

males discovered at Fernhill Wetlands 24 Jul, remained through at least 2 Aug (DI, D. Mitchell). While Trunkheads breed to the e. and s. in the Rogue Valley, 3 w. of Grants Pass 13-14 Nov (D. Vroman, RN) were in an area where this species has not been found previously. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are no longer as novel as they once were along the s. Oregon coast. This season, singles went at Langlois, Curry 27 Aug (TJW) and N.S.C.B. 7 Sep (TR). Three Rusty Blackbirds in w. Washington 13 Oct+ was a typical showing, while one at Toppenish, Yakima 11 Nov (ph. E. Heisey, S. Downes) made the lone e. Washington report. With just 13 prior records, 4 Rusties in Oregon this season was shocking. In quick succession, singles were discovered at Hillsboro, Washington 30 Oct (ph. M. Wilkinson, m.ob.), Monmouth, Paik 1 Nov (ph. MS, m.ob.), Talent, Jackson 1 Nov (ph. R. Tessman), and La Grande 18 Nov (TJR). Although a Common Grackle at Astoria 20-23 Oct (ph. MP) was Oregon's thirty-first, it was just the seventh during fall; five of these are from Oct. Washington's tenth Great-tailed Grackle enlivened Puyallup, Pierce 7 Aug+ (G. Sogard); prior records have been mostly May-Jul. Great-taileds are now seemingly resident in Jackson and Klamath along the Region's s. border. Up to 7 grackles at Emigrant

Lake during Aug (RN, J. Billstine et al.), plus 2 w. of White City and another 2 at Ashland during Oct (RN et al.), highlighted the reports from the Rogue Valley. In Klamath, a flock of 5 first seen near Midland 29 Nov (DI, SF) was noted in subsequent weeks at nearby Miller Island W.M.A. When combined with several other recent reports from Klamath and neighboring Siskiyou and Modoc, these sightings suggest that grackles are now resident in the Klamath Basin. Until fairly recently, nearly all of Oregon's Great-tailed Grackle records were from May and Jun, with few reports from other months. A Bullock's Oriole at Sequim, Clallam 14 Nov+ was nearly two months late; this is the fourth Nov report for Washington, which has about 10 winter records. A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was on Marys Peak, Benton 30 Oct (WDR); this species often winters at this site. Three Cassin's Finches at Mount Bolivar, Coos 14 Oct (TR) and another at Marys Peak 23 Oct (WDR) made the only reports from w. of the Cascades. A Lesser Goldfinch at Redmond, King 16 Sep (ph. O. Oliver) was unusual, as this species is rarely found n. of Pierce.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Nigel Ball, Gary Bletsch, Tim Blount, Trent Bray, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady,

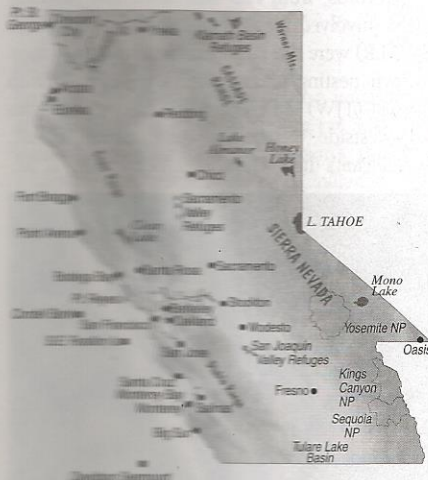
Tom Crabtree, Jim Danzenbaker, Mike Denny, MerryLynn Denny, Dennis Duffy, Shawneen Finnegan, Bob Flores, Andy Frank, George Gerdtz (GGe), **Greg Gillson** (Washington, thebirdguide pelagics), Steve Giles, Denny Grandstrand, Hendrik Herlyn, Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, Michael Hobbs, Wayne Hoffman, Evan Houston, Matt Hunter, Jonathon Isacoff, **Stuart Johnston** (Hood River, Klickitat), Randy Knapp, Anthony Kutzen, Terry Little, Peter Low, Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Steven Mlodinow, Russ Namitz, **Harry Nehls** (Oregon), Vic Nelson, Mark Nikas, Tim O'Brien, **Mike Patterson** (Clatsop), Phil Pickering, Lew Rems, W. Douglas Robinson, **Tim Rodenkirk** (Coos, Curry), Em Scattaregia, Ryan Shaw, Bill Shelmerdine, Max Smith, Andy Stepniewski, Ellen Stepniewski, Shep Thorpe, **Dave Trochlell** (Union, Wallowa), Bill Tweit, Dan Waggoner, Terry J. Wahl, Jay Withgott, **Charlie Wright** (eBird), Matt Yawney. ☺

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The Region, along with the rest of the West Coast, witnessed an unparalleled invasion of Blue-footed Boobies, involv-

ing 25-50 or more different birds. Also in the remarkable sulid department, the Region's first Northern Gannet, initially detected on Southeast Farallon Island 25 April 2012, persisted through the period. For the first time, though, it was also occasionally observed on the mainland, 38 km northeast of the island. Santa Cruz County hosted two Regional rarities: a Mississippi Kite and a Lesser Sand-Plover, both firsts for the county and tenth and ninth respectively for the Region. Black-capped Chickadees continued pushing southward. The species has now been confirmed as far south as Mendocino County.

With this issue we say farewell to David Suddjian, who served as subregional editor for Santa Cruz County for 27 years, submitting some 107 detailed and comprehensive seasonal reports. We also say goodbye to Steve Glover, who served as subregional editor for Contra Costa County for 16 years and submitted some 65 seasonal reports. Thank you both. Colorado and Texas, respectively, each gained a highly skilled, thoughtful, and dedicated observer. Taking over for David will be Steve Gerow, who is no newcomer. Steve has co-authored seasonal reports for Santa Cruz County since 2007.

We are glad the county bird records will remain in such capable hands. We also welcome Logan Kahle, who will be leading the charge for Contra Costa County.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); FI. (Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., Alameda); Point Blue (Point Blue 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

Single Tundra Swans at Bass Lake 15-17 Nov (ph. Chris Hiatt, m.ob.) and along Avenue 7 sw. of Madera 25 Nov (GaW) provided the second and third records for Madera. Bewick's Swans were reported in greater numbers than usual, with 2 at Crowley Lake, Mono 15-18 Nov (JCS, KNN), an ad. at Richvale 17 Nov and 2 birds along 7 Mile Lane 24 Nov (both Butter, both JHS), and 3 in District 10, Yuba 30 Nov (Lisa

Moraga, P. Wigeon at... vided Ma... male Tuft... Oakland, ph. m.ob... of Humb... andra Lar... eider spec... San Mateo... San Mateo... the perio... year-roun... ing numb... reported... Lassen 18... Heenan L... one at Lak... at Crowle... CHW), an... ced 20-26... followed... a week la... included... W.A. 25-2... Wright, r... Lake 29 N... Bob Steele... Long-tail... 5-6 Aug... likely sun... St. Georg... high cour...

SA Li... Bo... by touri... Reyes N... multiple... 47 occu... the thir... Drive, S... Dec. No... (†Samar... Pelicans... House, S... Rock at... movem... possible... (throug... Oct), 7 i... is likely... The h... on a Mo... though... the pre... Birders... Mono in...

Moraga, ph. Brian Gilmore et al.). A Eurasian Wigeon at Bass Lake 16 Nov (ph. GaW) provided *Madera* with one of few records. The male Tufted Duck returned to Lake Merritt in Oakland, *Alameda* 18 Nov+ (Kristi Whitfield, ph. m.ob.). A King Eider near the South Jetty of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 26 Oct (p.a.; Alexandra Lamb) was followed by an unidentified eider species flying southward at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 15 Nov (RSTh). The Coyote Point, *San Mateo* Harlequin Duck continued through the period (RSTh et al.); it has been present year-round since at least 6 Aug 2002. Surprising numbers of White-winged Scoters were reported well inland, with 2 at Eagle Lake, *Lassen* 18 Oct (LOR, Matthew Johnson), one at Heenan Lake, *Alpine* 31 Oct–13 Nov (JLx, JSL), one at Lake Almanor, *Plumas* 3 Nov (CPD), one at Crowley Lake, *Mono* 17 Nov (JLD, R&NO, CHW), and an ad. male at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced* 20–26 Nov (KVV). The *Lassen* birds were followed by 2 Surf Scoters at the same location a week later (KAB, LOR). Inland Black Scoters included *Yolo's* first, a female at Yolo Bypass W.A. 25–26 Nov (Ken Ealy, ph. JCS, ph. Sylvia Wright, m.ob.) and *Mono's* third, at Crowley Lake 29 Nov (LHa, ph. DVP, Susan Steele, ph. Bob Steele). A vocal breeding-plumaged female Long-tailed Duck at Crescent City, *Del Norte* 5–6 Aug (ph. ADB, CPD, Dennis Vroman) had likely summered nearby; a total of 16 at Point St. George 9 Oct may have been a *Del Norte* high count (KMS).

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

A Red-throated Loon at Crowley Lake, *Mono* 25 Oct (JLD, Susan Steele, R&NO) provided our only inland report. Aside from a Pacific Loon at Tenaya Lake, *Mariposa* 17 Nov (JLD et al.), all other Pacifics far inland were in *Mono*. A juv. Yellow-billed Loon was at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 23–26 Nov (†ESH, †RAR). Horned and Clark's Grebes are infrequently observed at FI., so a Horned on 27 Oct (Luke Musher) and a Clark's 13–14 Sep (Point Blue) were noteworthy. *Aechmophorus* grebes had a banner breeding season at Lake Almanor, *Plumas*, with a record count of over 1500 nests, most of which were those of Western Grebes. Transect surveys on the lake produced an estimate of 300–500 Clark's Grebes 12 Sep (DPA, Terry Williams, David Hamilton), establishing a new high count for the county. At Clifton Court Forebay, 2 ad. Western Grebes with 2 small young 3 Oct (ph. Albert Linkowski) provided the first evidence of successful breeding in *Contra Costa*. Of 7 inland Red-necked Grebes, the most notable were 2 at Indian Creek Reservoir 20 Oct (DCR et al.), providing *Alpine's* second record, and one at Bass Lake, *Madera* 4 Nov (HBu).

A Laysan Albatross at Point Pinos, *Monterey* 16 Sep (BLS et al.) provided a rare sighting from shore. An imm. Short-tailed Albatross at Bodega Canyon, *Sonoma* 20 Oct (SNGH, TMCG, Thomas A. Blackman, Kate Sutherland, Brian Patterson, Dave Pereksta; ph.) added to the growing number of recent Regional records. A Hawaiian

Petrel on Monterey Bay 2 Aug (DLSh, BLS et al.) was observed in *Santa Cruz* and *Monterey*. Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen offshore on 14 dates, with a high of 9 off Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 27 Oct (ShJ). Singles were seen from shore at the n. spit of Humboldt Bay 2 Oct (RbF, GSL, KBU; possibly the first *Humboldt* record from shore) and at Pigeon Point, *San Mateo* 24 Oct (RSTh). Four Great Shearwaters represented our highest seasonal total ever. Examination of photographs taken off Half Moon Bay revealed that 3 different birds were involved: one in S.F. 11 Aug (ph. AJ et al.), another there 7–8 Sep (ph. AJ, ShJ, ph. Stu, m.ob.), and another in *San Mateo* 28 Sep (ph. SCR). The fourth record was of a bird w. of Hurricane Point, *Monterey* 5 Oct (ShJ, Tom Johnson, ph. JGa, ph. SBT). Manx Shearwaters were similarly detected in good numbers, with 10 reported 2 Aug–5 Oct, including one in *Monterey*, 6 (including 4 from shore) in *Santa Cruz*, and 3 (including 2 from shore) in *San Mateo*. A Cordell Bank, *Marin* pelagic trip 20 Sep (DLSh, PP, SNGH et al.) detected extraordinary storm-petrel numbers: 10,500 Ashy (comparable to this species' estimated total population), 6500 Fork-tailed, 300 Black, and 25 Wilson's. The only other Wilson's was at Bodega Canyon, *Sonoma* 1 Sep (DLSh, LHg).

A Brown Booby at H.R.S. 7 Oct (†RJR) provided *Alameda's* first record. Others were at FI. 4 Sep (JTz et al.) and at Cordell Bank, *Marin* 18 Oct (ShJ). The long-staying *Northern Gannet* was seen at FI. most days throughout the

SA Like the rest of the West Coast, the Region experienced an unprecedented invasion by Blue-footed Boobies. Interestingly, the only non-coastal record was also the first, of a single bird photographed by tourists at Mono Lake, *Mono* 25 Aug (fide Max Henkels). The next was observed 11 Sep at the Point Reyes N.S., *Marin* lighthouse (Mark Butler, ph. Roger Harshaw). The floodgates opened 15–16 Aug, when multiple birds were recorded in *Monterey*, *Santa Cruz*, *San Mateo*, mainland S.F., and *Sonoma*. There were 47 occurrences (i.e., individuals seen at a given location on a given date) in Sep, with numbers peaking the third week of the month, and 10 in Oct; the only birds after Oct were a single individual at West Cliff Drive, *Santa Cruz* 2 Nov (Gary Tepke, Rich Griffith) and one that lingered at Gull Rock, *Marin* through 24 Dec. North of Bodega Bay, *Sonoma*, the only report was of 2 at the n. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* (†Samantha Bacon). Most birds were seen in flight as they moved along the coast, often with Brown Pelicans and Heermann's Gulls, although individuals were seen perched on multiple occasions at the Cliff House, S.F. 19–25 Sep; Gull Rock s. of Stinson Beach, *Marin* 24 Sep–24 Dec; the lighthouse and Chimney Rock at Point Reyes N.S., *Marin* 11–21 Sep; and Bodega Head, *Sonoma* 16–25 Sep. Because of the obvious movement of birds along the coast, the total number of individuals observed during this event is impossible to determine. However, based on 10 occurrences in *Monterey* (through 8 Oct), 18 in *Santa Cruz* (through 2 Nov), 11 in *San Mateo* (through 10 Oct), 6 in S.F. (including the Cliff House and FI., through 8 Oct), 7 in *Marin* (through the end of the period), 5 in *Sonoma* (through 25 Sep), and the 2 in *Humboldt*, it is likely that at least 25–30 different individuals, and possibly 50 or more, were observed.

The highest number seen together was 3 at Monterey Harbor, *Monterey* 18 Sep (Cooper Scollan). One on a Monterey Bay whalewatching trip was the only one seen from a boat offshore, but at least 4 made it to FI. 18 Sep–8 Oct (Point Blue). Although a few ads. were reported, all well-documented birds were apparently hatch-year birds. The reason for this invasion is unclear, but given the predominance of hatch-year birds, it is likely that high reproductive success followed by a decline in food resources was responsible (JM). Birders scoured S.F. Bay and inland reservoirs looking for individuals away from the coast, but unlike the case in s. California, all birds after the *Mono* individual were coastal. The Region had only four prior records, with single records from *Monterey*, S.F., *Calaveras*, and *Del Norte*.



Among the Blue-footed Boobies invading the California coast was this individual at Southeast Farallon Island 25 September 2013. All five species of sulids known from North America have now been recorded on the Farallones. Photograph by Cameron Rutt.

period (Point Blue), and, remarkably, it was also observed sporadically on Gull Rock, s. of Stinson Beach, *Marin* 25 Oct–4 Nov (Erin Eve, Pamela Clark, Robert Clark, m.ob.). At Seacliff S.B., *Santa Cruz*, late nesting by Brandt's Cormorants was again observed as it has been the past several years, with nest-building through early Sep and incubation (in nests that eventually failed) through 1 Nov (DLSu). A count of 12,100 flying past Terrace Point 1 Nov (AMR) produced a record count for *Santa Cruz*. Pelagic Cormorants are rare in the far upper reaches of S.F. Bay and are often ill when found in such areas, so a healthy bird at Alviso, *Santa Clara* 18 Oct–18 Nov (WGB et al.) was noteworthy. American White Pelicans on the n. coast, where scarce, included up to 9 at the Ukiah W.T.P., *Mendocino* 30 Aug–5 Sep (Steve Stump et al.) and one in the Smith River Bottoms, *Del Norte* 29 Nov (LuB). An imm. Brown Pelican was unusually far inland at Crowley Lake, *Mono* 1 Sep (Susan Steele, JLD, Michael Park). Numbers were very high on the *Santa Cruz* coast, with a county-record 15,520 tallied in two hours from Terrace Point 18 Nov (AMR), but were again very low at E.I., where the high count was only 257 on 26 Oct (Point Blue).

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

Least Bitterns were reported from Morgan Creek G.C. w. of Roseville 22 Aug (likely *Placer's* fourth; David Martin, ph. Sonja Sorbo) and Thermalito Afterbay, *Butte* 25 Aug (†Mary Muchowski). An imm. Little Blue Heron at Harkins Slough 17 Nov (JWm, EFe, Nickie Zavinski, ph. JPo et al.) was only the second or third for *Santa Cruz* and the first for the Region since 2010. *San Joaquin's* first Glossy Ibis was found at Tracy 8 Aug (ph. DGY); *Modoc's* first was found three days later at Modoc N.W.R. 11 Aug (ph., †SCR). These are the seventh and eighth records for the Region. Notable White-faced Ibis reports included 3 at the Ione W.T.P., *Amador* 5 Oct (DMr et al.) and one at Lake-of-the-Pines W.T.P., *Nevada* 10 Oct (ph. RCD).

A juv. *Mississippi Kite* at Schwan Lake 13 Sep (ph. Douglas Joo) was a remarkable first for *Santa Cruz* and only the tenth for the Region. Three of the four *Mono* records (all one-year-old birds) have been in spring, 25 May–1 Jun, but all five coastal records and the single record from *Tulare* were in fall, 6 Sep–28 Oct, with nearly all involving hatch-year birds. Away from *Marin's* Hawk Hill, an impressive 14 Broad-winged Hawks were reported from eight coastal counties. Even more notable was *Alpine's* second, a juv. ne. of Woodfords 26 Sep (ph., †JLD, ph. SDS, Lucy Lee). Late migrating Swainson's Hawks included Nov records from *Tehama*, *Sutter*, *Marin*, *San Francisco*, and *Santa Clara*. A Harlan's Hawk returned to Arcata,

Humboldt for its eleventh winter in Nov (KBU et al.); another bird, a juv., was seen there 23 Oct (KI). The only other report was of a bird at Conway Summit, *Mono* 14 Oct (ph. STu).

A Yellow Rail found in an Alviso parking lot 22 Oct (ph. Greg Kerekes) provided *Santa Clara* with its third modern record. Up to 2 Common Gallinules along Hwy. 49 in Sierra Valley 18–22 Aug (Pat Bacchetti, Judith Dunham, KPa) provided *Sierra* with its second record. Offshore winds resulted in a large coastal push of Sandhill Cranes 4–7 Oct, with numerous reports from seven coastal counties; also of note were E.I.'s second 26 Sep–7 Oct (juv.; Point Blue) and a rare record for *Alpine*, at Indian Creek Reservoir, 26 Sep (4 birds; JLD, SDS, Lucy Lee). The 5 *Mono* Sandhill Cranes reported since spring at Bridgeport Reservoir were last reported 15 Sep (R&NO).

SHOREBIRDS

Seven American Golden-Plovers included one in *Sonoma* 16 Sep (Kerry Brad, Brock Dolman, ESH, DFr), 3 in *Humboldt* 28 Sep–7 Oct (TKz, ph. RbF, m.ob.), and 3 in *Yolo* 17–24 Oct (ph. SCH, ph. Leslie Morris, m.ob.). *Santa Cruz's* first *Lesser Sand-Plover* (and the Region's ninth and state's thirteenth), an ad. male at Pajaro Dunes 2–4 Aug (LES, GWP, ph. m.ob.), was seen only early each day before flying southward to an unknown location. Notable Mountain Plovers included up to 4 at Crowley Lake, *Mono* 29 Oct–29 Nov (CHW, JLD, mob.) and an unseasonable bird at Kettleman City, *Kings* 30 Aug (JSy). The only prior Aug records in our notebooks are of birds at Mono Lake, *Mono* 24 Aug 1991 (3 birds; ES) and 22 Aug 1997 (PJM). Twenty-seven Black Oystercatchers at Point Molate in Richmond, *Contra Costa* 15 Nov (RSa, Judith Dunham) was likely a new high count for S.F. Bay. A Solitary Sandpiper 5 km nw. of Millerton Lake, *Madera* 18–20 Nov (ph. Nina Jones et al.) was presumably attempting to winter. Rare godwits showed up slightly inland this season, with a juv. Hudsonian Godwit at Huichica Creek W.A. 11–24 Sep (*Napa's* first; ph. MBe, m.ob.) and a juv. Bar-tailed Godwit at Alviso 15–18 Nov (*Santa Clara's* third; ph. MMR, ph. MJM, Lea Crisp, ph. SCR, m.ob.). Also notable was *Sierra's* third Marbled Godwit, at Stampede Reservoir 2 Sep (†CPD).

Unexpected far inland in *Mono* were an ad. Ruddy Turnstone at Crowley Lake 23 Aug (ph. PJM) and an ad. Red Knot at Mono Lake 12 Aug (Ryan Price, Eric Lyon). Only 2 Ruffs were reported this season, one n. of Stratford, *Kings* 4 Aug (MSy) and another at Hudeman Slough, *Sonoma* 31 Oct–26 Nov (ESH, KMU, m.ob., ph. Daniel Edelstein). Juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were found at Salinas W.T.P., *Monterey* 26 Sep–4 Oct (ph. Paul Fenwick, ph. GaW, ph.

m.ob.); Ferndale Bottoms, *Humboldt* 29 Sep (ph. KBU, JCP); Struve Slough 5–16 Oct (*Santa Cruz's* third; Randy Wardle, AMR, ph. m.ob.); and Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey* 5–12 Oct (ph. RF, ph. m.ob.). Five of the season's 8 Stilt Sandpipers were found in *Kings* 3 Aug–6 Oct (MSy, JSy); a late bird at the Hudeman Slough, *Sonoma* lingered into winter 29 Nov+ (ESH, m.ob.). An ad. Curlew Sandpiper graced Salinas W.T.P. 15–20 Aug (*Monterey's* third, all from this location; ph. RF, ph. m.ob.), and a juv. tarried at Virgin Creek Beach 19–21 Sep (*Mendocino's* first; ph. REH, JRW, ph. m.ob.). Seven Buff-breasted Sandpipers in five counties included a remarkable 3 in *Mendocino* 28 Aug–12 Sep (DT, Steve Stump, REH, m.ob.) and *Shasta's* first, at Redding W.T.P. 6 Sep (†JLx et al.). Noteworthy inland phalaropes included *Nevada's* fourth or fifth Red-necked at Lake-of-the-Pines W.T.P. 28 Aug (ph. RCD) and *El Dorado's* third Red at South Lake Tahoe 11 Sep (WRI).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

All our inland jaegers were Parasitics, with a juv. at Crowley Lake, *Mono* 23 Aug (ph. PJM), another juv. at Minaret Vista 1 Sep (*Madera's* first; †JLD, Susan Steele), and a juv. and an ad. at Lake Almanor, *Plumas* 12 Sep (†DPA, ph. David Hamilton, Terry Williams). Pigeon Guillemots are rare in S.F. Bay s. of the Bay Bridge; the bird at Alviso, *Santa Clara* continued through 8 Aug (when it was still healthy; m.ob.), and one was at Coyote Point, *San Mateo* 26 Sep (LFI). An Ancient Murrelet off Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 31 Aug (†RbF et al.) was more than a month earlier than typical fall arrivals. Single Horned Puffins were seen at Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* 12 Oct (DT) and at Pigeon Point, *San Mateo* 21 Nov (RSTh). Six inland Sabine's Gulls 16 Aug–23 Sep and 9 Franklin's Gulls (all but one inland) provided below-average totals. Single Bonaparte's Gulls at Salt Springs Valley Reservoir 9 Nov (JCS) and Indian Creek Reservoir 14 Nov (JSL) provided rare records for *Calaveras* and *Alpine*, respectively. Crowley Lake hosted a juv. Little Gull 24–26 Aug (ph. Curtis Marantz, ph. Tom Edell, ph. Michael Park); *Mono's* two previous records were also from this location in Aug. A concentration of 9000 Heermann's Gulls at Capitola Bluffs, *Santa Cruz* 19 Nov (DLSu) provided a very high count, especially so late. A juv. Ring-billed Gull at Hardy Creek 15 Aug (KHv) provided a rare coastal *Mendocino* record. Noteworthy Mew Gulls far inland included singles at Folsom Lake, *Placer* 30 Sep (RPz), Kutrass Lake, *Shasta* 28 Oct (Brooke McDonald), Lake Almanor, *Plumas* 3 Nov (CPD), and Crowley Lake, *Mono* 17–30 Nov (third county record; JLD, Susan Steele, m.ob.). Single juv. Western Gulls at Lake Almanor, *Plumas* 3 Nov (CPD) and along Lone Star Rd., *Colusa* 18–19 Nov (ph.

Bosler, JSL) were unusually far inland, as single Thayer's Gulls in *Mono* at Crowley Lake 26 Oct (JLD, DfH) and Long Valley 9 Nov (Steele, R&NO) and up to 2 Glaucous-winged Gulls at Sacramento NWR, Glenn 1 Nov (BED et al.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls included *Mono's* fourth, and its first ad., at Crowley Lake 26 Oct+ (JLD, DfH, m.ob.) and a first-cycle bird at the Redology composting facility in Stanislaus 16 Nov (first county record; JLD, JG). The total of 3 Glaucous Gulls was typical of recent years, as this species does not appear in numbers until Dec; the first was at Modesto WTP, Stanislaus 10 Nov (HMR). The Least Terns at four Santa Cruz locations (Aug–10 Sep) represented an above-average showing away from S.F. Bay. Five at H.R.S. 4 (PEG, Pat Gordon) were at a more typical location but were extremely late. Caspian Terns were scrutinized at the Yolo Bypass WA, Yolo (seen banded in Bellingham, Moses Lake, Pasco, WA and at the Copper River Delta, WA; SCH). The only 4 "unusual" Black Terns inside S.F. Bay, San Mateo and Santa Clara, Aug. Twenty-four Common Terns at Cap-Beach, Santa Cruz 11 Sep (AMG) was a concentration. Single Forster's Terns were at Lake (fourth Forster record; JSL) and at Mendocino (R&NO, DfH, B. Bowen), where a tern with a mostly black bill in Half Bay, San Mateo 4 Aug (ph. AJ) looked like a Sandwich Tern, which has yet to be confirmed in the Region, but with yellow tip and terminus that was too extensive for pure Sandwich. The bird looked structurally like an Elegant Tern, but it is unknown whether this individual represented an extreme variability within Elegant Tern or an Elegant-Sandwich hybrid. The only Regional record of a hybrid was at the Pajaro River mouth, July 4–11 Jul 1995.

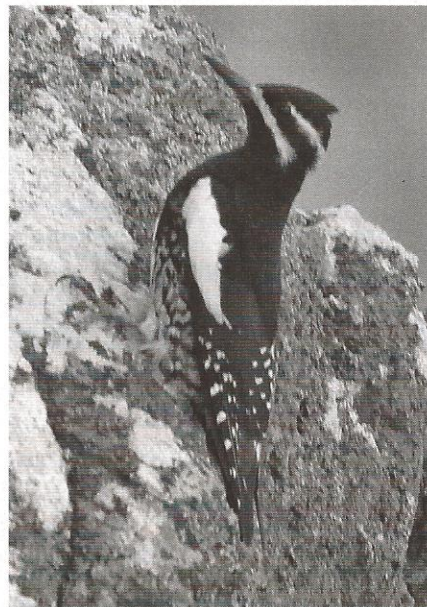
THROUGH THRUSHES

White-winged Doves were reported: 2 in both in *Mono* and 4 (unusual) (one in *Humboldt* in San Mateo, and 2 in Santa Cruz). Region's first Inca Dove, discovered at a site in Tulare, Tulare in May 2013 continuing through the period (DaF, m.ob.). Our only Red-billed Cuckoos were in Yolo, Solano, Sacramento. A bird was along Putah Creek, and Solano 16 Aug (Clare Gallagher, Mike Olson, Manfred Wascil), another was near e. of Pedrick Rd., Solano 2 Sep (RAR). Another was at American River Parkway, Yuba 18 Aug (Kevin Thomas, DaW). Establishing the first record of Barred Owl for a single bird called at Sikes Landing, Lake 29–30 Aug, and 2 birds called back from there 1 Sep (JLD). Although ear-records exist in U.S. Forest Service files, 2

Barred Owls calling at Sly Creek Reservoir 17–25 Nov (Matt Forster, Mary Muchowski, BED) provided the first birder-confirmed record for *Butte*. A Long-eared Owl was unexpected in the front yard of some condos at Mariners Island in San Mateo, *San Mateo* 16 Nov (LFI).

Our only Chimney Swift was among a few Vaux's over Bolinas, *Marin* 6 Oct (PP). Vaux's Swift is a scarce fall migrant through the San Joaquin Valley, where communal roosts are essentially unknown; thus, 190 swifts funneling downward at dusk into a residential area in Ceres, *Stanislaus* 10 Oct (HMR) furnished an unusual record. Based on the persistent presence of an ad. female 1 Aug–18 Sep and the begging calls of chicks on one or two occasions during that period, Anna's Hummingbirds apparently breed at Dechambeau Creek, *Mono* (KNN), establishing the second breeding record for the *Mono* Basin. A female Calliope Hummingbird visiting a feeder e. of Oakdale 13–14 Sep (ph., JHr) established the first record of this species for e. *Stanislaus*. A male Williamson's Sapsucker made it out to FI. 4 Oct (ph. CR et al.), establishing the first island record; the island now has records of all four species of sapsuckers. Other Williamson's were on the mainland at Lobos Dunes in Presidio N.P., S.F. 12 Oct (PSar) and in the Pecwan watershed on Yurok Tribal Land, *Humboldt* 22 Nov (KMS), where they provided rare records for their respective counties. Eight Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and 6 Red-naped Sapsuckers represented a typical showing and included Alpine's second or third record of Yellow-bellied at Carson River Valley 30 Nov (SBT, LTer). A Red-breasted Sapsucker showing characteristics of the n. subspecies *ruber*, casual in the state, was at Neary Lagoon, *Santa Cruz* 29 Nov (SGe et al.). An apparent Ladder-backed Woodpecker x Nuttall's Woodpecker hybrid, showing broad white stripes on the face, red only on the hind crown, limited barring on the outer tail feathers, and no buff on the face or underparts, was at Oasis, *Mono* 28 Sep (ph. R&NO), ca. 200 km ne. of the nearest area of these species' overlap. Aug Merlin reports remain hard to interpret. A dark male was found at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 4 Aug (DFx), and an ad. female was at McKinleyville, *Humboldt* 18 Aug (RbF).

A late wood-pewee, thought to be a Western, was on FI. 25–28 Nov (Point Blue, ph. JTz). A total of 22 Willow Flycatchers at Lost Lake Park, *Fresno* and *Madera* 6 Sep (JND) established one of the highest one-day counts in the Region. Nine Least Flycatchers were reported: one from *Sonoma* along King Ridge Rd. 30 Sep (TAWgh, BDP, LHg) and 8 from FI. during the period 27 Aug–14 Oct (Point Blue). Four Eastern Phoebe included 2 in *Kings*, one at Lemoore Sportsman's Club 9 Nov+, appar-



This Williamson's Sapsucker was forced to abandon its usual tree-dwelling habits when it arrived at rocky Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, California 4 October 2013. It established the island's first record. Photograph by Cameron Rutt.

ently returning from last year, and another at Lyon's Park in Lemoore 8–14 Nov (both MSy); other singles were in *Monterey* at Salinas W.T.P. 11–12 Nov (ph. DR, RC, KVV) and in *Contra Costa* at Newhall Community Park in Concord 28 Nov (ph. Albert Linkowski). Our only Vermilion Flycatcher was *San Mateo's* first at Pescadero Marsh 26 Oct (imm. male; ph. Jason Thompson). Two Dusky-capped Flycatchers were reported: one at El Carmelo Cemetery in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 16–19 Nov (ph. BTM, ph. m.ob.) and another at Campbell Cove in Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 26 Nov (Rob O'Donnell, ph. LHg). A Great Crested Flycatcher dropped in at FI. 10–11 Oct (ph. CR et al.). Although 12 of the Region's 28 accepted records have come from the island, this bird provided the first record there in 24 years. A total of 53 Tropical Kingbirds, 15 from *Humboldt* alone, was well above our recent 10-year average but lower than fall 2012's record-setting total of 72. A Western Kingbird at Sacramento N.W.R., Glenn 25–30 Nov (ph. Bob McLandress, ph. Justin Bosler, m.ob.) was quite late. Four Eastern Kingbirds included 2 in *Humboldt*, one at Indianola 5 Sep (TKz, Nikki Leskinen), and one on the n. spit of *Humboldt* Bay 6 Sep (Brad Elvert); other singles were in *Monterey* in Carmel Valley 10–19 Sep (Chuck Bancroft, ph. DR, m.ob.) and *Shasta* at Diestelhorst Bridge in Redding 10–13 Sep (Paula Crumpton, m.ob.).

Our only Bell's Vireo was at Lake Success, *Tulare* 9–10 Sep (SDS, DaF). Three Red-eyed Vireos included singles on the n. spit of *Humboldt* Bay, *Humboldt* 11 Sep (KI), at Bolinas, *Marin*



This Yellow-green Vireo made the eighth record for Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, California 29-30 (here 29) September 2013. Photograph by Cameron Rutt.

13 Sep (captured and banded, RDIG), and at Arana Gulch, Santa Cruz 16 Sep (imm., ph. SGe). Also in Santa Cruz, the county's fourth Yellow-green Vireo visited Bethany Curve Park 27 Sep (ph. NLV). Another on FI. 29-30 Sep (ph. CR et al.) was the island's eighth. A Western Scrub-Jay of the bright and brash coastal subspecies made a rare appearance 14 Oct (ph. KNN) at Dechambeau Creek, Mono, where only the dull and subdued interior subspecies is expected. The first Yellow-billed Magpie in Santa Cruz since 2008 was at Soda Lake 27 Oct (ph. AMR). A total of 18 Purple Martins, most or all imm., at Antonelli Pond 13 Sep (SGe) represented a remarkably high count for Santa Cruz. An estimated 100,000 Tree Swallows were found roosting near Kasson Rd. and Durham Ferry Rd. in Tracy, San Joaquin 19-25 Oct (JRow, Elinora Bjur, m.ob.). These birds possibly represent breeders from Alaska and nw. Canada, as breeders s. of there tend to depart in Jul and Aug (Bruce Couzens). Aside from the birds thought to have been present at two historic breeding colonies along the Sacramento River, 2500 Bank Swallows along the Pit River near Likely, Modoc 10 Aug (SCR) represents the largest concentration of this species ever documented in the state. A Barn Swallow over FI. 29 Nov (JTz, Suzie Winquist) was the latest ever recorded there.

The apparent southward range expansion of Black-capped Chickadee continued, with Trinity's second at Hayfork W.T.P. 29 Sep (FrO, JLD, ph. LPT) and Mendocino's first at Lake Cleone, MacKerricher S.P. 15 Nov (Alison Cebula, DT, ph. Adam Hutchins; v.r., †KHv). Santa Cruz's first Rock Wren since 2008 was found dead at Capitola 10 Nov (DLSu). Two Winter Wrens were documented: one on FI. 31 Oct-4 Nov (the island's second, ph. CR et al.) and one at Inverness Park 15-30 Nov (Marin's second, TEa, ph. m.ob.). Among 6 Townsend's Solitaires reported from outside areas of residency, one at Hanford 23 Sep (JLD, ph. SDS) was a first for Kings, which had been the only county

in the state without a record of this species. We received two reports of Olive-backed Swainson's Thrushes, one from FI. 4 Oct (Point Blue) and one from Boggs Slough, Kings 20 Oct (ph. MSy). This subspecies group is a casual, perhaps annual, fall transient along the coast but is essentially unknown from the interior.

THRASHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Gray Catbirds were at Schwan Lake, Santa Cruz 1-5 Nov (SGe, m.ob.) and at S.F. 26 Nov+ (Monique van den Berg, ph. Bob Gunderson, m.ob.). Seven Sage Thrashers distributed between three S.F. Bay-area and two C.V. counties represented a typical showing for this species. Red-throated Pipits were in Humboldt, Marin, S.F., and San Mateo, and a well-documented American Pipit of the Asian subspecies *japonicus* was on FI. 21 Oct (ph. CR, m.ob.). Lapland Longspurs were widely reported this season, with birds found in 12 counties, including Lake's first, n. of Clear Lake 24 Nov (ph. Steve Stump), and Trinity's second, at Trinity Center 13 Oct (FrO, LzW, JRow). A single Chestnut-collared Longspur at H.R.S. 4 Oct (RJR) was the only one reported, as was the Snow Bunting on FI. 29 Oct-1 Nov (ph. CR, m.ob.).

Ovenbirds were nearly absent this fall, with singles on FI. 11 Sep+ and 14 Oct (both Point Blue) providing our only records. Our total of 33 Northern Waterthrushes was well above average and included Stanislaus's first at Modesto W.T.P. 27 Oct (†HMR, RBK, SSa). Black-and-white Warblers were also present in roughly average numbers (34 vs. our average of 31). Both of our Prothonotary Warblers arrived 25 Sep, one staying only for the day at Arcata, Humboldt (†Tom Quetchenback), the other continuing through 6 Oct at Laguna Grande Park, Monterey (ph. Beth Hamel, m.ob.). Thirty-five Tennessee Warblers was a good showing, with one along Putah Creek, Yolo and Solano 1-10 Sep (MP, ph. JCS, m.ob.) furnishing an uncommon C.V. record. We average only 2 Lucy's Warblers per fall, so 3 in one county (San Mateo) was remarkable. Lucy's were at South S.F. 2 Nov (RSTh), Half Moon Bay 24 Nov (LBt, RSTh), and Pacifica 25 Nov+ (ph. L. Keitelman). Virginia's Warblers showed up in some unexpected locations, with Tulare's second near Lake Success 9 Sep-13 Nov (ph. SDS) and Santa Clara's third at Sunnyvale 24-26 Sep (RKE, PKE, ph. Brooke Miller, m.ob.). Another Virginia's on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 18 Sep (KMS, KI) was notable for being the first seen in that county since 1996. Well described, but not photographed, Mourning Warblers were near Blue Lake, Humboldt 6 Oct (p.a., †PLO) and at Laguna Grande Park, Monterey (p.a., †SBT, Donna & Doug Pomeroy, Cooper Scollan). Most notable among our 32 American Redstarts was an

ad. male at Lake Almanor, Plumas 18-20 Aug (JLD, CPD, DPA). Six Northern Parulas were all coastal. Given that we average 19 Magnolia Warblers in fall and have never before received fewer than six reports, this season's 2 Magnolias, both in Monterey, at Laguna Grande Park 17-25 Oct (ph. DR, RC, m.ob.) and the Carmel River mouth 19 Oct (DR), represented a remarkably poor showing. Our only Bay-breasted Warbler was along Soquel Creek, Santa Cruz 16 Sep (ph. NLV), and all 7 Blackburnian Warblers were in coastal counties. A total of 16 Chestnut-sided Warblers was less than half our average, but 3 in the C.V. was a good showing, with birds along Putah Creek, Yolo and Solano 1-5 Sep (SCH, ph. JCS, m.ob.), at Sutter Buttes, Sutter 11 Sep (ph. PBS), and at Babel Slough, Yolo 22 Sep (TEa, Dan Airola). Both Blackpoll and Palm Warblers were also present in very low numbers this season, with 28 Blackpolls and 64 Palms providing pitiful totals compared to our averages of 67 and 153, respectively. Five Prairie Warblers, while consistent with recent numbers, was still half of our long-term average. On a more upbeat note, a total of 6 Canada Warblers was above our average of 4. The season's warbler highlight was undoubtedly the Painted Redstart at Berkeley 13 Nov+ (Katie Bertsche, m.ob.), Alameda's first and the Region's eleventh. This bird continued into Dec, making the Region's first winter record.

Three American Tree Sparrows included one at Giacomini Wetlands, Marin 2-12 Nov (DS, ph. DJM, m.ob.) and 2 on FI. 5-8 Nov (Xeronimo Casteñeda, ph. JTz et al.) and 11-12 Nov (Point Blue). Notable among our 52 Clay-colored Sparrows was a bird in Chalfant Valley, Mono 2 Nov (ph. ADeM), a county with relatively few records and possibly no prior records away from the vagrant hotspot of Oasis (*fide* KNN). A Black-chinned Sparrow banded at Palomarin, Marin 26 Sep (Mark Dettling) provided our only report. Black-throated Sparrows were likewise represented by a single report, Mendocino's fourth at Little River Airport 7



Two Winter Wrens were documented in Northern California in fall 2013. This one on Southeast Farallon Island 31 October (here) through 4 November furnished the second record for the island. Photograph by Cameron Rutt.

Sep (REH). Single Lark Buntings were at Chico State University Farm, Butte 24 Sep (†Matthew Forster) and San Joaquin River NWR, Stanislaus 1-30 Nov (KRb, ph. LPT, m.ob.). Of 31 Swamp Sparrows, all were in coastal counties except for 2 in Mono, at Mono Lake C.P. 12 Oct (STu) and South Tufa, Mono Lake 27 Oct (ph. Chris Wills). Among 6 Harris's Sparrows was Amador's first, near Comanche Reservoir 18-30 Nov (Greg Hemig, Jlx, FS), and a Davis, Yolo bird returning for its third winter 20 Oct+ (Chris Dunford, m.ob.). A most intriguing dark-lored White-crowned Sparrow in Lodi, San Joaquin 27 Nov+ (ph. DGY) was considered to be most likely either the nominate subspecies or possibly an intergrade between the nominate and *gambeli* (file JLD, PP, JTr).

A total of 15 Summer Tanagers was double our average, while the same number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was typical. Thirteen Indigo Buntings included 3 ad. males within a single flock of 16-20 bunnings at College Lake, Santa Cruz 2 Aug (Gary Kimleson et al.). Painted Buntings seem to have become more regular in recent years, with this year's 5 matching our historical high set just two years ago. Humboldt produced all our Dickcissels, with singles at Arcata Marsh 17 Sep (DFx, KMS) and at three different locations within Arcata Bottoms 20 Sep (Kurt Ongman et al.), 23 Sep (Samantha Bacon), and 20-22 Oct (ph. TKz, Casey Ryan, m.ob.). Humboldt also had a great Bobolink season, with 16 of the 30 Regional reports coming from that county. Three Rusty Blackbirds provided our highest total since 1994, with birds at Monterey, Monterey 27-29 Oct (ph. Cooper Scollan, m.ob.), near Baldwin Creek, Santa Cruz 11-13 Nov (JGa, m.ob.), and at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin 23-27 Nov (William Legge, m.ob.). Fifteen Orchard Orioles includ-

ed second records for San Joaquin, at Lodi 2 Sep (†DGY), and Yolo, along Putah Creek 6 Sep (Claire Gallagher). Six Baltimore Orioles was double our average and included Yolo's second at the Sacramento River Bypass 19 Aug (SCH). An Eastern Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus purpureus*) on FI. 23 Oct was the island's second and provided one of few well-documented records of this subspecies for the state (ph. CR, v.r. Luke Musher et al.).

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The fall saw continuing dry to extremely dry conditions over most of the Region, with normal to above-normal precipitation largely occurring only in portions of the deserts. Temperatures were near normal to cooler than normal, and there were only two moderate offshore ("Santa Ana") wind events, in early October and early November. Highlights included an unprecedented invasion of Blue-footed Boobies, plus first California records of Tundra Bean-Goose, Marsh Sand-

piper, and Common Swift. Offshore, Southern California's first Great Shearwater was recorded, and numbers of Craver's Murrelets were far greater than in recent years. There were far fewer passerine highlights, and many eastern vagrant warblers were in lower-than-average numbers, particularly on the deserts. Eleven Yellow-green Vireos and nine Scarlet Tanagers established impressive fall counts. Zzyzx, on the eastern Mojave Desert in San Bernardino County, was probably the single most notable locality, hosting Wood Thrush, Rufous-backed Robin, and Bohemian Waxwing, along with a host of lesser rarities.

