FALL MIGRATION

North American Birds

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 69: NO. 1, 2015 • AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER 2014
10 years, Lesser Goldfinches have shown signs of creeping northward of the species’ rapidly growing re-established population in sw. Washington’s Clark; but a gathering of 45 near Payut-lup, Pierce 6 Aug (BW, RM, CW) was remarkable; this species was found breeding near this locale in Pierce a few years ago. Other northerly Lesserers included 2 at Marymoor 14 Aug (MH, M. Bartels), Challman’s first at Nehah Bay 26 Sep (BW, RS, DW), and 2 at Bellevue, King 30 Nov (J. Grant). A Lesser at Gearhart, Clatsop 5 Sep (C. Neuman) was equally surprising on Oregon’s n. coast.

Initiated observers (subregional editors in boldface): Knute Anderson, Nigel Ball, Gary Blutsch, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Alan Contreras, Jim Danzenbaker, Mike & Merry-Lynn Denny, Shawnen Finnegan, Bob Flores, Michael Force, George Gerds (GGe), Steve Giles, Jeff Gilgann, Denny Grandstrand, Michael Hobbs, Wayne Hoffman, Evan Houston, Jonathon Isaacson, Stuart Johnston (Hood River, Kichitat), Randy Knapp, Bruce LaBar, Terry Little, Judy Meredith, Lois Miller, Steven Modionow, Harry Nehls (Oregon), Vic Nelson, Tim O’Brien, Mike Patterson (Clatsop), W. Douglas Robinson, Tim Rodenkirk (Coos, Curry), Ryan Shaw, Bill Shemerdine, Andy Stepniewski, Ellen Stepniewski, Shep Thorpe, Bill Tweet, Dan Waggoner, Terry J. Wahl, Charlie Wright (eBird), Matt Yawney.

David S. Irons, 6555 SW Old Scholls Ferry Road #8, Portland, Oregon 97223 (Ibirdons@msn.com)
Brad Waggoner, 7865 Fletcher Bay Road N.E., Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110 (wagtail@sounddss.com)
Ryan Merrill, 1616 10 Street W, Kirkland, Washington 98033 (rjm284@gmail.com)

Northern California

Jeff N. Davis
Ed Pandolfino
Stephen C. Rottenborn
Michael M. Rogers

Sea surface temperatures on Monterey Bay fluctuated, but at times during late August, September, and October they were among the highest recorded. “Southern” seabirds, such as Black-vented Shearwaters, Brown Pelicans, Heermann’s Gulls, and Elegant Terns, were in higher numbers, and in good numbers farther north, than usual, and elevated numbers of Scripp’s and Craveri’s Murreslets were seen from shore around Monterey Bay. In contrast, numbers of Long-tailed Jaegers, Arctic Terns, Sabine’s Gulls, and Baltier’s Shearwaters were below below average. Portions of the Region experienced major incursions of Band-tailed Pigeons, Lewiss and Acorn Woodpeckers, Steller’s Jays, American Robins, and Varied Thrushes.


C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (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
At least 3 Brant remained at Brooks Island, Contra Costa 3–31 Aug (LKh, ph. Michael Park, CDu et al.). Up to 42 Trumpeter Swans in various Modoc locations 16-29 Nov (SCR, KAb) have become somewhat expected in recent years, but an ad. in Willow Creek Valley 24 Nov (LOr) was much less expected in Lassen. Tundra Swans in unusual locations included singles at Indian Creek Reservoir, Alpine 12 Nov (Bill Frey) and e. of Exeter, Tulare 18 Nov (ph. DaF). A pair of Bewick’s Swans at Crowley Lake, Mono 15 Nov (JLD, DHo) was presumably the returning pair that has wintered there annually since 2004. Also a returning bird, the male Falcated Duck was found at Colusa N.W.R., Colusa 30 Oct+ (ph. Matt Vito- ria, m.ob.). An Eurasian Wigeon at Glenshire 12 Nov (ph. SRs, DBs) was one of few ever reported in Nevada. Tufted Ducks were reported from Salmon Creek, Sonoma 14 Nov (ESH et al.) and Abboths Lagoon, Marin 23-27 Nov (Everett Clark, Mark Dettling), although the former was noted as being possibly a hybrid. A King Eider was with scoters off Ocean Beach, San Francisco 25 Oct (*Paul Saracen). Two Surf Scoters at Lake Tahoe 22 Oct–9 Dec (JLD, SCd, MM) were thought to represent just the third record for El Dorado. A count of 430 White-winged Scoters at Clam Beach, Humboldt 17 Aug (RBF) was a surprising number for Aug; the summering female in Alviso, Santa Clara was seen again 24 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGF) and 18 Nov (Natalie Washburn). Notable White-winged far inland were at Fall River Lake 20 Oct+ (2 males, seventh Shasta record; KAb, ph. B.Y, m.ob.) and Crowley Lake, Mono 15 Nov (3 birds; JLD, DHo). The male Black Scoter returned to the Richmond Marina, Contra Costa, where diving ducks have become scarce in recent years, for its fifth winter 22 Nov+ (Bob Dunn, m.ob.). Ten Long-tailed Ducks were found in seven counties 20 Oct+, with the earliest being a notable inland bird at Fall River Lake, Shasta 20 Oct (KAb); another at Truckee 12 Nov–9 Dec (ph. SRs, DBs, m.ob.) was thought to represent the first record for Nevada.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS
Two Pacific Loons at Lake Almanor, Plumas 27 Aug (CPD, ph. DPA, Madelyn Ore, Emily Mikus) were very early fall migrants. Among other inland Pacific Loons, one at Union Reservoir 24 Oct (JSL) provided Alpines first record, and one at Bass Lake 7 Nov+ (ph. GaW) was Maler’s fifth. Robust inland counts of Common Loons included 30 at Grant Lake, Mono 19 Oct (JLD), 26 at Lake Almanor, Plumas 19 Sep (CPD, DPA et al.), 25 at Camanche Reservoir, San Joaquin 27 Nov (DGY), and 21 at Stampede Reservoir, Sierra 10 Nov (FrO, LPT, Bill Frey). One at Dawson Lake 8 Aug (*HMR) may have summered, a rare event for Sunnyslough. Two Yellow-billed Loons were recorded, one at the n. jetty of Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 29 Oct (ph. Brad Elvert) and another found dead at Salmon Creek Beach, Sonoma 9 Nov (ph. Orion O’Connor et al.). Counts of 20 Horned Grebes at Eagle Lake 1 Oct (DPA, Madelyn Ore) and 2000 Eared Grebes there 12 Oct (DPA) represented good counts for Lassen. Inland Red-necked Grebes were at Crowley Lake 12 Sep (PJM, ADeM; Moni’s sixth), Lake Almanor, Plumas 19 Sep (CPD, ph. DPA et al.) and 11
Hawaiian Petrels were off San Mateo 2 Aug (SBT, DLSh et al.), Humboldt 7 Aug (†Oscar Canino), Point Pinos, Monterey 25 Aug (ph. Peter J. Dunn et al.), and off “central California” 24 Sep (Jeff Gilligan). Researchers conducting marine mammal surveys far offshore recorded 2-4 Mottled Petrels per day, 2-4 Nov, in areas 185-370 km w. of the shore from Fl. to Point Arena, Mendocino (MFO). Even more remarkable was a Stejneger’s Petrel, the Region’s fifth and Mendocino’s second, with 6 Cook’s Petrels 324 km wsw of Point Arena, Mendocino 7 Nov (TMFO).

A Cory’s Shearwater 9-13 km off Fort Bragg 28 Sep (†JLD, ph. RAd, m.ob.) was Mendocino’s first and only the third for California. Buller’s Shearwaters were in their lowest numbers on record, with only 3 at Fl. (Point Blue) and high counts of only 3-5 on Monterey Bay. Monterey pelagic trips (fide DR). In contrast, Manx Shearwaters were recorded in unprecedented numbers. There were 34 reports from Monterey alone, seen from Point Pinos and pelagic trips, 3-4 were regularly seen among shearwater flocks off Point Pinos, and 7 at Point Pinos 31 Jul (DR) set an all-time Regional record. Six were in Santa Cruz, with 1-2 seen from West Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz 31 Aug–2 Sep (AMR, NLv) and 1-2 on each of three pelagic trips. Away from Monterey Bay, singles were seen from Moss Beach, San Mateo 26 Sep (RSTh) and 3 km off Bodega Head, Sonoma 12 Oct (ph. SNGH). These Manx Shearwaters often accompanied the unusually large flocks of Black-vented Shearwaters present this fall. Counts of 7200 at Point Pinos, Monterey 31 Aug (DR) and 4600 at Terrace Point, Santa Cruz 25 Nov (JCa) exceeded most previous counts, but they were dwarfed by 35,000 (more than 10% of the estimated global population) at Moss Beach, San Mateo 20 Oct (RSTh), which set an all-time Regional high. Black-vented Shearwaters were also recorded farther north than usual, with 12-15 off Point Arena 25 Sep (JRW, CEV) providing the first Mendocino record since 2003 and 11 seen on five dates in Humboldt (vob). One or 2 Ashy Storm-Petrels off Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 30 Aug (RBf, m.ob.) were rare so far north, and Santa Claras’ third was in Alviso 8 Oct (†WBG). Ad. Red-tailed Trochibirds were documented 330 km wsw of Seal Rock, Del Norte 7 Sep and 350 km sw of Point Sur, Monterey 22 Nov (both †MFO et al.), and an imm. was 342 km w. of Punta Gorda, Humboldt 29 Sep (ph.; †fide MFO).

Researchers report that this species is fairly regularly 250+ km offshore, primarily w. of the Californian Current (†fide MFO). An ad. Masked Booby at Moss Beach 12 Aug, San Mateo’s second, was followed by a jur. Masked/Nazca Booby at the same location 25 Aug (both †RSTh). Aside from last fall’s invasion, Blue-footed Booby is a rarity in the region, so an ad. at Fl. 5 Aug–4 Nov, with a second ad. also present 15-17 Aug (ph. Point Blue), was noteworthy, these may have been returning birds that first visited the Region last fall. Brown Booby numbers continue to climb, 26 were recorded this fall, including at least 9 in San Mateo, 6 at Fl., 4 in Monterey, and the remainder in S.F., Marin, Sonoma, and Humboldt. The long-staying Northern Gannet at Fl. was seen throughout the period (Point Blue). American White Pelicans are scarce on the north coast, so one wandering around coastal Del Norte 25 Aug–1 Nov (m.ob.), 11 in Mendocino, Mendocino 18 Sep (Mark Burns), and one at Lake Mendocino, Mendocino 26 Nov (GGi) were noteworthy.

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

A Least Bittern continued at Mather Lake, Sacramento 26-30 Aug (Mark Sawyer, Phil Lutz); singles were also reported in Sonoma, from Shiloh Ranch R.P. 17 Oct (DgSh) and nearby Foothill R.P. 17-28 Nov (Craig and Annette Roth, ESH, m.ob.). A Cattle Egret at Clear Lake S.P. 11 Aug (DwW) was only the fifth for Lake. White-faced Ibis were widely reported from coastal areas 17 Aug+, including at total of 19 seen from Fl. 4-29 Sep, where few have been found previously (Point Blue, †fjTz). A Black Vulture seen near Santa Rosa, Sonoma 8-11 Aug (fide Cto) would be the Region’s sixth, unless deemed to be the same bird as the one seen elsewhere in the county 21 Mar–16 Apr. Napa’s first Broad-winged Hawk passed over Wild Horse Ridge 1 Oct (†MBc), flying into adjacent Solano, where it provided a second county record. Broad-winged flocks were well-reported away from the Marin Headlands, with 7 in San Mateo 23 Sep–21 Oct (RSTh), 6 in Santa Cruz 20 Sep–18 Oct (all jvs.; m.ob.), and 4 in Monterey 26 Sep–8 Oct (m.ob.). Six Swan-son’s Hawks in four coastal counties 19 Aug–19 Oct constituted an above-average total. Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawks included a bird returning to Bayside, Humboldt 13 Nov+ (TKc) for its twelfth winter and different individuals at the Lodi W.T.P., San Joaquin 25 Oct (DGY) and 3 Nov (ph. DGY). The ad. Ferruginous Hawk was seen again near Bieber, Lassen 22 Aug (KAh); another in Sierra Valley, Plumas and Sierra 20 Aug (DPA) was likewise hard to explain, as breeding is not known from there. A Yellow Rail found injured in Salinas 30 Oct (ph. Monika Kaufman) was the third for Monterey. A Sandhill Crane at the Smith River Bottoms 24 Oct–1 Nov (LBr) provided the seventh record for Del Norte, Monterey’s sum-mering crane remained along Elkhorn Slough throughout the fall to 18 Dec (ph. m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS

Wandering Black-necked Stills included 4 at Prosser Creek Reservoir, Nevada 16 Aug (with a single American Avocet, JLL et al.), Amador’s third, at Silver Lake 19-20 Aug (Gwen Starrett, JLL), and 5 at Groveland, Tuolumne 31 Aug (Jeanne Ridgley). Eight reported American Golden-Plovers in four counties 26 Sep–17 Oct included an impressive 5 in Humboldt. Coastal Mountain Plovers are unexpected, so jvs. at Zmudowski S.B., Monterey 29 Oct–1 Nov (ph. CSc, Don Glasco, ph. m.ob.) and se. of Davenport 30 Oct–1 Nov (fifth for Santa Cruz, ph. AMR, ph. mob.) were surprising. Reports of 17 Solitary Sandpipers 3 Aug–30 Sep included Trinity’s fourth at Hayfork W.T.P. 14 Sep (DRs, SRs).

Wandering Tattlers well inside S.F. Bay included 2 jvs. seen from a kayak on the Mare Island jetty, Solano 31 Aug, one was still present 7 Sep (all RMu). A Willet at Sacramento N.W. 18 Oct (Harry Fuller) was one of few found in Glenn. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Prosser Creek Reservoir 19 Aug (ph. SRs, DRs) may have been the first for Nevada. Perhaps the same individual was seen 29 Aug at nearby Boca Reservoir, Nevada 29 Aug (JSL). An impressive 34+ Lesser Yellowlegs were with 90 Greaters at the O’Neill Forebay, Merced 9 Sep (KVV), where dwindling water levels created good habitat. A Eurasian Whimbrel was seen 160 km w. of Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 17 Sep (MFO).

A juv. Ruddy Turnstone at South Lake Tahoe 13 Sep (ScD) was only the third for El Dorado. Also unexpected was an ad. in eastern Contra Costa 13 Aug (ph. Albert Linkowski). A Black Turnstone at the Mare Island jetty 7 Sep (RMu, ph. EPI) was the third for Solano. Unexpected inland, a Red Knot graced the Fresno W.T.P., Fresno 16 Sep (ph. GAW). Solano’s first Surfbird was a juv. at the Napa Sonoma Marshes W.A. 6 Sep (†RMu). Ten Ruffs in six counties included Tulare’s fifth or sixth at the Tulare W.T.P. 3 Aug (DfD). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, all jvs., were found at the Eel River WA., Humboldt 22 Sep (ph. Brad Elvert), the Yolo Basin WA., Yolo 22 Sep (TEa), Lake Tolowa, Del Norte 17 Oct (LBr), and s. Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt 20 Oct (KMS). Up to 7 Stilt Sandpipers were 3 km n. of Stratford, Kings 23 Aug–5 Oct (ph. M5); 6 others were found in four counties 20 Aug–6 Oct. Sandpipers in the Sierra Nevada included singles at South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado 19 Aug (RzeNO) and 4 Sep (Bill Frey), 2 at n. Lake Tahoe, Placer 22 Aug (ScD), and singles at Lake Almanor, Plumas 30 Aug (RDB) and 13 Sep (SED, ADE). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from the Centerville wetlands, Humboldt 26 Aug (Brad Elvert, AsL), Smith River Bottoms,
Del Norte 1-4 Sep (2 birds; ph. LBr et al.), Lake Tolowa, Del Norte 2 Sep (ph. TkJ, Casey Ryan), and Manchester S.B., Mendocino 26-27 Sep (ph. Doug Forsell, Dianne Hitchwa). Among Semipalmated Sandpipers reported 2 Aug-19 Sep was Napas’s third, a juv. at Huchuca Creek WA. 4-17 Aug (DMo, Michael Park, m.ob.). Notable inland Semis included singles in e. Contra Costa 13 Aug (ph. Albert Linkowski) and at South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado 25 Aug (ScD) and 2 Sep (Bill Frey). A single Wilson’s Phalarope lingered in Alviso, Santa Clara 28 Sep+ (RJG, MMR et al.). A Red Phalarope at the Dixon W.T.P., Solano 3-5 Aug (RMu) was at an unexpected inland location.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERMS
Inland Parasitic Jaegers were at Lake Almanor, Plumas 12 Sep, 19 Sep, and 10 Oct (different birds; DPA, CPD, MRg, Madelyn Ore et al.), n. Lake Tahoe, Placer 10-13 Sep (ph. ScD, m.ob.), and Folsom Lake, Placer/Sacramento/El Dorado 16-28 Sep (BWh, CC0, m.ob.). Long-tailed Jaegers inland, or inside S.F. Bay, were at the Benicia pier, Solano 29 Aug (RMs, EPI); at Shoreline Lake 31 Aug (ph. Steve Tracey) and in Sunnyslope 8 Sep (ph. Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley), providing Santa Clara’s third and fourth records, at Stampede Reservoir 13-19 Sep (Stern’s second; JLx, ph. JSL, Dale Rubach), and s. of Corcoran, Kings 24 Sep (ph. MSy). A Rhinoceros Auklet at Coyote Point, San Mateo 30 Sep (RSTh) was rare on S.F. Bay, while a juv. Pigeon Guillemot there 29 Oct (RSTh) was late for a bayside occurrence. Counts of 121 Marbled Murrelets at Waddell Bluffs, Santa Cruz 2 Sep (GJS) and 71 at Pigeon Point, San Mateo 11 Nov (RSTh) were high for recent years and undoubt-edly included birds from more northern breeding areas. Ancient Murrelets were widespread and in fairly good numbers, with high counts of 214 at Pigeon Point, San Mateo 11 Nov (RSTh) and 128 at Point Pinos, Monterey 19 Nov (BLS).
Scrippis Murrelets are infrequently seen from shore, so 1-2 seen from Point Pinos, Monterey on four dates, 6 Oct–30 Nov (DR, BTM) and one at Terrace Point, Santa Cruz 19 Nov (AMR) were remarkable. Even more unusual, single Craveri’s Murrelets were seen from Point Pinos, Monterey on seven dates spanning the duration of the pe-riod (DR, BTM, BLS, PFW, RC); five observations in Nov were unusually late, likely reflecting the record-high water temperatures in Monterey Bay at the time (DR).

Among an above-average total of 35 Sabine’s Gulls inland, 31 Aug–26 Oct, 1-2 at Stampede Reservoir 12-17 Sep (ph., tDRs, SRs, JSL) provided Stern’s first record. Laughing Gulls were at Eureka, Humboldt 29 Aug and 20 Sep (same bird?; SMcA, †Elizabeth Feucht, †Mark Colwell) and P.R.N.S. 5 Sep (ph. SJs). Seven Franklin’s Gulls 16 Aug–30 Nov, with 3 coastal and 4 inland, represented a sub-par showing. Two different Mew Gulls at Lake Almanor 2 and 7 Nov (ph. CPD, Angela L. Dillingham), and a Thayer’s Gull there 2 Nov (ph. CPD), were rare in Plumas. The first Vega Herring Gull for FL, a juv., was present 7 Oct (KNN, ph. DJM et al.). A second-year Lesser Black-backed Gull in Eureka 2-26 Aug (TMcK, ph. RbF et al.) furnished Humboldt’s first record and provided the first Regional record of an apparent summering individual. One at South Lake Tahoe 29 Oct+ (Don Harriman et al.) furnished El Dorado’s second record, and an ad. at Crowley Lake, Mono 28 Nov (JLD, DVP) was likely a returning bird. Single Glau-cous Gulls were at the Davis W.T.P., Yolo 21 Nov (SCH) and Crescent City Harbor, Del Norte 22 Nov (Skei). The only Least Ter n. of S.F Bay was at Doran R.P., Sonoma 23 Aug (LHg, Norm Ortmann, Don Kirker). Black Terns were in high numbers and remained far north, and inside S.F. Bay, through the end of the period, which is unusually late. A count of 6790 at the San Lorenzo River mouth and Seabright S B 1 Aug (AMR) may have been a record count for Santa Cruz; 420 at Crescent City Harbor 13 Aug (ADF) provided a high count for Del Norte; and one at the Salinas W.T.P. 3 Aug (PFw) furnished Monterey’s first inland record.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES
Band-tailed Pigeons staged an impressive incursion, with large numbers moving through the Coast Range, highlighted by a peak count of 596 at Wild Horse Ridge, Napa 4 Nov (MBe), and numerous occurrences on the C.V. floor, where scarce, extending between Butte and Kings. Meanwhile, a new high count of Eurasian Col-lared-Doves was established for Madera, with 55 se. of Madera 3 Nov (Chris Hatt). A similar large concentration of 50 birds was at Walker, Mono 8 Aug (Richard Norton). Fourteen White-winged Doves, twice our seasonal 10-year-average, were all coastal except one at Clear Lake Riviera 22 Sep (Luce’s second; ph. Vicki Miller). The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo reported was an apparent juv. at Riverfront R.P., Sonoma 6 Oct (DSh). A Greater Roadrunner at Breckland 30 Aug (Casey Ryan) established the sixth record of this species for Humboldt. A Western Screech-Owl at Acampo 16 Oct (DGy) established one of few records for the C.V. floor in San Joaquin during the past 15 years. One or 2 Northern Saw- whet Owls at American River Parkway 20 Oct (Phil Lutz) and another at Natomas 4 Nov (ph. Liz Breidberg) provided unusual records of this species for Sacramento and the C.V. floor.

Humboldt’s second Chimney Swift and first to be photographically documented flew over Arcata Bottoms 30 Sep (ph. †SBT, RbF). Remarkably, another was over the Redwood Creek mouth, Humboldt 1 Oct (†GAB). Other singles were over Ripon W.T.P. 6 Sep (†DGy, †Row, San Joaquin’s third), over American River Parkway 8 Sep (ph. GFW), and over FL 10 (†IFZ et al.) and 20 Sep (Oliver James). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird, a juv., that visited feeders at a residence in Eureka 3-10 Sep (ph. Brad Elvert, m.ob.) established the second record for Humboldt. An ad. female Allen’s Hummingbird at Acampo, San Joaquin 2-3 Aug (ph. DGy) helped elucidate the continuing pattern of a small post-breeding movement through the C.V. On the topic of continuing patterns, a Callophya Hummingbird, scarce anywhere else on the C.V. floor in fall, was in Sacramento, where almost expected, at Fair Oaks 12 Aug (†GEw).

Although Lewis’s Woodpeckers withdrew from Lassen despite a decent acorn crop (KAB), they appeared in numbers much larger than normal throughout portions of the C.V and Coast Range, highlighted by a minimum of 90 along Latrobe Rd., Sacramento 8 Nov (CC0, DKo) and a 720% increase in sightings com-pared with the average during the period (41 vs. 5) in Santa Clara (WGB). Acorn Woodpeckers made a similar incursion but in smaller numbers. Sacramento’s first Williamson’s Sapsucker, a female, was at C.R.P. 20 Nov (JTR). Nine Yellow-belled Sapsuckers, all coastal or around S.F. Bay, represented a typical showing, whereas a total of
15 Red-naped Sapsuckers, 10 coastal and 5 inland, nearly doubled the 10-year average. Both early Merlins were found in Humboldt; at Arcata Marsh 6 Aug (AxL, Samantha Bacon) and at n. Humboldt Bay 26 Aug (DFr). Presumably all related to a single imm. bird, reports of a Crested Caracara came from three locations around Monterey: w. of Greenfield 6 Aug (Mike Tidwell), along Elkhorn Slough 4 Sep (Peter J. Dunn et al.), and at Andrew Molera S.P. 20 Sep–13 Dec (CSc, ph. DR, ph. Michael Park, m.ob.).

Fl. has produced most of the Region’s accepted records of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher; it was first for the C.V. was at C.R.P. 20-21 Sep (†JT), Michael Gertz, CCo, JCS, GFW, LMCC). Two Plumbeous Vireos were reported: one along Tunitas Creek Rd., San Mateo 1 Sep (†GRH) and another at Fl. 20 Sep (ph. JTz et al.). The latter established the third record for the island. Our only Blue-headed Vireo, at Bethany Curve Park 29 Sep (ph. AMR), provided the second record for Santa Cruz; A Warbling Vireo at Arcata, Humboldt 31 Oct (TMcK) and another s. of Corcoran, Kings 9 Nov (ph. MSy) were about a month late. Five Philadelphia Vireos were all coastal except one—an imm. at Lodi 19-20 Sep (†DGV, m.ob.), the first record not only for San Joaquin but apparently the entire C.V. Six Red-eyed Vireos included Plumass first at Chester 8 Sep (†TRD). Among 5 Yellow-green Vireos reported was Somomans first, at Owl Canyon 10-11 Oct (ph. Gordon Beebe, m.ob.).

Like Lewis’s and Acorn Woodpeckers, Steller’s Jays appeared in unusualy large numbers in the Coast Range and popped up in the C.V., where they are usually absent. Large flocks, including one with about 150 birds at Brazos Bridge, Napa 23 Oct (MB), formed from Mendocino to Napa, and smaller numbers moved through the Sacramento Valley from Shasta to Humboldt. Humboldt has hosted more Blue Jays than any other county in the state; its seventh was at Willow Creek 1-9 Nov (Mark Hodgson, ph. m.ob.). A total of 8 Townsend’s Solitaires away from areas of residency was about typical. Huge pulses of American Robins, including a high count of 12,300 over Point Pinos, Monterey 17 Nov (BLS), and Varied Thrushes, including a high count of 7,120 over Skyline Memorial Park, San Mateo 27 Oct (RSTh), pushed through some coastal areas, smaller numbers appeared throughout most of the Region. The appearance of mainly gray-backed Varied Thrushes led one observer (JM) to suggest the invasion may have involved mainly the more northerly and interior subspecies i. n. melanoleuca.

THASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Five Gray Catbirds, more than twice our seasonal average, included singles in Owl Canyon, Sonoma 28 Aug–13 Sep (PBC et al.), at McKinleyville, Humboldt 26 Aug (TMcK, ph. SBT), at PRN.S. 2 Oct (Nick Whelan, Daniel George), at Carmel River S.B., Monterey 25 Oct (MKu), and at Laguna Grande, Monterey 28 Oct (ChZ). A Sage Thrasher at n. Lake Tahoe, Placer 4 Sep (DRs, SRS, JLD) represented the third modern Placer record. Other notable Sage Thashers were on Latrobe Rd., Sacramento 22 Sep (Deb Watson, ph. LPs et al.), s. of Corcoran, Kings 10 Nov (MSy), and at MacKerricher S.P., Mendocino 14 Nov (ph. D. Flaim). Brown Thrashers were on Fl. 29-30 Sep and 13-14 Oct (both Point Blue), and another was at Point Richmond, Alameda 13 Oct (R. A. Bok). Seven Red-throated Pipits (all coastal) furnished a typical fall total.

All 47 Lapland Longspurs were in coastal counties. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were at Lake Tolowa, Del Norte 17 Oct (LBr), at the Presidio, S.F. 3 Nov (FSr), and on Bear River Ridge, Humboldt 2-25 Nov (RBf, m.ob.). Four Snow Buntings provided our highest total since 1999 and included 2 on Bear River Ridge, Humboldt 2-17 Nov (Brad Elvert, Bob Brown, m.ob.) and singles at Tennessee Valley Nursery, Marin 18 Nov (Jim Caldwell) and Modoc N.W.R., Modoc 17-19 Nov (ph. Dominic Backman).

With the exception of a Grace’s Warbler at Pacific Grove, Monterey 6 Sep (eighth for the Region; ph. DR, CSc et al.), this season was generally lacking in warbler highlights. However, most of our regular vagrants were present in good numbers. Ten Ovenbirds and 41 Northern Waterthrushes were totals more than twice our long-term averages. Twenty-six Black-and-white Warblers and 47 Tennessee’s were also represented. Prolongatnory Warblers were in Golden Gate Park, S.F. 30 Sep–10 Oct (Russt Bright, m.ob.) and at Point Arena, Mendocino 20 Nov (ph. Leslie Dalhoff), and our only Lucy’s Warbler was at the Big Sur River mouth, Monterey 19 Oct (ph. MK, ph. AHO).

A Nashville Warbler at McKinleyville, Humboldt 20-21 Nov (RBf) showed behavior traits (lack of tail-pumping) and plumage characteristics consistent with the e. subspecies. Three Virginia’s Warblers were in Monterey, one each in El Carmelo Cemetery 21-24 Sep (BTM, ph. CCo, m.ob.), near Esplanade Park in Pacific Grove 28 Sep (Bep Bender, Lko, m.ob.), and in Mission Trails Park 10 Oct (CSc). Another Virginia’s Warbler was at Antonelli Pond, Santa Cruz 7-9 Oct (Jga, Jack Mazza, m.ob.) The majority of California’s Connecticut Warbler records are from Fl., so a bird banded there 20 Sep (ph. Point Blue) was not unexpected. Second only to F.I., PRN.S. accounts for over one-tenth of our records for this species, and the bird photographed there 28 Sep (ph. CCo, m.ob.) provided the thirteenth record for that location. Fl. also produced our only Mourning Warbler 10-12 Sep (Point Blue). Humboldt provided both our Hooded Warblers, one at the Sequoia Park Zoo 28 Aug (Carmen Bruner) and the other at Bayside 8 Oct (JCP, m.ob.).

American Redstarts were present in good numbers (58 vs. an average of 48) with a bird at Chester, Plumass 7-11 Nov (RDB, CPD) being notable in this location for the late date. There were at least 2 Cape May Warblers at PRN.S.: one or more 6 Sep (ESH, Durell Kapan) and another bird 19-21 Sep (Michael Park, Zach Baer,

Humboldt County has tallied more records of Blue Jay than any other county in California; this bird at Willow Creek 1-9 (here 4) November 2014 established Humboldt County’s seventh record. Photograph by Samantha Bacon.
Another Cape May was on Fl. 11 Oct (Point Blue). Notable among our 8 Northern Parulas were singles at Chester 3 Sep (third for Plumas; RDB) and near Basso Bridge 21-23 Nov (second for Stanislaus; ph. JHG, m.ob.). A dozen Magnolia Warblers included singles in Bidwell-Sacramento S.P., Butte 23-26 Sep (MRg, JLw, ph. JCS, m.ob.) and in C.R.P. 6 Oct (Kevin Thomas). A Bay-breasted Warbler was on Fl. 13 Sep (JTz et al.), another was photographed while circling a boat well offshore of Half Moon Bay, San Mateo 14 Sep (ph. AJ et al.), and a third was at El Carmelo Cemetery, Monterey 21-25 Sep (ph. CSC, ph. DR, m.ob.). Nine Blackburnian Warblers included Sacramento’s fifth at C.R.P. 5 Oct (JFr). Thirty-eight Chestnut-sided Warblers was right on average, but 49 Blackpolls was well under our long-term average, though typical of totals seen during the past decade for this species. Six Black-throated Blue Warblers were all in coastal counties. Echoing the pattern noted above for Blackpoll Warblers, our total of 89 Palm Warblers, while well under our long-term average of 130, was consistent with numbers reported in recent years. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Natural Bridges S.B. 14-16 Sep (Anna Kopitov, AMR) was the first for Santa Cruz. Fifteen Prairie Warblers (all in coastal counties) represented a good showing. A Canada Warbler was along Gazos Creek Rd., San Mateo 31 Aug–1 Sep (GrH et al.) Another Canada Warbler in Ansel Hoffman Park, Sacramento 11-26 Sep (ph. Mark Sawyer, ph. GEW, m.ob.) was an excellent C.V. find.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Six American Tree Sparrows made a good showing, whereas 50 Clay-colored Sparrows was a bit under our average of 62. A Chipping Sparrow at Truckee, Nevada 19 Nov (MMJ, JLD) represented a late date for this location. Single Black-throated Sparrows at the Buttermilk, Sacramento 11 Aug (ph. CC0) and on Mount Davidson, S.F. 26 Sep (BFI, ph. CLo, Linda Swanson) were the only ones reported. Lark Buntings were in the McKinleyville Bottoms, Humboldt 11-12 Aug (KMS, m.ob.), on Fl. 1 Sep (Point Blue), s of Corcoran, Kings 25-26 Oct (ph. MSy), along Huggins Canyon Rd., San Mateo 18 Nov+ (RSTH, LBE), and along Sonora Rd., Stanislaus 20 Nov (ph. JHG). Thirty-four Swamp Sparrows was a typical total. Reports of Harris’s Sparrows included a fairly early arrival at Acampo, San Joaquin 6 Oct+ (DGY, ph. m.ob.), a bird returning for the fourth year to Davis, Yolo 26 Oct+ (CDF et al.), and singles in the Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt 6-9 Nov (Elizabeth Feucht et al.), at Fort Bragg, Mendocino 6 Nov (ph. Marybeth Arago), and in Doran R.P., Sonoma 18-22 Nov (Denise Herzberg et al.).

Among our 13 Summer Tanagers (nearly double the average) were inland birds at Bidwell Park, Butte 28 Aug (Skip Auger et al.), in Crescent Meadow (2400 m elevation), Tulare 8 Sep (ph. Dave Collins), and a bird lingering from summer in C.R.P. 6 Aug (JFr, m.ob.). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were present in typical numbers (14 and 7, respectively), but 7 Painted Buntings represented a new high for the Region. A Painted Bunting on Fl. 18-19 Aug (ph. JTz et al.) was the first ad. male for the island, and a second Fl. bird was found 22 Sep (KNN). In keeping with the apparent increasing numbers of this species in our Region, a Painted Bunting at Paradise 27 Sep (ph. Jerry Zatorski, DHo) was the third one for Mono in the past four Septembers. Two Painted Buntings in Humboldt provided the seventh and eighth records for that county, with five of those records coming since 2005. Modoc’s first documented Blue Grosbeak was at New Pine Creek 31 Aug (SCR). Dickcissels were at Crescents City, Del Norte 23-26 Sep (ph. Sley Lloyd et al.) and at the Mad River Fish Hatchery, Humboldt 29 Sep–5 Oct (Nevin Cullen, ph. Jared Huegley, m.ob.). Of our 13 Bobolinks, 6 were inland birds at Davis, Yolo 26 Aug–4 Oct. A Rusty Blackbird was along San Fe Grade Rd., Merced 13-22 Nov (Joanne Katanic, m.ob.), and another was at PR.N.S. 16 Nov (Ron Mallory). Although our long-term average Orchard Oriole total is less than 9, the last seven years have produced between 10 and 19 each fall, making this season’s total of 15 consistent with recent numbers. Are there really more Orchard Orioles, or are birders just more confident making the distinction between Hooded and Orchard Orioles? Baltimore Orioles are also being reported in higher numbers recently than in the past. Five Baltimoreos this fall included Modoc’s first, an ad. male, in New Pine Creek 1 Sep (SCR). A Scott’s Oriole near Jacks Peak, Monterey 3-6 Oct (ph. BTM, m.ob.) was the first chaseable one for that county. California’s seventh Brambling (and Humboldt’s third) was enjoyed by many at Arcata 10 Nov+ (ph. Glen Jones, m.ob.). Up to 6 Pine Grosbeaks in Lakes Basin 17-23 Aug (ph. Lynn Scarlett, Steve Courtney, SED, ADE) were the first to be well documented in Plumas.

Cited observers (county subregional editors in boldface): Ken Able (Lassen), Roger Adamson, David P.Arsenault, Ralph Baker, Alan D. Barron, Leonie Batkin, Murray Berner (Napa), Gary A. Bloomfield, William G. Bousman (Santa Clara), Lucas Brug, Ryan D. Burnett, Rita Carrattello, Daryl Coldren (Humboldt and Del Norte), Peter B. Colasanti, Chris Conard (Sacramento), Rudy C. Darling (Nebraska), Jeff N. Davis (Madera), Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel, (n. C.V. counties), Scott Dietrich, Colin P. Dillingham (Plumas and Sierra), Cedric Duhalde, Chris Dunford, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Amber D. Edwards, Scott Edwards, Gil C. Ewing, Diane Fagundes, Paul Fenwick, Brian Fitch, David Fix, Michael Force, Rob Fowler (Rbf), Humboldt and Del Norte), Dea Freid, James H. Gain, John Garrett, Steve Gerow (Santa Cruz), George Gibbs, Steve C. Hampton, John Harris (Stanislaus), Chris Hartzell, Garth Harwood, Alfred Hochstader, Debbie House, Steve N. G. Howell, Lisa Hug, Eugene S. Hunn, John E. Hunter (Trinity), Alvaro Jaramillo, Richard G. Jeffers, Logan Kahle (Contra Costa), Robert J. Keiffer (Menlo), Dan Kopp, Mark Kudrav, Tony Kurz, Alexandra Lamb, Robin L. C. Leong (Solano), Tom W. Leskwi, Nick Levendosky, John Lewis, Jim Lomax, Calvin Lou, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammosser, Blake T. Matheson, Dan J. Maxwell (Marin), Sean McAllister, Louise McCulloch, Tristan McKee, Peter J. Metropolis (San Mateo), Martin Meyers, Joseph Morlan, Dominik Mosur (San Francisco), Martin Meyers, Roger Muskat, Kristine N. Nelson (Mono), Frances Oliver (San Joaquin), Lw Oling, Ron & Nancy Overholzer, Ed Pandolfini (Placer), Eric Pilote, Linda Pittman, Gary W. Potter (Fresno), Jude C. Power, Robert J. Richmond (Alameda), Michael Rieser, Alex M. Rinkert, Don Roberson (Monterey), Michael M. Rogers (MMR), Michael Rogner (MRg), Carole Rose, Diane Rose, Larry Rose, Steve Rose, Stephen C. Rottenbarn, James Rowith, Ruth A. Rudesill (Sonoma), Paul Sarasendi, Cooper Scollan, Adam Searcy, Jeff Seay (Kings), Doug Shaw, Debra L. SheARWATER, Keith M. Slauson, Mark Stacy, John C. Sterling (Modoc, Alpine, Calaveras, and Yolo), Tim Steurmer (El Dorado and Amador), Gary J. Strachan, Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (Tulare), Colin Talcroft, Scott B. Ternill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz (Fl.), John Trochet, Steve Tucker, Steve Umland (Tuolumne), Chuck E. Vaughn, Kent Van Vuren (Merced), David Vander Phym, Bruce Webb, Jerry R. White (Lake), Gary Woods, Dave Woodward (DvW), David G. Yee, Bob & Carol Yutzy (Shasta). Many more observers and contributors are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. Corrigendum: A Hairy Woodpecker in the Sutter Buttes 1 Feb 2014 established the first record for the Sutter Buttes, not for Sutter, as reported in Volume 68, Number 2. 

Jeff N. Davis (loves@thirsties.com) 11238 N. Via Treviso Way, Fresno, California 93730 (jdavis@colibri-ecology.com)
Ed Pandolfini (thirsties@thirsties.com) 1328 49th Street, Sacramento, California 95810 (epandolfini@aol.com)
Stephen C. Rottenborn (loons to thrashers, larks to alcos) 983 University Avenue, Building D, Los Gatos, California 95032 (srottenborn@harveyecology.com)
Michael M. Rogers (waterfowl to quail, herons to sandpipers) 499 Novato Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086 (m.m.rogers@comcast.net)