garrett 2008) and again at Warner Springs, SD, 15–19 Feb 2010 (MMar, SRS†; 2010-013). Additional adults were at Brawley, IMP,

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3–18 Jan 2010 (BoM†, PEL; 2010-002), at Yucca Valley, SBE, 2 Apr 2010 (DBr; 2010-029), and at Borrego Springs, SD, 6–17 Oct 2010 (SBI, PDJ, BJS†, JN†, LMD†, EGK†, TRS†; 2010-124). NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE: An adult at El Casco Substation, Beaumont, RIV, 11–13 Nov 2010 (LJ†; 2010-146) was thought to be an escapee because it was very approachable.

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway* (11, 0). The committee concluded that three records from 2008 represented the same wandering second-winter individual, at Pogonip, SCZ, 27 Feb 2008 (JH†; 2011-187), at Coyote Valley near Morgan Hill, SCL, 7 Mar 2008 (RPh†; 2008-041), and at Santa Barbara, SBA, 21 Mar 2008 (JDa; 2008-080). And that these three records also represented the same individual observed in its first winter at Hansen Dam, LA, 29 Jan–1 Feb 2007 and four more times in Santa Barbara, Monterey, and San Mateo counties through Jul 2008 (Pike and Compton 2010, Pyle and Sullivan 2010, Pyle et al. 2011a, Nelson and Pyle in press). On the basis of the bird's age, molt, flight-feather condition, and pattern of migration the committee has recently reviewed and revised the number of records by uniting multiple previous records as, instead, multiple records of recognizable individuals. This reassessment lowers the total number of Crested Caracaras in California from 32 to 11 through Oct 2011. For example, age, regional clustering, and behavior patterns typical of other individuals in California imply that the first caracara accepted for California, in Mono County during fall 1987, at the time in its second plumage cycle, was the same as the one in its third cycle in Siskiyou County the following fall and winter, after which it moved north into Del Norte County and southern Oregon. The same criteria, plus lack of overlapping dates, similar patterns of migration, fidelity to certain locations, molt, and flight-feather condition were consistent with one first observed in Santa Barbara in Oct 2001 in its first cycle, observed 11 more times along the central coast (Santa Barbara to San Mateo counties) in its second cycle and 20 more times in definitive basic plumage as it traveled up and down the coast from central to California to Oregon and back before settling in Del Norte county from 2008 to 2012. This analysis not only presents a conservative view of the number of Crested Caracaras to have reached California but also greatly clarifies this species' movement patterns in the state and in western North America (Nelson and Pyle in press).

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus* (11, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported at Tule L. N.W.R., SIS, 19 Feb 2010 (2010-017) was at a reasonable location for the species in California, and several committee members thought that the identification was likely correct, but the brevity of the observation and the lack of supporting details caused the committee to withhold support.

PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyrio martinica* (5, 2). A juvenile was at the San Gabriel R. in Pico Rivera, LA, 2–13 Sep 2010 (NV†; 2010-096), and one in its second fall was at the San Gabriel R. at Peck Road, between Pico Rivera and South El Monte, LA, 21 Sep–8 Oct 2010 (NV†; JSF†, CAM†, MMe†, RaR†, LJL†, GMcC, SBT†, DVP†; 2010-106; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 65:162). It is remarkable that two birds were found at nearly the same location and by the same observer, given this species' rarity in California. It underscores how secretive rallids can be during migration and how little we know about their vagrancy.

\*AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* (52, 1). One was on the east side of Goose L., MOD, 27 Sep 2008 (SCR†; 2009-043). This record went three rounds, poor photos and bad lighting of a distant bird causing concern, but finally was accepted unanimously. The committee reviews records of the American Golden-Plover from 2004 to 2009.

WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia* (16, 3). Occurrences of Wilson's Plover seem to be on the rise in California. The three accepted records are of one at the Santa Margarita R. mouth, SD, 2 Apr 2010 (JJF; 2010-030), one in partial alternate

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plumage, possibly a first-spring male, well photographed at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 12–16 Apr 2010 (LJL†; LS†, MMT†, RHo†; 2010-033; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:498), and an adult in alternate plumage at Border Field S.P., SD, 17 Jun 2010 (MSa†; PEL; 2010-058; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:647). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one at the San Diego R. mouth, SD, 17 Jun 2010 (2010-059) lacked detail sufficient for acceptance.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* (1, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one at the Ventura County Game Preserve, Port Hueneme, VEN, 9 Sep 2010 (2010-102) lacked detail sufficient for acceptance, though several committee members believed that the identification was likely correct. As it would have represented only the second state record, extensive notes—and preferably photos—should support such an observation.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (46, 6). Two adults were at Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base near Lancaster, LA, 15–25 May 2010 (KH-L†, MSanM†, CY†, CAM†, DC†, JSF†, GMcC; 2010-040; color photo on the cover of *W. Birds* 41:3; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:499), a juvenile was at the Tulare Lake Drainage District's North Evaporation and Nevada ponds just northwest of Corcoran, KIN, 22–28 Aug 2010 (MES†; 2010-088), a juvenile was at Ocean Ranch at the Eel R. delta, HUM, 5 Sep 2010 (SEM†; 2010-097), one of unknown age was at Arcata Marsh, HUM, 6 Sep 2010 (DMx; 2010-129), and a juvenile was at Cock Robin I. at the Eel R. estuary, HUM, 6–7 Oct 2010 (SEM†; KMB†; 2010-121).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (38, 2). An adult male was at Camp Surf, Imperial Beach, SD, 3–7 Aug 2010 (TABl†; DWA†, GMcC, MSa†; 2010-081) and a juvenile was on the Morro Bay sandspit, Los Osos, SLO, 28 Aug–5 Sep 2010 (JRY; BED†, MDH†, CAM†, BKS†, KJZ†; 2010-091), falling on the early end of the expected window for juveniles. Both birds were identified as the Alaska-breeding subspecies, *L. l. baueri*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: An alternate-plumaged bird reported at Little R. S.B. near Arcata, HUM, 12 Jul 2009 (2009-167) was ultimately not accepted because of the brevity of the description and concerns that the Marbled Godwit (*L. fedoa*) was not eliminated.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* (14, 1). An adult was at Morro Bay, SLO, 10 Jul 2010 (BB; TME, AS; 2010-066). The written details were acceptable even in the absence of photos. With the proliferation of digital photography, however, California birders should strive to document all reports of stints with photos. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A juvenile reported at L. Talawa, DN, 30 Aug 2007 (2011-005) was determined to be a juvenile Sanderling (*C. alba*).

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* (13, 2). Most unusual, an adult was inland at Owens L., INY, 6 Aug 2010 (JLD†, SLS; 2010-083) at nearly the same location as an adult found the previous year, 29–30 Aug 2009 (2009-142, Pyle et al. 2011a). A well-photographed juvenile was at south San Diego Bay, SD, 31 Aug 2010 (MSa†, RTP; 2010-101; color photo in *N. Am. Birds* 65:200; Figure 3).

LONG-TOED STINT *Calidris subminuta* (1, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of a juvenile at Abbott's Lagoon, MRN, 6 Aug 1996 (2010-099) lacked detail sufficient for acceptance. Although the committee was intrigued, a second record of the Long-toed Stint for California should be supported by extensive documentation, including photos.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (39, 1). A molting adult at Seal Beach N.W.R., ORA, 7 Nov 2010 (MF†, TD†; 2010-138) retained quite a bit of color below for this late date and is the latest adult observed during fall migration in California. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported at the San Diego R. mouth, SD, 17 Jan 2010 (2010-098) showed characteristics consistent with a Dunlin (*C.*

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*alpina*), including a thick bill that was only slightly decurved. The rump pattern was not seen. There are no winter records of the Curlew Sandpiper for California.

**IVORY GULL** *Pagophila eburnea* (2, 1). An adult was at Pismo Beach, SLO, 4–7 Nov 2010 (MSv†, LH†S, CAM†, MJM†, GMcC, SHM†, VM†, BKS†, JMr†, SLS†, MEa†; 2010-136; Figure 4; color photo on the cover of *W. Birds* 42:2; color photos in *N. Am. Birds* 65:200). California's second Ivory Gull was found by a casual birder and reported to a local listserve. The report was pursued, and the bird was found two days later feeding on a sea lion carcass on a beach heavily trafficked by people. Over the next two days, it was enjoyed by hundreds of people and was well photographed and filmed by many observers. The only previous state record is of a juvenile at Doheny S.B., ORA, 5 Jan 1996 (1996-012, Weintraub and San Miguel 1999).

**LITTLE GULL** *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (103, 1). An adult returned to L. Perris, RIV, 1–14 Mar 2010 (HBK, WTF†; 2010-019; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:499) for its second year, presumed to be the same individual there 1–10 Mar 2009 (2009-056). One in its first fall was at the Eel R. delta, HUM, 31 Oct 2010 (CMu†, SEM†; 2010-134).

**BLACK-TAILED GULL** *Larus crassirostris* (3, 1). An adult at Alamitos Bay in Long Beach, LA, 8–21 Nov 2010 (RAH†; KLG, SG†, MJM†, CAM†, GMcC, TMCg†, SJM†, LS†, SLS†, CT†; 2010-140; Figure 5; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 65:163) was enjoyed by many. It was not seen between 11 and 19 Nov. There are just two previously accepted California records, of an adult female at the north end of San Diego Bay, SD, 26–28 Nov 1954 (1977-143; UMMZ #136176; Monroe 1955, Heindel and Patten 1996) and an adult at Half Moon Bay, SM, 29 Dec 2008 (2009-003, Pike and Compton 2010). This species is being found increasingly as a vagrant throughout North America. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Two reports of adults were not adequately documented: one at L. Merced, SF, 6 Apr 2010 (2010-031) lacked details that would have ruled out the more likely California (*L. californicus*) or Western (*L. occidentalis*) gulls, and one at the Elk Cr. mouth, Crescent City, DN, 20 Oct 2009 (2011-006) had features inconsistent with adult Black-tailed Gull, particularly an irregular and narrow tail band more typical of an immature California Gull.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus* (79, 12). With 15 accepted records involving 12 new individuals in this report, it is clear that the Lesser Black-backed Gull is a regular part of today's California avifauna. The newly accepted records are of a second-winter bird at the Whitewater R. mouth, Salton Sea, RIV, 3 Dec 2008 (CAM†; MSanM; 2008-208), an adult at Salton City, IMP, 13 Oct 2009 (BSH†; 2009-203), a third-winter bird at the Point Mugu Naval Air Station, VEN, 3 Jan 2010 (MSanM; 2010-004), providing a first county record, a second-winter bird at the Davis landfill/sewage-treatment facility, YOL, 16 Jan 2010 (ToE†; 2010-005), an adult at Red Hill, Salton Sea, IMP, 13 Feb 2010 (GMcC; KH-L; 2010-011), an adult at Mystic L., RIV, 24–27 Mar 2010 (CMcG†; 2010-027), a first-summer bird at 84<sup>th</sup> Street at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 31 Jul 2010 (CAM†; CMcG†; 2010-075), a juvenile at Topaz L., MNO, 30 Oct 2010 (KNN; 2010-147), a third-winter bird at Mecca Beach, Salton Sea, RIV, 9 Nov 2010 (CMcG†; 2010-143), a second-winter bird near Obsidian Butte, Salton Sea, IMP, 30 Nov 2010 (GMcC; 2010-160), a third-winter bird near Obsidian Butte, Salton Sea, IMP, 13 Dec 2010 (GMcC; MSA†; 2010-170), and an adult at a chicken farm 14 km northwest of San Jacinto, RIV, 28 Dec 2010–26 Mar 2011 (CMcG†; CAM†; 2010-188). The committee concluded that three additional individuals at the Salton Sea represented returning birds: an adult at Mecca Beach, RIV, 10–28 Feb 2010 (DW†; WTF†, CMcG†; 2010-015) was thought to be the same as the one there 18 Jan–15 Feb 2009 (2009-013; Pyle et al. 2011a), an adult at Red Hill, IMP, 23 Sep 2010–1 Jan 2011 (GMcC; SBr†, TME†, JG; 2010-109) was thought to be the same as the one there 8 Oct 2009–13 Feb 2010 (2009-176; Pyle et al. 2011a), and an adult at Obsidian Butte, IMP, 6 Oct 2010 (GMcC; 2010-117)



Figure 1. Birders on an organized pelagic trip off San Clemente I., Los Angeles Co., 2 Oct 2010, noticed this small storm-petrel with a white rump amid a massive flock of Least (*Oceanodroma microsoma*) and Black (*O. melania*) storm-petrels. Although the bird was not seen well in the field, subsequent review of photos showed the very extensive white rump patch extending only slightly onto the undertail coverts and the shallow tail fork diagnostic of the Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel (*O. tethys*).

Photos by Matt Sadowski

was thought to be the same bird as the one there 28 Nov 2009–15 Feb 2010 (2009-220; Pyle et al. 2011a). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one at the intersection of Keystone and Dogwood roads 7 km south of Brawley, IMP, 6 Jan 2010 (2010-003) lacked details sufficient to rule out other similar species. One reported at Torrance Beach, LA, 27 Dec 2009 (2010-154) was possibly correctly identified, but the report lacked sufficient detail.

SOOTY TERN *Onychoprion fuscatus* (12, 0). An adult returned to Bolsa Chica, ORA, 4 Apr–18 Jul 2010 (BED, SSo†, BLC, JN†, CAM, GMcC, MSa†, BJS†, LPT†, OJ; 2010-062), the same bird having been present 28 Jul–30 Aug 2009 (2009-154, Pyle et al. 2011a).

THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia* (50, 1). An adult was photographed 7–15 km west of Noyo Harbor, MEN, 16 May 2010 (ToE†; KAH, RHu†, RJK†, JCS†; 2010-043; Figure 6).

LONG-BILLED MURRELET *Brachyramphus perdix* (28, 2). An adult was 1 km off the Eel R. mouth, HUM, 31 Jul 2009 (EAE†, MMo†; 2009-123), and one was off Houda Pt. near Westhaven, HUM, 31 Aug 2009 (SC, TK; 2009-151).

PARAKEET AUKLET *Aethia psittacula* (86, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Sixteen reported well offshore of SCZ/SM/SF/SON/MEN 30 Apr 2010



Figure 2. Although this juvenile night-heron photographed at Malibu Lagoon, Los Angeles Co., on 31 Oct 2010 (2010-082) was submitted as a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), the committee decided that it more likely represented a hybrid with Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). The extensive yellow-green on the lower mandible and large whitish spots on the tips of the wing coverts and scapulars suggest the Black-crowned, whereas other characters such as the long legs (not particularly noticeable in this photo), bill structure, and overall coloration suggest the Yellow-crowned.

Photo by Todd McGrath

(2010-072) were likely correctly identified, as the observer was experienced with the species, but none was documented well enough to establish an acceptable record. Five adults reported flying past Pt. Piedras Blancas, SLO, 8 May 2010 (2010-056) were not documented well enough to support such an unprecedented record of this species from shore.

ELF OWL *Microthene whitneyi* (3\*\*, 3). Two adults found nesting in a palm snag at an oasis in eastern RIV, 14 Apr–6 Aug 2010 (BES†; BED†, CAM§, TABe†, CMcG†, JCS†, ToE†, FO†, DAB†; 2010-050) were seen feeding at least one young on 19 Jun. Since the Elf Owl was first recorded in California, on 17 May 1903 on the Colorado River at Imperial Dam (Brown 1904), small numbers have been recorded breeding at scattered sites along the Colorado River and at nearby desert oases. The original population in California was undoubtedly very small, and surveys in 1978, 1979, and 1987 found fewer than 20 pairs along the Colorado River and at desert oases combined (Cardiff 1978, 1980, Halterman et al. 1989). Some of the birds located in 1987 might have been on the Arizona side of the river. Subsequent surveys and incidental observations implied that the California population was reduced to only a few pairs along the Colorado River by 2002 (*N. Am. Birds* 51:1054, LCR MSCP 2004, CDFG 2005), while surveys in 2008 and 2009 failed to find any Elf Owls in California (Sabin 2010). In addition to breeding individuals, the Elf Owl may



Figure 3. Identification of juvenile stints is notoriously difficult, but this juvenile Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) was photographed at south San Diego Bay, San Diego Co., 31 Aug 2010 (2010-101) in direct comparison with a juvenile Western Sandpiper (*C. mauri*). The bright rufous edgings on the wing coverts, prominent white “V” on the mantle, and split supercilium are sufficient to eliminate the Red-necked Stint (*C. ruficollis*). Additionally, the long primary projection, numerous plumage differences, and the unwebbed toes (not visible here) distinguish it from the Western and Semipalmated (*C. pusilla*) sandpipers.

Photo by Matt Sadowski



Figure 4. This striking adult Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) was photographed extensively over the course of its four-day stay, 4–7 Nov 2010 (here on the day of its discovery) at Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo Co. (2010-136).

Photo by Mike Stensvold



Figure 5. Adult Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) at Long Beach, Los Angeles Co. (2010-140), 8 Nov 2010, showing the pale eye, red and black bill tip, yellow legs, back slightly darker than that of a California Gull (*L. californicus*), and namesake black tail band diagnostic of the species.

Photo by Larry Sansone

also reach California in migration, as there are two records of fall migrants far from breeding habitat: one photographed near Calipatria, IMP, 21 Sep 1995 (*Field Notes* 50:115), and one turned into a rehabilitation facility on the coastal slope at Whittier Hills, LA, 29 Sep 2001 (*N. Am. Birds* 56:107). Because of habitat degradation along the Colorado River and the paucity of records since 2002, the committee voted in 2010 to add the Elf Owl to the review list and to review all reports from 2010 on.

**EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL** *Antrostomus vociferus* (1, 1). As a result of the split of the Eastern Whip-poor-will and Mexican Whip-poor-will (*A. arizonae*) (Chesser et al. 2010), the committee now reviews all records of the Eastern. A first-fall male photographed in the hand at Pt. Loma, SD, 14 Nov 1970 (JTC, PD†; 2010-079; Craig 1971; Figure 7) represents the first record for California and one of only a handful of records for western North America. A combination of plumage characters and measurements taken at the time (primarily wing chord) helped confirm this bird as the Eastern Whip-poor-will. The identification of the Eastern and Mexican whip-poor-wills is still poorly understood, and although the color and length of the rectal bristles may be important in distinguishing these two species (black in the Eastern and brown-based in the Mexican), more study is needed to determine if these differences provide reliable identification and if they vary by age and/or sex (Craig 1971, Hubbard and Crossin 1974). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** The committee was unwilling to support the identification as the Eastern of whip-poor-wills at Coronado, SD, 25 Dec 1971–25 Mar 1972 (2010-112) and Goleta, SBA, 2 Nov 1982 (2010-113) because of the lack of measurements and calls for both. Both records were endorsed as whip-poor-wills (*sensu lato*).



Figure 6. This alternate-plumaged Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) photographed on 16 May 2010 off Noyo Harbor, Mendocino Co. (2010-043), wore a plumage rarely seen in California. The vast majority of the state's 50 records are for the fall and winter, when the birds are in basic plumage, while only seven previous records are for April-June. Note the very black upperparts, stout bill, and pale tomial strip that distinguish it from the Common Murre (*U. aalge*).

Photo by John Sterling



Figure 7. This Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*) captured and measured at Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., 14 Nov 1970 (2010-079) provided the first record of the species for California.

Photo by Pierre Devillers



Figure 8. This female White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) (2011-064) successfully bred and fledged four young with a male Least Bell's Vireo (*V. bellii pusillus*) near Oceanside, San Diego Co., providing both the first breeding record of the White-eyed Vireo for California and the first known interbreeding of the White-eyed and Bell's Vireos (Blundell and Kus 2011).

Photo by Lisa D. Allen

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD** *Cyananthus latirostris* (78, 2). Adult males were well photographed at Sunnyslope Park in Nestor, SD, 17 Dec 2010–17 Feb 2011 (MBr†, OJ; EGK†, GMcM; 2010-175) and east Ventura, VEN, 27 Dec 2010–29 Jan 2011 (RMcM†; 2011-038). Both were wintering in coastal southern California, where expected.

**MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD** *Eugenes fulgens* (2, 0). **IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** A hummingbird photographed on Rice–Midland Road, just northwest of Blythe, RIV, 1 Mar 2010 (2010-025) was thought by most committee members to be an Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** *Archilochus colubris* (13, 2). An adult female was well photographed in Bolinas, MRN, 9–12 Aug 2010 (KHaf; SNGH†, JCS†, OJ†, AW†, RfI, JMrf; 2010-085), and a first-fall female was captured and banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 29 Aug 2010 (OJ†; MBr†, JRT†; 2010-095).

**GREATER PEWEE** *Contopus pertinax* (41, 2). Singing individuals were at upper Arrastre Cr. in the San Bernardino Mts., SBE, 1–2 Jun 2010 (SR†; TABe†, CAM†; 2010-044; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:648) and at Mission Springs in the San Bernardino Mts., SBE, 27 Jun–5 Jul 2010 (ET†; SR†, TEW; 2010-070). These birds were 14 km apart in similar habitat, but the majority of committee members considered them likely different individuals. The summer dates and montane locations fit nicely with the three most recent state records, although the first 36 state records are for the lowlands between September and April.



Figure 9. The committee ultimately decided that this unidentified *Petrochelidon* swallow photographed at Blythe, Riverside Co., 28 Jul 2009 (2009-121) was not a Cave Swallow (*P. fulva*) but more likely represented the southwestern subspecies of the Cliff Swallow (*P. pyrrhonota melanogaster*). Characters supporting that identification include a dark forehead that is not contrastingly darker than the throat, a nape somewhat paler than the throat, and pale lores. This single photo does not show the rump color, however, and a portion of the head is in shade, obscuring the true color.

*Photo by Roger Higson*

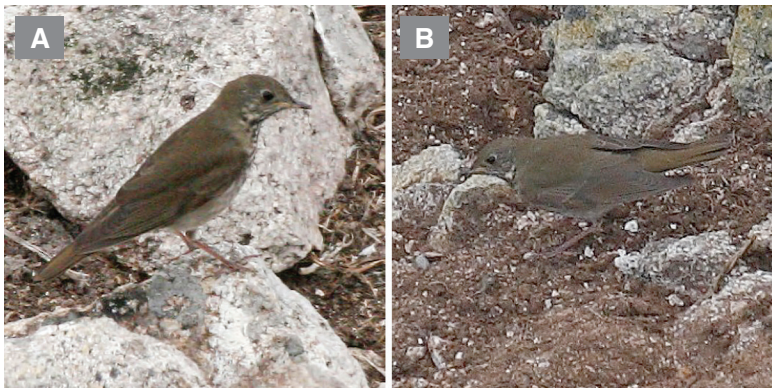


Figure 10. First-fall Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) on Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco Co., 9 Oct 2009 (2009-189). See species account for identification discussion.

*Photos by Ryan Terrill (A) and Matt Brady (B)*



Figure 11. First-fall female Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) captured and banded at the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory near Arcata, Humboldt Co., 3 Oct 2010 (2010-114).

Photo by Leslie Tucci

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris* (23, 1). One in its first fall was banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 8 Oct 2010 (OJ; MBr†, AP†; 2010-178).

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (82, 3). Single individuals were at the Humboldt State University Marine Lab in Trinidad, HUM, 2–4 Dec 2010 (LET†; 2010-165), at the historic “E” Ranch on Pt. Reyes, MRN, 18–21 Dec 2010 (MBr†, OJ S; 2010-183), at Wilder Ranch S.P. in Santa Cruz, SCZ, 18 Dec 2010–20 Feb 2011 (SG†; MWE†, SBT†; 2010-184), and at La Mirada Cr. Park, La Mirada, LA, 15 Dec 2010–6 Apr 2011 (JRy†; 2011-037). The last was returning for its fourth winter (2008-040, 2008-187, and 2009-222; Pyle et al. 2011a). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Most committee members considered the report of one at the Los Angeles National Cemetery, Westwood, LA, 13 Dec 2010 (2010-174) to be likely correct, but sparse documentation led the majority of members to withhold support.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (54, 1). One was at the San Francisco Zoo, SF, 28–31 Oct 2010 (HC†; LP†, SBT†; 2010-150).

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (19, 1). One wintered in Otay Valley in south Chula Vista, SD, 16 Dec 2010–16 Apr 2011 (MBr†, OJ S, GMcC, MSa†, TRS†, TAB†, CAM; 2010-176). Excellent photos showing the narrow and slightly notched outer primaries indicate that it was an adult, probably female.

BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus* (4, 1). One in its first winter at Clam Beach in McKinleyville, HUM, 21 Nov 2010–18 May 2011 (GSL; CAM†, RFo, DWN†, SEM†, CO, KR†, MF†, MMe†, GMcC, MMR†, LS†; 2010-158) provided the first record for Humboldt County. The extensive field notes and photos submitted allowed the committee to determine that it was in formative plumage and of the nominate subspecies. See Pyle et al. (2011a) for a discussion of the subspecific identification of the Brown Shrike in California.

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (69, 2). An adult female along the San Luis Rey R. near San Luis Rey, SD, 12 May–9 Jun 2010 (BEK; LDA†; 2011-064; Figure 8)

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bred with a male Least Bell's Vireo (*V. bellii pusillus*), successfully fledging four hybrid young—the first records of the White-eyed Vireo breeding in California and interbreeding with Bell's Vireo (Blundell and Kus 2011). A singing male in its first summer was at Muir Beach, MRN, 13–27 Jul 2010 (MBr, KHaS, OJ, RFo; 2010-080) and likely oversummered locally.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** *Vireo solitarius* (66, 3). A singing fall migrant at Redwood Park in Eureka, HUM, 26 Oct 2010 (SEM†; RFo; 2010-130) was supported by excellent written documentation, although its appearance varied in different photos. Two individuals wintered at Pt. Loma, SD, with one there 1 Mar 2009 (DWA†; 2009-059) and a first-winter male present 30 Dec 2010–24 Mar 2011 (DLB†, DWA†; EGK†, PEL, MSa, JK, CAM; 2011-001). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported at the mouth of Arroyo Grande Cr., SLO, 2 Oct 1990 (2008-191). One reported at South L. Merced, San Francisco, SF, 19 Sep 2010 (2010-111) was not photographed and viewed only briefly. This species continues to give the committee trouble, as apparent color and contrast may vary even in good photos of the same bird.

**YELLOW-GREEN VIREO** *Vireo flavoviridis* (100, 5). All five records involved fall migrants, which account for all but one of the records from California. Single individuals were noted at Princeton Harbor, Half Moon Bay, SM, 3 Oct 2009 (MBe; DMcK†; 2009-244), Pt. Loma, SD, 26 Sep 2010 (CAM; BJS†; 2010-110), Desert Center, RIV, 2–3 Oct 2010 (CAM; BED†, TAB†; 2010-115), Oceano, SLO, 5 Oct 2010 (MSm†; 2010-118), and in tamarisks along Wolff Road, Oxnard, VEN, 11–19 Oct 2010 (RMcM†; 2010-122).

**CAVE SWALLOW** *Petrochelidon fulva* (5, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Most committee members agreed that a bird at Blythe, RIV, 28 Jul 2009 (2009-121; Figure 9) was not a Cave Swallow but was more likely of the southwestern subspecies of the Cliff Swallow, *P. pyrrhonota melanogaster*, which has yet to be fully documented in California. The single photo available was inconclusive, however, so the committee was unwilling to assign a name to this individual.

**WINTER WREN** *Troglodytes hiemalis* (5, 4). One wintering at Pt. Loma Nazarene University, SD, 3 Nov 2010–6 Mar 2011 (PEL; TbuS, GMcC, JNS, MSa†, GLR, DWA†, CAM, TAB†, TRS†, MBr, TJS; 2010-135; color photo in *N. Am. Birds* 65:200) was supported by numerous photos and recordings of call notes and provided the first record for San Diego County. See Pyle et al. (2011a) for a discussion of the identification of the Pacific (*T. pacificus*) and Winter wrens. In addition to the recent record, the committee endorsed three earlier records, of single individuals at Furnace Cr. Ranch, Death Valley, INY, 8 Nov 1987–7 Feb 1988 (JLD; GMcC, RAE, JCSS; 2010-161), Southeast Farallon I., SF, 22–23 Oct 2002 (KNN†; RDG†S, DLH; 2010-149), and Lundy Canyon near Lee Vining, MNO, 18 Dec 2004 (BaM; 2011-032). All three of these records were the first for their respective counties. The last record was not accompanied by photos or recordings and the plumage was not described beyond Pacific/Winter Wren, but the observer described the diagnostic call in great detail. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported at Goleta, SBA, 2 Jan 2000 (2010-162) was heard by an experienced observer, but the bird was never seen.

**VEERY** *Catharus fuscescens* (14, 2). One singing at Chester, PLU, 20–21 Jun 2010 (DLH; MBr†, ToE††, FH; 2010-061; color photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:666) represents the first record for Plumas County and the second for the Sierra Nevada. The committee also endorsed the identification of one near Arcata, HUM, 3 Nov 2010 (LET; 2010-177), which, despite the lack of photos, was documented with wing measurements that ruled out Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus*) and written details that eliminated all other species of *Catharus*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported from San Clemente I., LA, 21 Oct 2010 (2010-126) was described well but seen only briefly and not photographed.

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GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus* (22, 1). One in its first fall at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 9 Oct 2009 (RST†S; MBr†, KNN, JRT†; 2009-189; Figure 10) provoked much discussion of distinguishing the Gray-cheeked Thrush from Bicknell's Thrush (*C. bicknelli*) and from dark individuals of the Veery (*C. fuscescens*). The photos of the Farallon thrush showed spotting below more extensive and a back browner than would be expected in even the darkest Veeries. The warm brown upper surface of the tail caused some members to consider Bicknell's Thrush, but several marks pointed away from that species and toward the Gray-cheeked, including the large size in comparison to nearby Hermit Thrushes (*C. guttatus*), presumably of the smaller subspecies *guttatus* or *nanus*, the yellowish base to the lower mandible (orangish in Bicknell's Thrush), and the long primary projection. The committee acknowledges that some records of the Gray-cheeked do not adequately eliminate the very similar Bicknell's, which is far less likely in California.

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (22, 1). A singing bird photographed and videotaped at Cottonwood Cr., Tejon Ranch, KER, 22 Jun–2 Jul 2010 (EP, DK††, 2010-068) was found by a team of biologists surveying for Purple Martins (*Progne subis*).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER *Toxostoma curvirostre* (27, 3). Single individuals were at El Centro, IMP, 3 Jan–21 Mar 2010 (KZK†; GMcM, TMcG†; 2010-001; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:322), the Wister Unit of the Imperial Wildlife Area near Niland, IMP, 9 Nov 2010–14 Feb 2011 (PWW†; CAM†, LMD†, GMcC, DVPT†, JMr, LP†, MSa†, MBr†; 2010-144), and Central Park in Huntington Beach, ORA, 14 Nov 2010–21 Feb 2011 (BED†; DAB†, DCa†, CAM, JMr, DSS†; 2010-145). The last was on the coastal slope and the first recorded in Orange County. Additionally, the committee inferred that one along the Colorado R. at Black Meadow Landing, SBE, mid Oct 2010–3 Feb 2011 (SR†, LH†, DVPT†; 2011-003) was the same as one of two at the same location 1 Nov 2009–28 Feb 2010 (2009-205; Pyle et al. 2011a). All were of the westernmost subspecies *T. c. palmeri*.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR *Calcarius pictus* (8, 1). A well-photographed female in its first fall at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 6–8 Nov 2010 (NS†; JRT†; 2010-142) provided a long-awaited first record for this well-birded location and the first record for San Francisco County.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum* (119, 2). Spring migrants were at Salton Sea S.P., RIV, 24 Apr 2010 (DLB†; 2010-034) and Butterbred Springs, KER, 9–10 Jun 2010 (AH; VH; 2010-049).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (73, 1). A male in its first fall at Diaz L. near Lone Pine, INY, 23–24 Oct 2010 (KH-L, JH†; SLS, BED†, CAM†; 2010-127) showed no apparent signs of hybridization with the Blue-winged Warbler (*V. cyanoptera*).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora cyanoptera* (45, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Written details for a bird in southeastern HUM, 17 Aug 2010 (2010-137) were scant and inconsistent with the identification as a Blue-winged Warbler.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (112, 1). One at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 14 Sep 2010 (MBr†; OJ†, JRT†; 2010-128) was at an location and time of year with ample precedent.

MOURNING WARBLER *Geothlypis philadelphia* (140, 1). One in its first fall was banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 12 Sep 2010 (OJ†; 2010-103). Given that the Mourning and McGillivray's (*G. tolmiei*) warblers hybridize in a narrow contact zone in northeastern British Columbia (Irwin et al. 2009) and Alberta (Cox 1973, Hall 1979), care should be taken to distinguish the Mourning Warbler from hybrids. The

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Farallon bird showed thin yellow eye arcs, a yellow throat, long undertail coverts, and measurements that fell within the range of Mourning Warbler. The range of variation of hybrids is still poorly known, however, especially in females and immatures. See Pyle and Henderson (1990) and Dunn and Garrett (1997) for additional information on the identification of the Mourning Warbler.

CERULEAN WARBLER *Setophaga cerulea* (18, 1). A female in its first fall banded at the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory near Arcata, HUM, 3 Oct 2010 (LET; RFo†, KHolt†, VJ†; 2010-114; Figure 11) provided the second record for Humboldt County. This represents only the third California record since 1997, underscoring this species' significant decline across its range (Robbins et al. 1992). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported from Rubidoux, RIV, 21 Aug 2010 (2010-089) was seen briefly, described incompletely, and in atypical habitat. Although Cerulean Warblers start migrating in the East by early August, this date is almost two weeks earlier than the earliest fall migrant recorded in California.

PINE WARBLER *Setophaga pinus* (101, 8). Wintering birds included one at the Santa Barbara Municipal Golf Course in Santa Barbara, SBA, 2 Feb 2009 (MAH; 2009-047), a first-winter female at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, SBA, 25 Nov–31 Dec 2010 (JMC†; ARA†; 2010-180), a first-winter male at Hansen Dam, LA, 27 Nov 2010–11 Apr 2011 (KLG†; TABe†, LP†; 2010-159), one at Bard, IMP, 7 Dec 2010 (GH; 2010-173), a first-winter female at Allen School in Bonita, SD, 11 Dec 2010–23 Jan 2011 (PEL; EGK†, GMcC, MSa†, MBr†; 2010-167), a first-winter male at Evergreen Cemetery in El Centro, IMP, 12 Dec 2010–16 Jan 2011 (MSa†; CAM†, GMcC, KZK†; 2010-172; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 65:340), a male at Heartwell Park in Long Beach, LA, 18 Dec 2010–6 Jan 2011 (RAH†; 2011-040), and a male at the Palos Verdes Country Club, Palos Verdes Estates, LA, 26 Dec 2010 (JEP†; 2011-025). The two records for Imperial County were inland, where unusual.

\*YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Setophaga dominica* (132, 4). The four individuals found in 2010 include a singing first-summer male at Mt. Davidson, SF, 7–10 Jun 2010 (DMo; MWE†, RFi, LS†, AW; 2010-047), one at Butterbredt Springs, KER, 9 Jun 2010 (AH; MSanM†, SLS; 2010-048), one at Los Osos, SLO, 30 Sep 2010 (MS†; 2010-125), and one in its first winter at Lindo L. in Lakeside, SD, 27 Nov–17 Dec 2010 (JF; EGK†, GMcC, CAM†, MMT†, MBr†, LP†; 2010-156). The committee reviews records of the Yellow-throated Warbler through 2011.

GRACE'S WARBLER *Setophaga graciae* (59, 0). Two individuals returned for multiple winters: one at the Bella Vista Open Space in Goleta, SBA, 26 Sep 2010–4 Apr 2011 (DMC†, RMi†, AAb, DTh†; 2010-179) returned for its third consecutive winter (2009-046 and 2009-217, Pyle et al. 2011a), and another at Black Hill in Morro Bay S.P., SLO, 21 Feb 2010 (TME; 2010-021) presumably wintered locally and was considered by the committee to be the same as the one at that location 14 Dec 2007–15 Feb 2008 though not recorded during the intervening winter of 2008–2009 (2008-006, Singer and Terrill 2009).

\*CANADA WARBLER *Cardellina canadensis* (20, 1). A fall migrant in the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 24–25 Oct 1974 (JLD, GMcC; 2010-107) was published (*Am. Birds* 29:124), but documentation had not been submitted to the CBRC until recently. The committee reviews records of the Canada Warbler through 1978.

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Peucaea cassinii* (51, 1). A fall migrant at Orick, HUM, 13–14 Oct 2010 (KI; TK†, SEM†; 2010-123) provided the second record for Humboldt County.

FIELD SPARROW *Spizella pusilla* (8, 0). IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A report of one at Glen Helen Regional Park in Devore, SBE, 27 Oct 2009 (2009-206) received little support because aspects of the description better fit the eastern

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subspecies of the Field Sparrow, *S. p. pusilla*, rather than the more expected western subspecies, *S. p. arenacea*, including uniform pale gray underparts and a bright, unstreaked rufous cap. The bird was not photographed and was not found again despite extensive searching later that day.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii* (34, 1). A wintering bird was at the Imperial Irrigation District's managed marsh near Niland, IMP, 14 Dec 2010–13 Mar 2011 (OJ, PEL, CAM†, GMcC, MSa†, KAR†, EGK†; 2010-171).

PYRRHULOXIA *Cardinalis sinuata* (25, 2). A male at Furnace Cr. Ranch in Death Valley N.P., INY, 27 Sep 2009 (KHop; 2009-245) and a female 7 km southwest of Brawley, IMP, 9 Aug–5 Sep 2010 (GMcC; AAy†, MSa†; 2010-084) provided the first fall records for California. The male (2009-245) was the first Pyrrhuloxia recorded for Inyo County. All previous California records of the Pyrrhuloxia are for the spring, summer, and winter months.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus* (18\*\*, 2). One at Guadalupe, SBA, 7–13 Nov 2010 (WTF†; MBr†, OJ†; 2010-182) and a female at Legg L. just southwest of South El Monte, LA, 11 Dec 2010 (JF†; 2010-168) were likely late fall migrants. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: An adult male blackbird in alternate plumage photographed on Nelson Ave. about 8–10 km west of Oroville, BUT, 28 Aug 2010 (2010-094) received no committee support. Concerns were raised regarding the exceedingly early date, which is a month too early for a migrant even in the Northeast or upper Midwest, the atypical grassland habitat, and the apparent gloss to the head, all of which suggested Brewer's Blackbird (*E. cyanocephalus*). The committee reviews reports of the Rusty Blackbird between 1972 and 1974 and from 2006 onward.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (84, 4). Single individuals at Newberry Springs, SBE, 14–16 Feb 2010 (TABe†; 2010-012) and El Dorado Park in Long Beach, LA, 1 Mar 2010 (JWt†; 2010-032) were likely wintering locally. A fall migrant was at San Pedro, LA, 27 Oct 2010 (DE†; 2010-131), and a clearly wintering bird was at Willowbrook, LA, 9 Dec 2010–15 Mar 2011 (RB†; LP†, KLG†; 2010-169).

BLACK ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte atrata* (15, 1). A male at Aspendell, INY, 7 Mar 2010 (SLS; JLD†, NO†, BSt†; 2010-022; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 64:500) was not seen subsequently, despite substantial effort. This location has accounted for one third of California's records of the Black Rosy-Finch.

## ADDENDUM

At its 2012 annual meeting, the CBRC voted to increase the number of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (record 2009-085) at Famosa Slough and the adjoining San Diego R. channel, SD, 10 May–30 Jul 2009 from 1 to 2—a yellow-legged and a red-legged adult—after the committee reviewed the photographs submitted by Jim Pea as part of the record.

Because no documentation is known for Winter Wrens in the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 3–15 Dec 1990 (*N. Am. Birds* 45:322) and near Niland, IMP, 5–22 Dec 1998 (*N. Am. Birds* 53:210)—both prior to the split of the Winter and Pacific wrens—the committee voted to treat both reports as “not submitted.”

## MISCELLANEOUS

Force et al. (2006) reported that “up to 12 northbound Manx Shearwaters have been seen in spring during a shore-based Gray Whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) population survey off the southern Big Sur coast.” The CBRC has received documentation for only five individuals, with three in May 2001 being the most in any spring. The CBRC reviews records of the Manx Shearwater through 2007.

Sightings for 2009 published in *North American Birds* for which the CBRC has received **no** documentation are of Hawaiian Petrels on Monterey Bay 2 and 12 Aug (*N. Am. Birds* 64:148) and 200 km southwest of the Farallon Is. 2 Aug (*N. Am. Birds* 64:148), American Golden-Plovers at the O’Neill Forebay, MER, 26–27 Sep (*N. Am. Birds* 64:148), Pt. Reyes, MRN, 1 Oct (*N. Am. Birds* 64:148), L. Earl, DN, 6–12 Oct (*N. Am. Birds* 64:148), Shasta Valley Wildlife Area, SIS, 19 Oct (*N. Am. Birds* 64:148), and the Salinas R. mouth, MTY, 2 Oct (*N. Am. Birds* 64:148), three Bar-tailed Godwits in HUM 23 Aug–24 Sep (*N. Am. Birds* 64:149), a White-eyed Vireo at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 16 Sep (*N. Am. Birds* 64:150), and a Yellow-green Vireo in Pacific Grove, MTY, 9 Oct (*N. Am. Birds* 64:150).

Sightings for 2010 published in *North American Birds* for which the CBRC has received **no** documentation include three Trumpeter Swan west of Loma Rica, YUB, 23 Jan (*N. Am. Birds* 64:316), one at Shingleton, SHA, 11 Feb (*N. Am. Birds* 64:316), three near Nelson, BUT, 24 Nov (*N. Am. Birds* 65:156), and eight near Richvale, BUT, 11 Dec (*N. Am. Birds* 65:335), a Gyrfalcon at Red Bluff, TEH, 4 Mar (*N. Am. Birds* 64:494), a Lesser Black-backed Gull at the Davis waste-treatment plant, YOL, 9 Nov (*N. Am. Birds* 65:158), a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Bolinas, MRN, 24 Aug (*N. Am. Birds* 65:159), and a Yellow-green Vireo on Pt. Reyes, MRN, 19 Sep (*N. Am. Birds* 65:159). We welcome submission of documentation for these birds. Until the committee has reviewed and accepted them, we recommend the records not be considered valid.

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