

2001 (seventh) report of the Sacramento Bird Records Committee

Tim Manolis, 808 El Encino Way, Sacramento, CA 95864

The Sacramento Bird Records Committee (SBRC) reviews records of unusual birds reported within the boundaries described in the *Checklist of the Birds of the Sacramento Area* (Sacramento Audubon Society 1993; hereafter referred to as the *Checklist*). For additional information about the SBRC, including the list of reviewed species, etc., refer to previous SBRC reports (Manolis 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001). Current SBRC members are: Bruce Deuel, Ed Greaves, Ed Harper, Jeri M. Langham, Tim Manolis (chair), Brian Williams, David Yee, and Andrew Engilis, Jr. Original copies of all submitted records will be housed in the Museum of Wildlife Fisheries Biology (MWFB) at the University of California, Davis, under the care of Andrew Engilis, Jr., while a second set of copies will remain at California State University, Sacramento, under the care of Jeri M. Langham.

This report discusses 11 records reviewed by the SBRC since the last report (Manolis 2001). Of these, 5 were accepted, 4 were not accepted, and 2 were held for recirculation. It is somewhat disheartening to see both the rates of record review and record acceptance diminishing. Hopefully this trend can be reversed in future.

The information for records discussed here includes: the record number (e.g., 10-00 indicates the tenth record received in 2000); for accepted records, the initials of the observer(s) submitting documentation (i.e., not necessarily the first observers of the bird[s]); and comments on additional supporting documentation (e.g., tape recordings, photos, etc.).

REPORTS ACCEPTED

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) — Two reports were accepted: One (2-97, DS) on Lake Solano, Yolo Co., 5 January 1997; and one (1-99, TM) on a storm water containment pond along the Natomas Main Drain, Sacramento Co., 28-30 December 1997.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) — An adult (17-95, TM) was described from approximately 4 miles southwest of Grimes, Colusa Co., on 25 January 1995.

This bird was reported seen from 17 January to 7 February by many observers (Yee et al. 1995), but this was the only documentation received by the SBRC. There was general agreement within the SBRC that this record likely refers to one bird that has been seen in the Klamath Basin and Butte and Yuba counties in recent years, perhaps even the same as one found near Grimes in 1984 (LeValley and Rosenberg 1984).

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*)—A female (36-96, SH, EG) was reported from the Davis Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Yolo Co., on 28-30 October 1996.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)—A male (19-98, CH) was seen in Lincoln, Placer Co., from 21 December 1992 to 3 January 1993.

This record was submitted some years after the sighting because, at the time, the observer was unfamiliar with other local observers or the existence of the SBRC. It is the first record for Placer County, but is similar to a number of other records of this species for the Central Valley in that it involves an extended stay during the winter months (Cole et al. 2001).

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)—One reported (2-98) seen at the El Dorado Hills Sanitation Ponds, El Dorado Co., on 28 December 1996 may have been accurately identified, but the documentation supplied was considered too skimpy by a majority of the SBRC (the vote was 3-5).

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*)—This incredible record (47-92), of a bird seen for a regrettably brief period of time in Fair Oaks, Sacramento Co., 5 September 1992, circulated twice through the SBRC. The first vote was 5-3 in favor, but the second vote was 1-7. The brief view (less than 10 seconds, according to the observer) was probably the major hurdle this report had to overcome, and it failed to do so. The majority of the Committee eventually decided that this time frame was insufficient for the documentation of a rarity of this magnitude.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*)—Committee members were in general agreement (the vote was 0-8) that a report of one (58-97) seen at the University of California Arboretum in Davis, Yolo Co., 18 October 1997, was insufficiently documented to eliminate some other *Catharus* thrushes.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*)—One (7-94) reported at the Cosumnes River Preserve, Sacramento Co., 8 August 1993, received but three acceptance votes from Committee members. Those opposed to acceptance were troubled by a description of the bill as being “yellow,” and failure to eliminate Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) from consideration.

The SBRC sincerely thanks all those who have submitted reports, including the following observers who submitted reports evaluated herein: Robert Eichhorn, Gil Ewing, David Furtna, Ed Greaves, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Tim Manolis, John Schick, Dan Stoebel.

LITERATURE CITED

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