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High sea surface temperatures continued throughout much of the period and were likely responsible for an unusually high abundance, and more northerly distribution, of Black-vented Shearwaters, Brown Boobies, and Elegant Terns. The latter also lingered later into the season than normal. Other observations likely related to these conditions included a smattering of “southern” murrelets, the starvation of large numbers of Common Murres, below-average numbers of Buller’s Shearwaters, Arctic Terns, Sabine’s Gulls, and Long-tailed Jaegers in Monterey Bay and at the edge of the continental shelf, and the early departure of Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters (with most gone by November). These temperatures apparently reflected the presence of a warm-water “blob” off the west coast of North America (tinyurl.com/NASA-blob) rather than actual effects of El Niño, which made its presence felt farther south. Notable rarities this season included a possible Jouanin’s Petrel (North America’s first, pending acceptance), a White-chinned Petrel, the continuing Northern Gannet, and California’s second Couch’s Kingbird.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, *Sacramento*); C.V. (Central Valley); FI. (Southeast Farallon Island, *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., *Alameda*); Point Blue (Point Blue Conservation Science); P.R.N.S. (Point Reyes National Seashore, *Marin*), S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest); Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Tom Benson, Secretary, secretary@californiabirds.org.

WATERFOWL

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck wandered around *Sonoma* for three months, spending 2-9 Aug at Howarth Park in Santa Rosa (ph. CTo, ph. m.ob.), 21 Sep–25 Oct at Roberts Lake in Rohnert Park (ph. Scott Sorby, DN, ph. m.ob.), and 27 Oct–3 Nov at Lucchesi Park in Petaluma (ESH, ph. m.ob.). The C.B.R.C. deemed this individual to be of questionable natural occurrence. The lone accepted record for the Region is of a bird near Tipton, *Tulare* 15-27 May 2012. A juv. Emperor Goose spent 5-9 Oct at the Smith River Bottoms, *Del Norte* (ph. Glenn Anderson, ph. m.ob.). What was apparently the same individual was photographed at Brookings Harbor in nearby Oregon 4 Oct (ph. Don Munson). A Brant lingered at Brooks Island, *Contra Costa* through 23 Aug (Bob Dunn); more unexpected were reports farther s. inside S.F. Bay, at H.R.S. 1 Aug (RJR), at Foster City, *San Mateo* 5 Aug (Eddie Bartley), and at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 13 Aug (Adam Dudley). Even more notable were singles at Mono Lake, *Mono* 1-25 Aug (CMcC, ph. R&NO) and s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 22 Nov (MSy). The green-collared pair of Trumpeter Swans, from the introduced Oregon population, was seen again near Alturas, *Modoc* 5 Sep (SCR).

A male Tufted Duck stopped at Abbots Lagoon, *Marin* 27 Nov (ph. Mark Dettling). A Surf Scoter at Tulare W.T.P. 30 Oct (†Diana Kinder et al.) was thought to be only the third for *Tulare*; other inland Surfs included 2 found with a White-winged Scoter at Grant Lake, *Mono* 10 Nov (KNN) and one at Bucks Lake, *Plumas* 17-19 Nov (CPD et al.). A male Black Scoter returned for a sixth winter to the Richmond Marina, *Contra Costa* 14 Nov+ (Tony Brake, ph. m.ob.), this time accompanied by a female 22 Nov+ (Sheila Dickie, m.ob.). A female White-winged Scoter at the same location 17 Nov+ (Lucy Kihlstrom, ph. m.ob.) was also notable. Ten Long-tailed Ducks in four counties included one inside S.F. Bay at Bollena Bay, *Alameda* 16 Nov (RJR), a presumably summering male at the Pajaro River mouth, *Monterey* 1 Aug (RF et al., ph. Shawn Wagoner), and a young female at Crespi Pond, *Monterey* 19 Nov–5 Dec (ph. DR, ph. m.ob.). Inland Red-breasted Mergansers were widely reported in Nov, with high counts of 7 at Folsom Lake, *Sacramento* 3 Nov (ph. CrS) and 3 at Corcoran Reservoir, *Kings* 20 Nov (MSy).

LOONS THROUGH BOOBIES

The only inland Red-throated Loon was at Folsom Lake, *Placer* 1 Nov (RPz). An Arctic Loon off Big Lagoon 29 Sep–28 Nov (ph., †TMcK) provided *Humboldt’s* second record, and a Yellow-billed Loon at South Ocean Beach 24 Oct (†PSar) represented the third city and

fifth county record for *S.F.* Eared, Western, and Clark’s Grebes have not nested in numbers at Eagle Lake, *Lassen* in recent years due to low water levels and lack of emergent vegetation, but large influxes in late summer and fall included many family groups with dependent young (*vide* KAb). This fall, 8,000 Western/Clark’s (mostly Western) 27 Aug (DPA) dwindled to 5,000 on 7 Nov (KAb, LOr), while Eared Grebe numbers increased from 1,000 to 3,000 between those two dates. It would be interesting to know where these birds, which apparently use Eagle Lake as a post-breeding staging area, nest. Among 5 inland Red-necked Grebes were *Lassen’s* fourth, at Eagle Lake 23 Sep (ph. DPA), and one on a small pond in Potter Valley, *Mendocino* 28-30 Nov (GEC, ph. RJK, m.ob.).

A Laysan Albatross seen from Point Pinos, *Monterey* 25 Aug (BLS, CSc) provided our only shore-based sighting this season. Only single individuals of Hawaiian Petrel, off *Sonoma* 6 Aug (DN), and Cook’s Petrel, at FI. 26 Sep (fourth island record; †JTz, Laurel Ann Curry), were reported, perhaps suggesting scarcity of food associated with warm-water conditions. The bird of the season was an all-dark petrel on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 12 Sep thought to be a **Jouanin’s Petrel** (*Bulweria fallax*; DLSh, ph. SBT, ph. Fabio Olmos, m.ob.); pending evaluation of photos by seabird experts and C.B.R.C. acceptance, this would represent a first North American record. Nearly as exciting was the Region’s third **White-chinned Petrel**, 29 km w. of Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 15 Sep (DLSh, ph. Mary Gustafson, m.ob.). All four of California’s records of this species are from the period 6 Sep–18 Oct. A Great Shearwater on Monterey Bay 5 km w. of Moss Landing 7 Aug (ph. Kate Spencer) furnished *Monterey’s* seventh record and one 22 km wnw. of Fort Bragg 18 Oct (TEa, RbF, ph., †RJK, ph. EE, †KHv) was *Mendocino’s* first. More than half of the Region’s 15 records have occurred in the last five years. Pink-footed Shearwater counts of 1,200 at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 28 Aug (RSTh) and 2,180 at Point Pinos, *Monterey* 30 Aug (*vide* DR) were good from-shore totals, but nearly all were gone by Nov, with only 8 recorded during the Point Pinos seawatch in Nov (Tony Leukering et al.). Twelve Flesh-footed Shearwaters 6 Sep–14 Oct, all seen from boats except for 4 at FI. (Point Blue), represented an average showing.

Both Manx and Black-vented Shearwaters followed up last fall’s record-setting influx with another strong showing. Of 23 Manx Shearwaters reported 13 Aug–19 Nov, 14 were seen from shore (12 at Point Pinos), one from FI. (DJM, †JTz), and 8 from boats. Black-vented Shearwaters made headlines in all coastal counties, appearing in late Jul, becoming abundant by late Aug, and remaining well into Nov. Rep-

SA Although seawatching from coastal promontories is a popular pastime, there have been no standardized, high-intensity seawatching efforts in the Region (away from F.I.). To address this lack of data, Tony Leukering, with help from several *Monterey*-area birders (primarily PFw, JGa, BTM, DR, BLS, CSc, and Robert Shields) and sponsorship by the Monterey Audubon Society, began a six-week survey this fall from one of the Region's premier seawatching locations, Point Pinos, *Monterey*. Surveys were conducted dawn-to-dusk each day 1 Nov–15 Dec, with data being entered into eBird in hourly bins. The survey was timed to catch peak southbound migration of Pacific Loons, tallying 148,956 through 30 Nov, but all migrant seabirds flying s. past Point Pinos, as well as all rarities, were also tallied. Though the survey provides only a brief snapshot of seabird migration, the intensity of the effort and standardization of the methods (e.g., with one primary observer) produced robust data on seabird occurrence here, as well as a useful comparison for future efforts at Point Pinos and elsewhere.

Interesting Nov totals from this effort include counts of only 995 Red-throated and 169 Common Loons (indicating the later migration of these species compared to Pacific Loon), 15 Red-necked Grebes (higher than expected), 46 fly-by Ring-billed Gulls (this species is rare along our rocky shorelines, but obviously more migrate along the coast, without stopping, than was previously known), and 127 Short-tailed Shearwaters (vs. 42 Sooties and 84 Short-tailed/Sooty Shearwaters, suggesting the relative inshore abundance of these two species in Nov in years when Sooties depart early, as they did in 2015). An incredible total of 57,062 Black-vented Shearwaters likely included some repeat birds due to this species' movements along the coastline, but this was the second most abundant species recorded and this tally represents perhaps 20-25 percent of the global population (Birdlife International, <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/factsheet/22698246>). The tally of 6 Royal Terns, with 4 on 6 Nov (likely related to warm-water conditions) was also an interesting report. Other notable records from this survey appear in the main text.

representative high counts were 24,100 at Wilder Ranch S.P., *Santa Cruz* 22 Oct (AMR), 12,800 in one hour at Point Pinos, *Monterey* 30 Sep (BLS), 11,600 at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 5 Oct (RSTh), and up to 10,000 off Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* 7 Nov (CEV et al.). Larger numbers pushed farther n. than have ever been previously recorded, with a *Humboldt* high of 3,500 off *Humboldt Bay* 7 Oct (Brad Elvert, Samantha Bacon, EE) and a *Del Norte* count of 60 off the Wilson Creek mouth the same day (RbF, TKz); neither county had ever had counts exceeding single digits! Black-vented Shearwaters were also more abundant than usual further offshore; 4,000 were at FI. 12 Oct (Point Blue), where the seasonal total of 17,672 nearly equaled the cumulative sum from the previous 45 years, and 25 were 46 km off Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* 1 Oct (JM). The excitement of such events is tempered by the realization that severe shortages of food within the species' normal range must have been responsible for forcing so many individuals so far afield.

Six Ashy Storm-Petrels at the Eel River Canyon off *Humboldt Bay*, *Humboldt* 29 Aug (RbF, SMcA, Mark Colwell, m.ob.) provided a good count so far n. A Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel at Cordell Bank 22-23 Aug (ph. SNGH et al.) provided *Marin*'s first record and the northernmost of the Region's six records. Continuing the theme of northerly occurring storm-petrels,

Mendocino recorded its first Black Storm-Petrels, with 8 off Fort Bragg 27 Sep (TEa, RJK, †KHv, m.ob.). Least Storm-Petrels tend to be more frequently reported in the Region in warm-water years. This season, only a handful were reported, and no convincing documentation reached the Regional Editors; birders are encouraged to document this species' occurrences well to help determine its true status and abundance.

An ad. Blue-footed Booby continued at FI. to 28 Oct (ph. Point Blue) and what may have been a different bird was there 13 Nov (Robert Snowden). We seem to break our Brown Booby record each fall as this species' normal range expands to include northern California. At FI., Brown Boobies were seen daily throughout the period, with average daily counts of 6 in Aug, 14 in Sep, 19 in Oct, and 12 in Nov; the high count was 30 on 23-25 Oct (Point Blue). Eighteen were seen elsewhere, in all coastal counties north to *Humboldt*, where one was on the n. jetty of *Humboldt Bay* 16 Oct (Samantha Bacon, Brad Elvert, †TMcK, ph. CDu). One riding a ship near Alcatraz, *S.F.* 30 Oct (fide LKh) was rare inside *S.F.* Bay. The long-staying **Northern Gannet** continued to be highly mobile and conspicuous, being recorded on FI. most days (Point Blue) but also being seen at Chimney Rock, *Marin* and Moss Beach and Pillar Point, *San Mateo* on multiple days (m.ob.).

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

A Least Bittern attended 2 young at Las Galinas, *Marin* 3 Aug (ph. STu, Jen Sanford), where one or 2 birds were seen through 17 Sep (ph. mob.). An ad. accompanied by a juv. was photographed at Bridgeway Island Pond, *Yolo* 9 Aug (ph. KSw), following the sighting of a single bird there 7 Aug (GEw). Another was seen at Thermalito Afterbay, *Butte* 1 Aug (MtF). Very rare in *Alpine*, a Green Heron was found in Markleeville 10 Sep (EP). An ad. Glossy Ibis in basic plumage at the Yolo Bypass W.A. 18 Sep was *Yolo*'s fifth (p.a.; ph. JCS, TEa, JSL).

Marin's **Black Vulture** was seen again near the Fish Docks at P.R.N.S. on three days during 21-28 Aug (ph. DSg et al.). Coastally migrating Northern Goshawks consisted of juvs. heading s. past Jenner Headland Preserve, *Sonoma* 5 Nov (Larry Broderick) and banded at Hawk Hill in the *Marin* headlands 25 Nov (the sixth banded in 30 years of banding activity; *fide* Rich Cimino). As usual, southbound Broad-winged Hawks were reported in numbers at *Sonoma*, *Marin*, and *S.F.* hawk-watches 18 Sep–10 Oct (ph. m.ob.); a total of 8 birds (all juvs.) in *San Mateo*, *Santa Clara*, *Santa Cruz*, and *Monterey* 19 Sep–29 Oct (ph. m.ob.) was only half last year's record showing in these same counties, but still above average and much greater than historical levels. Swainson's Hawks were likewise reported in good numbers in central coast locales from *Sonoma* to *Monterey*, with 5 juvs. detected over outer Point Reyes, *Marin* 19 Sep–9 Oct (ph. m.ob.) alone. Also notable were 3 birds in *Humboldt* 1 Sep–13 Nov (TWL, RHw, CDu). A juv. attended by an ad. along Lone Tree Rd., *San Benito* 4 Aug (DLSh) confirmed breeding at that location for the third year in a row. Lingered birds away from known wintering areas included one in n. Dublin, *Alameda* 19 Nov (MST), an ad. in Coyote Valley, *Santa Clara* 17 Nov (ph. PDU, Joyce Wong), and a juv. there 27 Nov (ph. Douglas Joo et al. *fide* Lisa Myers). Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks were reported from five locations 5 Nov+ and included an ad. returning for its 13th year near Bayside, *Humboldt* 5 Nov+ (SWH, ph. EE et al.).

Mendocino's second Yellow Rail was seen at MacKerricher S.P. 8 Nov (†TEa, FS). A pair of Black Rails with 3-4 chicks at the Alviso Marina 26-27 Aug (v.t. Stephen Peterson, Maya Goklany, WGB) provided the first confirmed breeding in *Santa Clara* in over 100 years. Following last season's two Jul reports, a Sandhill Crane was seen again in *Del Norte*, at Lake Earl W.A. 4 Aug (GrH). Also notable for date and location was a Sandhill Crane flying n. in *San Mateo* 6 Sep over Pilarcitos Creek mouth (Tom Johnson et al.), El Granada (†Keith Gress), and Pacifica (Murray Cherkas).

SHOREBIRDS

American Golden-Plovers reported with documentation included juvs. found at the Jacoby Creek mouth near Arcata, *Humboldt* 27 Sep (†Jared Hughey), at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 11-27 Oct (DT, ph. RAd, ph. m.ob.), and along Reclamation Rd. near San Pablo Bay, *Sonoma* 31 Oct–2 Nov (perhaps 2 birds; †ESH, LHg). Pacific Golden-Plovers found in the northern C.V., where rare, included an ad. at Red Bluff R.A., *Tehama* 8-12 Sep (BED, ph. JLW, m.ob.) and a juv. at Colusa N.W.R., *Colusa* 16 Nov (ph. WEH, Robin Wolcott, Richard Wolcott). A Snowy Plover at Indian Creek Reservoir 29-30 Aug (FrO, LPt, Bill Frey et al.) furnished a first record for *Alpine*. A Mountain Plover at South Lake Tahoe, *El Dorado* 25 Oct (ph. Jenny Anderson, Bob Sweatt) provided a first record for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

A Wandering Tattler in Benicia, *Solano* 6 Sep (ph. KPo, MGg) was unusually far inland. An Upland Sandpiper at FI. 21-24 Aug (ph. AdS, Laurel Ann Curry, Eva Gruber, ph., †JTz) provided the seventh island record and 12th for the Region. A Hudsonian Godwit near Watsonville 11-26 Oct (ph. AMR, RRa, BRa, m.ob.) provided a second record for *Santa Cruz* whereas a Bar-tailed Godwit at the south spit of Humboldt Bay 12 Aug (ph. Matt Lau) was the 11th for *Humboldt*. A Marbled Godwit in the Glenburn area 15 Nov (†KAb) was the eighth for *Shasta*, the first there in fall, and remarkably late for an inland bird so far north. Inland Ruddy Turnstones included juvs. at Gustine W.T.P., *Merced* 12 Aug (ph. PDU) and Mono Lake, *Mono* 15 Aug (ph. CMc). An inland Black Turnstone at Woodland W.T.P. 15-30 Sep (ph. Mark Sawyer, ph. SCH, ph. mob.) was only the second for *Yolo* and the first since May 1977. Inland Red Knots were found at Woodland W.T.P., *Yolo* 17 Sep (SHo) and s. of Corcoran, *Kings*, where 2 were found 29 Aug (MSy) and one 1 Nov (†SuS).

Nine Ruffs in seven counties included the continuing male near Corcoran, *Kings* through 20 Nov (ph. MSy, JSy, SBT) and *Contra Costa*'s third, at the West County W.T.P. 19-22 Oct (ph. Albert Linkowski). A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper nicely photographed at Pillar Point, *San Mateo* 15 Sep (ph., †Juliana Manoliu) was the only one reported this season. Nine Stilt Sandpipers were split between 4 coastal birds in *Alameda*, *Santa Clara*, and *Santa Cruz* 1 Aug–16 Sep and 5 inland birds, including up to 4 s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 15 Aug–9 Oct (4 birds on 19 Sep; MSy, SuS, SDS, JLi) and a bird in *Yuba* 19 Oct (John and Kathe Hendrickson). On the heels of last season's ad., 2 more Curlew Sandpipers were found in Alviso, a juv. 11-13 Sep (ph. Will Brooks, m.ob.) and an ad. 13 Sep (ph. RCP, ph. Julio Mulero), establishing the

fifth and sixth records for *Santa Clara*. Unusual so far n. in the C.V., a Sanderling was at Chico W.T.P., *Butte* 6-17 Sep (MRg, m.ob.) and up to 3 were at Black Butte Reservoir, *Glenn* 28-30 Sep (†SRs, DRs, ph. FrO, LPt, †MRg, †JLw). Late Baird's Sandpipers included single Oct birds at Lake Tolowa, *Del Norte* 11 Oct (LBr) and Kettleman City, *Kings* 22 Oct (JSy) and a very late bird along Ostrom Rd., *Yuba* 17 Nov (John and Kathe Hendrickson). *Amador*'s first Semipalmated Sandpiper was found at Camanche Reservoir 7-9 Aug (JLD, ph. DMr et al.) and joined by a second bird 8 Aug (†m.ob.); yet another showed up at the same location not long thereafter 17 Aug (TS, GDH). Semipalmateds at Modesto W.T.P. 9 Aug (HMR, ERC, ph. RBk, Bill Amundsen) and Ceres W.T.P. 10 Aug (RBk) provided only the second and third *Stanislaus* records in the past decade; another at Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey* 7-26 Oct (†BTM, ph. DR, ph. KVV) was notably late. Late Wilson's Phalaropes were both inland, s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 24 Oct (RAB, SuS) and at San Luis N.W.R., *Merced* 27 Oct (†Cara Barnhill). Late inland Red-necked Phalaropes were at Folsom Lake, *Sacramento* 3 Nov (ph. CrS) and Woodland W.T.P., *Yolo* 4 Nov (ph. Keith Bailey). Also notable was an inland Red Phalarope together with an unidentified phalarope at South Lake Tahoe, *El Dorado* 3 Nov (ph. Bob Sweatt, Jenny Anderson *fide* WRI).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

Totals of 81 Parasitic Jaegers at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 29 Sep (RSTh) and 59 in 1.5 hours at Point Pinos, *Monterey* 7 Sep (DR) provided high shore-based counts; 49 were recorded during the Nov survey at Point Pinos (Tony Leukering et al.). Inland jaegers are always exciting. Among 5 inland Parasitics, one on Clear Lake 27 Sep (FHa) represented *Lake*'s fifth record. Inland Long-tailed Jaegers included first county records for *Fresno* at the Fresno W.T.P. 22 Aug (ph. GaW, m.ob.) and *Plumas* at Lake Almanor 11 Sep (ph. DPA); an ad. at Eagle Lake 27 Aug (ph. DPA) that provided *Lassen*'s second record; and one at Stampede Reservoir, *Sierra* 21 Aug (SRs, DRs). A Long-tailed Jaeger at South Ocean Beach 18 Sep (PSar, MWE) furnished a rare onshore record for *S.F.* (the first since 2011). One at FI. 6 Nov (†JTz) was quite late, as this species is rarely recorded past mid-Oct.

Rarer alcids were represented by a dead Thick-billed Murre on Rodeo Beach, *Marin* 17 Sep (p.a.; ph. Arlene Davis) and a Long-billed Murrelet 2 km w. of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 20 Jul (ph. CSg). Nine Guadalupe Murrelets represented an above-average showing. Eight were recorded 22 Aug–18 Sep off *S.F.*, *Marin*, and *Sonoma*; one at Point Pinos, *Monterey* 1 Nov (†Tony Leukering) was both late and un-

usual from shore, while a Scripps's Murrelet at that location 22 Nov was nearly as unusual so close to shore, landing just off the seawatch (Tony Leukering et al.). Otherwise, the only reports of *Synthliboramphus* murrelets were of 4 Scripps's off Monterey Bay, *Monterey* and 2 Craveri's 22 km off Carmel, *Monterey*, both on 29 Sep (Mike and Sharon Toochn).

The total of 10 inland Sabine's Gulls, about average, included up to 3 at Thermalito Afterbay 11 Sep–9 Oct (†MRg, ph. Ian Gledhill, m.o.b.); *Butte* had only two prior records. *Del Norte*'s third Black-headed Gull, and the first in the Region since 2004, was at Crescent City Harbor 23-26 Nov (†Romain Cooper). Three Laughing Gulls, with singles at Lake Earl, *Del Norte* 1-3 Aug (juv.; ph. LBr), Asilomar, *Monterey* 5 Sep (second-cycle; Hugh Harvey), and Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 20 Sep (basic ad.; ph. JSt, TEa), were about average. Of 19 Franklin's Gulls, the most unusual was at Battery Godfrey 22 Nov (KMCK), as this species is very rare in the city of S.F. A juv. Mew Gull in Eureka 19 Aug+ (ph. RbF) provided one of few Aug records for *Humboldt*; in recent years, small numbers of juvs. have appeared in the Region in Aug, more than a month before the typical vanguard of southbound birds. Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls, all likely returning birds from previous years, included a third-cycle bird at Eureka, *Humboldt* 7-30 Aug (TKz, Casey Ryan et al.) and ads. at South Lake Tahoe, *El Dorado* 27-29 Oct (ph. Lori Allesio) and Long Valley, *Mono* 14 Nov (JLD et al.). After nesting at the Sacramento W.T.P., *Sacramento* this summer, an ad. Least Tern and a fledgling lingered to 4 Sep (CCo, KLL, Steve Scott, m.ob.). Thirty-three Least Terns at Foster City and Redwood Shores 4 Aug (RSTh) provided a high count for *San Mateo*, and a wayward juv. was far n. at Lake Earl, *Del Norte* 1 Aug (ph. LBr). Ten of our 14 Black Terns were in *Monterey*, including 5 passing Point Pinos 25 Aug–10 Sep, where there had been only one record in the past 50 years (*fide* DR). Common Terns were widespread and in unusually high numbers, with 120+ inland and 170+ in coastal/estuarine areas. Much rarer inland, single juv. Arctic Terns provided *Lassen*'s second record at Eagle Lake 20-21 Aug (ph. JLD, KAb) and *Modoc*'s first record at Dorris Reservoir 5 Sep (SCR). A large incursion of Elegant Terns was exemplified by counts of up to 6,000 at Pillar Point Harbor, *San Mateo* 3 Aug (PJM, CDu); 7,000 in 1.5 hours at Point Pinos, *Monterey* 9 Sep (BLS) and 1,572 there during the Nov seawatch (Tony Leukering et al.); 180 in n. Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 3 Aug (DFx); and 80 in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 25 Oct (MJM, PEG). They also lingered later than usual, with 3 as far n. as Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 20 Nov (RbF), and 3 in Mountain View 29 Nov (Will



California now has two records of Couch's Kingbird. This individual, furnishing the state's second record, lingered 12 November to 18 January (here 18 November) at Sunset Park in Visalia, Tulare County. Photograph by © Gary Woods.

Brooks) providing the latest *Santa Clara* record in 23 years. Black Skimmers away from S.F. Bay breeding areas included 2 in the Moss Landing/Elkhorn Slough area, *Monterey* 2-9 Aug (James Roethe, ph. Jonathan Walton), 2 at Pillar Point Harbor, *San Mateo* 3 Aug (RSTh), and one at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 6 Aug (ph. Barbara Bridges).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A total of 107 Eurasian Collared-Doves near the Watsonville Airport 1 Oct (AMR) established a new single-locality high count for *Santa Cruz*. A Common Ground-Dove 12 km nw. of Corcoran 6 Sep (MSy) provided the third record for *Kings*. Fifteen White-winged Doves more than doubled our seasonal 10-year average and edged out last fall's total of 14. They were all coastal except 2: *Solano's* second in Benicia 15 Nov+ (Danny Swicegood, RMu, EPI) and *Santa Clara's* seventh near Ed Levin C.P. 19 Oct (Gary Kittleson). Our only Yellow-billed Cuckoos were singles at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 1-5 Aug (m.ob.), lingering from summer, and at American River Parkway, *Sacramento* 11 Aug (CH). Migrating Burrowing Owls sometimes show up in odd places. This season, 2 appeared in S.F., one at the heavily populated S.F. Botanical Garden 6 Oct (DMo) and another at the heavily urbanized Giants Dugout Store at Embarcadero Center 13 Nov (*vide* LKh). A total of 23 made it out to F.I. during the period, a count 20% higher than the 10-year average (*vide* JTz). Notable Long-eared Owls included one at S.F. Botanical Garden, S.F. 12-13 Nov (ph. m.ob.), evidently the first in the city to remain more than one day, and another at n. Lake Tahoe, *Placer* 10-19 Sep (WRi, m.ob.). Although the species is presumably resident in *Placer*, it is rarely detected.

At least 5 Chimney Swifts were reported. They included 2 at Kirkwood Meadows flying

between *Amador* and *Alpine* 29 Aug (ph. TEa, FS; *Amador's* first); at least one and possibly up to 2 per day at the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 12 Sep-4 Oct (JSL, ph. CRo, RC, DR, m.ob.); one at Babel Slough, *Yolo* 13 Sep (TEa); and *Humboldt's* second to be photo-documented, at Arcata 29-30 Sep (ph. EE, m.ob.). Williamson's Sapsuckers away from areas of residency included a male at Battery Godfrey, S.F. 20 Sep (PSar, HuC; the city's sixth) and a female at Summit Ridge, *Santa Clara/Santa Cruz* 25 Oct-1 Nov (AMR, ph. NLv; *Santa Cruz's* fifth). Five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (3 inland and 2 coastal) and 7 Red-naped Sapsuckers (4 inland and 3 coastal or bayside) represented a typical showing. A Pileated Woodpecker at Cole Valley 26 Oct (PSar) and another at Battery Godfrey 13 Nov (BFi) established the fifth and sixth records for S.F. An early Merlin was near Arcata, *Humboldt* 7 Aug (LuB).

A well-documented Eastern Wood-pewee at FI. 4 Oct (Kyle Marsh, ph. †KNN, ph. v.r. DJM) provided the second C.B.R.C.-accepted record for the island. A total of 17 Least Flycatchers, 9 of which were on FI., included *Mendocino's* second at Navarro River Redwoods S.P. 29 Nov (FS, ph. RAd). *Monterey's* first Gray Flycatcher in fall was at the Big Sur River mouth 10-12 Sep (ph. PFw, ph. MiR, BTM). The 2 Eastern Phoeebes reported included *Santa Clara's* earliest by 31 days at Stanford 7 Oct (ph. Will Brooks) and another on Stage Rd., *San Mateo* 8 Nov+ (A. Dudley et al.), which was presumably the same bird that has wintered at that location since 2011. *Santa Cruz's* second Vermilion Flycatcher was a first-year male at the confluence of Hanson and Struve Sloughs 6-9 Oct (ph. GKI, BMMo). Coincidentally, another or possibly the same first-year male was found in the county about 24 km n. along the San Lorenzo River 10 Oct (ph. Jane Mio, Blaize Wilkinson). Another Vermilion Flycatcher, an ad. male, at Rossi Park 26 Oct (ph. Brad Gota) provided S.F.'s first record. Establishing one of our highest fall totals ever, at least 60 Tropical Kingbirds were reported from six coastal or bayside counties, with an impressive 25+ in *Humboldt* alone. California's second **Couch's Kingbird**, which spent more than two months at Sunset Park in Visalia, *Tulare* 12 Nov-18 Jan (R&NO, ph. SDS, ph. m.ob.), was seen and photographed by dozens of observers. Three Eastern Kingbirds were reported. They included one in *Humboldt* at the Mad River estuary 13 Sep (ph. RbF, m.ob.), one in *Marin* at Rodeo Lagoon 13-18 Sep (Jim Chiropoulos, Derek Heins), and another in S.F. at Fort Mason 2 Sep (Michael Jarrett, m.ob.). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers included one at Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 29 Oct (KI, ph. m.ob.) and another at Fort Ord N.M., *Monterey* 10 Aug (ph. Peter Foken).

The only Blue-headed Vireo reported was at Pine Gulch, *Marin* 1-3 Oct (†Mark Dettling, ph. RDiG). A Philadelphia Vireo at the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 9-27 Sep (ph. Doug Gochfeld, ph. MiR, ph. TEa, m.ob.) was in active tail molt, leading some to speculate that it may have summered locally. Another was in *Humboldt* at the Blue Lake cottonwoods 2 Sep (PLo). Six Red-eyed Vireos from five coastal counties and 4 Yellow-green Vireos from two coastal counties represented an average showing. *Plumas's* first Blue Jay was found in Quincy, where it remained 31 Oct+ (Paul Hardy, Gary Rotta, CPD, ph. m.ob.). An out-of-place Yellow-billed Magpie appeared along Hwy. 92 w. of Crystal Springs Reservoir, *San Mateo* 3 Oct (TGr). Individuals of this species rarely wander outside areas of residency. A possible Winter Wren at Clear Lake S.P. 7 Nov-10 Feb (ph. Bryan McIntosh, ph. v.r. m.ob.) will establish *Lake's* first record if accepted by the C.B.R.C. A Dusky Warbler was well documented at Redwood Creek, *Marin* 15-20 Oct (ph. Hannah Conley, ph. Mark Dettling, ph. m.ob.). A total of 8 Townsend's Solitaires away from areas of residency was about typical. *Humboldt's* first photo-documented Wood Thrush visited Arcata 28-31 Oct (Eric Culbertson, ph. RbF, GAB, ph. m.ob.).

THRASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Gray Catbirds included a first for the Lake Tahoe Basin (first or second for *El Dorado*) 15 Oct (WRi). Other catbirds were in Sebastopol, *Sonoma* 17-28 Sep (ph. Veronica Bowers), in Cottonwood Canyon, *Mono* 7 Oct (EP), and on FI. 20 Oct (Point Blue). Nine out-of-range Sage Thrashers provided a typical fall total. A White Wagtail at Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin* 20-23 Oct (William Legge, m.ob.) was a highlight and provided the second record for this specific location. Seven Red-throated Pipits were all in coastal counties. A Phainopepla in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 24 Sep (MiR) was a rare find for the Monterey Peninsula. McCown's Longspurs go unreported most years; therefore the 2 birds this season were noteworthy, with one at Lake Tolowa 19 Oct (ph. LBr) providing the second record for *Del Norte* and only the third for northwestern California and the other s. of Modoc NWR 14 Nov (SCR) marking an overdue first for *Modoc*. A total of 9 Chestnut-collared Longspurs was slightly above our average, while a total of 5 Snow Buntings was double our average. *Humboldt* hosted 3 of those Snow Buntings with singles at Little River S.B. 3 Nov (LPL, GSL, ph. RbF, m.ob.), on Bear River Ridge 4-7 Nov (ph. Brad Elvert, K. Ongman), and on Gold Bluffs Beach 16 Nov (ph. Moe Morrisette). Completing our fine haul of Snow Buntings were single birds near Charles-

ton Slough 5 Nov (Sachen Shenoy, ph. Carolyn Lambert), which provided a *Santa Clara* first, and Virgin Creek Cove, *Mendocino* 25-30 Nov (SJS, CEV, KHv, ph. Rad, m.ob.).

A single Ovenbird at P.R.N.S. 6 Oct (AdS, CSz, RyT) constituted a very poor showing compared to last year's total of 10 and our average of 6. A Worm-eating Warbler in Eureka, *Humboldt* 20-30 Oct (TMcK, RbF, m.ob.) was an excellent find. Northern Waterthrushes and Black-and-white Warblers were both present in typical numbers (27 and 25, respectively). Prothonotary Warblers were at P.R.N.S. 21 Sep (ph. Hannah Conley), Twin Lakes (at an elevation of 3000 m!), *Mono* 3-4 Oct (ph. RyT, MtB, AdS), Arcata, *Humboldt* 4 Oct (GAB), and the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 8-15 Oct (ph. MiR, Lois Goldfrank). Of 23 Tennessee Warblers, only the one in Carmichael, *Sacramento* 30 Sep-7 Oct (MkM, Kevin Thomas) was in an inland county. King's first and *Tulare*'s third Virginia's Warblers were found by the same observer (SDS) on subsequent days, both along the Tule River, 7 Sep and 8 Sep, respectively. The birds were separated by 5-6 km and differed in plumage. The *Tulare* bird was seen again 9 Sep (DaF). In addition, Virginia's Warblers were along Dechambeau Creek, *Mono* 2-9 Sep (KNN) and at Sunnyvale WTP, *Santa Clara* 1 Nov (SEM). A very late MacGillivray's Warbler was at C.R.P. 29 Nov+ (JTr). A Mourning Warbler in Ferry Park, S.F. 6-10 Oct (Mark Rauson, m.ob.) provided a first for the city. Twenty-five American Redstarts was a poor turnout compared to our average of nearly 50. Cape May Warblers were at P.R.N.S. 26 Sep (CCo, ph. Izabella Davin, et al.), on FI. 15-26 Oct (Point Blue), and at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 17 Sep (RSTh). The hatch-year male Cerulean Warbler at Samoa Park 10-12 Oct (Brad Elvert, TMcK, m.ob.) provided a third record for *Humboldt*. Of the 12 Regional records of this species, *Humboldt* and *Monterey* account for eight. Eight of our 12 Northern Parulas were in *Humboldt*. A Northern Parula at Honey Lake WA. 21 Aug (JLD) provided a first for *Lassen*. Fourteen Magnolias, 7 Black-burnians, and 36 Chestnut-sided Warblers were all typical totals. In contrast, 44 Black-poll Warblers and 67 Palm Warblers were well below our long-term averages of 65 and 147, respectively. A Pine Warbler in Sunnyvale 7-8 Oct (PKe, ph. m.ob.) furnished *Santa Clara*'s first record, and one at P.R.N.S. 17 Oct (TEa, ph. Everett Clark) provided *Marin*'s second record; these are the first Regional records since 2001. Both our Yellow-throated Warblers provided first county records, with one in Kennedy Park, *Napa* 23 Sep (Alex Green, ph. Mike Schackwitz) and the other on Scout Island, *Fresno* 7 Nov (JSy, ph. JND). All 7 of

our Prairie Warblers were coastal, as were Black-throated Green Warblers in Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 10 Nov (RSTh) and at Lake Merced, S.F. 23 Nov (KMcK). A well-described Canada Warbler at Bidwell Sacramento River S.P. 13 Sep (†MRg, MtF) provided a first for *Butte*. Other Canada Warblers were at P.R.N.S. 7 Sep (Renee Cormier) and Fort Mason, S.F. 16-17 Oct (Bob Gunderson).

SPARROWS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Only seven of the Region's 20 Cassin's Sparrow records have been from the mainland (all others on FI.) so the bird at Bolinas Lagoon 19 Sep (ph. PP; *Marin*'s second) was an outstanding find, albeit a one-day-wonder. Of our five American Tree Sparrows, the one at n. Lake Tahoe 22-24 Nov (ph. Kristine Mitchell, WRi) provided a first for *Placer* and the second record for the Lake Tahoe Basin. A total of 45 Clay-colored Sparrows was a bit short of our average of over 60. An imm. Black-chinned Sparrow at Babel Slough 30 Sep+ (Mark Sawyer, m.ob.) provided a first fall record for *Yolo*. Black-throated Sparrows were in the Red Hills area, *Tuolumne* 27 Aug (Charlotte Ginn), at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 16 Sep (RSTh), and at H.R.S. 10 Oct (RJR). A single Lark Bunting at Antonelli Pond, *Santa Cruz* 9 Oct (ph. Parker Forman) represented a poor showing as we average more than 6. The LeConte's Sparrow present last winter apparently returned to Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 4 Oct+ (ph. Ted Gilliland). Seventeen Swamp Sparrows was a tally less than half our average. Notable White-throated Sparrows included one providing a rare *Trinity* record at Pine Cove 12 Oct (JSL) and an early arrival in Petaluma, *Sonoma* 20 Aug (Sherri Oster). Another early *Zonotrichia* was a Golden-crowned Sparrow in Crescent City, *Del Norte* 6 Aug (Sky Lloyd). The only Harris's Sparrow was in Arcata, *Humboldt* 8 Oct (CDu, Curtis Marantz).

Eight Summer Tanagers represented a typical showing. Both our Scarlet Tanagers were on FI. on subsequent days (15 and 16 Nov; Point Blue). A total of 7 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was less than half our average and our lowest fall tally since 2000. A Lazuli Bunting in Westport, *Mendocino* 5 Nov (KHv) was unexpected on this late date. For the very first time Painted Buntings outnumbered Indigos! Three Indigo Buntings provided our lowest total since 2005, whereas Painted Buntings were in Ione, *Amador* 12 Sep (ph. TEa, GDH), Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 12-15 Sep (ph. RC, ph. DR, m.ob.), at the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 20 Sep (ph. TEa), Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, *Monterey* 24 Sep (Virginia Chomat), and in S.F. 26-28 Sep (Brian Fitch, Bob Hall, m.ob.; second record for the city). Dickcissels made a good showing, with 9 compared to an aver-

age of less than 3. Bobolinks were also present in good numbers (21 vs. an average of 15). All 9 Orchard Orioles were in coastal counties except for the bird at Old Mammoth Lakes, *Mono* 19 Sep (JRy). Baltimore Orioles were at San Carlos Cemetery, *Monterey* 8 Oct (RC), at Fort Mason, S.F. 20 Sep (Derek Heins), and on Telegraph Hill, S.F. 26 Sep (ph. Michael Gertz). The Purple Finch at Old Mammoth Lakes 19 Sep (JRy) provided a rare *Mono* record and the earliest for fall. Red Crossbills staged a remarkable irruption throughout the Region from fall through winter. In every case where calls were identified, they were Type 3, not Type 2, which breeds in the Sierra and is the type most commonly encountered in our Region. Type 3 crossbills are found primarily along the northwest coast of North America from Oregon through British Columbia. Interestingly, our last crossbill irruption (2012) also appeared to have been mainly composed of Type 3 birds.

Cited observers (county sub-regional editors in boldface): Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. **Ken Able** (*Lassen*), Roger Adamson, David P. Arsenault, Ralph Baker, Robert A. Barnes, **Murray Berner** (*Napa*), Gary A. Bloomfield, **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), Matt Brady, Lucas Brug, Eric R. Caine, Rita Carratello, George E. Chanot, **Daryl Coldren** (*Humboldt* and *Del Norte*), **Chris Conard** (*Sacramento*), Hugh Cotter, **Rudy C. Darling** (*Nevada*), **Jeff N. Davis** (*Madera*), **Bruce E. Deuel** (n. C.V. counties), Ryan DiGaudio, **Colin P. Dillingham** (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Cedric Duhalde, Jon L. Dunn, Pete Dunten, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton, Elias Elias, Gil Ewing, Dane Figundes, Paul Fenwick, Brian Fitch, David Fix, Matthew Forster, Rick Fournier (RF), **Rob Fowler** (RbF; *Humboldt* and *Del Norte*), John Garrett, Maureen Geiger, **Steve Gerow** (*Santa Cruz*), Philip E. Gordon, Tom Grey, Steve C. Hampton, W. Edward Harper, **John H. Harris** (*Stanislaus*), Stanley W. Harris, Garth Harwood, Karen Havlena, Cliff Hawley, Floyd Hayes, Greg D. Hemig, Rob Hewitt, Scott Hoppe, Steve N. G. Howell, Lisa Hug, Eugene S. Hunn, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, **Logan Kahle** (*Contra Costa* and *San Francisco*), **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), Pat Kenny, Gary Kittleson, Tony Kurz, Kimya L. Lambert, **Robin L. C. Leong** (*Solano*), Gary S. Lester, Tom W. Leskiw, Lauren P. Lester, Nick Levandosky, John Lewis, John Lockhart, Paul Lohse, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Don Marsh, Mark Martucci, Blake T. Matheson, **Dan J. Maxwell** (*Marin*), Sean McAllister, Chris McCree, Tristan McKee, Kevin McKereghan, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo*), Steve E. Miller, Bryan M. Mori, Joseph Morlan, **Dominik Mosur** (*San Fran-*

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Guy McCaskie Kimball L. Garrett

Exceptionally high sea surface temperatures, a product of an intense El Niño event, prevailed off the Region's coast through the period. Air temperatures were at or above normal through September, but a bit below normal later in the fall; the Region was generally dry, but some inland thunderstorms and a significant coastal rain event occurred in mid-September as the remnants of Hurricane Linda passed through the area; the deserts and mountains received higher than average rainfall in October as well. The only significant offshore wind events ("Santa Anas") occurred 29-30 October and 16-17 November.

Avian highlights included many warm water seabirds, including two Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels, more Red-footed Boobies and record-breaking numbers of Brown Boobies. The landbird highlight was California's first Groove-billed Ani of the millennium. Otherwise, two Varied Buntings, a Gray-cheeked Thrush, a Cave Swallow, and a Louisiana Waterthrush topped a fairly lackluster list of vagrant passerines. A Gray Thrasher in San Diego, a potential first for California and the ABA area, was considered by the California Bird Records

Committee to more likely have been human-transported. A moderately large movement of montane birds to the deserts and coastal lowlands included Red Crossbills, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and a few Evening Grosbeaks.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme n.e. Kern); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Park, Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); P.M.N.A.S. (Point Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards Air Force Base, n.e. Los Angeles); S.E.S.S. (south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); S.J.W.A. (San Jacinto Wildlife Area near Lakeview, Riverside); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County) and SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). Because most rarities in s. California are seen by multiple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and/or identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) review list (see www.californiabirds.org) is forwarded to the CBRC and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORM-PETRELS

Two hundred Greater White-fronted Geese at S.J.W.A. 2 Oct (CMcG) represents one of the largest flocks reported in this Region in recent times. Two Brant at S.E.S.S. (Rock Hill) 26 Oct (DLI) were believed to be birds that summered locally and known present in this area since at least 19 Aug (GMcC). A Tundra Swan at S.J.W.A. 13 Nov (PQ) and 2 in Indio, Riverside 25 Nov (JS) were the southernmost reported this fall. A male Eurasian Wigeon at Hansen Dam, Los Angeles 31 Aug+ (KLG) prob-

Southern California

ably summered locally as the earliest fall migrants are not expected until mid-September. Up to three Harlequin Ducks at Estero Bluffs S.P. *San Luis Obispo* through the fall were the only ones known in the Region. Single White-winged Scoters at N.E.S.S. (84th Avenue) 18 Nov (CMcG) and (Whitewater R. mouth) 25 Nov (JS), along with 5 Surf Scoters at scattered locations in *San Bernardino*, *Riverside* and *Imperial* were inland, where rare. Only 4 White-winged Scoters were reported along the coast s. of Pt Conception, whereas 16 Black Scoters, formerly much scarcer in S. California, were reported. Five Long-tailed Ducks, another scarce sea duck in S. California, were found along the coast, along with 3 together inland at N.E.S.S. (Whitewater R. mouth) 25 Nov (JS). The only Barrow's Goldeneye reported was a male on Big Bear L., *San Bernardino* 21 Nov-3 Jan (RW).

The only Pacific Loon truly inland was one on Big Bear L. 19-21 Nov (MW). Most Red-necked Grebes in S. California are found on the immediate coast, but this fall the only one reported there was at Pismo Beach, *San Luis Obispo* 13 Nov (P & JC); however, single birds were inland at Castaic Lagoon, *Los Angeles* 25 Nov+ (JFG) and Quail L., *Los Angeles* 27 Nov (JFG), on small ponds at S.J.W.A. 21 Nov-8 Dec (TGu) and in the Tijuana R. Valley, *San Diego* 5-14 Oct (PEL), the later being exceptionally far south, and another was at S.E.S.S. (Obsidian Butte) 23 Oct (GMcC) providing the 3rd record for *Imperial*.

Single Laysan Albatrosses were 12 km n. of Santa Barbara I. 25 Aug (JSF) and 45 km sw. of Pt. Arguello, *Santa Barbara* 9 Sep (DPE), the latter banded on Guadalupe I. in Mexico. A Buller's Shearwater 66 km WSW of Pt. Buchon, *San Luis Obispo* 11 Nov (PEL) was somewhat late. Short-tailed Shearwaters were unusually scarce with one at Point La Jolla in La Jolla, *San Diego* 26 Nov (MSa) being the only one reported. A Manx Shearwater off Ventura, Ven-