

# WESTERN BIRDS



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## THE 34<sup>TH</sup> REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2008 RECORDS

*This report is dedicated to the memory of former committee members Laurence C. Binford (member 1970–1978, 1980–1985), Luke W. Cole (member 2002–2004), and Mike San Miguel (member 1996–1998, 2002–2004).*

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**ABSTRACT:** The California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 233 records involving 76 species, one species pair, and one hybrid combination evaluated during 2008, endorsing 200 of them. New to California was the Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*), bringing California's bird list to 641 species, ten of which are non-native. A potential first state record of a Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) was not accepted on grounds of questionable natural occurrence, and potential first state records of the Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) and Oriental Greenfinch (*Chloris sinica*) were not accepted on grounds of identification.

This 34<sup>th</sup> report of the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the CBRC or the committee) discusses the evaluation of 233 records of 76 species, one species pair, and one hybrid combination. Although most records pertain to birds found in 2008, the period covered by this report spans the years from 1967 through 2008. The committee accepted 200 of the 233 records involving 209 individuals of 67 species, one species pair, and one hybrid, for an acceptance rate of 86%. Nineteen of the accepted records involved determinations of whether a bird was the same as another reported earlier in the year or in a previous year, and another involved a date extension. Twenty-nine records of 20 species were not accepted because of insufficient documentation or because descriptions were inconsistent with known identification criteria. Four additional records of two species were not accepted because of questions concerning the birds' natural occurrence. Counties best represented by accepted records were San Diego (22 records), Imperial (20), Humboldt (17), Mendocino (17), Los Angeles (14), San Francisco (13, 11 of which were from or near Southeast Farallon I.),

Monterey (13), Orange (11), Santa Barbara (10), San Bernardino (9), Kern (8), Riverside (7), Inyo (7), Ventura (7), San Luis Obispo (6), and San Mateo (6). In addition to the Bluethroat, highlights of this report include California's second Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*), third Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*), fourth Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*), fourth hybrid Blue-winged × Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera* × *V. chrysoptera*), and first record of a returning Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*). In addition, species recorded in unusually high numbers in 2008 included the Mottled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) with 20, the Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) with 14, the Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) with 13, and Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) with 9. Records of the Mottled Petrel and Sprague's Pipit are reviewed only through 2008.

Currently, the committee is considering the validity of potential first state records of the White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) and Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*). With the addition of one new state record described in this report, California's list stands at 641 species, ten of which are non-native and two of which have been extirpated within historical times. An additional species that has declined to the brink of extirpation within the past two decades, the Elf Owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*), was added to the review list at the January 2010 meeting.

The acceptance rate of 86% was above the average of 80.2% for all CBRC records combined and continues a recent trend toward higher than average acceptance rates. For example, the average annual acceptance rate between 2006 and 2008 was 84.8%, whereas the average between 1996 and 1998 was 73.5%. One cause for this trend may be the increasing use of digital photography to support records that otherwise might have been documented only with written descriptions. The total records reviewed is above the committee's average of 218.9 records per report over its first 33 reports but well below the more recent three-year average of 263.7.

The list of species reviewed by the committee is posted at the CBRC web site at [www.californiabirds.org](http://www.californiabirds.org). This site also includes the 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, and a photo gallery of recent submissions, including some pertaining to records published in this report. Additional information about the CBRC, the Western Field Ornithologists (WFO), and its journal, *Western Birds* can be found at the WFO home page at [www.westernfieldornithologists.org](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org).

All documentation reviewed by the CBRC, including copies of descriptions, photographs, videotapes, sketches, audio recordings, and committee comments on records submitted, is archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, California 93012, and are available for public review. The CBRC solicits and encourages observers to submit documentation for all species on the review list, as well as for species unrecorded in California. Documentation should be sent to Guy McCaskie, CBRC Secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, CA 91933-0275 (e-mail: [secretary@californiabirds.org](mailto:secretary@californiabirds.org)).

## NEWS AND FORMAT

*Committee News.* The committee's voting membership after the January 2010 annual meeting consisted of Paul E. Lehman (chair), Daniel S. Singer (vice-chair), David M. Compton, Jon L. Dunn, Kimball Garrett, Oscar Johnson, Joseph Morlan, Brian Sullivan, and James R. Tietz. Guy McCaskie continued in his role as nonvoting secretary. Additional committee members who voted on many of the records in this report include Alvaro Jaramillo, Kristie N. Nelson, James E. Pike, Peter Pyle, and Scott B. Terrill.

As noted by Shuford (2006) and Iliff et al. (2007), *California Birds/Western Birds* is now available online via SORA, the Searchable Ornithological Research Archives (<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora>), and all previously published CBRC reports through 2006 can be accessed through that site. Annual reports published from 1999 through 2009 also are available through the CBRC website at [www.californiabirds.org](http://www.californiabirds.org).

*Format and Abbreviations.* As in other recent CBRC reports, records are generally listed chronologically by first date of occurrence and/or geographically, from north to south. 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* (hereafter *N. Am. Birds*; formerly *American Birds* and *Field Notes*); 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 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 a chronological number assigned by the secretary. All records are sight records unless otherwise indicated: a dagger (†) following an observer's initials indicates the observer supplied a supportive photograph, (‡) indicates the observer supplied a video, (S) indicates a voice recording, (S) indicates a sketch, and (#) indicates a specimen record, which is followed by the acronym (see below) of the institution housing the specimen and that institution's specimen catalog number. An asterisk (\*) prior to a species' name indicates that the species is no longer on the CBRC's review list.

In this report, the first number in parentheses after the species' name is the number of *individual birds* accepted by the CBRC through this report, not the number of *accepted records*; the number of individual birds may be higher than the number of records, as historically the committee has treated groups of individuals appearing together with a single record number (e.g., a flock of Common Redpolls, *Acanthis flammea*). The second number is the number of new individuals accepted in this report (because this number excludes records thought to pertain to returning individuals treated in previous reports, 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. Decisions in such cases follow the opinion of the majority of members and, if a bird is considered a returning individual, the total number of individuals 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, a strong majority or consensus is achieved). We report much of this information; the diagnosis of age, sex, or subspecies is the authors' opinion based on the evidence in the files and committee members' comments. Our terminology for age follows that used in text accounts found in CBRC (2007).

The CBRC uses standard abbreviations for California counties; those used in this report are ALA, Alameda; BUT, Butte; CC, Contra Costa; DN, Del Norte; GLE, Glenn; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; LAK, Lake; LA, Los Angeles; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MNO, Mono; MTY, Monterey; NEV, Nevada; ORA, Orange; PLA, Placer; RIV, Riverside; SAC, Sacramento; SBE, San Bernardino; SBT, San Benito; SD, San Diego; SF, San Francisco; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SBA, Santa Barbara; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SIE, Sierra; SJ, San Joaquin; SON, Sonoma; STA, Stanislaus; TRI, Trinity; TUO, Tuolumne; VEN, Ventura; YOL, Yolo; YUB, Yuba. A list of abbreviations for all 58 California counties is available on the CBRC web site and in Appendix C of CBRC (2007). Other abbreviations used: Co., County; Cr., Creek; Ft., Fort; I., Island; km, kilometer; L., Lake; Mt., Mountain; n. mi., nautical mile; N.W.R., National Wildlife Refuge; Pt., Point; R., River; W.A., Wildlife Area.

Museum collections housing specimens cited in this report, allowing access to committee members for research, or otherwise cited, are the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles (LACM); San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego (SDNHM); Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo (WVZ); National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (USNM); University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor (UMMZ); Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology, University of California, Davis (WFB); and, Death Valley National Park Museum (DVNPM).

## RECORDS

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (77, 1). An adult was at Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base, LA, 23 Feb–9 Mar 2008 (KLG†, SG, MSc†, SLS†; 2008-038). The only accepted record from farther south is of a bird that spent part of the winter in El Monte, LA (1 Jan–17 Feb 1975), and later was present in Covina, LA, 13–15 Mar 1975 (1980-131; Binford 1983).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One was reported vocalizing in flight at Lewiston L., TRI, 29 Dec 2008 (2009-007). Members were hesitant to accept the identification solely on the basis of the call, particularly given that the observer was not experienced with this species.

BAIKAL TEAL *Anas formosa* (7, 1). A first-winter male shot by a hunter near Loleta, HUM, 21 Jan 2008 (MMcCl; 2008-035; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:297) is preserved as a life mount in a private collection. Photographs of the mount by Stanley

W. Harris provided documentation of the record. The record passed in its first round of circulation, with one member withholding acceptance over concern of natural origin. This species is known to be kept in captivity, and past records have occasioned discussion of origin (e.g., see Iliiff et al. 2007). However, the well-documented recovery of the Baikal Teal population since the 1990s, based on numbers wintering in South Korea and elsewhere in east Asia (Delaney and Scott 2002), may ease acceptance of records in California in the future. Six of the seven California records have involved birds shot by hunters.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of a female on the Yuba R. near Smartville, YUB, 4 Mar 2008 (2008-045) included little detail specifically on the bird observed (instead referring to its similarity to a field-guide illustration). Except for its small size in comparison to a Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*), features described by the observer did not match those of a female Smew.

ARCTIC LOON *Gavia arctica* (7, 2). One seen in close comparison with the three common species of loon at Stone Lagoon, HUM, 12 Feb–5 Mar 2008 (RF†, KR†; 2008-030) provided a county first. A year-old bird in very worn plumage was photographed at close range in Bodega, SON, 12 Jun 2008 (SNGH†; LHu†; 2008-078; Figure 1). Both individuals showed not only extensive white flank patches but also other features indicating the Arctic Loon, such as a flat crown peaked on the forecrown and uptilted head and bill. Reinking and Howell (1993) and Birch and Lee (1997) discussed field identification of this species and discrimination of the Arctic Loon from the similar Pacific Loon (*G. pacifica*).



Figure 1. This year-old Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) was photographed 12 June 2008 at Bodega Harbor, Sonoma County. Although in worn and faded plumage, it shows the extensive white flanks, flattened crown, distinct forecrown peak, uptilted head, and apparently long bill typical of this species.

Photo by Steve N. G. Howell



Figure 2. The subadult Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) on the right was at Cordell Bank off Marin County, 8 August 2008. This photo highlights the differences in size from the Black-footed Albatross (*P. nigripes*) on the left.

Photo by Jan Roletto



Figure 3. The Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) shown here, the first in juvenal plumage in California, was present for one day at Silver Saddle Resort, Galileo Hill, Kern County, 27 April 2008.

Photo by Bob Steele



Figure 4. The adult American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) in the upper right of this photo, taken 27 January 2008, was at Crescent Point in Laguna Beach, Orange County, from 18 January to 1 February 2008. The first-winter bird on the lower right, apparently a hybrid between the American and Black (*H. bachmani*) Oystercatchers, was observed on several occasions during this period.

Photo by Matthew Matthiessen

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (79, 2). One was 0.5 mi off Lover's Pt. in Monterey, MTY, 26 Oct 2008 (RW†; 2008-172). A second-year bird on L. Havasu, SBE, moved back and forth between California and Arizona, 11 Jan–12 Jul 2008 (DJK; TABe†, BDe†, JSF, PEL‡, SJM†, DJP, KAR†; 2008-025; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:302). The latter was one of the few Yellow-billed Loons that have spent all or part of the summer in California, as well as one of the very few inland. Also inland was one at San Luis Reservoir, MER, 15 Sep–13 Oct 2008 (JLD, JSF, OJ, GMcC, MMR†; 2008-138), considered to be the same as the one there 16–20 Nov 2007 (2007-282; Singer and Terrill 2009). With its remiges described as either very short or missing entirely, it appeared incapable of flight. So it had likely been present for some time and may have summered.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* (26\*\*, 4). Second- or third-spring birds were 3.8 mi. w. of Pt. Pinos, MTY, 22 Mar 2008 (RW; 2008-048) and 12.7 mi. w. of North Farallon I., SF, 11 Apr 2008 (MB; 2008-076), a first- or second-fall bird was at 38.050° N, 123.450° W, Cordell Bank, MRN, 8 Aug 2008 (JaR†, SNGH; 2008-100; Figure 2), and a first-winter bird was near the Cordell Bank at 38.120° N, 123.479° W, SON, 29 Dec 2008 (VO, LC†, AP; 2009-001). Although this species was near extinction by the end of the 19th century, its population has rebounded. At the end of the 2006–2007 breeding season, the worldwide population was estimated at 2364 (BirdLife International 2009). This population increase is reflected in an increase in records in California waters. No Short-tailed Albatrosses were recorded in the state from 1900 to 1977. Of the 26 records accepted since then, 14 have been since 2005. The committee reviews records of this species from 1900 onward.



Figure 5. Adult Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) on the shore of San Diego Bay in the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, San Diego County, 23 July 2008. This photograph clearly shows the dark spotting on the side of the breast extending below the rufous on the upper breast, an important feature in distinguishing this species from the Little Stint (*C. minuta*). Another key character in which these species differ, the lack of rufous edges on the tertials of the Red-necked, is partly visible here. Other features evident in this photo are the extensive and unmarked rufous on the face and breast, split supercilium, extensively rufous scapulars, white stripe on the mantle, and short straight bill.

Photo by Matt Sadowski

\*MOTTLED PETREL *Pterodroma inexpectata* (79, 20). Twenty far off the California coast during seabird surveys from the NOAA ship *McArthur II* in October and November 2008 included 11 between 191 n. mi. wsw. of Pt. Arena and 156 n. mi. w. of Pt. Vizcaino, MEN, 21 Oct 2008 (MPF; 2009-021) and single individuals at 38.507° N, 127.691° W (188 n. mi. w. of Pt. Arena, MEN), 21 Oct 2008 (SWW; 2009-019); 39.557° N, 127.292° W (142 n. mi. wsw. of Punta Gorda, HUM), 21 Oct 2008 (SWW; 2009-020); 39.024° N, 128.041° W (185 n. mi. wsw. of Punta Gorda, HUM), 22 Oct 2008 (SWW; 2009-022); 38.764° N, 127.152° W (160 n. mi. w. of Pt. Arena, MEN), 22 Oct 2008 (SWW; 2009-023); 38.905° N, 127.633° W (182 n. mi. w. of Pt. Arena, MEN), 22 Oct 2008 (MPF; 2009-024); 38.864° N, 127.493° W (168 n. mi. wsw. of Punta Gorda, HUM), 22 Oct 2008 (MPF; 2009-025); 35.461° N, 125.636° W (189 n. mi. wsw. of Pt. Sur, MTY), 7 Nov 2008 (SWW; 2009-026); 31.571° N, 122.589° W (181 n. mi. sw. of San Miguel I., SBA), 16 Nov 2008 (MPF; 2009-028); and 32.785° N, 122.947° W (145 n. mi. sw. of San Miguel I., SBA), 27 Nov 2008 (SWW; 2009-029).

In addition to these birds, the same research cruise recorded many more of this species more than 200 n. mi. offshore. Although the CBRC has accepted only 79 Mottled Petrels for California, past records also indicate that this species occurs in relatively large numbers in some years. Prior to 2008, one-day totals of at least eight individuals were recorded on three occasions (Bevier 1990, Heindel and Garrett 1995,



Figure 6. This adult Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*), only the second for California, was at Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County, briefly on 29 December 2008. Although neither the signature feature of the species nor its size (slightly smaller than a California Gull, *L. californicus*) is obvious here, this photo does show the dark gray mantle, long wings, long bill with black subterminal band and red tip, and pale eye.

*Photo by Christopher N. Gibbins*

Patten et al. 1995), accounting for 35 of the 59 individuals accepted. Therefore, the committee concluded that occurrences of the Mottled Petrel within 200 n. mi. of California are not extralimital but reflect the species' passage closer to shore in some years. It removed the Mottled Petrel from the review list at the 2009 meeting and now reviews records only through 2008.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reportedly seen from Southeast Farrallon I., SF, 26 Nov 2006 (2007-031) received support from a majority of the committee in every round. But others withheld their support because of the brevity and distance of the sighting, along with the fact that the normally conspicuous dark carpal bar on the underwing was not seen.

GALAPAGOS/HAWAIIAN PETREL *Pterodroma phaeopygia/sandwichensis* (24, 2). Three sightings off Ft. Bragg, MEN, 8 Aug 2008 involved at least two individuals (CK†, JoP†, DLS; 2008-101). Several members, in part on the basis of Force et al. (2007), believed that the photographs represent Hawaiian Petrels. At the 2009 annual meeting, the committee concluded that identification of these species in the field is possible and that past records supported by photographs might be assigned to species. Analysis by Peter Pyle showed that, in particular, head pattern is useful for distinguishing between these species. Secondary characters include bill size, contrast between cap and mantle, thickness of the dark trailing edge of the secondaries, overall sleekness, and the presence of a black spot in the axillars. Pyle examined accepted records supported by photographs and recommended acceptance of the Fort Bragg record and 10 others as the Hawaiian Petrel. The committee will vote on whether or not these birds can be identified to species.

Of the 24 accepted records of this species pair through 2008, 11 are for August.

BULWER'S PETREL *Bulweria bulwerii*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A procellariid in the Santa Barbara Channel, VEN, 5 Sep 2007 (2007-243), found



Figure 7. One of only four recorded in California in the past two decades, this Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) spent just enough time at Huntington Beach Central Park, Orange County, to be photographed on 14 Oct 2008. The yellowish orbital ring (red in adults), buffy throat, and pale fringes to feathers of the upperparts (not visible here) all indicated first-fall plumage.

Photo by James E. Pike

by a British tour group, was photographed through binoculars. The record received substantial support as this species in the first round. However, the poor quality of the photos and doubts about the size of the bird, which to some members seemed more appropriate for the similar but larger Jouanin's Petrel (*B. fallax*), persuaded most in the second round that the bird could not reliably be identified to species. The committee has accepted only one of the three previous reports, of a well-documented bird in Monterey Bay, MTY, 26 Jul 1998 (1998-119; Erickson and Hamilton 2001).

**STREAKED SHEARWATER** *Calonectris leucomelas* (18, 1). One was 15 mi. off Santa Cruz, SCZ, 12 Oct 2008 (TA, KP<sup>+</sup>; ToE†, RW; 2008-139). Eleven of the 18 accepted records have come since 2001, and all 18 are from fall. Monterey Bay, which receives substantial coverage at that season, continues to supply most of the records, including all five since 2006.

**GREAT SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis* (7, 1). One was 5 mi. off Pt. Lobos, MTY, 29 Nov 2008 (LST, SBT; ER†, DLS, BLS†; 2008-189). Six of the seven accepted California records of this species, and six of the 11 records for the northeast Pacific, have come from Monterey Bay and surrounding waters. These records are spread widely over the fall and winter months.

**WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER** *Puffinus pacificus* (6, 1). One light-morph bird off Año Nuevo Pt., SM, 23 Aug 2008 (ToE†; JeP†, DSS†; 2008-108; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 63:190) was the first for San Mateo Co. Written details were sparse, but close-range photos clearly show this species, which remains extremely rare in California, although it is common in the tropical Pacific and nests on islands off the western coast of Mexico.

**IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** A shearwater 25.5 mi. w. of Bodega Head, SON, 7 Sep 2007 (2007-179) was identified at the time of observation as this species by highly skilled and experienced observers. The record gained strong support during the first round, but some committee members believed the poor photographs showed a bird that was too heavy-bodied and short-tailed to be a Wedge-



Figure 8. None of the 78 Dusky-capped Flycatchers (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) recorded previously in California was confirmed to be an adult. While a photograph limited to a dorsal view of a bird might ordinarily not merit inclusion in the annual report, this one taken on 6 March 2008 in La Mirada, Los Angeles County, reveals primary coverts darker than the primaries, which generally indicate adult plumage (P. Pyle pers. comm.). Of course, the bird's returning to this location for at least its second winter provides additional proof.

Photo by Curtis A. Marantz

tailed Shearwater. In addition, the photos suggested that the bird had an "M" pattern on the dorsal side and a capped appearance, also wrong for the Wedge-tailed. Most members thought a dark shearwater photographed at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 15 Sep 2008 (2008-160) was probably a Sooty Shearwater (*P. griseus*).

\*MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* (111, 2). Individuals were seen from shore at Pt. Pinos, MTY, 11 Sep 2006 (BLS; 2007-267) and at the mouth of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 15 Dec 2007 (BSa; 2008-124). The committee reviews records of this species through 2007.

RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon aethereus* (33, 5). One was at 33.082° N, 123.169° W (155 n. mi. wsw. of Pt. Conception, SBA), 17 Aug 2008 (WTH†; 2008-128), and four were seen equally far off the California coast during seabird surveys from the NOAA ship *McArthur II* in October and November 2008, including two at 35.317° N, 124.977° W (162 n. mi. wsw. of Pt. Sur, MTY), 2 Oct 2008 (SWW; 2009-033); one at 35.111° N, 124.167° W (132 n. mi. sw. of Pt. Sur, MTY), 3 Oct 2008 (SWW; 2009-034); and one at 30.906° N, 121.764° W (180 n. mi. sw. of San Nicolas I., VEN), 17 Nov 2008 (SWW; 2009-035). Similar numbers had been recorded on a research cruise in 2005, when larger numbers were off California but outside the 200-n.-mi. limit (Pyle 2006). As noted by Liff et al. (2007), this species likely is regular far offshore of the state, although the number of accepted records remains relatively low.

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii* (92\*\*, 1). One at 32.765° N, 117.777° W (27 n. mi. w. of Mission Bay, SD), 23 Aug 2008 (DP; TABI, BLC, TRS†; 2008-



Figure 9. Even in first-fall plumage, the Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*), with its long legs, broad pale supercilium, bib across the lower breast, and rusty tail base, is like no other species likely to occur in California. This individual, photographed on the first day of its 14–18 September 2008 stay on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, was the first recorded in the contiguous United States. On the basis of rusty tips to the greater secondary coverts and tertials, it was in its first fall; the lack of blue and red on the breast indicates a female (Svensson 1992). Although this bird's origin cannot be determined, the Bluethroat is last of the species of passerine that breeds in Alaska and normally winters in the Old World to be recorded in California.

*Photo by Jason Fidorra*

106) was only the second recorded in California away from the mainland. Most records of this species are from the Salton Sea, site of sporadic minor invasions. The most recent of these irruptions was in 2006, following eight years in which only one individual was recorded. However, the three records from the past two years were all coastal or offshore (Singer and Terrill 2009). The committee reviews records of the Blue-footed Booby since 1972.

\*BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A first-fall booby photographed while perched on a boat traveling between Santa Catalina I., LA, and Oceanside, SD, 11 Oct 2006 (2006-153) was identified by the photographer as a Brown Booby. Unfortunately, no written description of the bird was provided, and committee members disagreed over the interpretation of various features visible in the photo. When the record circulated for its fourth and final round, nearly half the committee believed the bird was possibly a Red-footed Booby (*S. sula*). The committee reviews records of the Brown Booby through 2007.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (17, 1). A first-winter bird was at Fig Lagoon 1.5 mi. s. of Seeley, IMP, 3 Feb 2008 (TEW; 2008-042). One adult at the same location 24 Oct–11 Nov 2008 was joined by a second adult 5–11 Nov (GMcC; KZK†). These were presumed to be the same birds present at this location 23 Nov 2007–16 Feb 2008 (2007-273; Singer and Terrill 2009). Fourteen of California's 17 records are from Imperial Co.

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (57\*\*, 2). Two records involving single adults, of one at the southeast corner of the Salton Sea, IMP, 25 Jul–1 Aug 2008 (GMcC; DR† 2008-094) and one at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 16–24 Oct 2008 (GRG†; RBMcN; 2008-145). The committee reviews records of this species since 1990.

\*REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* (93, 0). The dates of a first-fall bird in Anaheim, ORA, 10 Sep 1984 (1984-210) are extended to 10 Sep–27 Oct 1984 (HBK). The committee reviews records for this species through 2001.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (43, 5). An adult was at the Ventura R. mouth, VEN, 13 Apr 2008 (RM†; OJ; 2008-056), and another adult was in the Ventura Harbor, VEN, 15 Aug 2008 (DSI†; 2008-129). In Imperial Beach, SD, a pair (2005-079 and 2005-080; Ifff et al. 2007), resident since Jun 2005, fledged three young in the summer of 2008 (GMcC; PEL; 2008-087), one of which was found dead near the nest on 30 Aug (GMcC, SDNHM #52127). One of the remaining juveniles was still present 1 Jan 2009. An immature at the same location 5 Jul 2008–1 Jan 2009 (PEL; GMcC; 2008-088) was probably one of the three (2007-151) fledged here in 2007. The breeding in 2008 represented the third consecutive year the Imperial Beach pair had successfully raised young since establishing the first California nesting record for this species in 2006 (Heindel and Garrett 2008).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (21, 7). A first-spring bird was at the Prado Basin, RIV, 17 Mar 2008 (JEP; 2008-044), and an adult was near Daggett, SBE, 26 Apr 2008 (JCS†; 2008-072). Adults at Unit 1 of the Salton Sea N.W.R., IMP, 1 Aug 2008 (DWA†, TaE, GMcC; 2008-095), at Calipatria, IMP, 1 Aug 2008 (GMcC; 2008-096), 5.5 km nnw. of Calipatria, IMP, 1 Aug 2008 (TaE†, GMcC; 2008-097), near Ramer L., IMP, 8 Aug 2008 (GMcC; 2008-099), and 6 km nw. of Calipatria, IMP, 15 Aug 2008 (PAG; GMcC; 2008-102) were around the south end of the Salton Sea. This species now appears to be annual in summer in this area, which accounts for 13 of California's 27 accepted records, dating to the first records in 2000 (McKee and Erickson 2002, San Miguel and McGrath 2005, Ifff et al. 2007). The growing number of records in the state in these years has been a part of this species' expansion throughout the western United States (Patten and Lasley 2000).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Photographs of a single bird at the Yolo Bypass W.A., YOL, 10 Oct 2007 (2008-198) were not supported by a written description and suggested that the bird may have been a hybrid of the Glossy and White-faced (*P. chihi*). Photographs of an individual at the Prado Basin, SBE, 5–11 Apr 2007 (2007-133) were accompanied by a written description, but, after three rounds, a majority of the committee concluded the photographic evidence suggested this bird too may have been a hybrid.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL *Platalea ajaja* (137, 1). A first-winter bird collected at Pt. Hueneme, VEN, 15 Dec 1967, by Sid Peyton (DVP†; WFVZ #19575; 2008-219) has not previously been reported in the literature and now provides the first record of the Roseate Spoonbill for the California coast. The specimen is one of five collected in California, not including three additional reported specimens whose disposition the committee has been unable to determine.

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (43, 2). Two juveniles were recorded, one on Pt. Loma, SD, 11–18 Sep 2008 (MJB; DWA†, GMcC, PSp; 2008-114), the other at the Golden Gate Bridge/Marin Headlands, SF/MRN, 25 Oct 2007 (SB†; MMalt†, Psa; 2008-168). The latter represents only the fourth coastal record of the Mississippi Kite from north of Santa Barbara Co.

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* (6, 1). An adult flying north near Aromas, SBT, 31 Mar 2008 (DT; 2008-055) and over Tiburon, MRN, 2 Apr (LBI, BS†; 2008-052; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:474) was considered the same bird

later observed near Santa Rosa, SON, 14 Apr 2008–20 Dec 2009 (SM†; 2008-053). This same individual had spent the previous three summers at this location (2005-060, 2006-057, and 2007-080; Iliff et al. 2007, Heindel and Garrett 2008, Singer and Terrill 2009), before returning for a fourth summer and staying for more than a year and a half. One at Galileo Hill, KER, 27 Apr 2008 (SLS; KH-L†, TGM†, RSt†; 2008-057; Figure 3, photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 62:507) provides the first record for California of a Common Black-Hawk in juvenal plumage.

**HARRIS'S HAWK** *Parabuteo unicinctus*. **NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE.** An adult with damaged and missing wing and tail feathers in Pauma Valley, SD, 7–23 Feb 2008 (2008-026) was suspected of being an escaped captive bird by six committee members. Some who doubted this bird's origin acknowledged that falconers' birds typically are well cared for but questioned whether a wild bird could show the wear and feather damage shown by this individual. The origin of one in Bonita, SD, 27 Jun 2008 (2008-086) was questioned by six members, mostly because the bird was tame and near a large urban area, where escaped birds are more likely to be found.

**CRESTED CARACARA** *Caracara cheriway* (28, 4). A first-winter bird with a distinctive pattern of broken primaries on the right wing was first at Hansen Dam, LA, 29 Jan–1 Feb 2007 (LL†; KLG†, JHa, MJSanM†; 2007-027), then at More Mesa near Goleta, SBA, 2–3 Feb 2007 (DL†; EvC†; 2007-083), at Pt. Joe in Pebble Beach, MTY, 25 Feb 2007 (DR†; 2007-101), and finally at Moss Landing, MTY, 1 Mar 2007 (JdeM; 2007-101), substantiating northward movement along the coast by one individual. Other new records were of a second-winter bird near Año Nuevo, SM, 14 Feb 2008 (RDS†; 2008-043; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:298), an adult near Ft. Dick, DN, 31 Jan 2008–16 Jul 2009 (ADB†; MB, JM†, DEQ; 2008-027; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:150), and a second-spring bird in the Kern R. Preserve near Weldon, KER, 25–27 Mar 2008 (DB†; AS†; 2008-047) that was considered the same bird as one at Mojave Narrows Regional Park near Victorville, SBE, 18 Feb 2008 (BDe†, JLD, SJM†; 2008-039; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:303). One in the area of the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 15 Jul–21 Nov 2008 (TME; GMcC; 2008-093) was considered the same bird (2006-127 and 2007-144; Singer and Terrill 2009) present sporadically since 9 Sep 2006.

**YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA** *Milvago chimachima*. **NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE.** One was around Ferndale, HUM, 27 Jul–30 Dec 2007, at Humboldt Bay, HUM, 8 Mar 2008, then near L. Earl, DN, 13 Mar 2008 (KR†, GSL; 2008-169). The committee unanimously questioned the origin of this individual, and some questioned whether this nonmigratory, primarily South American species is a candidate to occur in California at all, let alone in the far north of the state. According to Wetmore (1981), the dark bands on the tail of individuals of the more southerly race, *M. c. chimachima*, found from the Amazon southward, are "wider and heavier" than the white bands. If this is correct, photos of the Yellow-headed Caracara originally found in Ferndale suggest it may be *M. c. chimachima*, not the more northerly *M. c. cordata*.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** *Pluvialis dominica* (43\*\*, 8). One juvenile was near Arcata, 30 Aug 2008 (DF; 2008-111), and two were there on 21 Oct 2007 (RS; 2007-284). Single fall juveniles were also near Loleta, HUM, 19 Oct–11 Nov 2008 (RF†; KMB; 2008-175) and near Salinas, MTY, 12–23 Oct 2008 (OJ†; BLS†, KVV†; 2008-140 and 2008-151). The record (documented by photo only) of another fall juvenile, at Estero Bluff State Park, SLO, 17 Sep 2007 (JC; 2007-302), was reviewed three times before being endorsed. Single spring migrants were inland at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 6 Apr 2008 (RMW†; 2008-054) and on the coast in San Pedro, LA, 14 May 2008 (DE†; 2008-064).



Figure 10. This first specimen of the Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) for California was procured on 16 May 2003, when the bird was found dead in a backyard in Davis, Yolo County. The coloration of the upperparts and the distinctiveness of the brown spots on the breast are consistent with *C. f. salicicola*, a subspecies that breeds as close to California as northeastern Oregon. The relatively dark dorsum of this race can overlap with that of the Russet-backed Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus ustulatus*) (Pyle 1997). Some of the early state records of Veery were considered more suggestive of the brighter eastern races (Roberson 1980).

Photo by Andrew Engilis Jr.

**IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED:** The committee considered documentation for individuals at the Salinas R. mouth, MTY, 19 Aug 2008 (2008-104), near Arcata, HUM, 27 Sep 2008 (2008-196), near Salinas, MTY, 23 Sep 2008 (2009-040), and near Gustine, MER, 15 Oct 2008 (2008-200) inadequate to eliminate the Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*). A juvenile at Owens L., INY, 16 Oct 2007 (2007-293) was suspected to be the same bird (2007-292; Singer and Terrill 2009) photographed nearby the same day but was rejected because of inadequate documentation. The committee removed the American Golden-Plover from the review list at the Jan 2010 meeting and reviews records from 2004 through 2009 only.

**WILSON'S PLOVER** *Charadrius wilsonia* (13, 1). An adult male was at North Island Naval Air Station, SD, 11–14 Apr 2008 (PLS†; 2008-051; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:479). Eight of the 13 records for California, including the past six, have come from San Diego Co.

\***AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus palliatus* (44, 7). Mainland records were of one adult at Crescent Pt. in Laguna Beach, ORA, 18 Jan–1 Feb 2008 (RBMcN; DL†, MMat†, DWN†, JEP, KP†; 2008-018; Figure 4), one in La Jolla, SD, 13 Feb 2008 (RG†; 2008-031), and one at the entrance to San Diego Bay, SD, 22 Sep–2 Oct 2008 (DP; TAB†; 2008-122) and 6–20 Dec 2008 (WTH†; 2008-220). Channel Is. records included one on Sutil I. off Santa Barbara I., SBA, 16 Sep 2007 (NAL; WTF†; 2007-224) and three together near Laguna Anchorage on Santa Cruz I., SBA, 29 Sep 2007 (KP†; 2007-244). One at Pelican Bay on Santa Cruz I., SBA, 8 Jan 2006 (DLG†, OJ†, AS; 2006-005) was presumably the same bird as that at nearby Prisoner's Harbor, 16 Apr–14 May 2005 (2005-055; Iliff et al. 2007) and 3 Apr–5 Jul 2004 (2004-058; Cole et al. 2006). The committee removed the American Oystercatcher from the review list at the 2009 meeting and reviews only records through 2008.



Figure 11. This first-fall Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) (sex unknown) was at Oceano, San Luis Obispo County, on 20 October 2008, and was only the second of this species to be found in the state since 1997. Note the broad supercilium, short, thick bill, bold wingbars, yellowish wash on the underparts, and short extension of the tail beyond the undertail coverts (the shortest of any species of *Dendroica*; Dunn and Garrett 1997). Some past claims of the Cerulean Warbler in California have proven to be based on first-fall female Blackburnian Warblers (*D. fusca*).

Photo by Matt Brady

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (34, 1). An adult was on Cock Robin I. at the Eel R. delta, HUM, 14–15 Aug 2008 (LBr†; 2008-105).

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* (12, 1). An adult on San Diego Bay at Delta Beach, Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, SD, 23 Jul–18 Aug 2008 (MSa†; JLD, PAG, MMat†, CAM, GMcC, AM†, MSanM; 2008-091; Figure 5, photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 62:644) was the first recorded in that county. This long-staying individual arrived within the species' normal window of occurrence in California, but it remained seven days later than the previous late date for the species. Like all other Red-necked Stints accepted for California, this one was an adult in alternate plumage.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* (10, 1). A juvenile was at Moonglow Dairy in Moss Landing, MTY, 14 Sep 2008 (BHi†, DR†; 2008-117). The close-up photos showed a short, fine-tipped bill, dark legs, a clear lack of webbing between the toes, dark-centered tertials with rusty edges, dark-centered lower scapulars, and a split supercilium, a combination eliminating all other stints. This is California's fifth accepted record of a juvenile and the second juvenile from this location.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported at Piute Ponds near Daggett, SBE, 20 Sep 2008 (2008-137) was initially reported as a juvenile, although the observer later described it as an adult. No juveniles of this species have been recorded in California or anywhere in the West, and most juveniles do not depart the breeding grounds until mid- to late September (O'Brien et al. 2006). Given the extreme rarity of this species in Califor-

nia in fall, the observer's uncertainty of the bird's age, and the relative brevity of the description, most committee members were unwilling to support this record.

\*SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata* (29, 1). Documentation for a juvenile on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 7 Nov 1979 (EG, TH, JSh, LSp; 2008-205) was taken from the Farallon journal by James R. Tietz. It was the first Sharp-tailed Sandpiper to be recorded on the island and was listed as "not submitted" in CBRC (2007). The committee reviews records of this species from 1966 through 1980.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (100, 2). One seen flying past Pigeon Pt., SM, 1 May 2008 (RST; 2008-059) was in its second spring or older. A first-spring bird was in Modesto, STA, 25 May 2008 (ErC†; 2008-075).

BLACK-TAILED GULL *Larus crassirostris* (2, 1). An adult at Half Moon Bay, SM, 29 Dec 2008 (CG†; 2009-003; Figure 6, photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 63:356) was present only long enough to be photographed by the observer, who was familiar with this east Asian species. California's lone previous record was of an adult female found at the north end of San Diego Bay, SD, 26 Nov 1954 and collected two days later (1977-143; UMMZ #136176; Luther et al. 1979, Roberson 1986, Heindel and Patten 1996). The 54 years between records is surprising, considering this species has occurred widely as a vagrant, with records from British Columbia (*Birders J.* 11:4), southwestern Washington (*N. Am. Birds* 59:138, 191), northwestern Sonora (Garrett and Molina 1998), and various locations across North America to the east coast (CBRC 2007; P. Lehman pers. comm.).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides* (7, 1). A first-winter bird at the Yolo County Central Landfill near Davis, YOL, 27 Dec 2007 (SCH†; 2007-299) passed despite reservations expressed by some members in the first round. Ultimately, members were persuaded by its structure (short bill, rounded head, and long wings compared to Thayer's Gull, *L. thayeri*) and by the date of the record, likely too early for a Thayer's Gull to have been bleached so pale. While five of the seven accepted records for this species have come since 2005, ten records from this period were not accepted, and this species continues to have easily one of the lowest acceptance rates of any reviewed. The conservative approach of the committee reflects the poorly understood identification criteria in the Iceland-Thayer's complex and the uncertainty surrounding the taxonomy of these species.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Three records of single birds received support from few members. One at the mouth of Redwood Cr. near Orick, HUM, 3 Jan 2008 (2008-003) was described as a second-winter bird by the single reporting observer. Several members expressed hesitance at voting for a record of this species that lacked photo documentation, as this one did. Several members thought a first-winter gull at the Pajaro R. mouth, SCZ/MTY, 9 Jan 2008 (2008-009) was more likely a hybrid, possibly between the Herring (*L. argentatus*) and Glaucous-winged (*L. glaucescens*), than either an Iceland or a Thayer's. Finally, most members thought a first-winter gull at the Yolo County Central Landfill near Davis, YOL, 27 Dec 2008 (2008-231) was within the phenotypic range of *L. g. kumlieni* but also of a Thayer's × Kumlien's Gull and possibly of Thayer's.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (61, 14). The 14 new records included three from the coast, four from the Salton Sea, and an additional seven from other inland locations. Surpassing the total number of inland records away from the Salton Sea in all previous years, these seven are of four single adults, at Beal's Pt. on Folsom L., PLA, 7 Feb 2008 (DeR; ToE†; 2008-046), the Nimbus Fish Hatchery near Sacramento, SAC, 5 Dec 2008 (SNGH†; 2009-037), Clearlake, LAK, 1 Nov 2008-3 Jan 2009 (FEH†; JCS†, JW; 2008-170), and L. Perris, RIV, 23 Nov 2008-18 Feb 2009 (MF†; HBK, C-TL†, CMcG†; 2008-195), as well as of a juvenile at Crowley L., MNO, 12 Dec 2008 (JLD†; DH; 2008-211), a second-winter bird at the Buena

Vista Aquatic Recreation Area, KER, 21 Dec 2008 (SLS; RSt†; 2008-222), and a third-winter bird at L. Perris, RIV, 23 Nov 2008–7 Mar 2009 (HBK, TABe†, MF†, C-TL†, CAM; 2008-188). The four new records from the Salton Sea, where this species is now annual, involved single adults at the Whitewater R. mouth, RIV, 5 Jan 2008 (RLMcK†; 2008-004), at Salton City, IMP, 9 Jan 2008 (MBS†; 2008-008), at Mecca Campground, RIV, 27 Jan 2008 (MF, NF†; 2008-022), and near Rock Hill, Salton Sea N.W.R., IMP, 16 Dec 2008–30 Jan 2009 (GMcC; HDD†; 2008-215). Also, a returning bird (same as 2007-260; Singer and Terrill 2009) was around Obsidian Butte, IMP, 24 Oct 2008–22 Feb 2009 (GMcC; BKr†, PEL†, CMcG†; 2008-163). Singer and Terrill (2009) referred to this individual as a third-winter bird in 2007, but a comparison of photos suggests it may have been in only its second winter that year.

The three coastal records involved an adult at Mayfield Slough in Palo Alto, SCL, 14 Nov 2008 (MMR†; 2009-066), another adult at Alviso, SCL, 16 Dec 2007–13 Jan 2008 (SCR; MMR†; 2008-112), and a bird in at least its third winter at Dana Pt., ORA, 11 Nov 2008 (RBMcN†; 2008-179). The 15 records in 2008 (including one returning bird) extended a period in which an unprecedented number of Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been found in California (although numbers appear to be down in 2009–2010). The 31 new records established from September 2006 through December 2008 represent more than half of the 61 accepted records.

SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus shistisagus* (35, 6). Single adults were near Ft. Dick, DN, 4 Feb–31 Mar 2008 (ADB†, KR†; 2008-049), the mouth of Redwood Cr. near Orick, HUM, 19 Jan 2008 (JA†; 2008-015), Hiller Park in McKinleyville, HUM, 1 Feb–8 Mar 2008 (LM; KMB, KR†; 2008-024), and at the Tri-cities Landfill, ALA, 18 Jan–4 Mar 2008 (MJM; 2008-017). A bird in at least its second winter was at the Ferndale bottoms in the Eel R. delta, HUM, 1 Feb 2008 (RF†; 2008-023), and a third-winter bird was at Venice Beach in Half Moon Bay, SM, 16 Feb 2008 (DSS†; MD; 2008-033).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of a second-winter bird at Harkin's Slough and Sunset Beach near Watsonville, SCZ, 26 Jan 2008 (2008-020) included photographs but no written description, and some members believed the bird to have been a Western Gull (*L. occidentalis*).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Documentation, including photographs, provided by a single observer of an adult at the mouth of Redwood Cr. near Orick, HUM, 30 Dec 2006 (2007-011) circulated through the committee four times. Before the final circulation, the record was discussed at length during the committee's January 2009 meeting. Peter Pyle later compared the original photographs of the distant bird with specimens at the National Museum of Natural History and attached his findings to the documentation. In the end, the committee concluded that this dark-mantled gull may have been a Great Black-backed Gull, but because of discrepancies between the pattern of white on the primaries and that on correctly identified specimens, along with the apparent oiled condition of the wings and mantle and the consequent potential for abnormal darkening, it decided to await an unquestionable record before adding the species to the California state list. Given that the Great Black-backed Gull was first documented in British Columbia in 1988 (Campbell et al. 1990b), in Alaska in 1995 (Gibson and Kessel 1997), and in Washington in 2004 (Wahl et al. 2005), the wait may not be long.

BRIDLED TERN *Nychoption anaethetus* (3, 1). An adult at Unit 1 of the Salton Sea N.W.R., IMP, 7 Jul–24 Aug 2008 (KCM†; DWA†, JLD†, TME, JSF, KLG, SNGH†, KZK†, PEL, CAM†, GMcC, DR†, MSanM; 2008-089; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:644) represents California's first inland record. On the basis of the amount of white evident in the outer rectrices, the grayish cast to the underparts, the sooty brown mantle, and the extensively darkish undersides to the primaries, the commit-



Figure 12. Two Baird's Sparrows (*Ammodramus bairdii*) were found on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, in fall 2008, this one on 14 September. The orangish buff color of the head and absence of a postocular stripe, distinguishing Baird's from the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), can be seen well in this photograph. The sinuous pattern of internal black with marginal rufous in the distal tertials is reminiscent of the Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) and unlike any other species of North American sparrow. This individual can be aged as first fall on the basis of the combination of feathers of both the juvenal and formative plumages on the upperparts, wing coverts, and tertials; the retained juvenal mantle and scapular feathers create a scaly appearance that is not as marked in adults.

Photo by Matt Brady

tee concluded the bird was the western Mexican *O. a. nelsoni*, the subspecies of the Bridled Tern occurring nearest California (Pyle 2008, Olsen and Larsson 1995, Cramp 1985, Ridgway 1919). *Onychoprion a. nelsoni* is a local summer resident from "at least" the states of Nayarit to Guerrero (Howell and Webb 1995).

LONG-BILLED MURRELET *Brachyramphus perdix* (21, 2). One between the south jetty to Humboldt Bay and the Eel R. mouth, HUM, 15 Jul–7 Aug 2008 (EAE†; JJ†, KR†; 2008-090) was joined by a second, 7 Aug 2008 (KR†; 2008-098).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (17, 1). A first-fall bird was in Huntington Beach Central Park, ORA, 14 Oct 2008 (JEP†; BED†; 2008-141; Figure 7, photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 63:191). Although nine Black-billed Cuckoos were recorded in California in the 1980s, only two were found in the 1990s, and this was just the second recorded in the 2000s (CBRC 2007).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cyananthus latirostris* (73, 1). A first-year male frequented a feeder in Arroyo Grande, SLO, 31 Oct 2008–24 Mar 2009 (WTF†, OJ†, CAM†, DEQ†; 2008-178).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris* (11, 1). An adult male was at a feeder in Nevada City, NEV, 23–31 Aug 2008 (RD†; TB†, WC†, JLD†, JM†, JCS; 2008-107; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 63:191). California's only previous record of an adult male also came from Nevada Co., in 1975, the specimen languishing as a mislabeled Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) in the collection

of the University of California, Davis (WFB #972) until its reidentification eight years later (Cole and Engilis 1986).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax flaviventris*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Most committee members thought an *Empidonax* videotaped in Big Sycamore Canyon, VEN, 14 Oct 2002 (2008-167) may have been this species, but the quality of the images was problematic, as was the lack of a written description and, most importantly, the fact that the bird never called. By contrast, one photographed at Horse Thief Springs, SBE, 27 Sep 2008 (2008-130) received no support and was almost certainly a Western Flycatcher (*E. difficilis/occidentalis*). The discrimination of the Yellow-bellied from several of its congeners is an imposing identification challenge, and many records are rejected by the CBRC, especially when no calls are heard. Whitney and Kaufman (1986) and Heindel and Pyle (1999) treated this issue well.

**DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* (79, 3). Surprisingly, a bird at Creek Park in La Mirada, LA, 27 Feb–7 Apr 2008 (JoR†; LJS†; 2008-040) and at the same location 25 Nov 2008–6 Apr 2009 (JoR†; DWA†, PEL, CAM†; 2008-187; Figure 8) furnished California's first record of a Dusky-capped Flycatcher considered to have returned for a second winter. Given the difficulty of aging *Myiarchus* flycatchers in the field, especially in winter after the completion of preformative molt (Pyle 1997), this record constitutes the first confirmation of an adult Dusky-capped Flycatcher in California (CBRC 2007). Another individual was at Recreation Park in El Segundo, LA, 18–26 Jan 2008 (RB†; JSF, KGL; 2008-016; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:303), and a well-documented bird at Zzyzx, SBE, 17 Nov–13 Dec 2008 (DAG†; TAB†, JLD†, CAM†, LS†; 2008-183) supplied the first record for San Bernardino Co.

**THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD** *Tyrannus crassirostris* (18, 1). A first-year bird was at South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula, LA, 9 Dec 2008–27 Apr 2009 (CAM, MSanM†, LS†, LSz†; 2008-206). Although four of the first five Thick-billed Kingbirds to be recorded in the state (1965–1978) were apparently fall transients, all but one record since have pertained to birds that were wintering (CBRC 2007).

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** *Vireo griseus* (58, 5). A silent bird at Galileo Hill, KER, on 18 May 2008 (BDY†; 2008-066) and singing males at Banner, SD, 20 May 2008 (KS; 2008-065), Paradise, MNO, 14 Jun 2008 (DH†; JLD; 2008-082), and at 8200 feet elevation 10 mi. wsw. of Bishop, in the "Buttermilks," INY, 15 Jun 2008 (JiP, DPa; JLD, DH†; 2008-083) were spring vagrants. One at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on Pt. Loma, SD, 11–27 Sep 2008 (DWA†; GMcC, MSA†, TRS†; 2008-113) was found in fall, when far fewer are recorded.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** *Vireo solitarius* (62, 11). One in Orick, HUM, 1–3 Sep 2007 (LaT S; 2008-194) is the earliest accepted for California in the fall and was well-documented by a colored sketch. Single first-fall birds were banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 9–10 Sep 2008 (JRT; MB†, RT†; 2008-154), 13–16 Sep 2008 (MB†; 2008-155), and 14–15 Sep 2008 (JRT; MB†; 2008-156). A first-fall male was at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on Pt. Loma, SD, 21–22 Oct 2008 (SES S; DWA†, TAB†, EGK†, PEL, TRS†; 2008-149). One in Los Osos, SLO, 11 Nov–7 Dec 2008 (OJ, CAM, AFS†, JCS†, DVP; 2008-177) was apparently attempting to winter. In addition, the committee endorsed five records of single birds seen in the 1980s and 1990s: three in Huntington Beach Central Park, ORA, 4–6 Oct 1984 (DRW; BED; 2008-204), 20 Sep–4 Oct 1989 (BED; 2008-203), and 5–22 Oct 1996 (JEP; BED; 2009-008), one at Pismo Beach, SLO, 1 Oct 1987 (KJZ; 2008-190), and one in Montana de Oro State Park, SLO, 11 Oct 1993 (JR; 2008-192).

**YELLOW-GREEN VIREO** *Vireo flavoviridis* (93, 3). Three first-fall birds, at De-Forest Park in Long Beach, LA, 11–12 Sep 2008 (RB, BED†, JSF; 2008-115), Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on Pt. Loma, SD, 21–22 Sep 2008 (MJB; DWA†;

2008-119), and Carpinteria, SBA, 5–14 Oct 2008 (DMC; CAM, MM†, BMM, DiR†, MV†; 2008-132), made about an average number for this species in the fall.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported at North Vandenberg Air Force Base, SBA, 30 Oct 2008 (2008-228) was seen briefly by a single observer at close range but without the aid of binoculars, and the description did not definitively rule out a Red-eyed Vireo (*V. olivaceus*).

CAVE SWALLOW *Petrochelidon fulva* (4, 1). A first-spring bird 3 mi. sw. of Niland, IMP, 2–11 May 2008 (GMcC; BED†, JLD†, OJ†, KZK†, ABL†, PEL, TGM†, DWN†, JCS†; 2008-060; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:507) was California's first Cave Swallow seen by many observers, as the previous three, also in Imperial Co., were present for only a single day and seen only by the finders.

To date, three of the state records are for May, the other for August. The first Cave Swallows to appear in Arizona three decades ago established a similar pattern, which culminated in breeding within a Cliff Swallow (*P. pyrrhonota*) colony in 1983 (Rosenberg and Witzeman 1999). More recent Arizona records have been in fall and winter (Rosenberg et al. 2007, Rosenberg and Stevenson 2008), illustrating the necessity of the Cave Swallow being considered when any apparent Cliff Swallow is encountered in California from late fall to mid-winter.

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (13, 2). Individuals were at Pt. Isabel in Richmond, CC, 9 Oct 2008 (ES†; RoL†; 2008-136; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 63:190 and on the cover of *W. Birds* 40[3]) and at Antonelli's Pond in Santa Cruz, SCZ, 16–18 Oct (OJ; MB†, MMat†, RT, BLS†; 2008-144). The latter bird was at the same spot as the first Dusky Warbler in Santa Cruz Co., in 1997. Documentation for both records provided careful differentiation from the very similar Radde's Warbler (*P. schwarzi*) and other congeners. Vocalizations heard from both birds were variously described as sounding reminiscent of the Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*), the "smack" of some subspecies of the Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*), or combinations thereof, and thus sounding distinctly different from the softer calls of Radde's (Mullarney et al. 1999). The Radde's Warbler is a long-distance migrant with a breeding range that extends to the southern Russian Far East, Sakhalin I., northeastern China, and northern Korea (Brazil 2009); it has yet to be recorded in North America. See Erickson and Terrill (1996) for a summary of identification criteria distinguishing the Dusky from Radde's Warbler, with comments on some other similar, highly migratory species of *Phylloscopus* also found in east Asia.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* (1, 1). A first-fall female at Lemon Tank on San Clemente I., LA, 14–18 Sep 2008 (JS; JF†; 2008-116; Figure 9, photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 63:192) was the first, not only for California, but also for the contiguous United States. This common Old World thrush had long been considered a candidate for vagrancy to California, given that its breeding range extends broadly across northern Eurasia into northern Alaska and the northern Yukon Territory. In the New World, migrants occur only casually in Alaska south of the Bering Strait region (CBRC 2007).

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens* (12, 1). One that hit a window at a home in Davis, YOL, 16 May 2003 (WH, AE Jr.†; 2009-072; Figure 10) is now a specimen in the Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology (WFB #6995) at the University of California, Davis. Andrew Engilis Jr. identified the specimen as a male (in its first spring, per Peter Pyle) *C. f. salicicola*, a subspecies with a breeding range that extends from British Columbia and eastern Washington south through the Rocky Mountains to Colorado and formerly ne. Arizona. He found it much duller on the upperparts than specimens of *C. f. fuscescens* in the collection at Davis and took it to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, where he found it to match

specimens of *salicicola*. The dorsum of *salicicola* is a duller, darker brown than that of the nominate subspecies of the eastern United States; it also has the ventral spots darker and more distinct (Pyle 1997). This Veery is only the second to be found in California in the past decade and establishes the state's earliest spring record by one day (CBRC 2007).

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (24, 1). One was at Galileo Hill, KER, 9 Oct 2008 (K & BK†; 2008-135). Surprisingly, the Wood Thrush hasn't been recorded from Southeast Farallon I., SF, although over half of the state's 21 records of the more furtive and difficult-to-identify Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) have come from that locale (CBRC 2007).

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis* (18, 1). A first-fall bird in Goleta, SBA, 1–2 Sep 2008 (NL; DMCT†, OJ†, CAM, BKS†; 2008-110; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 63:187) was a first for Santa Barbara Co. and fit neatly within the interval of 27 Aug–25 Sep this Alaska-breeding species has established in California (CBRC 2007). All North American records of the Yellow Wagtail (*M. flava*, *sensu lato*) complex are assumed to represent *M. tschutschensis* (Banks et al. 2004) in spite of our current inability to distinguish first-fall birds definitively in the field. Such first-fall birds are responsible for most if not all of California's records of the Yellow Wagtail (*sensu lato*). As the Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. flava*, *sensu stricto*) is a long-distance migrant with a breeding range that extends across most of northern Siberia as far east as the Kolyma R. (Brazil 2007, Alström and Mild 2003), it is possible that one or more California records pertain to this species.

\*SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii* (110, 9). Single birds at Fenner, SBE, 28–29 Sep 2008 (TABe†, SJM†, CAM†; 2008-127), Galileo Hill, KER, 8–9 Oct 2008 (JS†; KH-L†, MSANM†, LS†, CT†, MMT†; 2008-134), Santa Fe Dam in Irwindale, LA, 16–17 Oct 2008 (AL†; MSANM; 2008-143), and on Santa Barbara I., SBA, 21 Oct 2008 (WTF; 2008-230) were all migrants. Five additional birds near Calipatria, IMP, 11 Nov 2008–7 Mar 2009 (LdeC†, GE†, KZK†, PEL, GMcC; 2008-213) were in an area where this species has recently proven to be a regular, albeit rare, winter visitor. As a result, the committee has discontinued reviewing records after 2008.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora cyanoptera* (43, 2). First-fall males were at Crystal Spring in the Kingston Mts., INY, 16–20 Sep 2008 (JEP†; CAM, TEW; 2008-118) and 13 mi. away at China Ranch, INY, 11 Oct 2008 (SLS†; 2008-227).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A bird in Korbel, HUM, 17 May 2008 (2008-073), described as appearing similar to a photo of a male Blue-winged Warbler “found on-line,” but having a “black chin stripe,” was identified as this species. Most members considered the documentation inadequate, and two believed the observer may have misjudged the size of a first-spring male Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (72, 2). A first-spring female was at Butterbredt Spring, KER, 31 May 2008 (ToE†, OJ; 2008-077; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:480), and a first-fall female was on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 14 Sep 2008 (JRT; MB†, RT†; 2008-158).

BLUE-WINGED × GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora cyanoptera* × *V. chrysoptera* (5, 1). A *Vermivora* on Southeast Farallon I., 17 Sep 2008 (JRT; MB†, RT†; 2008-157), looking most like an adult male Blue-winged Warbler but having the black eye-line broadening slightly and extending back to include some of the auriculars, was considered by six committee members to be this hybrid. While the bird's phenotype was clearly not that of a classic Brewster's or Lawrence's Warbler, the consensus of expert opinions solicited by the committee (see Acknowledgments) was that it was the product of a Blue-winged × Golden-winged hybrid that had backcrossed

with several generations of pure Blue-winged. It is inherently difficult to determine whether an anomalous phenotypic trait on an individual bird of this species pair is the product of natural variation within the taxon or introgressed genes from the other species. Therefore, the committee acknowledges the possibility (if not probability) that some previously accepted state records of Blue-winged and Golden-winged may be of individuals with varying levels of introgressed genes. For additional information on this captivating topic, see Gill (1980, 2004) and Confer et al. (2010).

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** *Dendroica dominica* (123, 3). First-spring males at Galileo Hill, KER, 25 May 2008 (EP†; 2008-074; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:480) and at the San Diego Zoo in San Diego, SD, 13 Jun 2008 (TRS†; 2008-079) were both of the western subspecies *D. d. albilora*, as was a wintering male along the Los Angeles R. in Glendale, LA, 14 Dec 2008–15 Feb 2009 (MSanM; MB†, CAM; 2008-216). The vast majority of California records have involved *albilora*, although the committee has endorsed a handful of late fall and winter records as apparently representing *D. d. dominica*, a subspecies that breeds in the eastern U.S. along the Atlantic seaboard and coast of the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

**GRACE'S WARBLER** *Dendroica graciae* (57, 1). One near Mendocino, MEN, 31 Dec 2008–31 Jan 2009 (GEC Jr., BEDo, KAH, RH, RJK†, MMat†, RiT, CW, JW; 2009-002) established the northernmost location for this species in California.

**PINE WARBLER** *Dendroica pinus* (91, 3). A male at Del Mar, SD, 10 Nov 2008 (SES S; 2008-176) was apparently a fall migrant. Wintering birds included a first-winter female frequenting Canary Island Pines (*Pinus canariensis*) in Riverside, RIV, 26 Jan 2008 (PT; 2008-021) and a first-winter male at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, LA, 6 Dec 2008–5 Jan 2009 (AL†; MSanM†; 2008-201). Adult males at Friendship Park in Chula Vista, SD, 7 Dec 2008–14 Mar 2009 (JD; DWA†, GMcC; 2008-218) and at Estancia Park in Costa Mesa, ORA, 28 Dec 2008–6 Apr 2009 (JEP†; NAG†; 2009-063) were both present for their third winters at these locations (see CBRC records 2007-098 and 2007-263, and 2007-100 and 2008-007, respectively; Singer and Terrill 2009).

**CERULEAN WARBLER** *Dendroica cerulea* (17, 1). A first-fall Cerulean Warbler in Oceano, SLO, 20 Oct 2008 (JL; MB†, LHa, OJ, DVP; 2008-148; Figure 11, photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 3:158) was only the second to be found in California since 1997, a reflection of this species' declining population in the eastern United States.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** *Helmitheros vermivorum* (116, 13). An unprecedented number of this species reached California in the fall and winter 2008–2009. Single birds noted at Furnace Cr. Ranch, INY, 4 Oct 2008 (C & RH†; JLD; 2008-226), Baker, SBE, 4–12 Oct 2008 (AEK; TABe†, SJM†, MSanM; 2008-131), Ventura, VEN, 16 Oct 2008 (RM; 2008-202), the Daggett–Barstow Airport, SBE, 17–22 Oct 2008 (JCS; 2008-164), and at Coyote Cr. Field Station near Alviso, SCL, 16–17 Nov 2008 (GB†; 2008-184) were evidently fall migrants. Individuals at San Dieguito County Park, SD, 31 Oct 2008–16 Jan 2009 (SB; ToE†, PAG, WTH†, EGK†, MMaT†, GMcC, JMM, GLR; 2008-171; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 63:159), Riverside, RIV, 7 Nov 2008–31 Jan 2009 (CAM; JLD, BHo†, GMcC, CMcG†; 2008-173), the San Diego Zoo in San Diego, SD, 21 Nov 2008–20 Apr 2009 (BM†; GMcC, TRS†, JCS†; 2008-186), Camino Real Park in Ventura, VEN, 23 Nov 2008–11 Jan 2009 (MSanM, DP†, DVP; 2008-197; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 63:358), Laguna Niguel, ORA, 8 Dec 2008 (RBMcN; 2009-067), Ferry Park in San Francisco, SF, 11 Dec 2008–28 Feb 2009 (KMB, MgF, JM, DSS†, GT†, KT†; 2008-207), and the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 13 Dec 2008 (CMcF; ME; 2008-209) were all probably wintering locally. The bird in Riverside was a first for that county. In addition, one at Camino Real Park in Ventura, VEN, 6–25 Jan 1997 (RVS; BED; AEK; 1997-085A), which had failed to reach acceptance after four earlier rounds, was reconsidered and accepted after additional documentation surfaced.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (111, 2). A first-fall female was trapped and banded at Muddy Hollow on Pt. Reyes, MRN, 21 Sep 2008 (WP†; 2008-120), and another first-fall bird that hit the window of a coffee shop in Brentwood, 3 Oct 2008 (2008-133) was photographed by local Project Wildlife personnel and constitutes a first for Contra Costa Co. and the Central Valley. The bird was rehabilitated and released on 9 Oct 2008.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (139, 2). First-fall birds were on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 14–17 Sep 2008 (MB†; 2008-159) and at Crystal Spring in the Kingston Mts., INY, 20 Sep 2008 (JLD; 2008-225). Nearly half of all California records of the Mourning Warbler have come from Southeast Farallon I., one reason the committee continues to review this species despite the relatively high number of records. Another reason is the difficulty in distinguishing the Mourning from its sibling species, the MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*) (see records not accepted, below), a problem compounded by the recent discovery of an extensive zone in east-central British Columbia in which these species hybridize (Irwin et al. 2009). See Pyle and Henderson (1990), Curson et al. (1994), and Dunn and Garrett (1997) for additional treatments of this identification challenge.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A reported Mourning Warbler photographed at Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay, SON, 30 Sep 2008 (2008-147) appeared to nearly all members to be an Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*); another at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 20 Sep 2008 (2008-150) that looked most like a MacGillivray's Warbler but called like a Mourning failed to reach acceptance on the second round, with several members mentioning the possibility of its being a hybrid.

CASSIN'S SPARROW *Peucaea cassinii* (50, 2). One in a residential yard in Lawndale, LA, 12 Oct 2007 (Jl; 2007-239) was only the second definite fall migrant recorded on California's mainland. Nine fall records are from offshore, with eight from Southeast Farallon I., SF, and the other from San Clemente I., LA (CBRC 2007). A "skylarking" male at the Carrizo Plain, SLO, 10–19 May 2008 (SDF†; TME†, JSF, BKS†, JCS†; 2008-062; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:481) provided the first record for San Luis Obispo Co.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A drab sparrow 3–4 mi. sw. of Anaheim Hills, ORA, 10 May 2008, was stated to be singing in flight, so could well have been this species. However, the documentation was lacking, as the observer provided no description of the song and little about the appearance of the bird.

BAIRD'S SPARROW *Ammodramus bairdii* (6, 2). Single first-fall birds were well photographed on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 3–4 Sep 2008 (RT†; MB†, JRT; 2008-153) and 14 Sep 2008 (RT; MB†; 2008-152; Figure 12). Amazingly, five of California's six records are from this same locale, also in September. The exception was one at Pt. Loma, SD, 5–10 Oct 1981 (Binford 1985). Notably, Nevada recorded its first Baird's Sparrow on 6 Sep 2008 (Fridell 2009a; [www.gbbo.org/nbrc/Web\\_Photos/2008-068.html](http://www.gbbo.org/nbrc/Web_Photos/2008-068.html)) and Utah its first on 5 Oct 2007 (Fridell 2008; [www.utahbirds.org/RecCom](http://www.utahbirds.org/RecCom)). California's first record of this secretive sparrow was supported by a specimen (CAS #68476), while all others have been documented by photos.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (119, 2). One was near Arcata, HUM, 15 Dec 2007 (BS; 2008-125), and a freshly dead first-fall male was on the highway near Emigrant Pass, INY, 15 Nov 2008 (PhJ†; specimen prepared by Kimball L. Garrett, original number 3638, to be transferred from LACM to DVNPM; 2008-182).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus* (14\*\*, 6). A male at Coyote Pt., SM, 15–16 Nov 2008 (JM†; RF, RST; 2008-181) and a female on San Clemente I., LA, 6 Nov 2008 (JTS†; 2008-217) were fall migrants, whereas males at Furnace Cr. Ranch in Death Valley National Park, INY, 3 Jan–2 Feb 2008 (AD; CMcC, V & GW; 2008-

005) and Buccaneer Park in Oceanside, SD, 27 Dec 2008–25 Feb 2009 (DWA†, EA†, TEBe, TAB†, DFu†, KH-L†, CAM, GMcC, GLR; 2008-229) and females near Ft. Dick, DN, 19 Dec 2008–15 Feb 2009 (ADB†; KMB, SC, KR†; 2008-221) and near Calipatria, IMP, 15–26 Dec 2008 (OJ†; GMcC, MSanM; 2008-214) were likely all wintering locally. The last record was a long anticipated first for the Salton Sink. Because this species was returned to the CBRC review list in January 2006 as a consequence of a declining population (Niven et al. 2004), it was surprising that five were found in late fall and winter 2008–2009 in California, while another six were found wintering during the same period in Nevada and Utah (Fridell 2009b).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (79, 3). A one-year old male was at Bassett's Station, SIE, 26 Jun 2008 (MMcCo†; 2008-084), a first-fall female was at Zzyzx, SBE, 18 Nov 2008 (CAM; SJM†; 2008-185), and a wintering male was at Borrego Springs, SD, 30 Nov 2008–18 Feb 2009 (PDJ; GF†, MJ†; 2008-212).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: All members considered the identification of one seen briefly from a moving vehicle near Lodi, SJ, 5 Apr 2008 (2008-050) subject to error so were unwilling to endorse the record. The report of one in Big Pine, INY, on the very early date of 31 Aug 2006 (2006-215) circulated for four rounds but never garnered more than six votes for acceptance. Several members were concerned that the documentation did not eliminate the possibility of the bird being a Brewer's Blackbird × Great-tailed Grackle (*Euphagus cyanocephalus* × *Q. mexicanus*), a hybrid that can appear remarkably similar to a Common Grackle. A male giving the appearance of this combination was documented 8 May–5 Jul 1999 (1999-122) in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo Cos. (Rogers and Jaramillo 2002).

STREAK-BACKED ORIOLE *Icterus pustulatus*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The description of an oriole seen for a short time in a residential yard in Los Angeles, LA, 24 Oct 2008 (2008-166) by an observer without binoculars lacked information regarding the presence of streaks on the back, so it was considered inadequate to document such a rarity.

BLACK ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte atrata* (14, 1). One was with Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches (*L. tephrocotis*) near Bridgeport, MNO, 17 Dec 2008 (JLD; 2008-224). To date, all records of the Black Rosy-Finch in California have come from either Mono Co. or Inyo Co.

COMMON REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea* (79, 1). One photographed at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 5 May 2008 (ZC†; 2008-061) was not only exceptionally late but also provided the southernmost record of the Common Redpoll on the Pacific coast. Notably, several more southerly records of this species in Nevada and Texas in the past decade fit a similar May–June temporal window (CBRC 2007).

ORIENTAL GREENFINCH *Chloris sinica*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A reported Oriental Greenfinch incompletely observed for approximately one minute on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 11 Oct 2008 (2008-161) received only two votes for acceptance. However, the committee noted that the observer was experienced with this species, an indicative call was heard, and what was seen was highly suggestive of this distinctive species. As a result, all members believed that the identification was likely correct but that the brevity of this single-observer sighting and the absence of photo documentation weighed against acceptance of what would be a first state record. The Oriental Greenfinch is a widespread and common resident across central, southern, and eastern China, Korea, the southern Russian Far East, and Japan and a summer visitor from Sakhalin I. through the Kuril Is. to southern and central Kamchatka (Brazil 2009). East of the Kamchatka Peninsula are the Aleutian Is., in the western and central portions of which the Oriental Greenfinch occurs intermittently in spring and casually in fall (Gibson and Byrd 2007). Although no records of the species have been accepted in North America outside of western Alaska, an Oriental Greenfinch in Arcata, HUM,

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4 Dec 1986–3 Apr 1987 (1986-450; Patten and Erickson 1994) was rejected on the basis of questionable natural occurrence, as the species has some history of being kept in captivity. That record was sufficiently compelling that the species was placed on the CBRC's supplemental list. Most compelling about the more recent sighting was that it followed several days of strong northwest winds and occurred at a time and location that militates against the probability of an escaped caged bird.

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### CORRIGENDA

The following corrections are noted for the CBRC's previous report (Singer and Terrill 2009): The average number of records per report over the first 30 reports was 214.6 (Cole et al. 2006), not 214.4 (p. 159). The location of the reported Trumpeter Swan (2007-064) was Glenn Co., not Butte Co. (p. 162). The Smew at Soulsbyville, TUO, in January 2007 returned the following winter to near Standard, TUO, not nearby Soulsbyville (p. 162). The Crested Caracara reported from the Tijuana R. valley, SD, in 2006-127 was the same bird as involved in 2007-127, which was not listed by number, although the dates for the latter record were included in the date range given for 2006-127 (p. 169). The Iceland Gull reported in 2007-009 was present on 16 Feb 2006, not 16 Feb 2007 (p. 177). Under the Literature Cited, the citation for Iliff et al. (2007) should refer to 2005 records, not 2006 (p. 189). We thank Bruce Deuel for bringing the location discrepancy for the Trumpeter Swan to our attention.

The following corrections are noted for the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual report (Heindel and Garrett 2008): The committee accepted 14 new American Golden-Plover records, not 13 (pp. 130-131). The location of the reported Pine Warbler at Mission Viejo, ORA (2006-221) was in Barton Spendlove Park, not Bart Speedlove (p. 142).

The following correction is noted for the 30<sup>th</sup> annual report (Cole et al. 2006): At the top of p. 79, the common and scientific name and opening text for the initial account on the page were separated from the account by several pages. The opening text appears on p. 75 between photos of Bar-tailed Godwits and reads "Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* (1, 2). One at Furnace Creek Ranch. . . ." We thank Joe Morlan for bringing this error to our attention.

The following correction is noted for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual report (Heindel and Garrett 1995): The author of the account of the record of an Oriental Turtle-Dove

(*Streptopelia orientalis*) in British Columbia was Paterson, not Peterson (p. 23; p. 32 under Literature Cited). We thank Jon Dunn for bringing this discrepancy to our attention.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Sightings for 2008 published in *North American Birds* for which **no** documentation was submitted to the CBRC include a possibly returning Smew near Standard, TUO, in mid-February (*N. Am. Birds* 63:319), a Yellow-billed Loon off Pacific Grove, MTY, 15 Jan–2 Feb (*N. Am. Birds* 62:298), a Crested Caracara at Pogonip, SCZ, 27 Feb (*N. Am. Birds* 62:298), one of the two Slaty-backed Gulls in the Smith R. bottoms, DN, 4–8 Feb (*N. Am. Birds* 62:299), a Thick-billed Murre at Pt. Reyes, MRN, 20 Dec (*N. Am. Birds* 63:152), a Worm-eating Warbler on Pt. Reyes, MRN, 11 Sep (*N. Am. Birds* 63:154), and a Rusty Blackbird at Lucas Valley, MRN, 20 Oct (*N. Am. Birds* 63:155). We welcome submission of documentation for these birds. However, until the committee has reviewed and accepted them, we recommend the records not be considered valid.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

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