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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 Puyallup, *Pierce* 6 Aug (BW, RM, CW) was remarkable; this species was found breeding near this locale in *Pierce* a few years ago. Other northerly Lessers included 2 at Marymoor 14 Aug (MH, M. Bartels), *Clallam*'s first at Neah Bay 26 Sep (BW, RS, DW), and 2 at Bellevue, *King* 30 Nov (J. Glant). A Lesser at Gearhart, *Clatsop* 5 Sep (C. Neuman) was equally surprising on Oregon's n. coast.

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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 Scripps's and Craver's Murrelets were seen from shore around Monterey Bay. In contrast, numbers of Long-tailed Jaegers, Arctic Terns, Sabine's Gulls, and Buller's Shearwaters were well below average. Portions of the Region experienced major incursions of Band-tailed Pigeons, Lewis's and Acorn Woodpeckers, Steller's Jays, American Robins, and Varied Thrushes.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, Sacramento);

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 Vitoria, m.ob.). A Eurasian Wigeon at Glenshire 12 Nov (ph. SRs, DRs) was one of few ever reported in *Nevada*. Tufted Ducks were reported from Salmon Creek, *Sonoma* 14 Nov (ESH et al.) and Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 23-27 Nov (Everett Clark, Mark Dettling), although the former was noted as being a possible hybrid. A King Eider was with scoters off Ocean Beach, *San Francisco* 25 Oct (†Paul Saraceni). Two Surf Scoters at Lake Tahoe 22 Oct-9 Dec (JLD, ScD, MMy) 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 summer-

ing female in Alviso, *Santa Clara* was seen again 24 Aug (MMR, MJM, RGJ) and 18 Nov (Natalie Washburn). Notable White-winged far inland were at Fall River Lake 20 Oct+ (2 males, seventh *Shasta* record; KAB, ph. BY, 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, DRs, 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 Mickus) were very early fall migrants. Among other inland Pacific Loons, one at Union Reservoir 24 Oct (JSL) provided *Alpine*'s first record, and one at Bass Lake 7 Nov+ (ph. GaW) was *Madera*'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 *Stanislaus*. 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; *Mono*'s sixth), Lake Almanor, *Plumas* 19 Sep (CPD, ph. DPA et al.) and 11

Nov (CPD), and Boca Reservoir, Nevada 18-29 Nov (ph. MMy). Over 2500 Western Grebe nests at Lake Almanor, *Plumas* 11 Aug (Madelyn Ore, Emily Mickus) furnished the highest count of nests for this location, but most failed due to wind waves; re-nesting later that month was highly successful. A Western Grebe and 14 Clark's Grebes were on nests at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced* 4 Sep (KVV); nesting here is unusual.

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, 2-8 Nov, in areas 185-370 km w. of the shore from FI. 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 (†MFO). 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 FI. (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 4000 at Terrace Point, *Santa Cruz* 25 Nov (JGa) 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* (v.ob.). One or 2 Ashy Storm-Petrels off Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 30 Aug (RbF, m.ob.) were rare so far north, and *Santa Clara's* third was in Alviso 8 Oct (†WGB). Ad. Red-tailed Tropicbirds 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 regular 250+ km offshore, primarily w. of the California Current (*fide* MFO). An ad. Masked Booby at Moss Beach 12 Aug, *San Mateo's* second, was followed by a juv. 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 FI. 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 FI., 4 in *Monterey*, and the remainder in S.F., *Marin*, *Sonoma*, and *Humboldt*. The long-staying **Northern Gannet** at FI. 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 (DvW) was only the fifth for *Lake*. White-faced Ibis were widely reported from coastal areas 17 Aug+, including at total of 19 seen from FI. 4-29 Sep, where few have been found previously (Point Blue, †JTz). 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 (†MBE), flying into adjacent *Solano*, where it provided a second county record. Broad-wingeds 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 juvs.; m.ob.), and 4 in *Monterey* 26 Sep-8 Oct (m.ob.). Six Swainson'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+ (TKz) 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 (KAb); 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 Stilts included 4 at Prosser Creek Reservoir, *Nevada* 16 Aug (with a single American Avocet; JLx et al.), *Amador's* third, at Silver Lake 19-20 Aug (Gwen Starrett, JLx), 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 juvs. 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 juvs. 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.R. 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 Greater 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 Surf-bird 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 (DaF). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, all juvs., were found at the Eel River W.A., *Humboldt* 22 Sep (ph. Brad Elvert), the Yolo Basin W.A., *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. MSy); 6 others were found in four counties 20 Aug-6 Oct. Sanderlings in the Sierra Nevada included singles at South Lake Tahoe, *El Dorado* 19 Aug (R&NO) 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, AxL), Smith River Bottoms,

Del Norte 1-4 Sep (2 birds; ph. LBr et al.), Lake Tolowa, *Del Norte* 2 Sep (ph. TKz, Casey Ryan), and Manchester S.B., *Mendocino* 26-27 Sep (ph. Doug Forsell, Diane Hichwa). Among Semipalmated Sandpipers reported 2 Aug–19 Sep was *Napa's* third, a juv. at Huichhica Creek W.A. 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+ (RGJ, 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 TERNS

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 (BWb, CCo, m.ob.). Long-tailed Jaegers inland, or inside S.F. Bay, were at the Benicia pier, *Solano* 29 Aug (RMu, EPI); at Shoreline Lake 31 Aug (ph. Steve Tracey) and in Sunnyvale 8 Sep (ph. Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley), providing *Santa Clara's* third and fourth records; at Stampede Reservoir 13-19 Sep (*Sierra'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 bay-side 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 undoubtedly 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). Scripps's 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 Craver's Murrelets were seen from Point Pinos, *Monterey* on seven dates spanning the duration of the period (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., †DRs, SRs, JSL) provided *Sierra'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. STu). 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 FI., 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 Glaucous Gulls were at the Davis W.T.P., *Yolo* 21 Nov (SCH) and Crescent City Harbor, *Del Norte* 22 Nov (Sky Lloyd).

The only Least Tern n. of S.F. Bay was at Doran R.P., *Sonoma* 23 Aug (LHg, Norm Ortmann, Don Kirker). Black Terns were in higher-than-average numbers in coastal areas, with 14 reported; one in *Del Norte* and 4 in *Humboldt* were particularly rare on the north coast. Indian Creek Reservoir hosted *Alpine's* first Arctic Tern 22 Sep (JSL). The total of 128 inland Common Terns represented an all-time seasonal high away from the coast and included *Alpine's* third record (2 birds) at Indian Creek Reservoir 1 and 18 Sep (JSL); *Butte's* first record at Thermalito Afterbay 23-24 Sep (JCS; Jlw); and robust concentrations of 20 at n. Lake Tahoe, *Placer* 31 Aug–30 Sep (ScD, m.ob.) and 32 at Clear Lake, *Lake* 5 Sep (JRW). Elegant Terns were in high numbers and remained farther 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 (ADB) 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 Collared-Doves was established for *Madera*, with 55 se. of *Madera* 3 Nov (Chris Hiatt). A similarly 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 (*Lake's* second; ph. Vicki Miller). The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo reported was an apparent juv. at Riverfront R.P., *Sonoma* 6 Oct (DgSh). A Greater Roadrunner at Briceland 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 Bredberg) 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, JRow; *San Joaquin's* third), over American River Parkway 8 Sep (ph. GEw), and over FI. 10 (†JTz et al.) & 20 Sep (Oliver James). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird, a juv. female, 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 Calliope 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 (CCo, DKo) and a 720% increase in sightings compared 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. 29 Nov (JTr). Nine Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, all coastal or around S.F. Bay, represented a typical showing, whereas a total of



Tropical Kingbirds appear to be increasing in Northern California, where a minimum of 63 established one of the highest fall totals ever. This bird was along Lanphere Road in Humboldt County 14 November 2104. Photograph by Bill Kieser.



Humboldt County has tallied more records of Blue Jay than any other county is California; this bird at Willow Creek 1-9 (here 4) November 2014 established Humboldt County's seventh record. Photograph by Samantha Bacon.

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 (DFx). 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.).

FI. has produced most of the Region's accepted records of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher; it turned up another 10 Sep (ph. DJM, AdS, Oliver James). A total of 14 Least Flycatchers, 8 of which were on FI., included the first for *Kings* at Corcoran 20 Oct (ph. MSy). Four Eastern Phoebe included singles at Corcoran, *Kings* 25-26 Oct (ph. MSy); Bodega Dunes Campground, *Sonoma* 1 Nov (DFr); Pescadero, *San Mateo* 14 Nov (a bird returning for its fourth consecutive winter; RSTh); and Los Banos, *Merced* 17 Nov (ph. JHr, RBk). All 3 Vermilion Flycatchers reported were in the vicinity of Los Banos, *Merced*, with a male at Santa Fe Grade Rd. and Wilson Rd. 3-31 Nov (JHr, RBk), a female at Merced N.W.R. 18-31 Nov (Laurie Dan, ph. George Folsom), and another female on lower Santa Fe Grade Rd. 19 Nov (ph. KVV). The season's only Dusky-capped Flycatcher was nicely photographed at P.R.N.S., *Marin* 2 Nov (ph. Bob & Bettina Arrigoni). Establishing one of our highest fall totals ever, a minimum of 63 Tropical Kingbirds were reported from eight coastal or S.F. Bay counties, with an impressive 21 in *Humboldt* and a high single-location count of 7 at the Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey* 12 Oct, when 4 were photographed together (ph. MiR). Five Eastern Kingbirds included one inland at Truckee, *Nevada* 27 Aug (ph. RCD, Dale Rubach). Our only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, found in Half Moon Bay 25 Nov (Tim

Sullivan, ph. m.ob.), remained through 6 Dec, providing the second Dec record for *San Mateo*.

Sacramento's first Yellow-throated Vireo and the third for the C.V. was at C.R.P. 20-21 Sep (†JTr, Michael Gertz, CCo, JCS, GEw, LMcC). Two Plumbeous Vireos were reported: one along Tunitas Creek Rd., *San Mateo* 1 Sep (†GrH) and another at FI. 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 (†DGY, m.ob.), the first record not only for *San Joaquin* but apparently the entire C.V. Six Red-eyed Vireos included *Plumas*'s first at Chester 8 Sep (†RDB). Among 5 Yellow-green Vireos reported was *Sonoma*'s first, at Owl Canyon 10-11 Oct (ph. Gordon Beebe, m.ob.).

Like Lewis's and Acorn Woodpeckers, Steller's Jays appeared in unusually 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 (MBe), formed from *Mendocino* to *Napa*, and smaller numbers moved through the *Sacramento* Valley from *Shasta* to *Sacramento*. *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 12,500 over Point Pinos, *Monterey* 17 Nov (BLS), and Varied Thrushes, including a high count of 7120 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 female Varied Thrushes led one observer (JM) to suggest the invasion may have involved mainly the more northerly and interior subspecies *I. n. meruloides*.

THRASHERS 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 P.R.N.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 Thrashers were on Latrobe Rd., *Sacramento* 22 Sep (Deb Watson, ph. LPt et al.), s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 10 Nov (MSy), and at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino*

14 Nov (ph. D. Flaim). Brown Thrashers were on FI. 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 (PSar), 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 Tennessees also represented above-average numbers. Pronthonotary Warblers were in Golden Gate Park, S.F. 30 Sep–10 Oct (Russ 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. MiR, 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. CRo, m.ob.), near Esplanade Park in Pacific Grove 28 Sep (Beko Binder, LRo, 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 FI., so a bird banded there 20 Sep (ph. Point Blue) was not unexpected. Second only to FI., P.R.N.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. FI. 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 (Camden Bruner) and the other at Bay-side 8 Oct (JCP, m.ob.).

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

m.ob.). Another Cape May was on FI. 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 FI. 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 (JTr). Thirty-eight Chestnut-sided Warblers was right on our 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 150, 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 Ancil 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* 18 Nov (MMY, JLD) represented a late date for this location. Single Black-throated Sparrows at the Bufferlands, *Sacramento* 11 Aug (ph. CCo) 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 FI. 1 Sep (Point Blue), s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 25-26 Oct (ph. MSy), along Higgins Canyon Rd., *San Mateo* 18 Nov+ (RSTh, LBt), 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 (JTr, 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 FI. 18-19 Aug (ph. JTz et al.) was the first ad. male for the island, and a second FI. 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 Crescent City, *Del Norte* 25-26 Sep (ph. Sky Lloyd et al.) and at the Mad River Fish Hatchery, *Humboldt* 29 Sep-5 Oct (Nevin Cullen, ph. Jared Hughey, m.ob.). Of our 13 Bobolinks, 6 were in *Humboldt* (27 Aug-13 Sep) and 7 on FI. (23 Aug-4 Oct). A Rusty Blackbird was along Sante Fe Grade Rd., *Merced* 13-22 Nov (Joanne Katanic, m.ob.), and another was at P.R.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 Baltimores 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 17-25 Aug (ph. Lynn Scarlett, Steve Courtney, SED, ADE) were the first to be well documented in *Plumas*.

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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. 🔄

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