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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*). Adjusting for these changes brings California's bird list to 640 species, ten of which are non-native.

DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SURVIVAL OF NESTING AMERICAN DIPPERS NEAR JUNEAU, ALASKA

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Abstract: We studied the distribution of the American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) near Juneau, Alaska, from 2004 through 2008. An upper limit on the local abundance and distribution of dippers in our area resulted from several factors, including stream size and food abundance, nest sites, and territorial aggression. Dippers nested only along streams with an estimated flow in summer of at least 0.5 cubic feet per second and nested commonly only where flow exceeded 0.9 cubic feet per second. Large streams provided a greater average density and estimated total abundance of benthic macroinvertebrates. Although most territories were centered on typical fast, rocky reaches of fairly high gradient, a few were centered on low-gradient reaches with a sandy substrate where anthropogenic nest sites were available. Some nests were located along glacial streams, but no nests were located along streams originating in bogs. Nest sites were typically in locations protected from predators, floods, and other hazards. After each of three cold winters apparent survival was low, markedly reducing the number of occupied territories; survival analysis with the program MARK showed that apparent survival decreased with decreasing winter temperature. We suggest that if dippers are used as indicators of stream quality in our area, the research should either include multi-year and region-wide surveys of distribution and abundance to account for annual variation in survival or focus on the effects of stream pollution on dipper physiology and reproduction.

CHANGES IN THE WINTER DISTRIBUTION OF THE ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK IN NORTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT: We used Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data to demonstrate a shift in the winter distribution of the Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) in North America from the late 1970s to the early 2000s. Data from nearly 300 CBC circles reveal decreases in the Rough-legged Hawk's abundance on the east and west coasts and throughout the southern portion of this species' winter range. Its abundance increased in the northern portions of the Great Plains. This distributional shift was associated with a decrease in the number of December days with substantial snow cover in the northern Great Plains and an increase in the winter abundance of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) throughout most of the range of the Rough-legged Hawk. In addition, increasing human populations and associated loss of open country may have contributed to this shift.

NESTING SUCCESS OF CALIFORNIA LEAST TERNS AT THE GUERRERO NEGRO SALTWORKS, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO, 2005

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ABSTRACT: We studied a nesting colony of the Least Tern in the saltworks at Guerrero Negro, Baja California Sur, between 31 May and 23 July 2005. We marked the nests as they appeared and counted nests, eggs, and chicks daily. In a comparison of two periods of laying (31 May–13 June and 17 June–19 July) average clutch size of 15 nests (2.06 and 2.00 eggs/nest, respectively) did not differ, suggesting that in the year of our study food was not a limiting resource. We observed 36 chicks, 31 from the first period and five from the second. Incubation in the second period was interrupted by natural predation of nine nests (eight by coyotes and one by ravens). The hatching and fledging success of eggs laid during the first period were 100%, higher than for those laid in the second period (16% and 26%, respectively); the low values of the second period are attributable to a longer time during which the colony was exposed to predation. Though in an artificial habitat, the colony was not affected by human disturbance and enjoyed a high success rate overall. The problem of coyote depredation could be prevented with a fence, increasing the terns' success further.

NOTES

SANDWICH TERNS ON ISLA RASA, GULF OF CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

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CURVE -BILLED THRASHER REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS AFTER A WET WINTER IN THE SONORAN DESERT OF ARIZONA

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FIRST NORTH AMERICAN RECORDS OF THE RUFOUS-TAILED ROBIN (*LUSCINIA SIBILANS*)

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BOOK REVIEWS

Bird Songs of the Pacific Northwest, by Geoffrey A. Keller and Gerrit Vyn. 2008. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. 5-CD set, including a 57-page booklet, \$39.95.

Memoirs of a Wildlife Biologist, by David B. Marshall. 2008. Audubon Society of Portland, Audubon Society of Portland, 5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland, OR 97210; 503-292-9453. 220 pages, paper quarto, \$21.75. Issued without ISBN.

FEATURED PHOTO

JUVENAL PLUMAGE OF THE AZTEC THRUSH

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