

A map of California showing the locations of various refuges and parks. Key locations include Crescent City, Arcata, Eureka, Redding, Chico, Sacramento Valley Refuges, Lake Almanor, Honey Lake, Clear Lake, Bodega Bay, Santa Rosa, Sacramento, Pt. Reyes, San Francisco, Cordell Bank, S.E. Farallon Is., Berkeley, Oakland, Stockton, Modesto, San Joaquin Valley Refuges, Santa Cruz, Monterey Bay, Monterey, Salinas, Big Sur, Davidson Seamount, Klamath Basin Refuges, Cascade Range, Mount Mt., L. TAHOE, Mono Lake, Yosemite NP, Kings Canyon NP, Sequoia NP, Tulare Lake Basin, and the Sierra Nevada range.

A steady series of storms in January gave hope of relief from our extended drought. However, a relatively dry February followed, which left most of the Region near normal for seasonal rainfall. Probably only the Red Phalarope that showed up in inland Mendocino County and the Cook's Petrels seen from shore can be linked directly to those January storms. Overall, it was a winter more notable for numbers than for rarities. Thirty-eight Eurasian Wigeons in the south San Francisco Bay was a number impressive even to those familiar with the concentrations seen in the Central Valley. More than 27,000 American Robins near Ukiah allowed that Christmas Bird Count circle to top all others. On the downside, Rough-legged Hawk numbers in all but the northeastern corner of the state were as low as they have been at any time in recent decades, perhaps reflective of the range-wide shift in the winter distribution of this species.

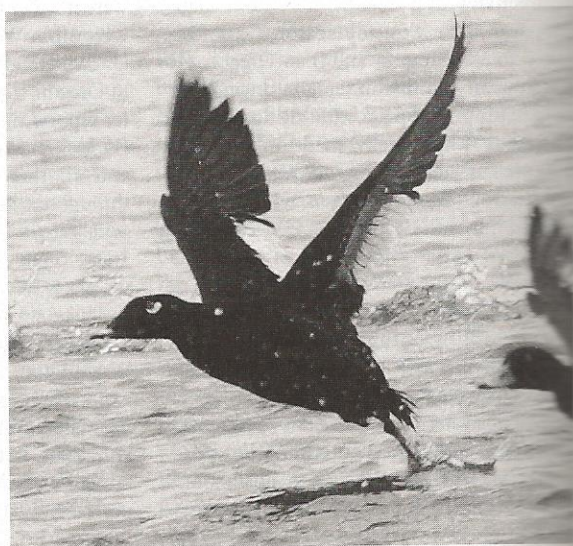
WATERFOWL

was particularly noteworthy. Greater White-fronted Geese were found in the largest numbers, with 1280 flying n. and e. between Napa and American Canyon, *Napa* (MBe), 300 over H.R.S. (RJR), 100+ over Alviso, *Santa Clara* (Michael Strom), 125 over Capitola and Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* (DLSu, PDB et al.), and 193 over the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* (ph. DR, RC). Other goose flocks seen the same day included the largest Snow Goose flock noted in *San Mateo* in modern times, about 100 birds heading n. over Redwood Shores (George Chrisman), the highest count of Cackling Geese in *San Mateo* ever, 369 flying n. off Moss Beach (RSTh, Leonie Batkin), and a record count of Canada Geese for *Santa Cruz*, 450 heading se. over Capitola (DLSu). Blue-morph Ross's Geese were reported from Sacramento N.W.R., *Glenn* 16 Jan (DES, Sally Walters) and Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 20 Feb (Lisa Myers et al.). Brant inside s. S.F. Bay included one at Oyster Pt., *San Mateo* 9 Jan (Ken Schneider), 4 at H.R.S. 27 Jan (RJR), and 5 at Burlingame, *San Mateo* 1 Feb (RSTh). A "gray-bellied" Brant at King Salmon, *Humboldt* 23 Dec may have been the same bird seen there 17 Mar and 4 Apr 2009 (all MWA).

At least 2 of the *Santa Clara* Dusky Canada Geese (*B. c. occidentalis*) found in Oct continued in Morgan Hill through the period (SCR et al.). Trumpeter Swans continued at Modoc N.W.R., *Modoc*, with 5 found 1 Dec (JLx) and 2 there 23 Jan (ph. SCR). A calling Trumpeter with 80 Tundra Swans over Shingletown 11 Feb (Pablo Herrera) provided the 4th record for *Shasta*. A pair of ad. Trumpeters with a young bird were w. of Loma Rica, *Yuba* 23 Jan (†BDW). Two tame ads. being hand-fed at Auburn R.P., *Placer* 17 Feb+ (ph. Roger Perkins, m.ob.), plus verified reports of a local waterfowl breeder having kept Trumpeters in the past, cast further doubt on the provenance of the imm. reported at that location 6-9 Apr 2009.

An ad. and imm. Bewick's Tundra Swan were n. of Lookout, *Modoc* 24 Jan (SCR), and an ad. was along Brewer Rd., *Placer* 26-27 Dec (ph. BWb).

the Region's best historical totals from our C.V. refuges. Others at notable inland locations included one in Grass Valley, Nevada 13 Feb (RCD, Brian O'Connor et al.); single males near Lincoln, Placer 24 Dec (Chad Aakre) and 9 Jan (Ron Pozzi); 2 at Goffinet Res., Amador 5 Dec, with another nearby 9-10 Feb (all Don Marsh); a male along the San Joaquin R., Madera 26-30 Jan (ph. GaW, Chris Hiatt, JSy, EP); one w. of Corcoran, Kings 26 Dec (Mark Stacy); and single males in Tulare at L. Success 9 Dec and Pixley N.W.R. 25 Feb (both SDS). The highest count of Blue-winged Teal was 44 near Gustine, Merced 24 Jan (PJM, DMo, FrT), with 30 still there 8 Feb (PJM, DMo); 19 at the Fairfield W.T.P., Solano 14 Dec (DeH, DvH) were also notable. A teal at Lodi Lake Park, San Joaquin 20 Dec (†DGY) was thought to be a Blue-winged Teal × Green-winged Teal hybrid, a very rarely reported combination. A more expected Northern Shoveler × Cinnamon Teal hybrid was at the Napa W.T.P., Napa 26 Dec–23 Jan (MBe). At least 12 Eurasian Teal in nine counties included singles well inland at Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 15 Jan (RE) and near Gustine, Merced 24 Jan (PJM, DMo, FrT).



Observers chasing Merced County, California's first Black Scoter, found in November 2009 at the O'Neill Forebay, turned up a string of unusual sea ducks through the rest of that month and into December. This adult male White-winged Scoter was the second of that species found there during this period, photographed here 6 December 2009, the day after its discovery. *Photograph by Michael J. Mann*

Redhead numbers appear to be on the increase in Humboldt, with 453 reported on Humboldt Bay 3 Jan (RbF, KGR, R. Smith). Nine Tufted Ducks were noted from eight counties: at Big Lagoon, Humboldt Dec-1 Jan (female; Jeff Allen et al.); Mendocino, Mendocino 10-11 Dec (male; CEV et al.); at Abbots Lagoon, Marin Dec (male; DWm, SNGH); in Napa

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Napa W.T.P. 27 Dec–11 Jan (MBe, DvH, DeH) and the St. Helena W.T.P. 26 Feb (Donald Weidemann); at the Davis Wetlands 16 Jan (ad. male, 4th Yolo record; TEa, KvG); at Sherman I., Sacramento 16–17 Feb (male; Bob Brandriff, JSL, JCS, MGg); at Clifton Court Forebay, Contra Costa 3 Jan–7 Feb (ph. Amy McDonald, m.ob.); and the continuing bird at L. Merritt, Alameda through 27 Feb (ph. m.ob.). A Harlequin Duck on the Eel R. near Dos Rios 14 Jan (male; Cate Hawthorne, Jeff Laxier) was the first ever found inland in Mendocino. A single Surf Scoter was far inland on L. Almanor at Prattville, Plumas 16 Dec (ADeM). The imm. White-winged Scoter found last season at O'Neill Forebay, Merced remained through 14 Dec (m.ob.), being joined by an ad. male 5 Dec–2 Jan (EP, KVV, ph. MJM et al.). Twelve Long-tailed Ducks in eight counties included Trinity's 6th at Lewiston L. 16 Jan (TKz) and the continuing bird at O'Neill Forebay, Merced through 2 Jan (m.ob.). The male Bufflehead × Common Goldeneye hybrid returned to L. Solano, Solano/Yolo 20 Dec–20 Feb (ph. WEH, CCo et al.). A Barrow's Goldeneye along West Butte Rd. 1 Jan (female; JLa) was the 4th for Sutter. The Barrow's Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser hybrid continued at L. Merritt, Alameda to 14 Feb (m.ob., ph.). Red-breasted Mergansers far inland included up to 5 at Kutas L., Shasta 4 Dec–1 Feb (RBr, Ken Bachman, Mike Damoth), 3 at L. Almanor, Plumas 16 Dec and 31 Jan (ADeM, CPD), and one at L. Shastina, Siskiyou 16 Feb+ (RE).

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

A Red-throated Loon on Folsom L. 3 Jan–14 Feb (TS, CCo, m.ob.) provided a first *El Dorado* record and also crossed into Sacramento waters. The only inland Pacific Loons reported were singles on L. Shastina, Siskiyou 3 Dec (RE) and L. Almanor, Plumas 31 Jan (CPD). A Red-necked Grebe just n. of Corcoran on 3 Dec (BBg, Jim White) provided a rare Kings record; 2 were on S.F. Bay, and the high coastal count was 11 on s. Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 17 Feb (Phil Chaon). A Horned Grebe on Grant L., Mono 8 Dec (JuH) was unusually far inland. Despite their strong showing last summer and fall, the presence of Cook's Petrels well into winter was still surprising. Even more unexpected, they were seen from shore. Singles were seen several hours apart by seawatchers at Pt. Pinos, Monterey 18 Jan (BLS; DR), heading w. out of Monterey Bay during strong south-southwesterly winds; one was at that location the next day (BLS). Two Manx Shearwaters off the Monterey Pen., Monterey 28 Dec (RgW, RT) were the only ones reported. Black-vented Shearwaters were present in relatively

low numbers; 340 along the coastline from Sunset S.B. to Seacliff S.B., Santa Cruz 30 Dec (DLSu) was the only triple-digit count reported. Although Brown Pelicans are becoming increasingly regular inland, an ad. at Searsville L. 31 Dec (Leonie Batkin, RSTh) provided one of few inland records for *San Mateo*. An American White Pelican braved low temperatures and mostly frozen water at Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou through 28 Dec (RE). Single Pelagic Cormorants in Mountain View 17 Dec (FV, RWR) and Alviso 20 Dec–16 Jan (SCR, MMR et al.) continued the recent spate of records in bay-side areas of Santa Clara, but one at Stevens Creek Res., Santa Clara 2–8 Jan (PLD, ph. MJM et al.) was unusually far inland.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS

Three Sooty Grouse at Boggs Mt. State Forest 27 Dec (Duane Harper) were the first found in Lake away from the n. mts. in at least 30 years. Coastal Cattle Egrets included one near Ft. Dick, Del Norte 5–13 Feb (LuB, Diane Cavaness), one at Boonville, Mendocino 19 Dec (Rich Trissel), up to 3 at the Garcia R. flats n. of Pt. Arena, Mendocino 27 Dec–28 Jan (REH, Rich Trissel, m.ob.), and one at Foster City, San Mateo 28 Dec–17 Jan (DvA, AME et al.). Up to 4 White-faced Ibis spent the season in bayside Santa Clara, from Palo Alto to Sunnyvale (ph. m.ob.). Ibis also lingered in the Watsonville Slough system in Santa Cruz, with 5 on 4 Dec (JHW) dwindling to one or 2 birds 8 Dec–9 Jan (fide DLSu, SGe). The European White Stork found last season was seen again 16 Feb (ph. Larry Petrie, fide JM), this time near Willows, Glenn. The Sonoma Common Black-Hawk was seen again near Sebastopol 20 Dec (ph. Stan Moore). Notable Swainson's Hawks included a late bird at Lemoore, Kings 13 Dec (Mark Stacy), San Mateo's 3rd winter record at Pescadero 31 Dec (Janet Murphy, fide ADeM), the first Jan record for Santa Clara, in Coyote Valley 13 Jan (juv.; ph. Ryan Phillips), and Napa's first winter record, at Huichica Creek W.A. 24 Jan (juv.; RAR). Ten Harlan's Hawks in six counties included 3 each in Yolo and San Joaquin, returning birds in Humboldt and Santa Clara, and singles in Sacramento and Solano; the only light-morph birds were nw. of Davis, Yolo 2 Jan–3 Mar (ph. BLS et al.) and at Venice I., San Joaquin 20 Dec (†DGY). Rough-legged Hawk numbers were low, with



Winter records of White-faced Ibis are on the increase along the central California coast. Following last winter's record strong showing in Santa Cruz County, Santa Clara County logged its first winter records ever this season, with at least four remaining through late January 2010 and at least three through the reporting period. All appeared to be first-winter birds, wandering along south San Francisco Bay from Palo Alto (where this bird was photographed 6 March 2010) to Sunnyvale. Photograph by William G. Bousman.

C.B.C. totals for the state among the lowest seen for the past 30 years (fide EP); reports from the s. part of the Region included singles in Madera sw. of Chowchilla 26 Dec (GaW) and e. of Madera 13 Feb (GaW, JSy), and the 2nd ever for the Big Sur coast, Monterey, between Hurricane Pt. and Castle Rock 21 Dec–20 Feb (ph. Mike Tyner, ph. BLS, DR et al.). The Del Norte Crested Caracara was reported again near Ft. Dick 29 Jan (Dave Wadsworth). As last year, calling Black Rails were located at Coyote Hills R.P., Alameda 25 Feb–6 Mar (Ken Schneider et al.), with one or 2 heard regularly until 6 Mar, when 5 were heard.

SHOREBIRDS

Inland Pacific Golden-Plovers included one at the Gustine W.T.P., Merced 8 Feb (PJM, DMO) and 2 near Lemoore, Kings 20 Feb (ph. JLT). Mountain Plovers reached the coast in Humboldt at Clam Beach 6–10 Dec (GSL, LPL, DCo, TKz) and at the s. jetty of Humboldt Bay 5 Jan (DCo, Leslie Tucci, Jesse Sargent); another slightly inland at H.R.S. 1 Feb (RJR) was only the 2nd for that location. Up to 100+ in Panoche Valley, San Benito 22 Nov+ (Chris Wolfe, m.ob.) were more dependably found than in recent years, and 21 along Sandy Mush Rd. 3 km w. of Hwy. 99 12 Dec (JSy,



A small number of mostly dark-morph Swainson's Hawks winters in the Sacramento River delta region, but winter records away from there are still exceptional in Northern California. Thus completely unexpected was this light-morph juvenile in Coyote Valley 13 January 2010, the first ever found in Santa Clara County in that month. Photograph by Ryan Phillips.

GaW et al.) were the first in *Merced* in many years. Eleven Lesser Yellowlegs in *Alviso*, *Santa Clara* 16 Jan (MMR, RGJ, MJM) formed a notable concentration for winter. A total of 105 Marbled Godwits near *Gustine*, *Merced* 24 Jan (PJM, DMO, FrT) was a high inland count. *Santa Cruz's* Rock Sandpiper continued through the season (m.ob.). The only Stilt Sandpiper reported was *Tulare's* first in winter, at *Alpaugh* 1 Jan (JLT, TKz, SAL). Ruffs were scarce this winter, with only two one-day reports received, a male near *Ft. Dick*, *Del Norte* 17 Jan (LuB) and a female in *Berkeley*, *Alameda* 20 Feb (ph. Zach Baer). Both Wilson's Phalaropes were in *Kings*, near *Stratford* 17 Dec (JSy) and near *Lemoore* 20-21 Feb (JLT). Few Red Phalaropes were reported, the exception being a count of 800 off *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Cruz* 27 Dec (SGe); the only inland report was of one in *Potter Valley*, *Mendocino* 19 Jan (MtB).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

After several winters of high gull numbers, particularly numbers of rare and "coastal" species inland, numbers of most species were decidedly low virtually everywhere but along the *Sonoma/Mendocino* coast. Heermann's Gulls were reported to be in lower-than-average numbers around *Monterey Bay* (DLSu), but numbers were slightly higher than normal along the coast from *San Mateo* to *Humboldt*. Inland Mew Gulls included singles at *L. Ca-*

manche, *Amador* 3 Dec (Dave Bell), the *Los Banos W.T.P.*, *Merced* 4 Jan (KVV), and the *Gustine W.T.P.*, *Merced* 8 Feb (PJM, DMO). A Western Gull at the *American Ave. Landfill* 11 Dec (GaW) provided *Fresno* with its 2nd record. Notable inland Glaucous-winged Gulls included singles at the *Fairmead Landfill* 11 Dec (LyH, Chris Hiatt), providing a 2nd *Madera* record, and s. of *Stratford*, *Kings* 10 Jan (JSy). A first-cycle bird showing the characters of *vegae* Herring Gull was at *Pillar Pt. Harbor*, *San Mateo* 7 Feb (ph. AJ). Opinions regarding the identity of a virtually all-white, second-cycle gull at *Van Damme S.P.*, *Mendocino* 2 Jan (ph. TEa) varied between possible nominate *Iceland*, *barrovianus* Glaucous, or an amelanistic individual of another species. A third-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull at the *Yolo County Landfill*, *Yolo* 16 Jan (TEa) was the only one reported. Among 23 Glaucous Gulls, notable inland birds included one e. of *Marysville*, *Yuba* 1 Dec (JH); one at *Clearlake*, *Lake* 11-19 Dec (FHa et al.); *Napa's* 4th at the *Napa W.T.P.* 19 Dec (MBe), with possibly the same individual at *Fagan Slough* 7 Feb (LKe); and 2 ads. at the *Yolo County Landfill*, *Yolo* 13 Feb (KvG).

At least 2 Caspian Terns wintered in *Humboldt Bay*, *Humboldt* (m.ob.); one at *H.R.S.* 8 Feb (RJR) provided the observer's first Feb record for that location. The high count of Black Skimmers in the s. S.F. Bay flock was 10 at *Charleston Slough*, *Santa Clara* 24 Feb (John DeBell). Ancient Murrelets were reported in low numbers except in *Santa Cruz*, where abundance was above average, with a high of 37 in *Santa Cruz* 5 Jan (OsJ, Lauren Harter).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Groups of Band-tailed Pigeons totaling 449 at *San Felipe Valley* 26 Dec (MMR) and 440 at *Monte Bello Open Space Preserve* 7 Jan (GrH) established high winter counts for *Santa Clara*. The Eurasian Collared-Dove invasion continues to build steam. Emblematic were reports of 187 on the *Red Bluff C.B.C.*, *Tehama* 20 Dec (fide Karen Scheuermann), where none had been recorded previously (this count was not run in the three prior years); 100 on the *Ukiah C.B.C.*, *Mendocino* 19 Dec (fide Cheryl Watson), where only a single bird was documented last year; the first overwintering birds in *Plumas* at *Quincy* 3 Jan-28 Feb (CPD); and a pair copulating and carrying nesting material at *Seacliff*, *Santa Cruz* 26 Dec (DLSu). Providing our first winter records of White-winged Dove since 2005 were singles at *Phipps Ranch*, *San Mateo* 1 Jan

(Leonie Batkin, RSTh) and *L. Merced*, *S.F.* 18 Jan (ph. Ken Schneider). Noteworthy Long-eared Owls included singles at *Redding Cemetery* 25-29 Dec (Brooke McDonald; Shasta's 3rd); *Carmichael*, *Sacramento* 5 Jan (George Landry); *Rancho Del Oso S.P.*, *Santa Cruz* 8 Jan (DLSu); and *Yolo Grasslands Park*, *Yolo* 16 Jan (Zack Smith et al.). A total of 102 Northern Saw-whet Owls detected over three nights of surveys at *Big Basin Redwoods S.P.*, *Santa Cruz* during the period of 23-28 Jan (DLSu) illustrates the high numbers present in the *Santa Cruz Mts.*

A Vaux's Swift over *H.R.S.* 11 Feb (RJR, Bob Dunn) was the only one reported this season. Two White-throated Swifts over *Dos Rios* 9 Feb (LLK) established the first winter record for *Mendocino*. Likewise, a Costa's Hummingbird at *L. Success* 19 Dec-4 Jan (TKz, m.ob.) was thought to represent a first winter record for *Tulare*. Notable Williamson's Sapsuckers were *Mendocino's* 2nd at *Ft. Bragg* 5 Dec (DAG, Tim Bray, m.ob.); *Lake's* 4th and 5th at *Lower Lake* 17 & 19 Dec (Darlene Hecomovich, Jeanette Knight) and 18 Dec-17 Jan (KPa, m.ob.), respectively; and one of few for *San Benito* at *Pinnacles N.M.* 2 Jan (RJA). Single Red-breasted Sapsuckers thought to be of the nominate subspecies were at *Bolinas*, *Marin* 15 Dec (KH) and *Mokelumne Day Use Area*, *San Joaquin* 2 Jan (DGY).

A Gray Flycatcher in *Oakland*, *Alameda* 20 Dec-10 Jan (Sue Cox, Pat Bachetti, DEQ, m.ob.) established the 3rd winter record for the Region. Our only Eastern Phoebe was at *Pine Gulch Cr.*, *Marin* 24-31 Jan (KH) and *Sonoma Baylands*, *Sonoma* 8 Jan (Ken Ackerman). One of the highlights of the *San Jose C.B.C.* was a *Myiarchus* flycatcher, thought likely to be an Ash-throated Flycatcher, along *Coyote Cr.* in *San Jose*, *Santa Clara* 20 Dec (FV, Karl Fowler). Two Tropical Kingbirds—one at *Crespi Pond*, *Monterey* 19 Dec-28 Feb (RC, ph. DR, m.ob.) and another at *Straw Slough*, *Santa Cruz* throughout the period (JHW, LGo, BRa, DLSu, EFe et al.)—represent a typical winter showing. Out of place and in atypical habitat, a Cassin's Kingbird gobbled Chinese Pistache berries at a bustling urban intersection in n. *Fresno*, *Fresno* 19-22 Jan (Ernie Spragg, ph. GaW et al.). A Western Kingbird at *Rancho Cordova*, *Sacramento* 21 Jan (CrS) and another s. of *Tracy*, *San Joaquin* 15 Feb (Steve Huckabone) were considered early migrants. Noteworthy Northern Shrikes included one se. of *Rio Vista Junction*, *Solano* 14 Dec (Zach Smith) and another at *Folsom L.*, *Placer* 3-5 Jan (DaW, ph. Dan Brown et al.). A Plumbeous Vireo in and near *Southside Park*, *Sacramento* 11 Feb-6 Mar (CCo, KLL, ph. DKO, ph. Linda Pittman, m.ob.), a

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Cassin's Vireo in Eureka, *Humboldt* 19 Dec (RbF), where one was observed last winter, and a Warbling Vireo in Colma, *San Mateo* 10 Dec (R. Bright) were the only representatives of these species reported.

Steller's Jays staged an unusual descent into the low Sierra Nevada foothills of *Madera* and *Fresno*, with many reported on various dates throughout the period from the San Joaquin Experimental Range, *Madera*; near Millerton L., *Madera* and *Fresno*; and Watts Valley and Sanger, *Fresno*. Four reports of wintering Northern Rough-winged Swallows, three from *Santa Clara* and one from *Fresno*, was an average showing. A Bank Swallow at H.R.S. 27 Feb (RJR) provided the 3rd winter record for the Region. We received only nine reports of wintering Barn Swallows, down 77% from the recent five-year average. Also low were numbers of winter irruptives, with very few reports of Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Brown Creepers away from areas of residency. American Dippers carrying moss beneath a waterfall at Los Gatos Cr., *Santa Clara* 17 Jan (GaW) established an early date for nest building in the Region. However, observations of the birds carrying moss 17 Feb (GrH) and 28 Feb (WGB) revealed a protracted nest-building period. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was out of place, surrounded by a sea of agriculture, at Lemoore, *Kings* 25 Dec (Mark Stacy). A flock of 300 Mountain Bluebirds e. of Linden, *San Joaquin* 30 Jan (ph. Dan Brown) was a large group for the C.V. Large by any standard, a flock of 10,000+ American Robins was noted roosting along the E. Fork Russian R., *Mendocino* 10-31 Dec (J. Booth), and a total of 27,248 tallied on the Ukiah C.B.C., *Mendocino* 19 Dec (*fide* Cheryl Watson) was the highest tally of the species for any C.B.C. this winter.

THRASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Northern Mockingbird continued in *Alturas*, *Modoc* until 2 Dec (JLx). Sage Thrashers were in Reef City, *Kings* 6 Dec (JLt), downtown Redding 6 Dec-4 Jan (RoS, ph. NMo, RMo, JSL, BY, CY, m.ob.; *Shasta's* 3rd), and s. *Shasta Valley*, *Siskiyou* 19 Dec-3 Jan (Jim Flett). Our only Tennessee Warbler was in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 28 Dec-15 Jan (RyT, RbF, OsJ et al.). Seven of 8 Nashville Warblers were in coastal or bayside counties. The single exception was found on the Rio Co-sumnes C.B.C. at C.R.P. 5 Jan (WEH). A Virginia's Warbler was in Arcata, *Humboldt* 1 Jan-26 Feb (GAB, Jane Bloomfield, vt. RbF, ph. ScC, m.ob.). We received reports of 11 Yellow Warblers and 14 Hermit Warblers wintering in the Region, both numbers typical of recent years but well above historical aver-

ages. Marking the 5th Regional winter record, and first in winter for *Solano*, was a Yellow-throated Warbler in Benicia 20 Dec (ph. Nora H.; observer's full name withheld per request). Eight Palm Warblers was our lowest total and less than a third of our average over the past 20 winters. Our only Black-and-white Warbler was at Olema Marsh, *Marin* 19 Dec (RS). *Humboldt* accounted for both our American Redstarts, with one in Eureka 19 Dec+ (RbF, Janet Stock, m.ob.) and one at Manila Community Park 6 Jan (MHa). Northern Waterthrushes were at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 5 Dec-20 Feb (TKz, LTo, m.ob.), Inverness Park, *Marin* 19 Dec (TEa), Charleston Road Retention Basin, *Santa Clara* 21 Dec-15 Feb (MMR, m.ob.; 9th consecutive winter at this spot, *contra* our fall report), and Berkeley, *Alameda* 25 Feb (DEQ, Lowell Young). A MacGillivray's Warbler in Anderson, *Shasta* 16 Jan (Barbara Peck) made our first winter record for this species since 2001. While all 5 Wilson's Warblers were in coastal or bayside counties, a bird at Holland Tract 15 Dec (ph. JTz) furnished a first winter record for the e. portion of *Contra Costa*.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

An American Tree Sparrow near the Nevada state line 2 Dec was *Alpine's* first (JLD, JSL); another was along Bald Hills Rd., *Humboldt* 21 Jan (DCo, TKz, Jesse Sargent). *San Mateo* hosted 2 Clay-colored Sparrows, one in Menlo Park 1 Dec (Leonie Batkin, RSTh) and another in Half Moon Bay 16-19 Dec (Leonie Batkin, RSTh, GDg). *Napa* also recorded 2 Clay-colored: one near the Napa Valley Marina 13 Dec-17 Jan (DMo, JLx, m.ob.) and the other in St. Helena 27 Dec-14 Feb (†Bobbie Vierra). The only reported Brewer's Sparrow was in Lemoore, *Kings*, a county with few records for this species, on 13 Dec (Mark Stacy). A Lark Sparrow in Chester 16 Dec (BBg, David Arsenault) may have been the first in winter for *Plumas*. A Black-throated Sparrow found on the Springville C.B.C., *Tulare* 19 Dec-4 Jan (TKz, m.ob.) was in the same spot as one found on the 2007 C.B.C. The only Lark Bunting was s. of Elk Grove, *Sacramento* 5-18 Jan (AEEn, ph. Dan Brown, m.ob.). One has to wonder whether the long-term decline of this species documented by Breeding Bird Surveys (Sauer et al. 2007: <<http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs2006.html>>) is responsible for the apparent decline in occurrences in our Region. From 1989 to 2001, we aver-



Drawn to a ripe crop of Chinese Pistache berries, this itinerant Cassin's Kingbird frequented a busy urban intersection in north Fresno, Fresno County, California 19-22 (here 20) January 2010. Photograph by Gary Woods.

aged eight fall reports and two winter reports per year. Since then, we have averaged four in fall and less than one per year in winter. A Large-billed Savannah Sparrow (subspecies *rostratus*) was at Abbott's Lagoon 23 Dec (SNGH). A Nelson's Sparrow continued from fall throughout the period at Palo Alto Baylands, *Santa Clara* (m.ob.). We received reports of 23 Swamp Sparrows and 129 White-throated Sparrows. Two ad. Harris's Sparrows were in the same Cedarville, *Modoc* yard 23 Jan (ph. SCR), where a pair of first-year birds wintered last year. Two Harris's Sparrows were also together in Orick, *Humboldt* 23 Jan-3 Feb (Matt Hinton, DCo, TKz, m.ob.), and a single was in Redding, *Shasta* 29 Dec+ (Mitsy Marx). Reports of Dark-eyed Junco of the Pink-sided subspecies (*mearnsi*) in California are rarely documented well enough to rule out female Oregon Junco (subspecies *oreganus*), but a well-documented Pink-sided in Lee Vining, *Mono* 10-20 Dec (ph. JuH) was an exception. Small numbers of Lapland Longspurs were reported from *Humboldt*, *Siskiyou*, *Modoc*, *Napa*, and *S.F.* Our only McCown's Longspur of the season was along County Line Rd. in *Yolo* 22 Jan (TEa), and single Chestnut-collareds were on the Valensin portion of C.R.P. 5 Jan (AEEn) and at the corner of Rds. 27 and 102b, *Yolo* 23 Jan (TEa).

Santa Cruz produced our only Summer Tanagers, with one bird returning for its 3rd winter at La Selva Beach 9 Dec-3 Jan (Freddie Menge) and another in Seaciff 25 Feb (DLSu). Four of our 7 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in *Santa Cruz*; the others were in *Humboldt*, *S.F.*,

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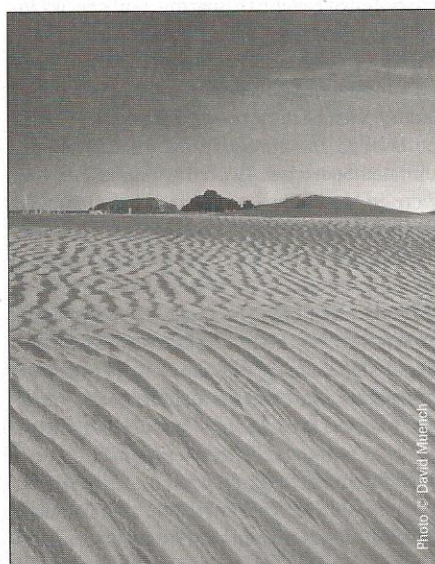


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SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

and Marin. Monterey had 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks: one in Royal Oaks 11 Dec–15 Feb (Laura Rodriguez, ph. Betty Cost) and another at the Big Sur R. mouth 20 Dec (ph. Carol Rose, L. Rose et al.). A Black-headed Grosbeak in Saratoga, *Santa Clara* 27 Feb (Dave Johnston, *fide* SCR) likely wintered, as this would be a very early date for a spring migrant. There is no doubt that the Black-headed Grosbeak first reported in fall from Sutter Creek, *Amador* wintered, as it was present until at least 27 Jan (Mary Perone), long enough to experience significant snowfall at this Sierra foothill (500 m) location. Indigo Buntings were at San Bruno, *San Mateo* 13 Feb and 14 Mar (ph. Ann Parker) and at New Brighton S.B., *Santa Cruz* 22–23 Feb (DLSu).

A female Rusty Blackbird in a large black-bird flock at Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 24 Jan–26 Feb (RbF) might have been the same bird found in Nov. Orchard Orioles were in Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 16–19 Dec (Leonie Batkin, RSTh, m.ob.), Fortuna, *Humboldt* 3 Jan (Anthony Desch, *fide* GSL), and McKinleyville, *Humboldt* 8–10 Feb (KMS, KBu, Cindy Moyer). A Hooded Oriole in Red Bluff 30 Nov–8 Dec (ph. Robin Woolcott, m.ob.) was likely *Tehama's* first in winter. Hooded Orioles were also in Menlo Park, *San Mateo* 5–22 Dec (PKB, B. Power; 5th consecutive winter at this location), Ben Lomond, *Santa Cruz* 17 Dec–6 Feb (Debbie Goodell, AMR), and Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 4–6 Jan (Karen Shihadeh). Nine Bullock's Orioles included 4 in *Santa Cruz*, 3 in *Humboldt*, and one each in *San Mateo* and *Mendocino*. A Baltimore Oriole was in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 28 Dec–1 Jan (ph. RyT, RbF, SRv et al.). The only Cassin's Finches reported from unexpected locations were in *Santa Cruz*: one at Big Basin Redwoods S.P. 2 Jan (DLSu) and one at the upper end of the U.C. Santa Cruz campus 17 Feb (SGe).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Ken Able (*Lassen*), R. J. Adams, David Armstrong, Bob Battagin, Murray Berner (*Napa*), Gary A. Bloomfield, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Penelope K. Bowen, Matthew Brady, Phil D. Brown, Lucas Brug, Ray Bruun, Ken Burton, Scott Carey, Rita Carratello, Daryl Coldren, Chris Conard (*Sacramento*), Rudy C. Darling (*Nevada*), Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), Gary Deghi, Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Colin P. Dillingham (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Peggy L. Don, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Alan M. Eisner, Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias (*Del Norte*), Andrew Engilis, Eric Feuss, Rob Fowler (*Humboldt*), Maureen Geiger, Steve Gerow (*Santa Cruz*), Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*),

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