

WESTERN BIRDS



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THE 33RD REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: 2007 RECORDS

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ABSTRACT: The California Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 285 records involving 92 species evaluated during 2007, endorsing 238 of them. New to California were Townsend's (Newell's) Shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*), Tristram's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tristrami*), Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*), Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), and Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*). Adusting for these changes brings California's bird list to 640 species, ten of which are non-native.

This 33rd report of the California Bird Records Committee (hereafter the CBRC or the committee) is the second annual report to be published after the publication of *Rare Birds of California* (CBRC 2007). That book summarizes the status of all vagrants and rare migrants in the state and details all of the committee's decisions from its inception in 1970 through 2003. In it, Appendix H covers selected but not all records from 2004 to 2006; therefore, the simple addition of records in this report to those already listed in the book could result in incorrect record tallies because some records were covered in Appendix H while others were not. This report discusses the evaluation of 285 records of 92 species. Although most records pertain to birds found in 2007, the years covered by this report extend from 1915 through 2007. Of the 285 records submitted, the committee accepted 238, involving 268 individuals of 83 species, for an acceptance rate of 84%. Forty-five records of 25 species were not accepted because of insufficient documentation or because descriptions were inconsistent with known identification criteria. Two 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 (46 records), Imperial (26), Monterey (23), Los Angeles (16), Humboldt (13), Santa Barbara (11), San Francisco (10, all from Southeast Farallon I.), Orange (9), Ventura (9),

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Riverside (8), Marin (7), Mono (7) San Luis Obispo (6), San Mateo (6), and Sonoma (6).

Highlights of this report include California's first Townsend's (Newell's) Shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*), Tristram's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tristrami*), Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*), Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), and Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*). Other noteworthy records in this report include the state's second of Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*), and Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*). Remarkable also were three Arctic Warblers (*Phylloscopus borealis*) in one fall.

The committee currently is evaluating a potential first state record of the Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). The seven species added in this report bring California's list to 640 species, ten of which are non-native and two of which have been extirpated within historical times. The recent acceptance of a further additional species, the Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*), will be described in the next report.

The acceptance rate in this report of 84% is above the weighted average of 79.6% over all CBRC reports combined, perhaps because of the increasing use of digital photography to support records that otherwise might have been documented only with written descriptions. The total of 285 records reviewed is above the average of 214.4 records per report over the first 30 reports.

The list of species reviewed by the CBRC is posted at the California Bird Records Committee web site (www.californiabirds.org), which also includes the entire California list, the committee's bylaws, a reporting form for e-mail submission of records to the CBRC, contact information for current and recent committee members, a photo gallery of recent submissions (including some of birds addressed in this report), recent annual reports, information on ordering the committee's publication *Rare Birds of California* (2007), corrigenda for same, a search function for all post-2003 records, and other information about the CBRC.

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

News and Format

Committee News. The committee's voting membership after the January 2009 annual meeting consisted of Paul E. Lehman (chair), Daniel S. Singer (vice-chair), Jon L. Dunn, Joseph Morlan, Kristie N. Nelson, James E. Pike, Peter Pyle, Brian Sullivan, and Jim Tietz. Guy McCaskie continued in his role as nonvoting secretary. Previous committee members who also voted on many of the records in this report include David M. Compton,

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Kimball L. Garrett, Matthew T. Heindel, Marshall J. Iloff, Alvaro Jaramillo, and Scott B. Terrill.

As noted by Shuford (2006) and Iloff 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 2005 are available through that site.

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*), but, if the CBRC accepts a date span differing from that in 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: initials followed by a dagger (†) indicate the observer supplied a supportive photograph, (#) indicates video, (§) indicates a voice recording, and (#) indicates a specimen record, 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 because historically the committee has treated groups of individuals appearing together with a single record number (e.g., a flock of Common Redpolls, *Carduelis 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. Such decisions 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 by the CBRC (2007).

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At the 2008 meeting the committee decided to include all records of a species, including those accepted, those not accepted because of identification concerns, and those not accepted because of natural-occurrence concerns, within one species account. This is a major change in format from all previous reports and is intended to make finding specific records easier by eliminating the need for flipping back and forth between sections during a search for all records of a particular species.

The CBRC uses standard abbreviations for California counties; those used in this report are ALA, Alameda; BUT, Butte; DN, Del Norte; GLE, Glenn; HUM, Humboldt; IMP, Imperial; INY, Inyo; KER, Kern; KIN, Kings; LAK, Lake; LAS, Lassen; LA, Los Angeles; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MNO, Mono; MTY, Monterey; NEV, Nevada; ORA, Orange; RIV, Riverside; SAC, Sacramento; SBE, San Bernardino; SD, San Diego; SF, San Francisco; SLO, San Luis Obispo; SM, San Mateo; SBA, Santa Barbara; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SHA, Shasta; SIS, Siskiyou; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; TRI, Trinity; VEN, Ventura; YOL, Yolo. A list of abbreviations for all 58 California counties is available at www.californiabirds.org/counties.html and in CBRC (2007). Other abbreviations used: Cr., creek; I., island; L., lake; Mt., mountain; n. miles, nautical miles; N.W.R., national wildlife refuge; Pt., point; R., river; W. A., wildlife area; W. M. A., wildlife management area.

Museum collections housing specimens cited in this report, allowing access to committee members for research, or otherwise cited, are the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles (LACM), Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley (MVZ), San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego (SDNHM), Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara (SBMNH), Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto (ROM), Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology, University of California, Davis (MWFB), and the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo (WFVZ).

RECORDS

EMPEROR GOOSE *Chen canagica* (89, 2). An adult was at the north jetty of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 2 Mar 2007 (SGe; 2007-085). While examining specimens at MVZ, David E. Quady noticed an Emperor Goose that had been collected by Harold C. Bryant and "Lamme" on 27 Oct 1915 at West Butte, SUT. The record was not included in Grinnell and Miller (1944), nor had it been reviewed by the committee. It is surprising that the very thorough Grinnell and Miller would have missed this specimen in their own collection, but that appears to be the case. Photos of the specimen were furnished to the committee (†DEQ; MVZ #25861; 2007-097).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Three adults and one immature were reported from the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, SIS, 14 Dec 2005 (2006-225). The observer is experienced with waterfowl, but the majority of the committee believed that the description was too brief and incomplete to establish the identification.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (76, 1). An adult was with seven Tundra Swans (*C. columbianus*) at Modoc N. W. R., MOD, 2 Dec 2007 (SCR; 2007-281). This bird was vocalizing and showed most of the features distinguishing the Trumpeter from the Tundra Swan except the outline of the feathering on the forehead, which

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was curved as typical for Tundra Swan rather than pointed as on a classic Trumpeter Swan. Caution is warranted in identifying swans, especially silent birds (e.g., see Pat-ten and Heindel 1994 for identification criteria), and there appears to be significant individual variation, further complicating identification.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A bird along Road 39 northeast of Wil-lows, BUT, 6 Feb 2007 (2007-064) was identified as a juvenile Trumpeter Swan by an observer who has worked with this species extensively. Young swans are extremely difficult to identify in the field, and the observer identified this bird primarily on the basis of size and by the entirely gray plumage, which is correct for the Trumpeter but does not rule out the Tundra. On the basis of the reported size difference (25–30% larger than nearby Tundra Swans), most committee members thought that the bird was likely a Trumpeter. These swans vary considerably in size, however, and seemingly large Tundra Swans create identification problems.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK *Anas rubripes* (2, 1). A bird flying with a female Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*) was shot during a waterfowl hunt at the Prime Time Duck Club 11 miles south of Willows, COL, 21 Dec 2006. The hunter recognized it as an American Black Duck, and photographs of the bird were submitted to the committee (†YFK; 2007-015). The specimen is being mounted, and Forest-Knowles plans to donate it to the Museum of Wildlife and Fish, University of California, Davis. With only two ac-cepted records for California, the American Black Duck remains exceptionally rare in far western North America. Identification of this species is complicated by extensive hybridization with the Mallard, evidence of which can be subtle and difficult to detect in some birds. In addition, assessing the origin of individuals of this species in western North America is complicated by releases and attempted introductions. In the West, es-capes and releases are known especially from Washington (P. E. Lehman pers. comm.). The committee saw no reason to question the origin of this bird, however, nor did it detect evidence of hybridization from photos of the specimen. The validity of a record for Korea involving a band recovered from a male initially captured in Virginia (cited by CBRC 2007), has been called into doubt (D. D. Gibson, J. L. Dunn pers. comm.)

SMEW *Mergellus albellus* (3, 1). An adult male in Soulsbyville, TUO, 20–29 Jan 2007 (SU; LBl†, WGB†, MB, DMC, EDG†, OJ†, JK†, LLi‡, MMe†, MSanM†, JM†, SJM†, DWN†, MTi; 2007-024) returned the following winter 29 Dec 2007–2 Feb 2008 (PB†; SUM; 2008-010; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:334).

ARCTIC LOON *Gavia arctica*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A distant loon at Monterey Harbor, MTY, 3 Jan 2007 (2007-067) showed what appeared to be conspicuous white flares on the flanks. The bird was photographed, however, only through a scope when it was too far away for detail to be discerned. Most committee members believed this bird could well have been an Arctic Loon but concluded that the documentation did not establish that identification fully.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON *Gavia adamsii* (77, 1). One was inland at O'Neill Fore-bay, MER, 16–20 Nov 2007 (ADeM; 2007-282). Inland records represent fewer than 10% of the records of this species in California.

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus* (22, 4). Three (all young birds) were photographed: one at 30° 43.300' N, 123° 23.310' W (approximately 140 n. miles southwest of San Nicolas Island, VEN) 16 Jan 2007 (LSht, fide TJG; 2007-018), one on Monterey Bay, MTY, 22 Apr 2007 (MS†; 2007-109), and one off Bodega Bay, SON, 23 Sep 2007 (LLu‡; PhE†, GEw†, EPr†; 2007-204). On the last date, there were two separate sightings approximately 1.5 hours apart, prompt-ing the question whether two individuals were off Bodega Bay that day (LLu‡; PhE†, GEw†, EPr†; 2007-205). After studying the photographs, however, the committee unanimously agreed the observations involved a single bird. Also, a fourth Short-tailed Albatross was observed from Pt. Pinos, MTY, 24 Jun 2007 (BLS; 2007-265).

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GALAPAGOS/HAWAIIAN PETREL *Pterodroma phaeopygia/sandwichensis* (22, 1). One was 9.17 n. miles west of Pt. Pinos, MTY, 17 Sep 2005 (ToE; MME; 2005-123A). There is an emerging consensus that the Hawaiian Petrel (*P. sandwichensis*) accounts for most or all California records. Force et al. (2007) discussed potential identification criteria. The CBRC is currently analyzing all previously accepted California records to determine which, if any, can be assigned to the Hawaiian rather than the Galapagos or Galapagos/Hawaiian petrels. Adult Hawaiian Petrels with satellite transmitters have been tracked making regular foraging forays from Hawaii to waters off the west coast of North America, including those off California, during the breeding season (D. Ainley pers. comm.).

STREAKED SHEARWATER *Calonectris leucomelas* (17, 2). One was 25 n. miles west of Pt. Pinos, MTY, 13 Oct 2007 (ToE; RW, 2007-264), and the following day a second bird was 2.5 n. miles north of Pt. Pinos (ToE†; DSg; 2007-227). Over half of California's Streaked Shearwaters have been found on Monterey Bay, and all records fall between 5 Aug and 15 Oct.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* (2, 1). One was 30 n. miles west of San Diego, SD, at 32° 43.07' N, 117° 41.83' W on 4 Sep 2007 (DPo; 2007-170). What was presumably the same individual had been observed repeatedly on and around the Islas Los Coronados, just south of the international border off Tijuana, Baja California, in 2005, 2006 (CBRC 2007), and 2007 (DPo comments in submission). but it was noted in U.S. waters only once. As discussed in *N. Am. Birds* (60:441, 468), this bird's underwing pattern is consistent with *C. d. borealis*. The only Cory's Shearwater previously accepted for California was off Sonoma County on 9 Aug 2003 (San Miguel and McGrath 2005).

*MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* (109, 12). Single Manx Shearwaters were seen from Asilomar, MTY, 17 Sep 2006 (BLS; 2007-268), approximately 9 n. miles west of Pt. Pinos, MTY, 30 Sep–8 Oct 2006 (DR; MB; 2006-159), southeast of Davenport Landing, SCZ, 7 Oct 2006 (MB; 2006-193), from Pt. Pinos, MTY, 5 Oct 2006 (BLS; 2007-269), off Rincon Pt., SBA/VEN, 2 Mar 2007 (WF; MaS; 2007-142), from Pt. Dume, LA, 3 Mar 2007 (KLG; 2007-068), from Pt. Pinos, MTY, 15 Apr 2007 (BLS; 2007-270), from Pt. Pinos, MTY, 3 Sep 2007 (BLS; 2007-271), in Monterey Bay, MTY, 10 Sep 2007 (BLS†; 2007-189), and from Pt. Pinos, MTY, 28 Dec 2007 (RFo; 2008-001). Two were in the Santa Barbara Channel, VEN/SBA, 23 Sep 2007 (OJ†; DVP†; 2007-206). The committee reviews records of this species through 2007.

TOWNSEND'S (NEWELL'S) SHEARWATER *Puffinus auricularis newelli* (1, 1). One at Del Mar, SD, 1 Aug 2007 (DAH†, GMcC, MFP†, MS†, PU; SDNHM #52126; 2007-156; Unitt et al. 2009; photos also in *N. Am. Birds* 62:150 and *Birding* 40:34) represents a first record for mainland North America. The bird had come ashore at night and was dive-bombing men wearing headlamps who were working on stabilizing coastal bluffs. One of the workers brought the bird to wildlife rehabilitators, who identified it initially as a Manx Shearwater. When the bird was brought to the SDNHM, however, Unitt noted that the undertail coverts were white basally but black distally and identified the bird as a Newell's Shearwater (Unitt et al. 2009). The identification of Townsend's (*P. a. auricularis*), Newell's, and Manx Shearwaters was addressed by Howell et al. (1994). The bird eventually died at Project Wildlife and is now a specimen at SDNHM. Newell's breeds in the Hawaiian Islands, Townsend's on the Revillagigedo Islands off west Mexico (AOU 1998).

TRISTRAM'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma tristrami* (1, 1). One photographed on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 22 Apr 2006 (PW†; 2007-162; Figure 1; photos also in *Birding* 40:35) represents a species new to North America. It was captured during nocturnal banding of storm-petrels. The biologists handling it initially



Figure 1. This Tristram's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma tristrami*) captured on Southeast Farallon Island on 22 Apr 2006 was initially identified as a Black Storm-Petrel (*O. melania*). Subsequent review of the photos by Steve N. G. Howell, Peter Pyle, and Richard Stallcup indicated that the bird was definitely not a Black Storm-Petrel and likely a Tristram's Storm Petrel. Extensive comments on the record, including measurements of specimens, were submitted by Howell and Pyle. In particular, the bird's large size, with a wing chord (191 mm) substantially longer than that of any similar species, confirmed the identification.

Photo by Russ Bradley

thought the bird was likely a Black Storm-Petrel (*O. melania*), but Warzybok et al. (2008) later identified it as a Tristram's Storm-Petrel. The comments and detailed analysis by Warzybok et al. (2008) and other experts consulted, especially Pyle, were added to the record. This species breeds on the northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the Japanese islands of Torishima (Izu Is.) and Kita-iôtô or Kita Iwo (Volcano Is.) and ranges at sea from the Hawaiian Islands to Japanese waters (AOU 1998). There are no other records of this species in the eastern Pacific (P. Pyle pers. comm.).

RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD *Phaethon rubricauda* (28, 1). One was 158 n. miles southwest of San Nicolas Island, VEN, 28 Sep 2005 (TSt; 2005-183). It was one of 42 Red-tailed Tropicbirds observed on a Southwest Fishery Science Center research cruise in the northeastern Pacific in 2005. Seven of the 42 were in California waters (P. Pyle pers. comm.), and the CBRC has accepted four of these (Iliff et al. 2007).

MASKED BOOBY *Sula dactylatra* (14, 1). A subadult came aboard the sport-fishing boat *MV Victory* between Santa Catalina I. and Long Beach, LA, 29 Sep

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2007 (AK†, SK, DW†; 2007-215). It was taken to the International Bird Rescue and Research Center in San Pedro, rehabilitated, then banded and released on the west side of Santa Catalina I. 9 Oct 2007 (*vide* KLG).

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY *Sula nebouxii* (91, 2). Following the “mini invasion” of this species to the Salton Sea in 2006, only two Blue-footed Boobies were reported in 2007, both from coastal locations where the species is much rarer. One was at Pt. Vicente, LA, 9 Jun 2007 (KGL; 2007-135), the other near Coronado, SD, 7 Sep 2007 (MS†; 2007-176).

*BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster* (122, 25). Four on Southeast Farallon I., SF, included an adult male 25 Jan–22 May 2006, adult females 28 Apr 2006–24 Jan 2007 and 26 Sep 2006–24 Jan 2007, and an immature 20 Oct 2006–24 Jan 2007 (MB, JE†, RFo, RG†, RST, JTz, PW†; 2007-033). An immature was west of San Clemente I., LA, 11 Oct–2 Nov 2006 (MS†; 2006-181). Establishing a first record for Humboldt Co., a juvenile at the entrance to Humboldt Bay 29 Nov–9 Dec 2006 (KMS; BAc, COg; 2006-203) later moved to Trinidad, HUM. An adult female was 5 miles west of Dana Point, ORA, 20 Jan 2007 (JEP; JA†; 2007-087; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:326). A juvenile was at Fort Bragg, MEN, 23 Feb 2007 (LHu; 2007-081). A subadult female was at Natural Bridges State Beach, SCZ, 15–18 Mar 2007 (PB; JeP†, MMR†, LSe†; 2007-075). An adult male, an adult female, and a subadult were at Sutil I. off Santa Barbara I., SBA, 14 Mar 2007 (LH†; 2007-201). A subadult was at the Santa Cruz wharf, SCZ, 25 Mar–17 Apr 2007 (PLaT†, JeP†, LSe†; 2007-241; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:505). A female was 2 miles north of Pacific Grove, MTY, 11 Apr 2007 (RW†; 2007-242). One was at La Jolla Cove, SD, 28 May 2007 (EA; 2007-125). An immature was at Pt. Vicente, LA, 2 Jun 2007 (KGL; 2007-128). A subadult female that landed on a boat 20 miles off Trinidad, HUM, 4–5 Jun 2007, stayed on the boat overnight and then departed when the boat was 1 mile off the entrance to Humboldt Bay (anonymous observer†; *vide* EE; 2007-254). An immature was at La Jolla, SD, 4–24 Jun 2007 (EA; CH, GMcC, SES; 2007-129). An adult female and a subadult female were at Pt. La Jolla, SD, 27 Jul 2007 (PEL; 2007-154), and another was at the same location 12 Aug 2007 (GMcC; 2007-159). Another was 1–2 miles south of Pt. Loma, SD, 26 Aug 2007 (CGE; 2007-178). A subadult was at Alviso, SCL, 13 Sep–20 Nov 2007 (BS; KH†, MJM; 2007-194), and another subadult was at Pt. Piedras Blancas, SLO, 1 Dec 2007 (MSanM; 2007-307). Finally, a juvenile was 15 miles off Imperial Beach, SD, 4 Dec 2007 (TAB†; 2007-279). The committee reviews records of this species through 2007.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: An adult was reported from the Tijuana R. mouth, SD, 15 Oct 2006 (2006-161). The majority of the committee thought that the description was simply too brief and incomplete to document the identification.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (16, 3). One was at Obsidian Butte at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 19 Oct 2007 (CAM; GMcC; 2007-229), and up to two were at Fig Lagoon and Sunbeam L. near Seeley, IMP, 23 Nov 2007–16 Feb 2008 (GG†; DWA†, PBr†, JFe, SAG†, HBK, KZK†, CLi, LLi, GMcC, MMe†, MS†; 2007-273; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:151 and 62:302).

LESSER FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata ariel* (1, 1). A superbly documented subadult female, representing a first record for California and the fourth for North America (Sullivan et al. 2007), was west of Arcata, HUM, 15 Jul 2007 (MJ†, STK, CJR, BLS†; 2007-153; Figure 2; photos also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:540–545). The Magnificent Frigatebird (*F. magnificens*) was formerly regular in California, and frigatebirds seen, especially during the summer, have been assumed to be this species, typically without much scrutiny. The Great Frigatebird (*F. minor*) has occurred in California once in March and once in October. This summer record of a Lesser indicates that all frigatebirds, regardless of season, should be studied very carefully. This species breeds fairly widely in the south Pacific and ranges north to the South China Sea and

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Figure 2. The first Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*) for California and the fourth for North America was well documented at Arcata, Humboldt County, on 15 July 2007. Sullivan et al. (2007) summarized the features distinguishing the Lesser from other frigatebirds, many of which are visible in this photo (see text).

Photo by Brian L. Sullivan

western Pacific to Korea and Japan, casually to Kamchatka and the northwestern Hawaiian Islands. It also breeds sparingly in the south Atlantic and the western Indian Oceans (AOU 1998, Brazil 2009).

Sullivan et al. (2007) analyzed the bird's identification in detail. In summary, its molt pattern suggested the bird was in at least its third cycle, and the pattern of incoming plumage (lacking dark mottling on the white underparts; developing a completely dark head) identified it as a female. (1) The black partial collar across the lower throat was too extensive for a Great Frigatebird; (2) the prominence and whiteness of the collar on the hindneck indicated the Lesser rather than the Great; (3) the cinnamon on the lower throat suggested a species other than the Magnificent; (4) the black of the lower belly extended up through the central portion of the belly and lower breast in an inverted V shape, as typical of the female Lesser and Magnificent but not the Great, which shows a more evenly U-shaped belly patch; (5) white extended from the breast onto the axillaries as a solid patch rather than as pale scalloping as in the Magnificent and Great; and (6) the well-developed pink orbital ring indicated the Lesser Frigatebird. Other characters, including the pink bill and feet, were also consistent with the Lesser. Many of these features can be seen in Figure 2. Sullivan et al. (2007) also briefly discussed the elimination of the other two species of frigatebirds, which are much less likely to occur in California, the Christmas Frigatebird (*F. andrewsi*) and the Ascension Frigatebird (*F. aquila*).

TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* (55**, 5). Single birds were at Fig Lagoon, IMP, 10 Feb–4 Mar 2007 (GMcC; DVB, HD†, MTH; 2007-051), the southeast corner of the Salton Sea, IMP, 3 May–5 Sep 2007 (HBK, EM; RFr†, GMcC; 2007-114), the San Diego R. mouth, SD, 15 Nov 2007–29 Apr 2008 (MJB†; PEL, GMcC, JPe†, DSe†; 2007-261), and the Tijuana R. estuary, SD, 25 Nov 2007–18 Apr 2008 (SMA; PEL; CAM, GMcC, BiM; 2007-275). One was photographed near Woodlake, TUL, in Jun 2000, but the specific date is unknown (GL†; 2007-288).

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Figure 3. This stunning photo of a second-year Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) was taken 8 July 2007 in the Tijuana R. valley, San Diego County. The majority of California's records of this species are of one-year-old birds such as this one during late spring.

Photo by Matt Sadowski

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* (38, 6). An adult was paired with a Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) at North I. Naval Air Station, SD, 19 Apr–30 Jun 2007 (JR†, MPR†; 2007-118; see Platter-Rieger et al. 2008). The same pair that established the first nesting record for California in 2006 raised three young at Imperial Beach, SD, 30 Jun 2007–15 Mar 2008 (GMcC, VM†, PZ†; 2007-151). Single birds were at Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, VEN, 17–23 May 2007 (DP, MR†; 2007-131) and Famosa Slough, SD, 7 Aug 2007 (SHu†; 2007-166).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (14, 2). Single adults were at the north end of the Prado Basin, SBE, 3–8 Apr 2007 (JEP†; 2007-095) and the Yolo Bypass W. A., YOL, 25–29 Aug 2007 (ToE†; 2007-163).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One was reported from Barstow, SBE, 17 Aug 2003 (2007-150), but the majority of the committee thought the description and sketch were not detailed enough to determine the age of the bird and that it might have been a juvenile White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*). Two photos were submitted from Calipatria, IMP, 7 Sep 2006 (2006-190). Two-thirds of the committee believed that the photos were too out of focus to allow a conclusive determination, although what could be discerned suggested the Glossy Ibis.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL *Platalea ajaja* (136**, 7). Three juveniles were at the Morton Bay/Hazard Unit at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 26 Jul–1 Sep 2007 (GMcC; MG†; 2007-172), and two others were at the south end of the Salton Sea and Finney L., IMP, 10 Nov 2007–10 Apr 2008 (WF†; GG†, HBK, CLi, GMcC, CAM; 2007-257). Single juveniles were near Seeley, IMP, 13–25 Nov 2007 (TC†;

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Figure 4. Set of Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) eggs collected at Bridgeport, Mono County, on 30 May 1954.

Photo by David Compton

HBK, CLi, GMcC; 2007-256; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:151) and along the Santa Ana R. from Orange/Anaheim, ORA, to Norco, RIV, 5 Dec 2007–2 Jan 2008 (ABL; MBa, DFu†, HBK, CAM, CMcG†, SJM†, MMT†; 2007-280).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE *Elanoides forficatus* (1, 1). The first Swallow-tailed Kite accepted from California was photographed 2 miles west of Graton, SON, 4 Oct 2007 (CJJ†; 2007-217). This species breeds in the southeastern United States, and although it strays north regularly in eastern North America north to southern Canada, there are many fewer records from western North America, where it is considered accidental in Colorado (Andrews and Righter 1992) and casual in New Mexico (A.O.U. 1993). Closer to California, there is only a single sight record from Arizona (2–3 August 1980; Rosenberg and Witzeman 1998).

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis* (41, 3). Single second-year birds were at the South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula, LA, 26 May–4 Jun 2007 (SW†; KLG, KGL, MSanM, LS†; 2007-124; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:510), near San Marcos Pass, SBA, 27 May 2007 (WC†; 2007-143) and the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 8 Jul 2007 (PU; EK†, AM†, MS†; 2007-148; Figure 3; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:641).

COMMON BLACK-HAWK *Buteogallus anthracinus* (5, 1). An adult near Santa Rosa, SON, 20–29 Mar 2007 (SM; 2007-080) was assumed to be the same adult that had been at the same location 14 May–22 Oct 2005 (Ilf et al. 2007) and 30 Apr–9 Oct 2006 (Heindel and Garrett 2008). An adult was at Morongo Valley, SBE, 14 Sep 2007 (JPSt; 2007-199).

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HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The description of one from Rancho San Diego, SD, 18 Jan 2008 (2008-019) was too brief to establish the identification. NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE: A record of one near Blythe, RIV, 11 Nov–17 Dec 2005 (2005-161) went three rounds with seven committee members questioning the origin of the bird in the final circulation. No details were submitted with a poor-quality photo, so there was no way to determine whether the bird showed signs of captivity. Because this species is widely kept in captivity and there have been escapes and intentional releases in the lower Colorado R. valley (Walton et al. 1988), the majority of the committee thought that the lack of information about the condition of this bird (degree of feather wear, bands, etc.) left the question of natural occurrence open.

CRESTED CARACARA *Caracara cheriway* (24, 3). Single Crested Caracaras were in Shasta Valley near Grenada, SIS, 21 Oct 1988–26 Mar 1989 (BB†, ADB, NEC, RE, SSh; 1989-045A), the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 9 Sep 2006–6 Jun 2007 (DWA†, MB, MJB†, TAB†, CAM, GMcC, TAM†, GLR, BJS; 2006-127; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:144), and the Ferndale Bottoms, HUM, 8 Dec 2006–28 Mar 2007 (RG, JTz; 2007-076; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:506).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one from the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 21 Feb 2007 (2007-060) lacked detail sufficient to establish the identification.

EURASIAN KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* (1, 1). A juvenile female trapped, banded, and released at the Marin Headlands, MRN, 23 Oct 2007 [MA†; 2007-233; photo on back cover of *Western Birds* 39(3)] represented a first for California and the third and most southerly record on the Pacific coast of North America south of Alaska (Hull et al. 2008). This widespread Eurasian species has been recorded casually along the east coast of North America and from Alaska. Elsewhere in the West



Figure 5. This Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) at Coronado, San Diego County, 13–21 Jun 2007 was only the twelfth recorded in California but the seventh in well-covered San Diego County.

Photo by Matt Sadowski

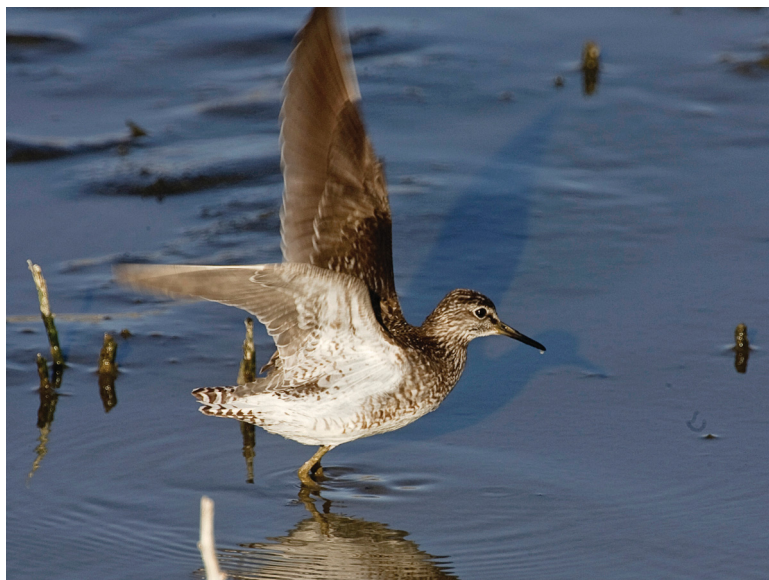


Figure 6. The first Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) for California was superbly photographed at the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, Kern County, 22–23 May 2007. This photo shows the uniformly barred tail and white rump that distinguish this species from the similar Solitary Sandpiper (*T. solitaria*), which has solidly dark central tail feathers and a dark rump, and by the underwing coverts, which are notably paler than those of the Solitary Sandpiper and (especially) Green Sandpiper (*T. ochropus*).

Photo by Bob Steele

it has been recorded previously from British Columbia, at Alkali L., 41 km south of Williams L. in the Chilcotin–Cariboo region, where one was collected on 10 Dec 1946 (Campbell 1985), and from Washington, at Bow, 23 km south of Bellingham, where one was present from 31 October until after 25 Dec 1999 was caught and photographed on 3 Nov (Wahl et al. 2005).

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus* (11, 1). A dark intermediate-morph juvenile was in an agricultural area 11 miles southwest of Corcoran, KIN, 21–23 Nov 2007 (SSut, ERP†; 2007-278; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:144). This record is the southernmost for the Gyrfalcon in California and one of the southernmost for this species in North America.

*YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (84, 6). Committee member Compton photographed a series of nests with eggs in the WFVZ collection. All were collected at Bridgeport, MNO, in the mid 20th century by Ralph Dixon: WFVZ #139804, 8-egg set, 2 Jun 1939 (2007-248); WFVZ #144451, 9-egg set, 28 Jun 1949 (2007-249); WFVZ #86354, 4-egg set, 28 Jun 1949 (2007-250); WFVZ #86355, 8-egg set, 10 Jun 1950 (2007-251); WFVZ #167458-9, 9-egg set, 30 May 1954 (2007-252; Figure 4); WFVZ #167459, 9-egg set, 30 May 1954 (2007-253). The committee treats one set of eggs as one individual. This is the minimum number of birds known present (there could have been no male present and the eggs infertile, but there is



Figure 7. Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) at the Salinas Wastewater Treatment Plant, Monterey County, on 13 September 2007. This photo captures the dark underwing coverts that distinguish this species from the similar Black-tailed Godwit (*L. limosa*) of Eurasia, which occurs very rarely to casually in western Alaska (most regularly in the western Aleutian Islands) and could reach California. The Black-tailed Godwit shows mostly white underwing linings.

Photo by Jeff Poklen

no question that a female was present, even if never seen). The committee reviews records of this species through 2003.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* (34**, 11). Spring records comprise one at Red Hill, south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 18 Apr 2007 (JPu†; 2007-120), one at the north end of Poe Road, Salton Sea, IMP, 3 May 2007 (GMcC; RFo; 2007-111), two near Red Hill, south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 10–18 May 2007 (GMcC; HD†; 2007-115), and one near the Whitewater R. mouth at the north

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Figure 8. Representing the only accepted occurrence of the White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) in California involving more than one bird, these two were photographed together at the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, Kern County, on 23 May 2007.

Photo by Bob Steele

end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 17 May 2007 (JFe; 2007-121). Fall records comprise one at Owens L. mitigation ponds, INY, 26 Aug 2007 (RSt†, SS††; JLD†, CHo†, RHo, MSanM; 2007-169; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:151), one at the end of Young Road at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 28 Sep 2007 (BM†; 2007-216), one at Hayward Shoreline, ALA, 3–7 Oct 2007 (PDr†; 2008-032), one at Salinas Wastewater Treatment Plant, MTY, 11 Oct 2007 (BLS†; BH††, JeP†; 2007-222), one at Owens L., INY, 14–16 Oct 2007 (MP; SS††; 2007-292), and one at the Eel R. estuary, HUM, 15–16 Oct 2005 (SMc†; RFo†; 2007-196). The 26 Aug record was of an adult, the first adult recorded in fall in California since the committee began reviewing records of this species in 2004 and explaining the early date (J. L. Dunn pers. comm.).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Six records involving seven birds were not accepted because the committee concluded that the Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*) was not eliminated: one at the wastewater-treatment facility at Naval Air Weapons Station, China L., KER, 20–21 May 2006 (2006-070), two there on 28 Apr 2007 (2007-123), one on the Oxnard Plain, VEN, 21–30 Oct 2006 (2006-172), one at the San Simeon Cr. mouth, SLO, 31 Oct–13 Nov 2006 (2006-198), one at the Salinas R. mouth, MTY, 21 Oct 2007 (2008-034), and one at the Santa Ynez R. estuary, SBA, 27 Oct 2007 (2007-306).

WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia* (12, 1). One was at Delta Beach on the Silver Strand in Coronado, SD, 13–21 Jun 2007 (MS†; MJB†; JFe, GMcC, GLR; 2007-132; Figure 5).

*AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus* (37, 2). Single birds were at Royal Palms Beach, San Pedro, LA, 28 Sep (TGM†; 2006-139) and Anacapa I., VEN, 10 Mar 2007 (RH†; 2007-073). One at La Jolla, SD, 2–17 Dec 2007 (BDo†; 2007-291) was considered a returning bird (2006-117; see Heindel and Garrett 2008).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The description of an oystercatcher at Royal Palms Beach and Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro, LA, 4–16 May 2006 (2006-073) certainly indicated that the bird had American Oystercatcher genes. However, four or five committee members over three circulations of the record thought that the description was not detailed enough to rule out an intergrade with a Black Oystercatcher (*H. bachmani*). Although apparent American Oystercatchers recorded in southern

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California show some signs of introgression, the possible extent of introgression was difficult to determine from the description of this bird. The committee removed the American Oystercatcher from the review list at its 2009 annual meeting. Reasons for the removal involved the high degree of hybridization between the American and Black oystercatchers in the northern portion of the range of *H. p. frazari* and the somewhat arbitrary decision of when a bird qualifies as an American Oystercatcher. In addition, it is difficult to assess the degree to which repeated observations from particular locations represent the same individuals or different birds. The committee concluded that continued review would not contribute significantly to further knowledge of *H. p. frazari* in California.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Aspects of descriptions of a bird along the Mad R., Arcata, HUM, 6–7 Nov 2007 (2007-247) suggested this species (clearly reddish legs, obvious supercilium, primarily pale gray on the upperparts and whitish underparts), but seven committee members thought that the reports omitted too much detail to support the identification of such a rarely occurring species. In particular, the observers did not note the distinctive shape (very long, narrow, and slightly drooping at the tip) and color (conspicuously red at the base of the mandible) of the bill.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* (1, 1). An overdue addition to the California list, a Wood Sandpiper was found at the Naval Air Weapons Station, China L., KER, 22–23 May 2007 (SS†; DVB, JLD, AH, VH, AEK, KHL, GMcC, MSanM, LS, RS†; 2007-119; Figure 6; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:356). This palearctic shorebird occurs in western Alaska in numbers in spring, almost annually in fall. Away from Alaska, it has been recorded in Hawaii, Oregon, Yukon Territory, British Columbia, Newfoundland, New York, Delaware, Bermuda, and Barbados.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* (28, 1). A juvenile was in the Tijuana R. valley, SD, 23 Sep 2007 (JFe, MSanM†; MS†, TRS†; 2007-203).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica* (26, 3). A female was at the Naval Air Weapons Station, China L., KER, 7–8 Jun 2007 (SS†; AH, VH, AEK, KHL†, MSanM; 2007-130). Juveniles were at the Salinas Wastewater Treatment Plant, MTY, 8–20 Sep 2007 (BLSt†; BH†, JeP†; 2007-192; Figure 7) and at Doran Beach State Park, Bodega Bay, SON, 23 Sep 2007 (JW; 2007-285).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (33, 3). Three fall records, all of juveniles, are of one at the Mad R. estuary, HUM, 30 Aug–10 Sep 2007 (KB, SMc†, KR†2007-173), one at Año Nuevo Pt., SM, 3 Sep 2006 (PJM; 2007-019), and one at Famosa Slough, SD, 22 Sep–7 Oct 2007 (BT; MJB†, TAB†, JFe, KZK†, GMcC, AM†, CAM, MS†, TRS†; 2007-202; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:152).

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* (9, 1). An adult was on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 24–27 Aug 2007 (MB; AK†, JTz†; 2007-303).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The record of a juvenile filmed by camcorder near Crescent City, DN, 27 Sep 2005 (2005-177) went four circulations before being rejected 1–8 on the fourth and final round. The majority of the committee thought that the bird may have been a somewhat aberrant Least Sandpiper (*C. minutilla*). Several outside experts were consulted on this record; initially, they thought the bird was a Little Stint, but after viewing the video repeatedly concluded the bird was a Least Sandpiper.

LONG-TOED STINT *Calidris subminuta*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported from the Caspar Cr. estuary, MEN, 23 Aug 2006 (2006-122) was described in detail by experienced observers, and several committee members assessed the description as good for this species. However, the Long-toed Stint is extremely rare in North America away from the Aleutians and Bering Sea, with only



Figure 9. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) at Point Loma, San Diego County, on 6 Oct 2007.

Photo by John Puschock

three accepted records for the west coast of the lower 48 states: one for California, of a juvenile substantiated by photographs (Patten and Daniels 1991) and two for Oregon, one of them of a juvenile substantiated by photographs (south jetty of the Columbia R., 2–6 Sept 1981). The third was a sight record of an adult at the same location 17 Jul 1983 (Marshall et al. 2003). The Least Sandpiper can be quite variable, and bright juvenile Least Sandpipers have been misidentified as Long-toed Stints. This difficulty combined with the Long-toed Stint's extreme rarity prompted a number



Figure 10. Comparison of a very bright Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*; right) and fairly typical Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*; left) captured on Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco County, on 9 September 2007, a date very early for the Blue-headed Vireo in California.

Photo by Kenneth Burton



Figure 11. This Red-faced Warbler (*Cardellina rubrifrons*), probably a second-year male, was photographed on 14 July 2007 in Green Canyon in the San Bernardino Mountains in San Bernardino County, where it remained for more than three weeks.

Photo by John C. Sterling

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of committee members to conclude that more solid documentation was necessary to establish the identification of this species in California.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* (23, 3). One spring record, of two at the Naval Air Weapons Station, China L., KER, 23 May 2007 (GMcC; JLD, KHL, MSanM, RSt; 2007-122; Figure 8; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 61:510). One fall record, of an adult at the Salinas Wastewater Treatment Plant, MTY, 1–9 Sep 2007 (BLS†; BHi†, JeP†, DR†; 2007-174; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:145). All White-rumped Sandpipers identified in California in fall have been adults.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* (38, 2). An adult was at the Vic Fazio W. A. near Davis, YOL, 29–31 Jul 2007 (ToE†; KK; 2007-155), and a juvenile was near Fort Dick, DN, 13 Sep 2007 (LB†; 2007-200).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (25, 2). A first-winter bird near the Whitewater R. mouth at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 15 Jan–9 Feb 2007 was a county first and the first for California's interior away from the Central Valley (DGo, CMcG; PAG, CAM, GMcC, TMcG†, JM†, MSanM; 2007-016; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:328). Another first-winter bird was in Goleta, SBA 20 Apr 2007 (WF†; DMC, OJ†, NL; 2007-106; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:511).

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (99, 4). Of the four recorded during 2007 three were first-winter birds, at the west end of Young Road at the south end of the Salton Sea, IMP, 9–19 Jan 2007 (GMcC; AHa†, KZK†, CAM; 2007-012; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:327), near the Whitewater R. mouth at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 20 Jan–9 Feb 2007 (GMcC; NMo†; 2007-026), and at Salton City, IMP, 5 Feb 2007 (MJB, WTH†; 2007-050). Differences in the amount of black in the outer primaries and duskiness on the crown suggested that these were different individuals. An adult was along Ballona Cr. near Marina Del Rey, LA, 3 Mar 2007 (KGL; 2007-074).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides* (6, 2). A first-winter bird at South Humboldt Bay, HUM, 1 Jan 2007 (ToE†; SC†, JEH, JTz; 2007-063) was accepted unanimously after two rounds. It was at the pale end of the species' spectrum of variation and at a northerly location where bleaching is unlikely so early in the winter. An adult at Morgan Hill, SCL, 10 Feb 2007 (SCR†; 2007-165) was not conclusively identified until months after the sighting when photos were developed that showed on the upper surface of the outer primaries a pattern beyond the range of the palest Thayer's Gull (*L. thayeri*) and well within the range of a typical *L. g. kumlieni* (Zimmer 1991, Howell et al. 2003). This record is only the second of an adult Iceland Gull accepted for California and the first of any age class of a bird showing characters consistent solely with *kumlieni*. The difficulties involved in identifying out-of-range Iceland Gulls have been recently reviewed by Iiff et al. (2007) and Heindel et al. (2008). Despite the acceptance of four records since 2005, reports of the Iceland Gull continue to bedevil committee members, who, in general, take a conservative approach to this species, a situation likely to continue until identification criteria are better understood and taxonomic issues become clearer.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Seven records, all but one involving first-winter birds, failed to gain acceptance because of identification issues. A recurring pattern among these records is that the birds' plumage matches known criteria for the Iceland Gull but their structure does not; for example, the bill is large, the head blocky, or the wings short. One at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery along the American R., SAC, on 22 Nov 2004 (2004-206) went three rounds until concerns over structure and a secondary bar noticeable in some photos but not in the field convinced all members to reject. A majority of members thought a well-documented bird from Half Moon Bay, SM, 23 Jan 2006 (2006-082) was too bulky and large billed and thus probably a hybrid. Additional records documented with photographs showing birds

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that appeared too large for the Iceland Gull included one near Orick, HUM, 5 Jan 2007 (2007-029) and one near Natural Bridges State Beach, SCZ, 16 Feb 2007 (2007-009). Many members commented on the excellent written documentation in two records, from Morgan Hill, SCL, 10 Feb 2007 (2007-164) and Napa, NAP, 21–26 Nov 2007 (2007-289). Most thought the identifications were likely correct but, given the difficulty inherent to the Iceland Gull, were unwilling to accept without photo documentation. A second-winter bird near Westmorland, IMP, 24 Feb 2007 (2007-090) received minimal support because the photographs lacked detail sufficient for members to assess the bird's plumage, structure, and age.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* (47, 16). An astonishing and unprecedented 17 accepted records included 13 from the Salton Sea, where the influx comprised five adults, three third-winter, one second-winter, and four first-winter birds. Up to three adults were at Red Hill, IMP, 8 Oct 2006–23 Feb 2007 (PEL, GMcC; MJB†, MB, OJ†, KHL†, CAM, DVP†, MMR†, RST; 2006-143), one of them inferred to be a returning individual present the previous winter 22 Feb–4 Mar 2006 (2006-023). Single adults at the Whitewater R. mouth at the north end of the Salton Sea, RIV, 6–17 Feb 2007 (JFe; OJ; 2007-082) and at the Alamo R. mouth, IMP, 18 Dec 2007 (OJ†; 2008-014) were judged by a majority of the committee to be birds different from those frequenting the Red Hill area. Additional records from the south end of the Salton Sea were of a second-winter bird at Obsidian Butte, IMP, 16 Jan 2007 (GMcC; 2007-017), third-winter birds at Obsidian Butte, IMP, 10–24 Feb 2007 (MTH, GMcC; OJ†, KHL†, DVP†; 2007-052), Red Hill, IMP, 10 Feb 2007 (GMcC; MTH, KHL†; 2007-053), and Obsidian Butte, IMP, 15 Nov 2007–10 Apr 2008 (GMcC; SG†, OJ† DSS†, BLS†; 2007-260), and first-winter birds near Johnson's Landing at Salton City, IMP, 22 Feb 2007 (ToE†; 2007-084), at the Alamo R. mouth, IMP, 23 Feb 2007 (GMcC; 2007-062), at the north end of Poe Road, IMP, 8–25 Apr 2007 (GMcC; EE†, RFo†; 2007-099), and at the Alamo R. mouth, IMP, 28 Dec 2007 (GMcC; 2007-305). Four additional records away from the Salton Sea were of third-winter birds at Kaweah and Bravo L., TUL, 3–24 Feb 2007 (JLo†; 2007-070) and Doheny State Beach, ORA, 11 Feb 2007 (M&NF†; 2007-091), a second-summer bird at Bolsa Chica, ORA, 10 Jun–18 Aug 2007 (BED†; MSanM; 2007-167) that represents the first summer record for California, and a second-winter bird at Owens L., INY, 18–20 Nov 2007 (SS†, JLD†, TH, J&DP†, RSt†; 2007-294).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Photographs and written details of an adult at Salton City, IMP, 23 Oct 2007 (2007-235) were contradictory and failed to support the identification to most committee members' satisfaction.

SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus schistisagus* (29, 13). Thirteen records during the winter of 2006–2007 brought the total number of accepted records to a staggering 29, all but two since 2005. A third-winter bird near Fort Dick, DN, 26 Feb–3 Mar 2007 (AB†, KB†, KR†; 2007-065) was joined by an adult 3 Mar 2007 (RF†; 2007-104). A third-winter bird was at the mouth of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 31 Dec 2006–2 Jan 2007 (ToE; JEH; 2007-055), and an adult was at Redwood Cr. mouth near Orick, HUM, 2 Jan 2007 (ToE†; JEH; 2007-056). A massive gull flock attracted to a herring run at the west end of the Richmond–San Rafael Bridge, MRN, on 19 Feb 2007 included an adult (ToE†; DSS†; 2007-057) and a second-winter Slaty-backed (ToE†; DSS†; 2007-058). Up to five at Venice Beach in Half Moon Bay, SM, included adults 5 Jan–21 Feb 2007 (AJ†, SBT; 2007-008) and 6–22 Mar 2007 (RSTh; JBa†, DHe†, AJ†, PEL; 2007-069) and second-winter birds 13–30 Jan 2007 (AJ†; RSTh; 2007-014), 6–17 Mar 2007 (RSTh; JBa†, DSS†; 2007-102), and 9–17 Mar 2007 (DSS†; 2007-103). A second-winter bird at Pt. Pinos, MTY, 5 Feb 2007 (BLS†; 2007-072; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:324) was followed by an adult at the Salinas R. mouth, MTY, 13 Feb 2007 (DVP†; 2007-071).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Two earlier records were re-reviewed in



Figure 12. The anomalous plumage and bill led most members to question the natural occurrence of this Yellow Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysopheplus*) photographed 1 August 2006 at Keough Hot Springs, Inyo County. The black wings and large white patches at the base of the primaries are diagnostic for a male in its second year or older, yet the blackish or dusky on the crown appears to be retained juvenal feathers, a retention, to our knowledge, not matched by wild birds or specimens. The worn flank feathers, generally disheveled appearance, and lack of patterns of wear due to exposure to the elements on the tertials, inner greater coverts, outer primaries, and central rectrices suggest the bird could have been an escapee from captivity.

Photo by Bob Steele

light of the changing status of this species in California, but neither gained acceptance. Only four committee members favored acceptance of an adult at Folsom L., PLA, 5-6 Jan 1998 (2002-195A), though everyone agreed that this bird likely had substantial Slaty-backed Gull genes. Of primary concern was the mantle paler than expected. Mantle tone, color of head and neck streaking, bill shape, and body structure were also mentioned by various members as being inconsistent with typical *L. schistisagus*. Mantle-shade variation in the species has been widely discussed (Gustafson and Peterjohn 1994, King and Carey 1999, Olsen and Larsson 2003, Howell and Dunn 2007). Whether this variation may be intraspecific or results strictly from hybridization remains uncertain. Hybridization of gulls is well known in the North Pacific rim (Bell 1996, King and Carey 1999). The Slaty-backed is known to hybridize with the Vega (*L. argentatus vegae*), Glaucous-winged (*L. glaucescens*), and Glaucous (*L. hyperboreus*) Gulls. On the basis of current knowledge many individuals are better left unidentified. A gull in fourth basic plumage at Salton City, IMP, 21 Feb-7 Mar 1998 (1998-050A) received majority support during its first round of recirculation but none in its final round, when all members agreed the bird had too many anomalous features. Molt schedule, eye color, primary-tip pattern, leg color, and mantle shade were inconsistent



Figure 13. Although superficially similar to North America's resident *Carpodacus* finches, this Common Rosefinch (*C. erythrinus*) photographed in hand on Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco County, 23 September 2007, is readily identified the combination of short stubby bill with a strongly decurved maxilla, a blank-faced appearance created by a lack of any strong markings such as a supercilium, greenish or olive tones to much of the plumage, especially on the flight-feather edges, a lack of streaking on the undertail coverts (not visible here), and a notched tail.

Photo by Kristie Nelson

with our current understanding of what constitutes a Slaty-backed Gull. At least one member believed strongly this individual was one of the Lesser Black-backed Gulls breeding in northern Siberia (though not close to the Bering Sea), *L. fuscus heuglini* or *taimyrensis*. Four additional records were rejected because written documentation was insufficient or photographs were inconclusive or nonexistent: of second-winter gulls at San Rafael, MRN, 19 Feb 2007 (2007-059), Fort Dick, DN, 31 Mar–14 Apr 2007 (2007-089), and the Smith R. bottoms, DN, 7–13 Nov 2007 (2007-255) and an adult at Crystal Springs Reservoir, SM, 25 Nov 2007 (2007-283).

BRIDLED TERN *Onychoprion anaethetus* (2, 1). A well-documented adult at the Santa Margarita R. mouth, SD, 14–23 Aug 2007 (TAB†, PAG, ELK†, GMcC, MS†; 2007-161; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:191) was only California's second and the first to be photographed.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The written description of a bird at south San Diego Bay, SD, 11 Aug 2007 (2008-037), while suggestive, lacked detail sufficient to persuade the committee that the identification was correct.

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SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis* (4, 1). One at North I. Naval Air Station, SD, 4 Aug 2007 (DP; MS†; 2007-157) went two rounds before unanimous acceptance. Several members commented on the small amount of orangish coloration along the tomium, suggesting it might derive from hybridization or introgression, most likely with the Elegant Tern (*T. elegans*).

THICK-BILLED MURRE *Uria lomvia* (47, 1). One flying past Pt. Pinos, MTY, 11 Dec 2006 (BLS; 2007-272) was seen briefly but was well described and sketched.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One ~3 miles north of Bodega Bay, SON, 9 Jun 2007 (2007-140) met with resistance, even though most members agreed the identification was probably correct, because the bird's bill shape and structure were not described and the outlier June date warranted more thorough documentation.

PARAKEET AUKLET *Aethia psittacula* (79, 8). Seven were found feeding along a break in a current ~38–40 n. miles WSW of San Nicolas I., VEN, 21 Apr 2007 (OJ; TAB†, DMC, MSanM, GT†; 2007-108; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:511). One found alive on Venice Beach, LA, 18 Jun 2007 perished in captivity the next day (KLG†; LACM #114551; 2007-127).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One off the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 2 Jun 2007 (2007-149) was too distant for the bill shape or color to be seen in the field, though the described plumage pattern of gray above and white below suggested this species. Most members thought the bird was too distant to be identified conclusively.

*RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti* (109, 1). An old record by a very experienced observer of one at Pt. Loma, SD, 14 Oct 1990 (REW; 2007-181) was accepted unanimously. The committee reviews Ruddy Ground-Dove records through 2003.

SNOWY OWL *Bubo scandiacus* (60, 1). A second-year male was at the south spit of Humboldt Bay, HUM, 26 Mar–1 Apr 2007 (SC†, GSL†, RLV†, SMc†, KR†; 2007-088; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:507). It established the latest date for this species in California.

GREEN VIOLETEAR *Colibri thalassinus* (2, 1). One in Berkeley, ALA, 18 Aug 1977 (DHo, FCH; 1977-159A) was re-reviewed and accepted after two rounds following acceptance of California's first record from Mt. Pinos, KER, from the same summer (Ilf et al. 2007). Though the record was originally submitted as of a Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*), an analysis by J. V. Remsen steered the committee in the right direction, and the record was circulated as one of the Green Violetear. This bird spent a day coming to a feeder in the Berkeley hills just one week after the last appearance of the bird at Mt. Pinos. Concerns over the identification were allayed by the detailed description written by an observer unfamiliar with the species. Archiving of records, arguably a bird records committee's most important function, is invaluable in allowing future committees to reconsider historic records as new information becomes available.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD *Cynanthus latirostris* (72, 1). An adult male attended feeders in Atascadero, SLO, 23 Nov–3 Dec 2007 (KJZ†; CAM†, BKSt†; 2007-274; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:153).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A female hummingbird photographed at a feeder in La Jolla, SD, 31 Aug–5 Sep 2007 (2007-175) was an aberrant Anna's Hummingbird with a largely pinkish bill.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris* (10, 1). An immature male was videotaped attending a feeder in Bolinas, MRN, 27–28 Aug 2007 (KH†; 2008-029).

GREATER PEWEE *Contopus pertinax* (39, 0). One at Griffith Park, LA, 6–15 Apr

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2007 (DSC; MB, RFO†, KLG†, PMcN, OJ†; 2007-096) was considered a returning wintering bird not found until April (see Heindel et al. 2008; 2006-053).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris* (22, 2). One at Zyzzx, SBE, 10 Sep 2007 (MJSanM†; 2007-191; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:153) and one at Pt. Loma, SD, 6 Oct 2007 (MTH†, GMcC; PAG, CH, JPu†, MS†, TRS†; 2007-218; Figure 9) were well documented with photographs.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The committee unanimously considered one reported from Apollo Park near Lancaster, LA, 19 Sep 2007 (2008-068) a Western Flycatcher (*E. difficilis/occidentalis*), and ultimately the observer concurred. One reported from the San Gabriel Mts., LA, 27 Sep 2007 (2008-069) received three votes to accept but was also considered a Western Flycatcher by most members. Photographs were suggestive of the Yellow-bellied but were open to interpretation, written details were incomplete, and no vocalizations were heard.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* (6, 1). One collected near Westmorland, IMP, 28 Sep 1991(RH#, SDNHM specimen 47934; PU; 2007-112) was originally identified as a Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), but analysis by Philip Unitt, presented at WFO's annual meeting in 1998, established its identity. This record was not submitted to the committee until 2007 and was accepted after two rounds once the committee had an opportunity to review measurements. It was published by Patten et al. (2003).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (49, 1). One at the Carmel R. mouth, MTY, 7–13 Oct 2007 stayed exceptionally long (DR†; JLD, BH, OJ†, CL, LML†, RJ, MMR, AS, GW†; 2007-220). All California records of this species are for fall, most from mid September to early October.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes luteiventris* (17, 1). One at Arcata Marsh, HUM, 11 Oct 2007 (RFO†; DF, KR†; 2007-221; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:147) established the northernmost record for California. All records but one are from the fall.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD *Tyrannus crassirostris* (17, 0). One returned for its third consecutive winter at Banning Park, Wilmington, LA, 23 Nov 2007–10 Feb 2008 (KGL; DE†, LSz†; 2007-276).

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER *Tyrannus savana*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: Documentation for one reported from Berkeley, ALA, 14 Apr 2007 (2007-110) lacked detail sufficient to convince committee members the identification was correct.

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus* (53, 1). One videotaped at the Palomarin Field Station in Bolinas, MRN, 13–15 Sep 2007 provided an unusual fall record (RCo, JGu†; 2007-193). About 75% of California's records are from spring (CBRC 2007).

*YELLOW-THROATED VIREO *Vireo flavifrons* (118, 8). Five spring records, most in June, were from Rancho Sierra Vista, VEN, 12 May 2007 (DL; 2007-117), Camp Pendleton, SD, 13 Jun–1 Jul 2007 (ELK†; PAG†, GMcC; 2007-136), Wilmington, LA, 16 Jun 2007 (KGL; 2007-141), Pt. Loma, SD, 17 Jun 2007 (JMgn†; 2007-137), and Mono L., MNO, 16 Jun 2007 (BP; 2007-138). Three fall records were of a singing bird near Beaumont, RIV, 19–21 Aug 2007 (HK, CAM, CMcG†; 2007-168), one in Oceano, SLO, 3–14 Sep 2007 (JMC; CAM, AFS†, BKS†, MaS; 2007-188), and one in Yorba Regional Park, ORA, 24 Sep 2007 (BL; 2007-301). During its 2008 meeting the committee voted to remove this species from the review list as California now averages more than four records per year. The committee continues to review records through 2007.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *Vireo solitarius* (51, 6). One on Southeast Farallon I.,

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SF, 20–21 Sep 2005 (MB†; 2007-225) lacked strong contrast between the nape and back, and its head color matched that of some bright fall Cassin's Vireos, but the strong contrast between throat and cheek, extensively yellow sides, and conspicuous white edgings to the rectrices supported the identification. One on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 9–11 Sep 2007 (JTz; MB, KB†; 2007-304; Figure 10) was arguably at the bright extreme for this species and in date matched the earliest accepted fall records for California, all three of them for Southeast Farallon I. The committee accepted four records pre-dating the 1997 split of the Solitary Vireo complex (AOU 1997), one from DeHaven Cr., MEN, 6 Oct 1984 (JSt; 2005-020) and three from Pt. Loma, SD, 10 Oct 1984 (REW; 2007-184), 15 Sep 1991 (REW; 2007-182), and 29 Sep 1991 (REW; 2007-183).

YELLOW-GREEN VIREO *Vireo flavoviridis* (90, 2). One was at Pt. Loma, SD, 18 Sep 2007 (SES; 2007-209), another at Memorial Park, Chula Vista, SD, 2–3 Oct 2007 (MS†; EA, MJB†, GMcC, VM†; 2007-211).

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (11, 1). One at Elings Park in Santa Barbara, SBA, 6 Oct 2007 (HR†; WF†, PAG, JG†, NL, DPe†; 2007-219; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:154) was the second recorded in the state this decade but the third overall for well-covered Santa Barbara County.

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis* (7, 3). A surprising three records nearly doubled California's previous total of the Arctic Warbler and raised the question of how many individuals may have moved down the west coast during the fall of 2007. Two were at Galileo Hill, KER, in early September: one 6–9 Sep 2007 (SSt; TAB†, JB, JFe, GH, KHL, CAM, GMcC, CMcG†, MSanM, MS†, GS, RSt†, MMT†, GW†, TEW; 2007-177; photo of one in *N. Am. Birds* 62:188), another 8–10 Sep 2007 (GH; DA†, JB, TEW; 2007-180). Yet another was at DeForest Park in Long Beach, LA, 13–14 Sep 2007 (KSG†; RB, BED; 2007-198). There are single records of the Arctic Warbler from Baja California and the Yukon but still none for British Columbia, Washington, or Oregon. See Liff et al. (2007) and CBRC (2007) for recent discussions of the Arctic Warbler's identification and status.

WOOD THRUSH *Hylocichla mustelina* (23, 1). A belated submission accepted was of one at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma, SD, 21 Oct 1990 (REW; 2007-185).

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis* (17, 3). An impressive three accepted records were of one at Bodega Bay, SON, 6 Sep 2007 (MBr; 2007-230), one at Malibu Lagoon in Malibu, LA, 14–15 Sep 2007 (KP; AB†, JLD†, DFu†, OJ, CAM, CT†; 2007-195), and one at the Ventura County Game Preserve near Oxnard, VEN, 24–25 Sep 2007 (LS†; OJ, DVP†; 2007-213; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:154), a first for Ventura County. To date all California records have been of hatch-year birds, which cannot be reliably distinguished from the Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. flava*), although many have largely or entirely lacked yellow on the underparts, as is more typical of eastern birds. The committee provisionally treats all of California's accepted records of yellow wagtails as the Eastern; see Liff et al. (2007) for a recent discussion of this species.

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One heard only at the Mott Cr. mouth, MEN, 15 Sep 2007 (2008-067) was reported by an experienced observer familiar with this species' call, but the committee was unanimously reluctant to accept a record of a bird not seen. Calls of the Citrine Wagtail (*M. citreola*) may be indistinguishable (Heindel 1999, Alström and Mild 2003). The Citrine has not been recorded in California, but it is a long-distance migrant and should be anticipated, as there is one North American record, from Mississippi in 1992 (DeBenedictis 1995).

*SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii* (101, 4). One was at Mystic L., RIV, 21

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Oct 2007 (CMcG†; CAM; 2007-232). Up to three in fields north of Calipatria, IMP, 10 Nov–18 Dec 2007 (BH, HBK; GMcC; 2007-258) were at a site where this species has been found regularly in winter. At its 2009 meeting, the committee voted to remove this species from the review list as California now averages more than four records per year and small numbers winter annually in the Imperial Valley. The committee will continue reviewing records through 2008.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus* (41, 1). A female, probably in its first fall, was well documented from Deep Springs College, INY, 8 Sep 2007 (C&RH†; 2007-190).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (70, 1). A singing male near Washington Memorial Park in Pacific Grove, MTY, 22 Apr 2007 (WR; 2007-107) was over two weeks earlier than the previous early spring date of 8 May, though it fits the species' arrival on the north coast of the Gulf of Mexico, so it may have wintered somewhere on the California coast or in western Mexico.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica* (120, 7). As expected, five of the seven Yellow-throated Warblers accepted in 2007 were found in spring or early summer, three of them in May, the month of roughly one in three California records. One was near Hayfield Pumping Station, RIV, 6 May 2007 (JPD†; 2007-113; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:512). One was at Hansen Dam, LA, 12–13 May 2007 (KLG; JFe, MSanM, SSo†; 2007-116). One 7 miles offshore, VEN, 19 May 2007 (WF; 2007-134) followed a fishing boat for 10 minutes. Late spring/early summer records were of one at Davis, YOL, 6–9 Jun 2007 (LD; RA†, SH; 2007-139) and one at L. Jennings, SD, 7–8 Jul 2007 (MBS†; DFu†, GMcC, TRS†; 2007-147; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:643). One at Prisoners Harbor on Santa Cruz I., SBA, 29 Sep 2007 was the only one recorded in fall (OJ†; 2007-214). The state's tenth midwinter Yellow-throated Warbler, in Orange, ORA, 5 Dec 2007–2 Apr 2008 was of the white-lored subspecies *D. d. albilora* (DW†; CAM; 2007-297; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:305). Approximately half of California's midwinter records are of the yellow-lored nominate subspecies *D. d. dominica*.

GRACE'S WARBLER *Dendroica graciae* (56, 4). One on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 14–15 Oct 2007 was the island's first, only the fourth for northern California, and California's northernmost Grace's Warbler to date (SMc†; MB†, MMy; 2007-226; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:148). Wintering birds included two at Pt. Loma, SD, with one in a residential area 23 Feb–3 Mar 2007 that was presumed to have spent the winter (MS; TAB†, GMcC; 2007-061) and an adult female that returned to Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery for its fifth consecutive winter 13 Oct 2007–26 Feb 2008 (MTH†, GMcC; DA†, MJB†; 2007-223; same bird as 2006-142, Heindel and Garrett 2008). Another wintered at Morro Bay State Park, SLO, 14 Dec 2007–15 Feb 2008 (CAM; TE, JLx, AFS†, BLS†; 2008-006). One in Rolling Hills on the Palos Verde Peninsula, LA, 26 Dec 2007 (KL; 2008-002) may have wintered locally.

PINE WARBLER *Dendroica pinus* (88, 8). With few exceptions, the Pine Warbler occurs in California in late fall and winter, so four singing males in April were exceptional, though these birds may have wintered on the west coast, perhaps locally, and simply went undetected. Supporting this notion was one returning in November and another in December to overwinter. The singing males were one in Estancia Park in Costa Mesa, ORA, 4–8 Apr 2007 (MB, OJ†; 2007-100), a second-year bird in Orange, ORA, 15–21 Apr 2007 (RH†; 2007-105), and two second-year birds in Chula Vista, SD, one in Memorial Park 5–16 Apr 2007 (MS†; MJB†, CGE, GMcC, GLR; 2007-092) and one in nearby Friendship Park 7–23 Apr 2007 (MS†; MJB†, GLR; 2007-098). The last returned to Friendship Park, Chula Vista, SD, 18 Nov 2007–1 Apr 2008 (MJB†; DWA†, GMcC, MS†; 2007-263; same bird as 2007-098), while the one at Estancia Park, Costa Mesa, ORA, returned 25 Dec 2007–7

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Apr 2008 (JEP†; CAM; 2008-007; same bird as 2007-100). A first-winter female was at Greenwood Cemetery, San Diego, SD, 7 Jan 2007 (PEL; DWA†, GMcC; 2007-010). The single fall record was also from San Diego Co., of a first-fall male at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Pt. Loma, 3 Nov 2007 (SES; TAB†, PAG; 2007-240; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:155). Longer-staying birds were a first-winter male in Goleta, SBA, 9 Nov 2007–14 Jan 2008 (NL; DMC, RCM†, MSanM; 2007-246) and a first-winter female at Guajome Regional Park, SD, 22 Dec 2007–25 Feb 2008 (JD; RH†, GMcC, MS†; 2007-298).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A report from Ocean Park, Lompoc, SBA, 12 Nov 2007 (2007-295) was supported by a brief description that some committee members considered did not eliminate the Blackpoll Warbler (*D. striata*) or Bay-breasted Warbler (*D. castanea*).

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorum* (104, 1). One was at Tamarisk Grove Campground in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, SD, 18–19 Oct 2007 (RT; SB†, KZK†, TRS†; 2007-228; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:155).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (109, 1). One in its first fall was near the lighthouse at Pt. Reyes National Seashore, MRN, 8–9 Sep 2007 (RWR; DWN†; 2007-187).

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (137, 3). Two in their first fall were captured and banded at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 26 Sep 2005 (RDB †; 2008-011 and 2008-012). Another was captured and banded at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, 8 Sep 2007 (JS†; 2007-210).

RED-FACED WARBLER *Cardellina rubrifrons* (22, 2). One lingered in Green Canyon in the San Bernardino Mts., SBE, 27 Jun–20 Jul 2007 (JBr, BiD, WF, AEK, CAM, SM, DO†, DEQ, MSanM, PDS, JCS†, K&LS†; 2007-146; Figure 11). Observers' opinions on the sex and number of birds involved differed, though the documentation submitted supported one bird, probably a second-year male. One was at Burnt Rancheria Campground, Laguna Mts., SD, 16 Sep 2007 (JBr; 2007-197).

*SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (147, 10). The single spring record for 2007 was of a second-year male at Muir Woods, MRN, 3 Jun 2007 (RST†; MB; 2007-145; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:637). As expected, most records were for fall: a first-fall male in Seaside, MTY, 1 Oct 2007 (SR†; 2007-231), a first-fall male in Goleta, SBA, 28 Oct–4 Nov 2007 (JG†; DMC, NL; 2007-238), and a first-fall female in Santa Maria, SBA, 15–16 Dec 2007 (JMC†; 2007-290; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 62:306). Up to three first-fall males and two first-fall females at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Pt. Loma, SD, 15–19 Nov 2007 were an unprecedented concentration (MTH†, TH, GMcC; DA†, MJB, TAB†, EK†, MS†, SES, TRS†; 2007-262). All previous California records have involved single birds; five at once was completely unexpected. Curtis A. Marantz discovered at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto a specimen collected near Shandon, SLO, 25 Nov 1950; it predates all but one of the California's previous records (CAM†; ROM #79820; 2007-287). At its 2008 meeting the committee voted to remove the Scarlet Tanager from the review list, as California now averages over four records per year. The committee will continue reviewing records through 2007.

EASTERN TOWHEE *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: One reported at the Eaton Canyon Nature Reserve in Pasadena, LA, 18 Nov 2007 (2007-266) was supported by a brief and intriguing description that was not detailed enough to persuade the committee to accept a first state record. This species has occurred well west of its normal winter range, with extralimital records extending from southern Alberta to southern Arizona (CBRC 2007).

FIELD SPARROW *Spizella pusilla* (9, 1). The report of one coming to a feeder in

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a backyard in Berkeley, ALA, 14–15 Nov 2005 (HAG; 2005-189) went four rounds before finally gaining acceptance, despite a majority of committee members' approval throughout its circulation. The committee is cautious when considering single-observer records of rarer vagrants lacking thorough details or photographs.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW *Ammodramus leconteii*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: A bird in Santa Barbara, SBA, 15 Oct 2007 (2007-296) may have been this species, but the description did not support the identification adequately, no photographs were obtained, and the brevity of the sighting combined to convince members to withhold support.

***NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** *Ammodramus nelsoni* (35**, 5). The committee reviewed and accepted an old record of five individuals at Morro Bay, SLO, 27 Dec 1952 after it obtained photographs of the specimens (CAM†; ROM #83928 and #83929; 2007-300). It reviews records of this species only through 1986.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (117, 6). Six records fit nicely within the established pattern of late-fall and early-winter occurrence (CBRC 2007). One at Big Bear Basin Lookout, DN, 13 Oct 2007 (SP†; 2007-236) established the earliest record for California by nine days. Another at Fort Bragg, MEN, 20 Oct 2007 (DF†, SW; RHu, DT; 2007-237) eclipsed the previous early date by two days. Others included one at the Mad R. mouth, HUM, 15–21 Jan 2007 (DC†, JTz; 2007-077), one at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 30 Oct 2007 (JTz; 2008-013), one at King Salmon, HUM, 4–7 Nov 2007 (KB†, RF†, KR†; 2007-245), and one near Willows, GLE, 1–8 Dec 2007 (KB†, BD, SHu†, KP, JCS†; 2007-277).

YELLOW GROSBEEK *Pheucticus chrysopleps*. IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED BUT NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE: One at Keough Hot Springs, INY, 31 Jul–2 Aug 2006 (2006-093; Figure 12; photos also in *N. Am. Birds* 60:598 and CBRC 2007:H28) was well documented by abundant photographs, a video recording featuring vocalizations, and excellent written details from multiple observers. Despite its occurring at a time of year plausible for a vagrant, a strong majority of the committee questioned the bird's provenance, two members voted to accept it as a naturally occurring vagrant, and one member voted to reject the identification because of difficulty distinguishing this species from its South American counterpart, the Golden-bellied Grosbeak (*P. chrysogaster*). Nevertheless, some members consider the Yellow Grosbeak overdue in California. This species is casual in southeast Arizona, where all but a few records are for June and July (Rosenberg et al. 2007).

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (76, 3). Sacramento County's first, a male at Galt 17–18 Jan 2007 (ERP†; 2007-020), was followed three weeks later by its second, at Staten I. 11 Feb 2007 (BP; 2007-054). The 18-mile distance between sightings suggested one bird might have been involved, but this question wasn't resolved by the committee. A spring migrant was along the San Lorenzo R. in Santa Cruz, SCZ, 25 Apr 2007 (SG†; 2007-126).

IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The report of one seen flying over Ca-brillo National Monument on Pt. Loma, SD, 13 May 1997 (2007-186) by two very experienced observers received little support because the very brief documentation lacked sufficient information on the bird's appearance.

BLACK ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte atrata*. IDENTIFICATION NOT ESTABLISHED: The description of a rosy-finch seen at close range without the aid of binoculars near Mirror L. on Mt. Whitney, INY, 21 Aug 2007 (2007-171), a date unprecedented for the Black Rosy-Finch in California, better fit a juvenile Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*L. tephrocotis*), which can look very dark and show little if any pink on the belly.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* (1, 1). Continuing the island's

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seemingly never-ending contribution of first state records was a hatch-year Common Rosefinch banded on Southeast Farallon I., SF, 23 Sep 2007 (MB, TRL†; Rf†, KN†, JTz; 2007-207; Figure 13; photo also in *N. Am. Birds* 62:191). This constitutes the first North American record south of western Alaska, where the species is casual in spring and fall (Gibson and Byrd 2007), though spring records predominate (P. Lehman pers. comm.). Records from Alaska pertain to the northeastern subspecies *grebnitskii*, which breeds from central to northeastern Siberia (Cramp and Perrins 1994, Gibson and Byrd 2007). Like the Purple (*C. purpureus*) and Cassin's (*C. cassinii*) finches, first-year male Common Rosefinches remain in female-like plumage for a year and thus cannot be sexed by their plumage.

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flamma* (78, 1). One coming to a feeder in Fort Bragg, MEN, 2–10 Mar 2007 was only the third recorded along California's coast (GEC, KAH, RJK, MMA†, DT; 2007-079; photo in *N. Am. Birds* 61:509).

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This report would not have been possible without the support of 280 observers who provided documentation of their observations. The CBRC thanks the following individuals for contributions on records contained in this report: Dan Gibson for his comments on the American Black Duck, Richard Chandler and Killian Mullarney for their comments on the Little Stint, and J. Van Remsen for his helpful analysis of the Green Violetear. Jon L. Dunn, Kimball L. Garrett, Matt T. Heindel, Marshall J. Iff, Paul E. Lehman, Guy McCaskie, and Jim Tietz made many helpful comments on earlier drafts of the manuscript. Several museums and their staff also deserve our thanks, for housing important specimens and data, and helping us on several of these records: thanks to the LACM, MVZ, SDNHM, SBNHM, and WFVZ. We particularly thank WFVZ staff members Linnea Hall, René Corado, Peg Stevens, and Chrystal Klabunde for their support and housing of the CBRC archives. Finally, we thank David Kruemper and Ted Floyd for their reviews of this report.

CORRIGENDA

The following corrections are for the CBRC's previous report (Heindel and Garrett 2008): *Rare Birds of California* (CBRC 2007) summarizes all of the committee's decisions from its inception through 2003, not 2004 (p. 121). The date span for the Trumpeter Swan in Long Valley and at Crowley L., MNO (p. 148) is 17 Jun–22 Oct 2006. The record number for the three juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (p. 128) in Imperial Beach, SD, is 2006-075. Within the list of Roseate Spoonbill records (p. 129) Colin Wilkinson should be credited with submitting written documentation for record 2006-123. The adult Crested Caracara in Mendocino Co. (p. 130) was near Caspar, not Casper. The date span for Iceland Gull record 2006-019 is 11–12 Feb 2006 (p. 146). Slaty-backed Gull record 2006-044 (p. 134) was published previously in the 31st report (pp. 177–178), so the 11 new records should be reduced to 10. Within the Slaty-backed Gull records (p. 134), David Vander Pluym should be credited with submitting documentation and photographs for records 2006-008 and 2006-026. The Long-billed Murrelet (p. 135) was in Humboldt Co., not Mendocino. The Snowy Owl at Grizzly Bay, SOL (p. 135), was a second-winter bird as is evident from p7 and p8 being of a generation newer than the other primaries—see Larry Sansone's photograph on the inside cover of *Western Birds* 38(1), 2007. The Common Black-Hawk (p. 145) was reported in Riverside Co., not San Bernardino. The date span for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (pp. 136–137) is 16–25 Oct 2006. The record number for the Blue-headed Vireo at Mad R. County Park, HUM, is 2007-021 (p.38). The date for the Curve-billed Thrasher at Big R., SBE, is 1 Nov 2006 (p. 139). The date span for the Yellow-throated Warbler at Terwinkle Park, Costa Mesa, ORA, is

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12 Nov 2006–11 Mar 2007 (p. 141). The date span for Grace's Warbler 2006-142 is 3 Oct 2006–2 Apr 2007 (p. 141). The date span for the Connecticut Warbler in Arcata, HUM, is 15–16 Sep 2006 (p.142). Within the corrigenda (p. 148), James R. Tietz should be credited with finding the American Golden-Plover, and the last date should be changed to 4 Sep 2004. Under the Literature Cited (p. 150–151), the 31st report of the CBRC covers 2005 records, not 2006 records. We thank Thomas Benson, Steve N. G. Howell, Robert Keiffer, James R. Tietz, and David Vander Pluym for bringing these discrepancies to our attention.

The following corrections are noted for the 31st report (Iliff et al. 2007): The Parkinson's Petrel (p. 191) was reported 85 n. miles southwest of San Nicolas I., VEN. Long-billed Murrelet record 2004-102 (p. 178) was previously published in the 30th report (p. 75), so the total new records should be reduced to one. The date span for the Common Black-Hawk near Santa Rosa, SON (p. 172) is 14 May–22 Oct 2005. Cassin's Sparrow record 2005-061 is of the 48th (not 47th) individual accepted for the state (p. 188). The record number for the Common Grackle record from Vallejo, SOL, is 2004-163 (p. 189).

The following corrections are noted for the 30th report (Cole et al. 2006): The returning Common Black-Hawk lingered in Stockton, Sd, until 12 Mar 2005 (p. 71). The date span for the Bar-tailed Godwit is 5–14 Oct 2004 (p. 72). The record number for the Broad-billed Hummingbird in Sonoma, SON, is 2004-105 (p. 79). The date span for a returning female Grace's Warbler at Pt. Loma, SD, is 25 Sep 2004–2 Apr 2005 (p. 82). The date span for the Louisiana Waterthrush in Los Gatos, SCL, is 9–18 Aug 2004 (p. 83). Cassin's Sparrow record 2004-143 is of the 47th (not 46th) individual accepted for the state (p. 83). The date span for the Snow Bunting at Clifton Court Forebay, CC, is 27 Feb–18 Mar 2004 (p. 84).

MISCELLANEOUS

Sightings from 2007 published in *North American Birds* for which **no** documentation was submitted to the CBRC include three Emperor Geese at Cosumnes River Preserve, SAC, 15 Feb 2007 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:321), a Brown Booby at Jug Handle State Reserve, MEN, 13 Jan 2007 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:322), one or two Brown Boobies at Southeast Farallon I., SF, 3 Mar–9 Apr 2007 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:505-506) and 3 Jun–27 Jul 2007 (*N. Am. Birds* 61:636), one of the two Glossy Ibises at the Yolo Bypass W. A, YOL, 25–29 Aug 2007 and 10 Oct 2007 (*N. Am. Birds* 62:145) (the *Central Valley Bird Club Bulletin*, winter 2008, reported only one on 10 Oct), and a Crested Caracara at Ferndale, HUM, 30 Dec 2007 (*N. Am. Birds* 62:298). We welcome submission of documentation of these birds, but until the committee has reviewed and accepted them, we recommend the records not be considered valid.

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