Rainfall patterns this season were erratic. By mid-December, the Region had received nearly double its normal amount of precipitation. Then the tap closed, and January and February were the driest on record nearly everywhere. The snowpack in the Sierra Nevada was pitiful, raising concerns about low reservoir water levels and increased fire danger. Highlights included the Region’s second Common Crane, sixth Field Sparrow, a returning Falcated Duck, and continuing Northern Gannet and Common Black-Hawk. Boreal seedeating species irrupted in remarkable numbers (see S.A.). Red-breasted Nuthatches in particular were easily found in nearly every part of the Region all through the season. Common Redpolls did not match their incursions of last winter, but flocks were present in several locations in the state’s northeastern corner.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, Sacramento); C.V. (Central Valley); E.I. (South-east Farallon Island, San Francisco); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., Alameda); PRBO (PRBO Conservation Science); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, P.O. Box 279, Imperial Beach, CA 91933.

WATERFOWL
Brant continued inside S.F. Bay through the period, with 4 seen both at Richmond, Contra Costa 27 Jan (Tara McIntire) and off Berkeley Pier, Alameda 10 Feb (Amy McDonald). Even more unexpected were single inland birds at Lakeport 10 Jan (second Lake record; JRW, DvW), Staten Island, San Joaquin 18-19 Jan (Joe Schultz, m.ob.), Colusa N.W.R. 19-25 Jan (Steve Emmons, Mike Peters), and along Brewer Rd. 12 Feb (second Place record; Stephanie Travanty). A Dusky Canada Goose continued in Morgan Hill, Santa Clara 12-21 Jan (MJM, MMR). Trumpeter Swans continued to be reported from Modoc, with 4 at Modoc N.W.R. 28 Dec (SCR) and 11-12 near Alturas 6-19 Jan (ph. JCS, TEa, WSS et al.); others were at the n. end of Rd. Z, Glenn 2 Jan (JHS) and sec. of Nicolas, Sutter 14-19 Jan 2 immms. (JLs, ph. William Rockey, m.ob.). The only Bewicks Swans reported were 2 birds at the s. end of 7 Mile Lane, Butte 2 Jan (JHS).

Last winter’s male Falcated Duck returned to Colusa N.W.R., Colusa 2-22 Dec (Mike Peters, ph. m.ob.) and was seen again nearby at Sacramento N.W.R., Glenn 30 Dec (Tara Stewart, Loren Merrill). Eurasian Wigeon were widely reported in high numbers, with numerous inland birds, including singles in Nevada, Placer, Alpine, and Tuolumne, and a remarkable 7 birds at Monore, Amador 15-18 Feb (DMR, TS, FS), the most ever found at a single location in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Forty Blue-winged Teal along Gun Club Rd. near Gustine, Merced 20 Jan (PFM, Cedric Duhalde) was a notable high count. Eleven Common Teal in seven counties 22 Dec- proved a better than average showing; most notable was a male at Bravo Lake, Tulare 22 Dec (JUk). Notable inland high counts of Redhead included 272 at O’Neill Forebay, Merced 18 Jan (KKN) and 804 at Kettleman City, Kings 13 Feb (JSP). The ad. male Tufted Duck continued at Lake Merritt in Oakland, Alameda through the period (m.ob.), and the nearby imm. male at Oyster Bay R.S., Alameda stayed through 18 Dec (Doug Henderson). Additional males were noted in Marin at Tomales Bay 6 Dec (JG) and Richardson Bay 24 Jan (TEa), and in Napa at the Napa W.T.P. 14-15 Jan (DvH, DvH, BDP). An imm. male King Eider found at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey 27 Dec (ph. YG et al.) was unfortunately shot by a hunter the following day. A cooperative ad. male Black Scoter wintered again at Richmond, Contra Costa 20 Nov-11 Mar (ph. Tony Brake, ph. m.ob.); another inside S.F. Bay at Bay Farm Island, Alameda was seen 31 Jan (Noah Arthur). Seventeen Long-tailed Ducks in nine counties included 3 inland, one at Yolo Basin WA. 14-15 Dec (Yolos fourth; Jerin McKenzie, Dan Smith, ph. m.ob.) and 2 at n. Lake Tahoe 22 Jan-15 Feb (Place’s third record; BBw, Ron Pozzi, ph. WRI, MM). The male Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye continued at Mountain View, Santa Clara and was nicely photographed 20 Dec (ph. TGR). Red-breasted Mergansers were reported widely and in high numbers inland, including county firsts for Sutter, at Nicolaus 8-20 Jan (CH, FrO, ph. Ron Hasey, m.ob.), and Alpine, the continuing bird and 3 others at Indian Creek Reservoir 4-6 Dec (JCS, TEa, JSL), with one lingering to 14 Dec. Other notable inland records included one at Sait Spring Valley Reservoir, Calaveras 8-11 Feb (JSL, JCS, JLP, DM), up to 3 at Comanche Reservoir, Amador 8-17 Feb (JSL, JCS et al.), 9 at Lake Almanor, Plumas 26 Jan (CFD, SEd, ADE), up to 6 all season at Lake Success and Bravo Lake, Tulare (m.ob.), and up to 2 in ne. Fresno, Fresno 27-28 Jan (JND, LSJL et al.).

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS
A well-documented juv. Arctic Loon in Monterey Harbor 5 Jan+ (ph. BLS, m.ob.) was a first for Monterey and only the fifth for the Region. The same location hosted only Yellow-billed Loon 30 Dec-3 Jan

Long-tailed Ducks are rarely found inland in California, but this pair spent 22 January through 15 (here 4) February 2013 on Lake Tahoe off Tahoe City, Placer County, California. Obtaining this remarkable documentation required the use of a kayak. Photograph by Will Richardson.
BITTERNS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

An American Bittern survived sub-zero temperatures at the Surprise Valley Hot Springs, Modoc 4 Jan (RSTh). Small numbers of Cattle Egrets were found briefly in each of five coastal counties 17 Dec–1 Feb. The only coastal White-faced Ibis this season were in Santa Cruz and Monterey, with 11 birds at Sluive Slough (LGO, WGO) and 4 at Pinto Lake (Lisa Larson) 3 Dec (both Santa Cruz), 3-4 birds near Moss Landing, Monterey 1-3 Jan (Alex Rinkert, KKV), and 6 back at Sluive Slough 7 Jan (DLSu). An apparent miss, Northern Goshawk along N. Thornton Rd. 7 Feb (ph. TDGY) was only the second for San Joaquin. The Sonoma Common Black-Hawk at Laguna de Santa Rosa was seen again 12 Feb (ph. Stan Moore). Coastal Swainson’s Hawks included singles in Marin 5 Jan (Todd Plummer) and S.F. 20 Jan (PSt). Single Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawks in seven counties included light morph birds in Fresno 23 Jan (GaW) and Madera 13 Feb (ph. GaW). Rough-legged Hawks continued to be well-reported, including birds in Napa and Nevada, where rarely found. Single coastal Sandhill Cranes lingered 26 Nov–6 Dec in n. Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt (RbF, m.ob.), 28 Dec–18 Jan at the Garcia River Flats, Mendocino (RJK, m.ob.), and 19 Dec–at Moss Landing, Monterey (Bob Blevy, ph. m.ob); 2 over H.R.S. 31 Dec (RJK) were the first reported there since 1986. An unbandad ad. Common Crane accompanying an ad. Sandhill Crane and 2 immns. (either Sandhills or possibly hybrids) lingered for only a half hour at Modoc N.W.R., Modoc 27 Dec (ph. John H. Kimura, Cameron King, Dominic Bachman). This bird, only the second for California following the 5-8 May 2011 dei Norte bird, may have been the same individual reported for Nevada’s first state record (with 5 Sandhill Cranes) at Overton WMA 15 Jan–1 Feb.

Mountain Plover reports of note included an impressive 678 near Kettleman City, Kings 29 Dec (JLT, TK2) and 78 along Sandy Marsh Rd., Merced 11-14 Dec (Jean Okuye, ph. KVV). Sixty Marbled Godwits near Corcoran, Kings 29 Dec (JLT, TK2), with 40 remaining to 23 Jan (JLT), was an impressive count for any inland location, especially in winter. Unexpected winter Red Kites included one at Crissy Lagoon, S.F. 20 Jan–2 Feb (Bob Toleno, Julie Chamberlin, ph. MWE, m.ob) and another along Santa Fe River mouth, Humboldt 9-13 Jan (ph. KBu, ph. Rbf, m.ofb.) 20-26 Jan–2 Feb (ph. GaW, m.ob.)

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDs

Single Franklin’s Gulls were in the Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt 1 Dec (TK2 et al.), in the Ferndale Bottoms, Humboldt 12 Dec (Rbf, ph. Stp, MWe), and at Gun Club Rd., Merced 18 Dec (KKV). An unusually high concentration of 1420 Heermann’s Gulls was at Manresa S.B., Santa Cruz 27 Dec (DLSu). A Mew Gull at Trinity Lake 29 Dec (DCE) provided Trinities fifth record, while one on the Feather River in Yuba City 21-29 Jan (ph. LJa et al.) was seen in both Yuba and Sutter, furnishing a first record for the latter county. Thayer’s Gull is very rare inland north or east of the C.V.; one at Tule Lake N.W.R., Siskiyou 5 Jan may have been the same imm. there 6 Feb (Barbara Scoles). The petete Whiting Gull at Islay W.T.F. Yolo apparently returned, being seen 19-20 Jan (ph. SC, ph. Caroline Lambot); the only other white-winged ad. Iceland Gull in California was the state’s first, at Bodega Bay, Sonoma in 1984–1985. Single ad. Kumhohe Islands Gulls, both seen on 12 Feb., were at Foster City, San Mateo (ph. JAJ) and Point Richmond (ph. Nosh Arthur), the latter providing a first for Contra Costa (ph. A). Some Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported, all from different counties. The most noteworthy were first records for Marin, at Sausalito and 22 Jan.
22 Jan (ph. DSG; second-cycle) and San Joaquin, at the Isenberg Crane Reserve 22-24 Feb (DGY et al.; ad.). An ad. gull at the Yolo County Landfill, Yolo, 8 Dec-9 Jan (ph. SCH et al.), originally identified as a Lesser Black-backed, may have been a hybrid between that species and Herring Gull, a combination that is increasingly detected on the East Coast but that had not previously been reported in California. Comparison of photos suggested that ad. Slaty-backed Gulls in Sausalito, Marin 23 Jan (ph. DSG; ph. AJ, ph. STu) and at Point Richmond, Contra Costa 8-15 Feb (TEA, ph. Michael Park, ph. David R. Moore) likely represented the same individual, with a different individual near Tiburon, Marin 24-25 Jan (JLD, ph. SCH, ph. JCS) and a third bird at Point Richmond, Contra Costa 16 Feb (ph. Tony Brake). The most noteworthy Glaucous-winged Gulls were far inland in Lassen: an ad. at Shugur Reservoir 18 Dec (ph. JLD, KAB) and a first-cycle bird at Eagle Lake 20 Dec (CPD, DPA). Similarly, among 30 Glaucous Gulls reported, the most unusual was in Lassen: a first-cycle bird first observed at Eagle Lake 20 Dec (KAB, ph. JLD) was likely the same bird seen at Shugur Reservoir 17-26 Feb (PFM, DS et al.), providing the county’s second record. Scripps Murrelet is rarely seen from shore, so a bird off Del Monte Beach, Monterey 7 Jan (DR) was noteworthy.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to flourish, setting new high counts for at least two C.B.C.s, with 99 on the Sierra Valley C.B.C., Plumas and Sierra 14 Dec (BBg, CPD, DPA, m.ob.) and 152 on the Santa Cruz County C.B.C., Santa Cruz 15 Dec (fide DLSu). The species also finally penetrated the heart of the Diablo Range, considered the last frontier in Santa Clara, with 3 found during the Mount Hamilton C.B.C. in Isabel Valley 2 Jan (MMR et al.). A White-winged Dove shared a feeder with a flock of these unstoppable invaders at Crowley Lake 22 Dec-15 Feb (ADeM, m.ob.), providing the first record of an overwintering White-winged Dove for Mono. Common Ground-Doves continued to establish a pattern of occurrence in s. Tulare, with one ne. of Earlimart 22 Feb (DaF). Although presumably present year round, Western Screech-Owl apparently had not been documented in winter in Plumas until one was observed at a nest box in American Valley 5 Jan (ph. Julie Newman, DPA). Out of range Great Gray Owls included singles of Oakhurst, Madera 1 Dec-10 Feb (ph. GwW; second-year bird, continuing from fall), and rural Grass Valley, Nevada 6-10 Dec (ph. Walt Carnahan, m.ob.; suspected second-year bird), and near Mokelumne Hill, Calaveras 23 Dec (ph. Tanya Meyer). A Northern Saw-whet Owl documented by remote camera at the San Joaquin River N.W.R. 21-22 Feb (Sear Isley, Elizabeth Parks, ph. Endangered Species Recovery Program) established the third record for Stanislaus. Ongoing riparian restoration is creating suitable habitat at the refuge, where this species could nest in the future. Although saw-whet owls are not known to have nested in the C.V. historically, they did nest in a riparian restoration area at the San Luis N.W.R., Merced in 1996 (Central Valley Bird Club Bulletin 5:57-58, 2002).

Our only Vaux’s Swift was over Strawberry Hill in Golden Gate Park, S.F. 3 Feb (ASH). Two Costa’s Hummingbirds were reported, one in Kentfield, Marin 14 Dec (BIL) and one in Woodlake, Tulare 22 Dec (TKz). Lewis’s Woodpeckers overwintered in good numbers within and near their breeding range in Shasta and Lassen (fide B&SCY and KAB, respectively). Consequently, perhaps, relatively few were reported from most areas farther south. Our only out-of-range Williamson’s Sapsucker, a male at Henry Coe S.P. 3 Jan (WGB), furnished the fourth or fifth record for Santa Clara. A total of 15 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 13 coastal and 2 inland, continued the recent trend of much higher-than-average winter numbers. Sharing that trend was a total of 16 Red-naped Sapsuckers, 7 coastal and 9 inland, including Yolo’s overwintering first at Patah Creek Canyon 13 Feb (TEA, Msty. ob.). Del Norte’s Crested Caracara continued near Fort Dick 20 Jan (ADB, Matt Brigham).

A total of 13 Eastern Phoebes, also well above the recent 10-year average, included one inland that spent its second winter at Lemoore, Kings 1 Dec-28 Feb (ph. MSty, m.ob.). Six Vermilion Flycatchers included 2 in Merced, 2 in Tulare, one in Kings, and one in Monterey at Point Pinos that continued from last season through the end of the period (ph. BHI, ph. DR, m.ob.). Exceptional in winter, an Ash-throated Flycatcher visited Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sonoma 13 Jan (Linda Petrusulis). Ten Tropical Kingbirds included 2 inland, both birds continuing from the previous season in Hanford, Kings 1 Dec, with one lingering through 16 Feb (MSty, m.ob.). Our only Cassin’s Kingbird was along Santa Fe Grade, Merced 4-20 Feb (Ken Aachambault, ph. KVV). A Western Kingbird s. of Kettleman City, Kings 18 Feb (JLD) and another e. of Lincoln, Placer 24 Feb (John York) were possibly very early northerly migrants, whereas one at County Rd. 105, Yolo 7 Dec (TEA, SCH) was likely a holdover from fall.

Our southernmost Northern Shrikes were in Mono, one at Bolher Canyon 19 Dec (Ted Vogel, Paul McFarland) and another in Long Valley 1 Dec-23 Jan (JLD, Steve Brad, m.ob.). Unexpected in winter, a Cassin’s Vireo was in Porterville, Tulare 11 Dec (JLD, SDS, Susan Steele), and a Plumbeous Vireo, likely the same bird that wintered at this location last year, was at San Lorenzo Park, Santa Cruz 4 Dec-4 Feb (NLv, LGo, SGr, AMR, DLSu). Wintering swallows, other than the usual Tree and Violet-green, included a Northern Rough-winged at Lake Cunninham, Santa Clara 22 Dec (SCR) and 16 Barns, one at Struve Slough, Santa Cruz 27 Dec (CkF, ELb), 13 at the Packard Ranch, Monterey 1 Jan (PFM), and 2 at the Sunnyvale W.T.F., Santa Clara 6 Feb (Ann Herperstal et al.).Establishing the first record for Shasta and the entire C.V, a Black-capped Chickadee visited a feeder in Redding 17 Dec-28 Feb (ph. Bea Currie, B&SCY, m.ob.). Although this species has been increasing in range and numbers in the Region, it seemed an unlikely candidate for reaching the C.V., which is more than 140 km se. of areas of regular occurrence. More expected, but still rare and irregular in the C.V., is Mountain Chickadee. One in Sacramento, Sacramento 12 Feb (Dan Sandri) was
the only one reported in the C.V. Establishing a first record for the C.V. floor in San Joaquin were 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadees at Oak Grove R.P. 23 Jan+ (DGV). These chickadees were of the coastal subspecies (P. m. barlowi) rather than the Sierra-breeding subspecies (P. m. rufescens), which accounts for most C.V. floor records. All previous records of this species in the county were from Corral Hollow in the Coast Range. Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded the coast and C.V. in above-average numbers.

The Winter Wren discovered 20 Nov in Putah Creek Canyon, Yolo continued through the period (JCS, TÉA, m.ob.). American Dipper carrying nesting material in Mendocino at an old bridge on Potter Valley Rd 24 Feb (Seth LaRose and Steve Stump) and at Cape Horn Dam 27 Feb (GEC) represented very early nesting efforts. Another bobbing on Hwy 395 nw. of Mono Lake C.P., Mono 1 Dec (Joel Ellis) was well away from any waterway. A total of 3699 American Robins on the Santa Cruz County C.B.C., Santa Cruz 15 Dec was 2.5 times the recent 10-year average (fide DLSU).

THREATS THROUGH WARBLERS

Amador’s first Sage Thrasher pleased many county birders by remaining near Lone 29 Jan–8 Feb (Gwenn Starret, m.ob.). Other Sage Thrashers were down Devils Den Rd., Kings 16 Dec–9 Feb (MSY), e. of Bieber, Lassen 6 Jan (STB, LTER), and in Salt Springs Valley, Calaveras 18 Feb (ph. Susie Nishio). A Le Conte’s Thrasher at Fish Slough, Mono 2 Feb was suggestive of possible wintering at this site. Californian Waxwings were at two locations e. of the Sierra Nevada Crest, Loyaton, Sierra 14 Dec (one); BBg. Jim Gatta, DPA, CPD and Susanville, Lassen 5–6 Jan (up to 2; JCS, TÉA, STB, LTER). At least 2 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were at Long Valley, Mono 8 Dec (Bob and Susan Steele). A Worn-eating Warbler found in fall in Arcata, Humboldt was recorded 11 Jan after being undetected for more than two months (RBf; ph. TK2). Both Northern Waterthrushes were holdovers from fall in Santa Clara and Humboldt. Eleven Black-and-white Warblers and 5 Tennesseees were totals just slightly above average, while a total of 37 Nashville Warblers was nearly double our average. A MacGillivray’s Warbler in Bethany Curve Park 2 Dec–1 Feb (SGe, m.ob.) was a recent sighting. In winter in Santa Cruz in this century. Our only other MacGillivray’s was at Humboldt Bay N.W.R., Humboldt 30 Dec (Ralph Burcher, Kristine Keil). A handsome male Cape May Warbler was along San Francisco Creek, Santa Clara and San Mateo 21 Jan+(ph. Jeff Fairclough, ph. Laurie Graham, m.ob.) and provided a first for Santa Clara. Six Yellow Warblers were all in coastal or bayside counties, and our only Black-throated Blue Warbler was along Pescadero Rd., San Mateo (Gérard et al.). We set a new Regional winter record with 57 Palm Warblers, more than double our average. Most notable were 2 C.V. Palm Warblers, one at Prairie City O.H.V. Park, Sacramento 3 Jan (CRs) and another in Rio Vista, Solano 22–26 Feb (ph. Jan Allen, m.ob.). Twenty-nine Hermit Warblers, while well short of last winter’s total of 42, was still nearly double our average. Similarly, Wilson’s Warblers were present in fairly high numbers (8 vs. an average of 4.6). The anecdotal nature of the data we receive makes it impossible to draw conclusions about trends, but it does appear that western-breeding warblers are wintering in greater numbers in the past decade.

When one compares the number of reports from 1992-2001 to the reports since 2001, every species of California-breeding neotropical migrant warbler shows an increase in reports with the single exception of MacGillivray’s. The most dramatic change is in Hermit Warbler reports, increasing from an average of 2 prior to 2002 to 15 in the last decade.

SPARRS THROUGH FINCHES

Green-tailed Towhees were in St. Helena, Napa 28 Dec–8 Feb (ph. Cindy Smith, m.ob.) and in Ripon, San Joaquin 4 Feb–4 Mar (RBf, m.ob.). As usual, our American Tree Sparrows were e. of the Cascade-Sierra Nevada Crest, one found on the Honey Lake C.B.C., Lassen 18 Dec (CPD, EP, Bobby Tatman) and the other at Dechambeau ponds, Mono 19 Dec (Ken Wells, ADM). Single Clay-colored Sparrows were in Oakland, Alameda 17 Dec (Doug Greenberg) and Asilomar, Monterey 24 Dec+(ph. BTM, m.ob.), and 2 were in Ferndale Bottoms, Humboldt 5 Jan (RHW, m.ob.). The first Field Sparrow in the City of San Francisco (the only prior S.F. occurrence was on F.) was present 28 Dec+, and seen by many (KMk, ph. MWE, m.ob.). A Nelson’s Sparrow at Moonglow Dairy, Monterey, first found in fall, remained through winter (Paul Fenwick, m.ob.) and was joined by another in late Feb with both birds lingering into Mar. Swamp Sparrows were found in unusually large numbers with 91 reported from 11 counties. Eight Harris’s Sparrows were scattered throughout the Region with reports from Humboldt, Del Norte, Siskiyou, Lassen, Yolo, Solano, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. Notable among 7 Summer Tanagers was a male returning for its third win-
ter to Roeding Park, Fresno 29 Jan (EE). We received only two reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, one in El Granada, San Mateo 13–17 Dec (Donna Pomerey) and one in Los Gatos. Santa Clara 21 Dec–13 Feb (LSu, m.ob.). Four Black-headed Grosbeaks was an average showing. Indigo Buntings were in Marina, Monterey 22–23 Dec (ph. SRv) and S.F. 19 Jan (DMo). An Orchard Oriole in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz 2 Jan (Christian Schwarz, Chris Lay) was the only one reported. A Hooded Oriole in Redding 24 Jan (ph. Gary Stacey) was Stasko’s second in winter. Our other 2 Hooded Orioles were both in Santa Cruz with one in Sequel, continuing from fall through 20 Dec (Elena Laborde), and the other near West Struve Slough 11 Dec (NAD). Among our 14 Bullock’s Orioles, 3 first detected in mid-late Feb might have been early arrivals. Three Baltimore Orioles was a notable total with singles in Lodi, Humboldt 3–10 Jan (ph. RBf m.ob.), Crescent City, Del Norte 13 Jan–9 Apr (ph. Sky Lloyd et al.), and along San Francisco-Santa Cruz, Santa Clara/San Mateo 24 Jan+ (JCS, Sandy Koonce, Gena Zolotar, ph. SCR).

Low-elevation flocks of up to 250 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were in Modoc near New Pine Creek 28-30 Dec (ph. SCR) and e. of Fort Bidwell 3–6 Jan (KMk, ph. JCS, ph. TEA). Interestingly, both flocks included some brown-winged birds in addition to the more expected gray-crowned Hepburn’s subspecies (Leucosticte tephrocephalus). Grimnill and Miller (The Distribution of the Birds of California, 1944, Cooper Ornithology Club) noted that 7 rosy-finches collected together in late Mar 1941 in s. Lassen also included a mix of subspecies. While it may be impossible to tell from photographs, the brown-winged birds in Modoc may have been the Oregon-breeding L. t. wallowa.

From fall through winter, the Region and the entire state experienced a remarkable invasion of boreal seedeating species (see S.A. feature). Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks were reported from coastal and low elevation sites throughout the Region in extraordinary numbers. In addition, Common Redpolls, while not spreading as far south into the state as last winter, were found in flocks ranging up to 40 birds in the ne. corner of the Region. Freedyner Peak, Lassen 18 Dec (Jean J. Streit); Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou 22 Dec–23 Feb (Russ Natem, ph. Barbara Sciles, ph. Karan Fairchild); s. Surprise Val ley 28 Dec (SCR; first for Modoc); e. of Fort Bidwell, Modoc 3 Jan (KMk), Tule Lake N.W.R., Modoc and Siskiyou 5 Jan–16 Feb (ph. Frank Lospalluto, KSP, m.ob.).
Beginning in fall and continuing through winter, we experienced an eruption of nearly all the boreal-breeding seedeating species with reports of unusually high numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks from throughout the Region. Data from eBird (Figure 1) allow us to confirm these anecdotal observations and show that, in particular, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins were remarkably abundant and widespread. The sizable flocks of Common Redpolls found in the northern part of the state may also be linked to the same phenomenon responsible for eruption of the other species. In 2001, Walter Koenig (Condor 103: 725) showed that eruptions of five species (including all of the species noted above except Red Crossbill) showed significant synchronicity across nearly four decades of analyses. That is, their eruptions into areas well s. of their normal winter range tended to occur in the same years. These events may be driven by poor seed crops in the boreal forests of Alaska and Canada (Bock and Lepleth 1976, American Naturalist 110: 559), or by overpopulation of these species in the year following a particularly good crop (Widmer and Drabka 1984, American Birds 38: 840), or a combination of a good seed year followed by a poor one (Koenig and Knops 2001).

Figure 1. Data from eBird for California comparing the proportion of checklists reporting each species during fall/winter of 2012-13 to all prior years.

Cited observers (county subregional editors in boldface): Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated.
Ken Able (Lassen), Nanci Adams, David P. Arsenault, Alan D. Barron, Leonie Batkin, Bob Battagin, Murray Berner (Napa), Gary A. Bloomfield, William G. Bousman (Santa Clara), Bob Battagin, Ken Burton, Rita Carrellato, George E. Chaniot, Chris Conard (Sacramento), Rudy C. Darling (Nevada), Jeff N. Davis (Madera), Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Colin P. Dillingham (Plumas and Sierra), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Esterle, Mark W. Eaton (San Francisco), Anber D. Edwards, Scott Edwards, Ray Ekstrom (Siskiyou), Elias Elias, Jules G. Evans, Dane Fagundes, Brian Fitch, Rob Fowler (Humboldt; RbF), Steve Gerow (Santa Cruz), Yohn Gideon, Steve A. Glover (Contra Costa), Lutz Goldfrank, Wally Goldfrank, Tom Grey, David Hamilton, Denise Hamilton, Steve C. Hampton, John Harris (Stanislaus), Garth Harwood, Cliff Hawley, Lynn Hendricks, Bob Hewitt, Bill Hill, Alan S. Hopkins, John E. Hunter (Trinity), Alvaro Jaramillo, Robert J. Keiffer (Mendocino), Clay Kempf, Tony Kurz, Jim Laughlin, Earl Lebow, Bill Lenard, Robin L. C. Leong (Solano), Nick Levendosky, John Lockhart, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mussat, Don Marsh, Blake T. Matheson, Dan J. Maxwell (Marin), Kevin McKereghan, Peter J. Metropolous, Martin Meyers, Dominik Mosur, Kristie N. Nelson (Mono), Frances Oliver (San Joaquin), Ed Pandolfini (Placer), Benjamin D. Parme- ter, David C. Rice, Will Richarson, Robert J. Richmond (Alameda), Alex M. Rinkert, Don Roberson (Mariposa), Michael M. Rogers, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, Ruth A. Rudesill (Sonoma), Paul Saracen, Cooper Scollan, Jeff Seay (Kings), David Shuford, Daniel Singer, W. Scott Smithson, Jim H. Snowden, Kevin Spencer, Mark Stacy, John C. Sterling (Modoc, Alpaca, Calaveras, and Yolo), Fritz Steurer, Tim Steurer (El Dorado and Amador), David L. Suddeth (Santa Cruz and Mariposa), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (Tulare), Craig Swolgaard, Linda Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tiets (El.), Steve Tucker, Steve Umland (Tuolumne), Kent Van Vuren (Merced), Matt Wachs, Bruce Webb, Jerry R. White (Lake), Gary Woods, Dave Woodward, David G. Yee, Bob & Carol Yutzy (Shasta).

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