

Seattle 13 Nov (A. Larson) and Scappoose, Columbia in early Nov (*fide* H. Horvat) were at least six weeks late. Formerly very rare, Blue Grosbeak has found nearly annually in the Region of late; this season's bird enlivened Cutler City, Lincoln 9 Sep (JG). An Indigo Bunting at Sauk Prairie, Skagit 6 Oct represented only the 7th Washington record for fall (ph. RM); Washington has more than 30 records, with most from Jun-Jul. A late Indigo was at Tillamook 13-14 Nov (CK, PS). Both of the season's Dickcissels were on the Oregon coast, with one at Nestucca Bay N.W.R., Tillamook 10 Sep (D. Demarest, J. Hurt) and another at Cape Blanco 11 Nov+ (TJW, TR). A nearly record-late Bobolink, rare at any season in w. Washington, inhabited Nisqually 19-23 Oct (ST, ph. R. Stoner); there are about 30 fall records and one winter record for w. Washington. Tricolored Blackbirds have appeared sporadically around F.R.R. over the past decade; one was there 4 Aug (RR). Yellow-headed Blackbirds, historically rare on the outer coast, now appear annually in Coos and Curry. Four were at Floras L. 3 Sep (TR), and one was at N.S.C.B. 17 Sep (TR), while another spent all of Nov. at Cape Blanco (TJW). Nine westside Rusty Blackbirds 9 Oct-19 Nov was thrice normal; 8 were in Washington, including Cowlitz's first at Woodland Bottoms 3-12 Nov (DW). A flock of 5000 Brewer's Blackbirds at Sequim, Clallam 28 Oct (SM, BW) was an all-time high for Washington. Washington's 10th

Hooded Oriole and first from fall brightened Kelso, Cowlitz 8-10 Aug (ph. M. Hill); antecedent Washington records have fallen late Apr-late Jul. Additional Hoodeds were at Newport 3 Nov (M. Savage) and Seaside, Clatsop 20 Nov (H. Peterson). A Bullock's Oriole, rare on the outer coast and nearly two months late, was at Neah Bay, Clallam 4 Nov (ph. BW); although there are about 10 winter records for Washington, there are just two from Nov.

Oregon's 12th Brambling was a two-day wonder at Scappoose, Columbia (L. Pierce, ph. GG). Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches, not annual in the westside lowlands, included 2 at Sunset Beach, Island 9 Oct (C. Corin) and one near Sedro Woolley, Skagit 19 Nov (GB). Pine Grosbeaks, very rare in the w. Washington lowlands, included one at Bangor, Kitsap 28 Sep (J. Campbell) and one at Brier, Snohomish 29 Nov (T. Brooks). Cassin's Finches are now being reported regularly in small numbers just w. of the crest of the Washington Cascades, especially in Skagit, but lowland w. Washington records are few, so one at Lyman, Skagit 19 Nov (GB) was noteworthy. Rare w. of the Cascades in Washington, 4 White-winged Crossbills were seen at three locations 2-7 Sep, but a flock of 75 at L. Tapps, Pierce 29 Nov (A. Richards, A. Musche) was utterly unprecedented for the lowlands. Common Redpolls showed signs of irrupting, with a handful of westside reports during Nov.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Knute Andersson, Nigel Ball, Range Bayer (Lincoln), Gary Bletsch, Trem Bray, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Chris Carey, Alan Contreras, Jim Danzenbaker, MerryLynn Denny, Mike Denny, Steve Dougill, Dennis Duffy, Shawneen Finnegan (Oregon), Bob Flores, Andy Frank, George Gerds, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson (Washington, Oregon pelagics), Denny Grandstrand (Yakima), Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, Michael Hobbs, Evan Houston, Jon Isacoff, Jeff Jendro, Stuart Johnston (Hood River, Klickitat, Skamania), Carol Karlen, Randy Knapp, Terry Little, Peter Low, Roy Lowe, Scott Mills, Steven Mlodinow, Don Munson, Russ Nemitz, Vic Nelson, Steve Nord, Cathy Nowak, Tim O'Brien, Kim Owen, Mike Patterson (Clatsop), Chuck Philo, Phil Pickering, Roger Robb, W. Douglas Robinson, Tim Rodenkirch (Coos, Curry), Ryan Shaw, Bill Shelmerdine, Kevin Spencer, Andy Stepniowski, Noah Strycker, Paul Sullivan, Barbara Taylor, Shep Thorpe, Dave Trochlell (Union, Walla Walla), Bill Tweit, Dan Waggoner, Terry J. Wahl, Jay Withgott, Charlie Wright (eBird).

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Recalling conditions last fall, fog prevailed along the coast through September, keeping numbers of landbird migrants down during the first half of the season. Unlike last fall, though, the pattern broke in early October, with a series of storms that dropped rain across the Region and cleared fog from the immediate coast. Perhaps this change made a difference. By the end of the season, birders had turned up decent numbers of landbirds overall, including good numbers of rare and vagrant warblers. Highlighting the warbler migration was the highest number of Cape May Warblers in a quarter century. In contrast, offshore birders found the abundance of tubenoses to be as low as it had been in decades.

Despite those low numbers, some outstanding rarities were found, including California's third White-chinned Petrel and its fourth and fifth Great-winged Petrels. Closer to shore was California's second Common Eider, coincidentally in the same location as the first one seven years earlier. The season's main attraction was California's first Common Ringed Plover. It lingered for more than a week, was admired by hundreds of birders from throughout the state and beyond, and routinely provided side-by-side comparisons with numerous Semipalmated Plovers. Rounding out the ultra-rarities were the Region's second Winter Wren and an apparent Cave Swallow, the Region's first

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon I., 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 C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933.

WATERFOWL

An ad. Emperor Goose was seen on the ocean off Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin* 27 Nov (†William Legge, Dave Wiechers), the first documented in the Region since 2007. Four blue-morph Ross's Geese at Sacramento N.W.R., *Glenn* 11 Nov (ph. B&CY) provided one of the highest counts of this morph in our notebooks. A one-year old Brant in Benicia 15-22 Aug (RMu et al.) was unexpected in *Solano*; perhaps the same bird was seen farther inland at Sherman I. 16 Aug (DaW), providing only the 2nd record for *Sacramento*. Two Dusky Canada Geese (*B. c. occidentalis*) were found at the Morgan Hill Community Park 9 Oct (SCR), the 3rd year in a row that this subspecies has returned to this part of *Santa Clara*. Coastal Tundra Swans included one over Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* 1 Nov (AGa), 6 over Struve Slough, *Santa Cruz* 13 Nov (EFe et al.), and imms. that lingered at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 31 Oct–25 Nov (JGE, m.ob.) and Pomponio S.B., *San Mateo* 5 Nov+ (Mark Kudrav, m.ob.). A Bewick's Swan at Crowley L., *Mono* 23 Nov+ (Ken Wells, ph. Steve Brad) may have been the same bird seen about annually at this location since 2004.

A male Eurasian Wigeon at Goffinet Res., *Amador* 13-18 Nov (DMr, TS, FS) may have been the same bird seen there and at a nearby pond annually since Mar 2006. It was joined by another male 18 Nov (TS, FS). A total of 4268 Northern Pintail moving southward past Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 16 Oct (RSTh, LBT) was a notably high count for the immediate coast; a pair along White Rock Rd. 9 Nov (DLSu) was an unusual find for *Mariposa*. Eurasian Teal were found at the Salinas W.T.P., *Monterey* 16 Oct (†BTM) and at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 29 Nov (a returning bird; RSTh). A tally of 581 Redheads in Alviso 30 Oct was the highest total ever for *Santa Clara* (MMR, RGJ, MJM). An apparent Ring-necked Duck × Lesser Scaup hybrid, a female, was photographed at L. Hennessey, *Napa* 29 Nov–2 Dec (ph., †MBe; ph. Alex Merritt). Tufted Duck reports included those of a male at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 2-7 Nov (STu, Dan Maxwell, Carolyn Longstreth et al.), the returning male at L. Merritt, *Oakland*, *Alameda* 7 Nov+ (Kristi Whitfield, Noah Arthur, m.ob.), and 2 different females at L. Hennessey, *Napa* 19 Nov (MBe) and 23 Nov–2 Dec (Alex Merritt, MBe). Lesser Scaup bred at Sunnyvale, *Santa Clara* again, with at least two broods detected 31 Aug (WGB). California's 2nd Common Eider, a female, spent 20-29

Nov in Crescent City, *Del Norte* (ph. ADB, ph. m.ob.), the same location that hosted the first state record, a male, 5-18 Jul 2004. The Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* Harlequin Duck entered its 10th year at this location 9 Aug+ (RSTh et al.). Several inland Surf Scoters were noted, including 4 at Lewiston L. 3 Nov (*Trinity's* 7th record; DRs, SRs), one in Redding 12 Nov (*Shasta's* 9th record; Frank & Darliss Sanderson, Bea Currie, Connie Word et al.), one at Clear L., *Lake* 21 Nov (FHa et al.), *Madera's* first at Madera W.T.P. 4 Nov (Chris Hiatt, ph. GaW), one at Grant L., *Mono* 22 Oct (Susan Steele), and 2 at Grant L., *Mono* 24 Nov (Steve Brad, Ken Wells). *Shasta's* 6th White-winged Scoter was found in Redding 27 Nov (Roger Zachary, BiO). Completing *Shasta's* scoter trifecta, the male Black Scoter continued through the season at Kutras L., Redding (first county record; present since 14 Apr; DMR, m.ob.). Seventeen Long-tailed Ducks were found in six coastal counties 9 Oct+. A Common Merganser at FI. 18 Nov (OsJ, JTz, ph. Sam Roberts, Elizabeth Ames) was the first ever found on the island. A female Ruddy Duck with 8 ducklings at the Ukiah W.T.P., *Mendocino* 11 Oct (CEV) was notable both for the location and the very late date.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

Two Red-throated Loons at S. Lake Tahoe 27 Nov (WRI) provided only the 2nd occurrence for the Tahoe Basin and for *El Dorado*. Eagle L., *Lassen*, our only regular inland stopover site for Pacific Loons in fall migration, hosted 17 Pacifics 8 Oct (KAb, LOR) and 56 on 22 Oct (DMr). Among 14 others inland, *Stanislaus's* first was at Woodward Res. 30 Nov (SSa, †John Harris); one se. of Tracy 20 Nov (MtB) was *San Joaquin's* first away from L. Camanche; and 3 at Clear L. 29 Nov (JRW) provided *Lake's* highest count. Yellow-billed Loons included an apparent ad. at Battery Godfrey, *S.F.* 14 Oct (HuC, †PSar, †MWE); *Santa Clara's* first at Sunnyvale 25 Oct–4 Nov, a likely subad. that died on the last-date (Pete Dunten, ph. m.ob.); and a juv. in Santa Cruz 10 Nov; *Santa Cruz's* first (ph., †SGe). Five of 48 reported Red-necked Grebes were inland, including a new high count for *Lake* of 3 at Clear L. 21 Nov (JCS, FHa).

A juv. or subad. Short-tailed Albatross at FI. 6 Sep (†OsJ, †JTz et al.) was only the 2nd record for the island—and the first since 1887! In contrast, a juv. at Bodega Canyon, *Sonoma* 19 Nov (ph. DSg et al.) was in an area that has hosted about 10 recent records. Despite the low abundance of tubenoses this fall, four *Pterodroma* species were recorded in the Region for the first time since 2005, when five species were found. The Region's 2nd White-chinned Petrel, and the first for *Marin*, was

near Cordell Bank 16 Oct (ph. TMcG et al.). Great-winged Petrel was reported twice: *Santa Cruz's* 2nd was on Monterey Bay 26 Aug (ph. Abe Borker, JML et al., ShJ), and *San Mateo's* first was off Half Moon Bay 17 Sep (Phil Hansbro, †Douglas Koch, ShJ). The Region has only three prior records, all of subspecies *gouldi*. A Mottled Petrel near Davidson Seamount, *Monterey* 25 Oct (†JND) and a Cook's Petrel 93 km w. of Rocky Pt., *Monterey* 27 Sep (JWtg et al.) rounded out our reports of gadfly petrels. *Marin's* 2nd Streaked Shearwater was 76 km w. of Pt. Reyes 27 Sep (p.a.; †Jeff Gilligan et al.). Two Manx Shearwaters were found, one on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 11 Sep (ph. BLS et al., ShJ) and one at FI. 16 Nov (†OsJ). Seventeen Wilson's Storm-Petrels on 10 offshore trips included *Humboldt's* 3rd off Trinidad 27 Aug (†TKz, †RbF et al.); that same trip produced high *Humboldt* counts of 15 Fork-tailed and 70 Leach's Storm-Petrels. An Ashy Storm-Petrel attracted to the lights of a night football game at Stanford University 1 Oct (MMR, Alma Rogers) furnished *Santa Clara* with its 2nd record.

Red-billed Tropicbird is not recorded annually in the Region, but one was in Monterey Bay 75 km sw. of Sand Hill Bluff, *Santa Cruz* 27 Sep (ph. Owen Schmidt et al.). Brandt's Cormorants continued nesting at Seacliff S.B., *Santa Cruz* through 3 Oct, when one nest was fledging young and five others had incubating ads.; however, no nesting activity was seen on subsequent visits (DLSu). Single ad. Brown Boobies were recorded at Suto Baths, *S.F.* 1 Aug (ph. DMO et al.), on FI. 5-10 Aug (ph. Adam Fox), on Monterey Bay, *Santa Cruz* 9 Sep (Wes Fritz, ShJ, ph. RF et al.), and at Seacliff S.B., *Santa Cruz* 17 Sep (DLSu); it is possible that some of these occurrences represented repeat observations of the same individual. A booby at the s. jetty of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 5 Aug (*fide* TWL) was likely an ad. Brown Booby as well. At least 7 juv. Brown Pelicans inland included *Lake's* 2nd at Clear L. 9-23 Aug (JRW et al.); *Yolo's* 2nd in West Sacramento 24 Aug+ (Cliff Feldheim, Dan Airola) and 3rd in Woodland 3 Sep+ (TEa); and *Stanislaus's* 5th on W. Gaffery Rd. 14 Oct (ph. MtB).

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

The only Least Bittern reported was near Alpaugh, *Tulare* 21 Sep (SAL). Few coastal Cattle Egrets were noted, with a single bird in *Contra Costa* 25 Sep followed by 5 in three other coastal counties 1-19 Nov. In contrast, large numbers of White-faced Ibis were reported in nearly all coastal and S.F. Bay counties from *Humboldt* to *Monterey* 21 Aug+. An inland ibis at L. McClure 29 Sep (DLSu) was notable for *Mariposa*. Broad-winged Hawks were noted in

large numbers over Hawk Hill, *Marin*, with 202 counted 17 Sep–28 Oct, including a high of 38 seen 26 Sep (G.G.R.O.). Away from Hawk Hill, one at Bear R. Ridge 7 Oct (DCo, †LTu) was notable for *Humboldt*; 16 more were reported in seven other coastal counties 23 Sep–7 Nov. The count of Swainson's Hawks passing Hawk Hill was likewise impressive, with 13 tallied 23 Sep–4 Dec, half coming after mid-Nov (G.G.R.O.). Harlan's Hawks included birds near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* 25 Nov (ph. RCP, Bruce Mast), returning to Arcata, *Humboldt* 10 Nov+ (DCo, TKz, m.ob.), at the Jacoby Cr. mouth, *Humboldt* 27 Nov (RbF), near Jenner, *Sonoma* 26 Oct (ScC, RoM), and 12 km sw. of Madera, *Madera* 7 Nov (ph. GaW). The Crested Caracara continued through the season near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* (ADB, m.ob.). Early returning Merlins included singles in *Santa Cruz* 23 (Nanci Adams et al.) & 31 Aug (DLSu) and one in *Mendocino* 29 Aug (KHv). A young Gyrfalcon visited *Humboldt*, with sightings at s. Arcata Bottoms 26 Sep and 26 Oct (†KI) and at the Redwood Cr. mouth 29 Sep–2 Oct (p.a.; †KI, †TWL, †DCo, LTu, RHw), providing the earliest fall record for the state. The Heron's Head Park Clapper Rails, now present for over a year, were seen with 2 chicks 8–14 Aug (DMo, ph. MWE, m.ob.), supplying S.F. with its first breeding record. Migrant flocks of Sandhill Cranes in unexpected locations included 5 birds over Eureka, *Humboldt* 30 Sep (COg), 7 over Lighthouse Field S.B., *Santa Cruz* 25 Oct (MSc), 10 over Halls Valley, *Santa Clara* 7 Oct (ph. Owen Holt), and 8 along La Paloma Rd., *Mariposa* 30 Sep (ph. DLSu).

SHOREBIRDS

A notable 15 American Golden-Plovers were reported from 11 counties 16 Aug–15 Nov, but only four reports were accompanied by documentation. Inland reports included those of juvs. near Hanford, *Kings* 10 Sep (ph. MSy, SDS, JSy), at the Modesto W.T.P., *Stanislaus* 9 Oct (ERC, †HMR), in Woodland, *Yolo* 4–6 Nov (ph. TEa, JCS), and at the Fresno W.T.P. 15 Nov (*Fresno*'s 2nd record; ph. MtB, ph. GaW). California's first Common Ringed Plover, a well-marked ad., was enjoyed by hundreds at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 19–26 Aug (ph. TEa, ph. m.ob.); it was last seen flying southward at the nearby Yolo Bypass W.A. late on 26 Aug (TEa). A Mountain Plover reached the coast at the Pajaro R. mouth, *Santa Cruz* 17 Oct (CRE); although not far from regular wintering areas in *Solano*, 26 at Sherman I. 10 Nov (DaW) were the first found in *Sacramento* since 2002. An out-of-place American Avocet visited Sequoia L., *Fresno* (1637 m elevation) 4 Sep (GWPo). Twenty-one Solitary Sandpipers reported from 11 counties included late single birds in Mer-

ced, at San Luis N.W.R. 28 Oct (MP) and at Merced N.W.R. 5 Nov (MDo, Eric Goodill, SSa). A Wandering Tattler along the Napa R. at American Canyon 4 Sep (ph., †MBe, Dave McMullen) was the first ever for *Napa*. A Ruddy Turnstone was far inland near Alpaugh, *Tulare* 9 Sep (SAL). A Black Turnstone at Mono L. 2 Sep (KNN, ph. Ann Greiner) provided the first confirmed record for *Mono*.

Inland Red Knots were at Lemoore, *Kings* 6 (MSy) & 10 Sep (5 juvs.; GaW). Sanderlings far inland included one in Surprise Valley, *Modoc* 29 Aug (JSL) and 4 Sep (SCR), as well as somewhat more expected birds in *Madera* (2; ph. GaW), *Kings* (4; MSy), and *Tulare* (one; SAL). Two juv. Western Sandpipers along White Rock Rd. 29 Sep (†DLSu) provided only the 2nd record for *Mariposa*. On the heels of last season's 2 birds, 2 more Little Stints, the 9th and 10th for the Region, were found in *Humboldt*. An alternate-plumaged ad. was seen 15–16 Aug at the Eel R. mouth (†DCo, RHw, TWL) and a different ad. was studied at the Mad R. estuary 21 Aug (TKz, †DCo, †RbF, RHw). Baird's Sandpipers were widely reported, with large concentrations of 31 at Mare I. 8 Sep (*Solano*'s highest count; RMu), 20 at Centerville, *Humboldt* 7 Sep (TEa et al.), and 20 at Mono L., *Mono* 9 Sep (CHw). Pectoral Sandpipers were likewise widely reported; notable were *Mariposa*'s first along Merced Falls Rd. 16 Sep (†DLSu) and a late straggler at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 27 Nov (Tom & Jo Heindel, Darrin Heindel, Kelli Heindel-Levinson). Five Sharp-tailed Sandpipers made for an above-average showing, with juvs. at Centerville, *Humboldt* 7–8 Sep (TEa, DCo, m.ob.), Shollenberger Park, *Sonoma* 4–19 Oct (2 birds 10–11 Oct; Corey Gregory, Eugene Hunn, m.ob.), Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 5 Sep (Rich Cimino), and Alameda N.W.R., S.F. and Alameda 12 Oct (JSL, LRF). Fourteen Stilt Sandpipers in nine counties 11 Aug–27 Oct was above average; *Mendocino*'s first inland record was at the Ukiah W.T.P. 7–13 Sep (CEV, ph. RJK et al.) and *Madera*'s 2nd was at the Madera W.T.P. 25–27 Oct (BBR, LyH, PFa, ph. GaW, m.ob.). Eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers included up to 4 in Centerville, *Humboldt* 7–11 Sep (TEa, m.ob.); the others were at L. Talowa, *Del Norte* 28 Aug–8 Sep (LuB), at Lincoln W.T.P. 29–31 Aug (first *Placer* and 2nd C.V. record; DCa, EP, DeR, ph. JCS, ph. BWb, m.ob.), at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 3–4 Sep (CCo, m.ob.), and at Napa-Sonoma Marshes W.A. 25 Sep–3 Oct (first *Solano* record; ph. RMu). Nineteen Ruffs in nine counties 6 Aug+ was the most in the Region since 2007, more than doubling the total from each of the prior three falls. Three Red-necked Phalaropes along Merced Falls Rd. 16 Sep (DLSu) were unusual for *Mariposa*.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Thirteen inland Sabine's Gulls, above average for recent years, were found in five counties 21 Aug–18 Oct; they included *Lake*'s first record, of 1–2 juvs. 17–19 Sep (JCS et al.). The Modesto W.T.P. hosted 2 hatch-year Little Gulls, one still in juvenal plumage, 13 Oct (p.a.; †SSa, ph. HMR), providing *Stanislaus*'s 2nd record. *Marin*'s Laughing Gull, which has resided at Las Gallinas W.T.P. for more than a year, continued through the period (m.ob.). Only 3 Franklin's Gulls, well below our recent average, were reported, with single first-cycle birds at Lookout, *Modoc* 2 Sep (SCR), w. of Glenn, *Glenn* 24 Sep (†CPD, Dennis Vroman, Tim Rodenkirk), and s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 24 Sep (MSy). Several hundred Western Gulls again frequented a waste recycling facility on W. Gaffery Rd. in n. *Stanislaus* 14 Oct+ (MtB, m.ob.). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Clear L. 21 Nov., one at Redbud Park and the other s. of Lakeport (FHa, BJM, JCS), provided the 3rd and 4th records for *Lake*. Another was s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 7 Sep–8 Oct (ph. MSy et al.). *Alameda*'s 3rd Slaty-backed Gull, an ad., was in Fremont 17–29 Nov (ph. Noah Arthur, †ADeM et al.).

Least Terns breeding at the Sacramento Regional W.T.P., *Sacramento* lingered into Aug, with one ad. and up to 3 juvs. seen through 12 Aug (ph. CCo et al.). An ad. at the White Slough W.T.P., *San Joaquin* 7 Aug (WEH, JRow) may have been one of the ads. from the *Sacramento* site. Post-breeding Least Terns around S.F. Bay included 3 at Huichica Creek W.A., *Napa* 7 Aug (Linda Pittman, TFi, MkM, Karen Zumwalt), 3 at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 9–23 Aug (RSTh), and up to 11 in *Alviso*, *Santa Clara* 3–16 Aug (WGB, MDo, Kelly Dodder), whereas one at the Aptos Cr. mouth, *Santa Cruz* 21 Aug (DLSu) was a migrant. About 80 Common Terns were coastal, with a high of 30 at Salmon Creek Beach, *Sonoma* 16 Sep (RPH). Among 46 reported inland, 12 at the Davis W.T.P. 24 Aug (ph. JCS) furnished *Yolo*'s highest count, and one at Sherman I. 14 Oct (†DaW) provided one of few reports for *Sacramento*. Arctic Terns away from coastal areas included singles at Davis W.T.P. 24 Aug (first *Yolo* record; ph. JCS), H.R.S. 13 Sep (RJR), n. Lake Tahoe, *Placer* 4 Oct (WRI), and Shollenberger Park, *Sonoma* 10 Oct (TEa). Seven Arctic Terns at Ocean Beach, S.F. 17 Sep (MWE, PSar) provided a high onshore count, and 240 Elegant Terns at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 16 Oct (RS) represented a very high number for such a late date. Two Black Skimmers around Elkhorn Slough/Moss Landing, *Monterey* 11–14 Sep (Greg Meyer, YG) furnished the only report away from S.F. Bay.

Fifteen South Polar Skuas off Half Moon

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Bay, *San Mateo* 15 Oct (TMcK et al., ShJ) provided a high total. *Modoc* and *Lake* were the inland jaeger hotspots. On 4 Sep, Middle and Lower Alkali L. in *Modoc's* Surprise Valley hosted 5 Long-taileds (first county record) and 2 Parasitics (both ph. SCR). Clear L., *Lake* also had 5 Long-tailed Jaegers, with singles on 5 & 18 Sep (BJM, FHa et al.) and 3 on 15 Sep (JSL). Two juv. Parasitic Jaegers on Clear L. 15-19 Sep (FHa, JSL et al.) provided *Lake's* 3rd and 4th records. The only other inland jaeger was a Long-tailed s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 31 Aug (ph. JLD). Of 7 Xantus's Murrelets recorded offshore or at FI., individuals of the less common subspecies *hypoleucus* included one off Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 11 Sep (ph. EWP et al.) and 2 near Cordell Bank, *Marin* 10 Oct (Jeff Miller, Eugene Hunn et al.). This species is rarely seen from shore, so 2 at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 11 Aug (Jonathon Batkin, RSTh) and 2 at Centerville Beach, *Humboldt* 15 Oct (MWa, †DCo) were noteworthy.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Almost every recess of the state has witnessed the invasion of Eurasian Collared-Doves. Emblematic was Yosemite N.P.'s first record with a bird at El Capitan Meadow, *Mariposa* 15 Sep (DLSu). White-winged Doves included singles at Capitola, *Santa Cruz* 25-26 Aug and 1 Nov (both DLSu), *Solano's* first at Birds Landing near Montezuma Hills 17 Nov (ph. Zach Smith), one on FI. 13 Sep (MtB, JTz, DJM, Elizabeth Ames, Rebecca Green), and another at Arcata, *Humboldt* 15 Sep-12 Oct (GAB, TKz). A Common Ground-Dove near Antonelli Pond 30 Sep-2 Oct (Christian Schwarz, Adam Searcy, Chris Lay, m.ob.) was the 3rd for *Santa Cruz*, whereas another s. of Corcoran 2 Oct (MSy) was the 2nd for *Kings*. Inexplicably, a Greater Roadrunner took up residence in an urban area of Clovis, *Fresno*, at least 6 km from normally occupied habitat, 19 Sep+ (fide JND).

Radio-tracking studies have shown that some Spotted Owls breeding in mid- to high elevations of the Sierra move downslope in winter. Such birds generally do not drop below about 400 m elevation. Therefore, a Spotted Owl calling in Sanger, *Fresno*, at about 122 m elevation, 31 Oct (BBR) provided an exceptional record. More exceptional was that this was not the first time this species had been detected in this area. Another bird was heard near this location 5 Dec 1998 (fide BBR). A Short-eared Owl flying s. along White Rock Rd. crossed the county line 10 Oct (†DLSu), establishing a first record for *Mariposa*. Accentuating the Common Poorwill migration was a high count of 8 birds on a 10-km section of road in Watts Valley, *Fresno* 23 Oct (JND).

Two Black Swifts over La Grange Bridge Trail 6 Oct (†SSa) furnished the 2nd record for *Stanislaus*. Chimney Swift reports involved those of singles at Ft. Bidwell 4 Sep (*Modoc's* first; ph., †SCR) and San Bruno Mt., *San Mateo* 18 Sep (LBt, RSTh) and 2 each at Davis W.T.P. 6 Oct (*Yolo's* 2nd; †TEa) and FI. 7 Oct (†Elizabeth Ames, JTz). Estimates of peak numbers of migrant Vaux's Swifts at traditional roost sites included 7200 at Rio Lindo Academy, *Sonoma* 13-23 Sep (Dave Barry, m.ob.) and 9000 at McNear Brickyard, *Marin* 27 Sep (Rich Cimino). Representing a large, single-locality count for the Region, an estimated 350 White-throated Swifts foraged over Foresta, *Mariposa* 15 Sep (DLSu). *Marin's* 2nd record of Broad-billed Hummingbird was established when a female found its way into a mist net in Bolinas 6 Oct (fide RDIG, ph. PRBO). Illustrating the species' remarkable capacity to breed at any season, a female Anna's Hummingbird carried nesting material at Sacramento N.W.R., *Glenn* 25 Nov (MJM). Single Allen's Hummingbirds captured ne. of Scotts Valley, *Santa Cruz* 23 Aug (Rita Colwell) and at Lanphere Dunes, *Humboldt* 17 Sep (fide Brendan Higgins) were unusually late, as was one putative Rufous Hummingbird in Ukiah, *Mendocino* 22 Oct (CEV). Two other Rufous Hummingbirds at *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Cruz* 24 Oct+ (SGe) had apparently settled in for the winter.

Much like last fall, oaks in *Lassen* produced almost no acorns, apparently prompting nearly all Lewis's Woodpeckers to abandon the county by mid-Sep (KAb). Perhaps some of those made it to *Mariposa*, where the only sizable numbers were reported, including a high count of 81 along a 3-km stretch of White Rock Rd. 29 Sep (DLSu). Three Acorn Woodpeckers attending a nest with begging young in Yosemite Valley, *Mariposa* 15 Sep (DLSu) provided an unusual fall breeding record for Yosemite N.P. Fall breeding in this species is generally correlated with low reproductive success in spring and summer and a large annual acorn crop. Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in *Humboldt*, *Mendocino*, *Lake*, *Sacramento*, and *Tulare* 26 Oct+. Six Red-naped Sapsuckers included presumptive returnees in *Mendocino* and *Lake* and newbies in *Del Norte*, *Sonoma*, *Alameda*, and *Santa Clara*.

A total of 9 Willow Flycatchers at Lost Lake C.P., *Fresno* 13 Sep (JND) was a high count. We received reports of 5 Least Flycatchers: one in *Santa Cruz*, 2 in *Santa Clara*, and 2 on FI., about half of our recent 10-year average. Providing a first fall record for *Yuba*, a Gray Flycatcher was at Spenceville W.A. 4 Sep (ClH, JRy, Peggy Macres). A total of 11 transient Black Phoebe on FI. 3 Nov (PRBO) was a new high count for the island. Curiously, it

was also about one month later than typical high counts of this species there. Seven Eastern Phoebes included *Del Norte's* 2nd at L. Earl 13 Nov (Gary Maschmeyer), 2 on FI., and singles in *Humboldt*, *Marin*, *San Mateo*, and *Santa Cruz*. *Alameda's* first Vermilion Flycatcher, a first-year male, was in Fremont 30 Oct+ (ph. Cedric Duhalde, ph. m.ob.). *Humboldt* turned up an impressive total of 10 Tropical Kingbirds; the overall total of 23 reported in eight coastal and S.E. Bay Area counties, however, was below our recent 10-year average of 28. Eight Eastern Kingbirds included one inland at *Yolo Bypass W.A.* 30-31 Aug (*Yolo's* 3rd and first since 1973; Mary Schiedt).

Santa Cruz's 2nd Bell's Vireo sang at Natural Bridges S.B. 18 Sep (†LTu). Birders reported single Plumbeous Vireos at Babel Slough 23 Sep (*Yolo's* 3rd; TEa), Basalt Campground, *Merced* 1 Oct (KVV), Ogier Ave. ponds 6 Oct (*Santa Clara's* 6th; SCR), and along Bull Creek Rd. 20 Oct (*Mariposa's* first; †DLSu). Our only Blue-headed Vireo was at Shay Park, *Humboldt* 19 Sep (†DCo, RHw). Establishing the latest fall Island record by 21 days, a Hutton's Vireo made landfall on FI. 29 Nov (Sam Roberts). Nearly double our recent 10-year average, a total of 8 Philadelphia Vireos was reported: 3 in *Humboldt*, 2 in *Marin*, 2 in S.E., and one in *San Mateo*. In contrast, a total of 7 Red-eyed Vireos (3 in *Humboldt*, 3 in S.E., and one in *San Mateo*) was roughly half our recent 10-year average. A Yellow-green Vireo at Neary Lagoon 16-19 Oct (ph. SGe, JRy, Peggy Macres et al.) provided *Santa Cruz's* 3rd record, while another on FI. 18 Oct (Elizabeth Ames, †MtB, ph. †Mark Dettling, DJM, Megan Elrod, Pete Warzybok) furnished the 7th record for the island.

The Region's first Cave Swallow was over Mountain View Forebay, *Santa Clara* 4 Aug (p.a.; ph. Tom Johnson). A Black-capped Chickadee at the Dyerville Overlook on the Eel R., *Humboldt* 26 Nov (KBu) furnished one of the southernmost records for the state. An apparent Oak Titmouse × Chestnut-backed Chickadee hybrid at Union City, *Alameda* early Sep-7 Nov (ph. Joanne Smith) was the first of its kind to be reported. In fact, aside from cases of Oak Titmouse hybridizing with the formerly considered conspecific Juniper Titmouse, hybrids of either species are unknown. We received few reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch, and those that were submitted did not suggest any sort of irruption. The Region's 2nd Winter Wren was well documented in a remote portion of C.R.P. 27 Nov (p.a.; v.r., vt., †CCo). Establishing first records for *Mendocino* and S.E., single Northern Wheatears dropped in at Anchor Bay 2-5 Oct (Pat Kirkpatrick, RGT, ph. R. Kuehn, ph. RJK et al.) and India Basin 28 Oct (p.a.; Jennifer Rycenga,

Brooke McDonald). More than 50 Mountain Bluebirds along Hammonton-Smartville Rd. 26 Nov (DRs, SRs) represented the highest total from Yuba in more than a decade, whereas "thousands" in Martis Valley, Placer 5 Oct (WRI) constituted an impressively large assembly by any standard.

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS

Two Gray Catbirds were in *Humboldt* in mid-Sep, one on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay 16-20 Sep (TWL, m.ob.), the other at Orick 18 Sep (KI). Ten Sage Thrashers, right on our average, included 2 in Kings: one at Atwell 1. 2 Oct and the other at Reef City 12 Oct (both MSy). Our only Brown Thrasher was on FI. 29 Aug-12 Sep (PRBO) and was probably the same bird found there in Jul. Red-throated Pipits, all singles, were on FI. 18-19 Oct (DJM et al.), at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 26 Oct (RS), and at Arcata, *Humboldt* 13 Nov (KI). *Santa Clara's* 5th and 6th Red-throated Pipits came in quick succession at Sunnyvale W.T.P. 1-7 Nov (ph. MMR, Diane Finke, ph. m.ob.) and 26 Nov-6 Dec (ph. SCR). *Humboldt's* first well-documented McCown's Longspur was at Arcata 26 Oct-10 Nov (†KI, †DCo, †COg, LTu). Lapland Longspurs were widely reported from coastal counties, but the only inland bird was near Woodland, *Yolo* 17-23 Nov (SCH). Single Chestnut-collared Longspurs were at H.R.S. 11-15 Oct (RJR), at L. Talowa, *Del Norte* 14-18 Oct (TKz, ADB), on FI. 18 Oct (MtB et al.), and at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 30 Oct (RS). Snow Buntings were at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 6 Nov (p.a.; Pete Myers, Steward Davidson) and near Redwood House Rd., *Humboldt* 15 Nov (p.a.; ph. M. J. Mazurek, fide SMcA).

The warbler season was rated good to excellent by most coastal subregional editors, with *Humboldt* the most productive county. Four Ovenbirds were on FI. between 5 and 30 Sep (PRBO) with our only other Ovenbird in Bolinas, *Marin* 25 Sep (Renee Cormier). Sixteen Northern Waterthrushes included the latest ever recorded on FI. 19 Nov (PRBO, fide JTz). All 25 Black-and-white Warblers were in coastal or S.F. Bay Area counties. Prothonotary Warblers were at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 8 Sep (Pat O'Connor), at Capitola, *Santa Cruz* 24 Sep (DLSu), and at Pescadero Marsh, *San Mateo* 20 Oct (M. DeFelice, C. Hayward). A total of 48 Tennessee Warblers was well over our average of 30, the 3rd highest total for the past 25 years, and included a rare C.V. record along Putah Cr., *Yolo* 1-2 Oct (Michael Strom, KvG). We rarely get more than one or 2 Lucy's Warblers reported, so a total of 4 was unusual, and 2 in one spot in S.F. (14 Nov+; Mark Rauzon, Jack Hayden, m.ob.) was particularly surprising. The other Lucy's were at the Big Sur

R. mouth, *Monterey* 4 Sep (DR) and Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz* 9 Oct (SGe, John Garrett, m.ob.). A Virginia's Warbler in Yosemite N.P. at 2000 m elevation 9 Aug (DLSu) furnished one of few records for *Mariposa*, or for any w. side Sierra county. Other Virginia's Warblers included one on FI. 12 Sep (PRBO), 2 in *Humboldt* at Elk R. Wildlife Sanctuary 14-16 Sep (TKz, m.ob.) and Orick 18 Sep (KI), and another at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 18 Oct (SSa). A Connecticut Warbler was at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 12-13 Sep (SCH), and another was on FI. 20 Oct (Elizabeth Ames, †Mark Dettling, †MtB), where 60% of the state's records have been found. A Mourning Warblers was at Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary 14-16 Sep (†KMS, †SBT, TWL, †Jesse Sargent, ph. SMcA, m.ob.), *Humboldt's* 3rd. Our only Hooded Warbler was at Orick, *Humboldt* 18 Sep (KI).

The only inland American Redstart among the 27 reported was also *Mono's* only vagrant warbler of the season, at Paradise 18 Sep (DHo). A total of 7 Cape May Warblers was remarkable and matched the highest total reported in the past 25 years. One Cape May was at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 11-25 Sep (SBT, m.ob.), singles were in S.F. near L. Merced 14 Sep and Ft. Mason 26 Sep (both DMo et al.), singles were on FI. 28 Sep (KNN et al.) and 1 Oct (MtB et al.), and singles were in *Santa Cruz* at Lighthouse Field S.B. 30 Sep and the University of California at Santa Cruz Arboretum 23 Oct (the 4th and 5th for *Santa Cruz*; ph. Jean Myers and John Garrett, respectively). Northern Parulas were at Arcata, *Humboldt* 17 Aug (GAB), on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 16 Sep (TKz, DCo, RHw, GAB), at Rancho Del Oso, *Santa Cruz* 22 Sep (JRy), at Sue Bierman Park, S.F. 23 Sep-11 Oct (Jack Hayden, m.ob.), and at Capitola, *Santa Cruz* 4 Oct (DLSu). All 9 Magnolia Warblers were in coastal counties. *Mendocino's* first well-documented Bay-breasted Warbler was at Usal Campground 16 Sep (JRW, CEV, KHv). Other Bay-breasteds were on FI. 16 Sep (JTz, MtB, DJM) and along Tunitas Cr., *San Mateo* 21 Sep (ADeM). Two other Bay-breasted reports from *Humboldt* could only be put in the "probable" category. *Humboldt* hosted 6 of our 14 Black-burnian Warblers and 11 of our impressive total of 60 Chestnut-sided Warblers. Notable among the 61 Blackpoll Warblers was *Lake's* 2nd at Anderson Marsh 8 Sep (FHa et al.) and a C.V. bird along Putah Cr., *Yolo* 16 Sep (SCH). Nine Black-throated Blue Warblers was right on our average, with the sole inland bird at Lost Lake Park, *Fresno* 18 Sep (LyH). Our total of 107 Palm Warblers included a Yellow Palm on FI. 1-3 Nov (JTz et al., ph. Sam Roberts), only the 2nd documented record of subspecies *hypochrysea* for the island. In most autumn

seasons, we miss Yellow-throated Warbler altogether, so having 2 in S.F., 5 Sep (ph. HuC) and 13 Sep+ (Jack Hayden, ph. Martijn Verdoes, m.ob.), was astounding. Seven *Prairie* Warblers was a little under our average of 11. A Black-throated Green Warbler, our only one this season, was a first for *Alameda* at Coyote Hills R.P. 9-11 Oct (ph. Jerry Ting, JLx, JSL, m.ob.). *San Mateo* produced Canada Warblers at Moss Beach 13-15 Sep (RSTh et al.) and along Gazos Cr. 15 Sep (GrH). Canadas were also on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 11 Sep (DCo, m.ob.) and at Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* 30 Sep-1 Oct (ADB).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Green-tailed Towhee at MacKerricher S.P. 23 Sep (David Assmann) marked the 2nd record for coastal *Mendocino*. American Tree Sparrows were in Arcata, *Humboldt* 26 Oct (LTu, DCo, RHw), at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 2 Nov (STu, DJM), and along Stage Rd., *San Mateo* 7 Nov (RSTh). It was a banner showing for Clay-colored Sparrows, with 95 reports, 50% above average, from 14 counties. Although absent some years, when Black-throated Sparrows make incursions into the Region away from breeding areas, they tend to be widespread, and that was the case this season. We received reports of single birds from nine counties 4 Sep+, *Monterey*, *Plumas* (Quincy, well w. of normal breeding range), *Santa Cruz*, *Mariposa*, *Butte*, S.F., *San Mateo*, *Yolo* (Esparto 21 Oct+, 2nd record; SCH), and *Tulare*. A Sage Sparrow on Sherman I., *Sacramento* 7-22 Nov (ph. DaW, m.ob.) was an excellent find for the C.V. floor. A total of 10 Lark Buntings was nearly twice our recent average and included *Trinity's* first at the Big Flat R. access in Helena 21 Aug (KMS, Greg Gray). A Large-billed Savannah Sparrow (subspecies *P. s. rostratus*) was at Bolinas, *Marin* 27 Sep (JsC), and a Nelson's Sparrow was at H.R.S. 25-26 Oct (RJR, Bob Dunn). Among a total of 42 Swamp Sparrows was a bird along Slate Gulch Rd. 9 Nov (†DLSu), providing one of very few records for *Mariposa*. White-throated Sparrow reports (128) were about 20% above our average. Harris's Sparrows were at Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 4 Oct (LTu) and Antonelli Pond, *Santa Cruz* 16-18 Nov (Kathy Kuyper, PDB, ph. m.ob.).

Five of our 7 Summer Tanagers were in S.F., 3 in the City and 2 on FI. *Monterey's* 4th or 5th Scarlet Tanager was at El Carmelo Cemetery, Pacific Gove 25-26 Oct (ph. BTM, ph. BHL, ph. S. Lane). A total of 10 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was well below our average, but *Yolo* managed to turn up 2: one along Putah Cr. 6 Oct (SCH) and another the next day at Davis, 26 km e. of the first (Alison Kent). Although a total of 10 Indigo Buntings was above average, *Mon-*

tery reported none, an unusual fall absence. We recorded a remarkable 5 Painted Buntings, the highest total in at least the past 25 fall seasons. *Mono's* first was photographed at Simis Ranch 8-9 Sep (KNN), and others were on Fl. 10-12 Sep (MtB et al.), at Lighthouse Field S.B., Santa Cruz 15-23 Sep (SGe, m.ob.), along Stevens Cr. n. of Hwy. 101, Santa Clara 30 Sep-12 Nov (2nd county record; ph. MMR, ph. m.ob.), and at Asilomar, Monterey 12 Nov (†MP). Five Dickcissels included *Mendocino's* first, in Manchester 4 Oct (†BBu, †DSi). Although Bobolinks breed off and on in *Modoc's* Surprise Valley, they are rarely encountered in fall there, so the bird found along New Pine Cr. 3 Sep (SCR) was notable among the 6 reported this season in the Region. Consistent with the overall decline in its population, we have received no more than two Rusty Blackbird reports in any fall since 1994. The one documented report this year was *Lake's* first at Clear Lake Riviera 23-28 Oct (Vicki Miller, JRW, m.ob.). Ten Orchard Orioles were all in coastal or Bay Area counties, including Santa Clara's 2nd along Stevens Cr. at La Avenida 30 Sep (ph. SCR). Baltimore Orioles were on Fl. 28 Sep (PRBO), at Pacific Grove, Monterey 29 Sep (BTM), at Moss Beach, San Mateo 1 Oct (AJ et al.), and at Ft. Mason, S.F. 8 Nov (David Bell, ph. Bob Gunderson). Our lone Scott's Oriole was also in S.F. in Corona Heights 6-7 Nov (Mark David Herr, DMO, m.ob.).

Cited observers (county subregional editors in boldface): Ken Able (*Lassen*), Alan D. Barron, Leonie Batkin, Murray Berner (*Napa*), Gary A. Bloomfield, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Matt Brady (*Stanislaus*), Beverly Brock, Phil D. Brown, Lucas Brug, Ken Burton, Eric R. Caine, Scott Carey, Dennis Cavallo, George E. Chaniot, Josiah Clark, Daryl Coldren, Chris Conard (*Sacramento*), Hugh Cotter, Rudy Darling (*Nevada*), Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Ann Dewart, Ryan DiGaudio, Colin P. Dillingham (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Matthew Dodder, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Jules G. Evens, Carleton R. Eyser, Peter Fahey, Leora Feeney, Eric Feuss, Tim Fitzer, Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF; *Humboldt*), Alexander Gaguine, Steve Gerow (*Santa Cruz*), Yohn Gideon, Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Kevin Guse, Steve C. Hampton, W. Edward Harper, Garth Harwood, Karen Havlena, Cliff Hawley, Floyd Hayes, Lynn Hemink, R. Phil Henderson, Rob Hewitt, Bill Hill, Debbie House, Chris Howard, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Richard G. Jeffers, Oscar Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Tony Kurz, Jeri

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S. Thorn, Jim Tietz (Fl.), Dorothy Tobkin, Richard G. Trissel, Leslie Tucci (*Del Norte*), Steve Tucker, Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Bruce Webb, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Denise S. Wight, Dan Williams, Gary Woods, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺

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