

Spokane, *Spokane* 30 Jan (TL) and 65 at Mary Ann Creek, *Okanogan* 18 Feb (BW, RS). The White-winged that visited Puyallup, *Pierce* 8 Jan (CW) was very rare for the w. Washington lowlands, while 2 near Greenwater, *Pierce* 8 Jan (RS) were in montane habitat where more expected, though still rare. A Regionwide irruption of Common Redpolls was most evident in Washington; the bulk of 475+ tallied on Washington's westside were in that state's northwesternmost counties, with a high count of 210 at L. Terrell, *Whatcom* 31 Jan (RM, CW). Goodly numbers reached the Puget Trough, but only a handful of redpolls pushed w. of the PT and southward into sw. Washington and w. Oregon. Fewer than 20 were noted in w. Oregon; the most southerly, in *Coos* 8 Dec (J. Metzler) and 2-21 Jan (K. Johnson), provided that county's 5th and 6th records. As expected, redpolls were most numerous in ne. Washington, highlighted by a flock of 950 near Chesaw, *Okanogan* 10 Feb (K. Tran); 300 at Nine Mile Canyon, *Walla Walla* 16 Jan (M&MLD) topped the se. Washington reports. In e. Oregon, the flight was most evident in *Wallowa*, which gets a few redpolls most

winters; 150 at Enterprise 16 Dec (C. Tumer) was the high count. Small flocks strayed as far s. and w. as *Klamath* and *Deschutes*, with 30 redpolls through the season at Tumalo Falls (PL). This irruptive event featured reports of 10 different **Hoary Redpolls** in e. Washington. If correct, this tally would represent a seasonal record, but only about half of these sightings have been documented and submitted to the Washington B.R.C. Washington has just 15 accepted records for Hoary Redpoll, only one of those from the westside. A well-documented Hoary visited Samish I., *Skagit* 2 Jan (ph. RM). Lesser Goldfinches are extending their range northward beyond *Clark*, yet there are very few records for nw. Washington, so one at Bellingham 24 Feb (*fide* MB) was noteworthy. A Regional first **Lesser Goldfinch x American Goldfinch** hybrid enlivened Tacoma 28 Dec (ph. M. Charest).

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This was an exceptionally dry winter, with rainfall less than half the average throughout nearly the entire Region. Christmas Bird Counts benefited from the good

weather, with abundance and diversity correspondingly high for most counts. In dramatic contrast to the generally mild weather, the period began with an epic storm mainly affecting the southern half of the Region. Winds in the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada exceeded 240 km/hr! In many valleys with a northeastern orientation, hundreds of trees were toppled like dominoes, leaving large areas looking as though they had been hit with an enormous avalanche or a volcanic pyroclastic flow. The full effect of this storm was not understood until the spring thaw allowed a thorough assessment. On the eve of that storm, the first of our completely unprecedented Regional total of Common Redpolls appeared in Mono County. We can often go a decade or more between redpoll observations, so eight birds distributed across coastal, Central Valley, Great Basin, Cascades, and Sierra locations was mind-boggling. The Region's second Falcated Duck was generally cooperative and easily observed for over two months. Birders may do well to pay a lot more attention to snipe, as we received one winter and two (belated) fall reports of Common Snipe, a species previously unrecorded in the Region.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, *Sacramento*); F.I. (Southeast Farallon

Northern California

I. *San Francisco*); G.G.P. (Golden Gate Park, *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., *Alameda*); LACNHM (Los Angeles County Natural History Museum); PRBO (PRBO Conservation Science); S.F. (*San Francisco*, not State Forest). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933.

WATERFOWL

A goose photographed at Sutter N.W.R., *Sutter* 23 Dec was identified as a Greater White-fronted Goose x Emperor Goose hybrid (ph. JLa, BED, ph. BWb). Perhaps even more surprising, 2 similar birds (perhaps one being the same?) were photographed last season 9 Oct at Delevan N.W.R., *Colusa* (ph. Dan Skalos). High numbers of blue-morph Ross's Geese were found again this season, with at least 6 at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 13 Feb (ph. PJM) and 5 still present there the next day (Ken Schneider). Three **Richardson's Cackling Geese** (nominate *hutchinsii*) well photographed at Cottonwood L. 27-29 Jan (ph. MJM) were the first found in *Santa Clara* and apparently also the first for the Region. The first Lesser Canada Goose (*parvipes*) for *San Mateo* was at Venice S.B. 31 Jan-2 Feb (RSTh). Two Dusky Canada

Geese (*occidentalis*) continued in Morgan Hill 22 Dec, and another was found in s. San Jose 4 Feb (both *Santa Clara*; both SCR); another Dusky at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 1 Jan (PJM) may have been the same bird found there on the same date last winter. Trumpeter Swans were reported in unprecedented numbers, most remarkable being a whopping 24 birds at Modoc N.W.R., *Modoc* 28-30 Dec (ph., †SCR). Two Trumpeters were 6 km ne. of Tipton, *Tulare* 8-10 Dec (Dane Fagundes, ph. m.ob.), up to 5 were along Esquon Rd., *Butte* 13 Dec-9 Jan (JHS, ph. JLa, m.ob.), 2 were at Mono L. 8 Jan+ (2nd *Mono* record; Nancy Devon, Jean Dillingham et al., ph. KNN, m.ob.), and 2 were at the Eel R. estuary 4 Feb (2nd or 3rd record for *Humboldt*; †DCo, †TKz). A coastal incursion of Tundra Swans 1-3 Dec brought 82 birds to Bolinas, *Marin* 1-2 Dec (KH), 100 to Napa, *Napa* 2 Dec (MBe), and 48 to the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 1 Dec (BHL), as well as smaller numbers to *Contra Costa*, *Alameda*, *S.F.*, *San Mateo*, and *Santa Cruz*. A family group of 6 Tundras along Hwy. 140 near the *Merced* line apparently the first record of this species for *Mariposa* (†DLSu). Single Bewick's Swans were 2 km e. of Richvale 13 Dec and at Esquon Ranch 18 Dec (both *Butte*; both JHS).

The Region's 2nd and state's 3rd **Falcated Duck**, an ad. male, was enjoyed by hundreds of birders at Colusa N.W.R., *Colusa* 8 Dec-10 Feb (Gary Fregien, Dan Tankersley, ph. m.ob.). A Eurasian Wigeon at Penn Valley 28-29 Jan was *Nevada's* 5th (Sherry Bartolucci, ph. RCD, m.ob.); other inland records of note included a male in *Mariposa* 4 Jan (†DLSu) and 2 each in *Placer* (ph. Bonnie Gavin, Chad Aakre) and *Amador* (DMr). Eleven Common Teal plus 4 intergrades in eight counties 8 Dec+ made an above-average total. A remarkable 1085 Red-heads on the Alviso ponds 18 Dec (MMR, SCR) nearly doubled *Santa Clara's* previous continued there through 10 Jan (WGB). Tufted Duck reports included males at L. Merritt, *Alameda* through the period (m.ob.), at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* through 19 Jan (AKI, DMO), and at Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa* 7 Jan-20 Feb (DSW et al.), and females at L. Hennessey, *Napa* through 1 Jan (Alex Merritt, MBe, m.ob.) and at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced* 18 Feb (KVV). *Napa* hosted unusual *Aythya* hybrids, with the continuing female Lesser Scaup x Ring-necked Duck at L. Hennessey through 2 Jan (MBe, Alex Merritt) and a Greater Scaup x Ring-necked Duck at the Napa W.T.P. 8 Feb (MBe). White-winged Scoters were present in greater numbers than in recent winters, with at least 131 in *Monterey* in early Feb (m.ob.) being reminiscent of totals from decades ago; notable inland birds were at O'Neill Forebay,

Merced 22 Jan (Ellen Bluestein, PBC) and with a Surf Scoter at Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa* 10 Feb (Albert Linkowski). The *Shasta* Black Scoter continued at Redding through the period (m.ob.). One at Richmond, *Contra Costa* 8 Jan-17 Feb (John Harris, ph. Jim Scarff, m.ob.) was inside S.F. Bay, where rare. A total of 43 Long-tailed Ducks in 12 counties included *Lake's* 7th at Clear L. 28 Dec (Eugene Rentsch) and one far inland near Fall River Mills, *Shasta* 17-27 Dec (ph. KAB et al.). Among inland Red-breasted Mergansers were a remarkable 13 with 160 Common Mergansers at L. Almanor, *Plumas* 5 Feb (CPD, SEd, ADE).

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

A juv. Yellow-billed Loon was along the Seaside, *Monterey* coastline 31 Jan-8 Feb (BJW, ph. BLS, ph. DR, m.ob.). The only inland Red-necked Grebe was near Gustine, *Merced* 20 Jan (GHT, DSt). Only a few Black-vented Shearwaters appeared, mostly around Monterey Bay, where a Manx Shearwater was 6.5 km sw. of Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 24 Feb (RT, Mike Merlow). While *Yolo's* West Sacramento Brown Pelican continued throughout the period, the county's 5th record, a juv. at the Yolo County Landfill 8 Feb, was a banded bird that had been rescued from Petaluma, *Sonoma*, rehabbed, and released in Monterey Bay last Nov (SCH). Another inland Brown Pelican was se. of Tracy, *San Joaquin* 14 Nov-10 Dec (MtB, JCS). White-faced Ibis continued their recent trend of wintering along the cen. coast, with at least two dozen found in five counties from *Sonoma* to *Monterey*.

Sonoma's Common Black-Hawk was seen again at Laguna de Santa Rosa 5 Jan (ph. Stan Moore). Both Broad-winged Hawk reports were from *Santa Cruz*, an ad. over Capitola 30 Dec (DLSu) and one at Santa Cruz 23 Feb (LGo). Winter Swainson's Hawks were reported in above-average numbers away from their traditional wintering areas, with reports from 11 counties. Coastal reports included singles from *Marin* 17 Dec (DWm, Tim Behr), *Napa* 1 Dec (MBe), and *Santa Cruz/Monterey* 28 Jan (†DLEK, Connie Vigno). Harlan's Hawks continue to be reported in increasing numbers, with 13 found in six counties this winter, including 5 in *San Joaquin* through 14 Feb (all DGY) and at least 4 in *Humboldt* through 21 Feb (m.ob.). The *Del Norte* Crested Caracara continued near Fort Dick through the period (ADB et al.). Another was photographed at Rohnert Park, *Sonoma* in late Feb (ph. Steve Bryan). A Yellow Rail was seen at Tomales Bay, *Marin* 1 Dec (JGE). Clapper Rails continued to be seen at S.F.'s Heron's Head Park (DMO, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS

In addition to the usual small number of Pacific

Golden-Plovers wintering at traditional coastal locations, one spent 8 Dec-20 Feb inside S.F. Bay at Millbrae and Foster City, *San Mateo* (Don Pendleton, Rich Ferrick, m.ob.). A Snowy Plover found on the C.B.C. at Mono L. 27-28 Dec (ph. CPD, Jean H. Dillingham) was the first for *Mono* in winter; it was accompanied by other unusual winter *Mono* shorebirds, including 2 Dunlin and 2 Long-billed Dowitchers (CPD). Another unexpected inland shorebird was a Greater Yellowlegs at Lake-of-the-Pines W.T.P., *Nevada* 6 Jan (ph. RCD). A late Pectoral Sandpiper was 6 km ne. of Tipton, *Tulare* 8 Dec (SDS). Two Stilt Sandpipers in Alviso 18 Dec and 15 Jan (ph. SCR; ph., †MMR, MJM) supplied the first winter record for *Santa Clara*; the only other one reported was at the Salinas W.T.P., *Monterey* 5 Jan (ph. KVV). Wintering Ruffs continued from fall at the Salinas W.T.P., *Monterey* through the period (ph. BTM, KVV, BLS, ph. DR et al.) and along Sante Fe Grade, *Merced* through 26 Jan, the latter joined by a Reeve 16-26 Jan (KVV, ph. Cameron Cox, ph. Marie Stewart). Other wintering Ruffs included males at Hudeman Slough, *Sonoma* 8 Dec+ (MBe, PBC, RAR, ph. Stuart Healy, m.ob.) and at Crittenden Marsh, *Santa Clara* 19 Dec-22 Feb (MJM, ph. MMR, ph. m.ob.). Two additional Ruffs stayed for briefer periods, the 2nd for C.R.P. 3-12 Jan (JTr, ph. WEH) and one at H.R.S. 23-24 Jan (Rich Nicholson, Stephanie Floyd, RJR). A snipe photographed at Centerville, *Humboldt* 16 Jan (ph. TEa) may have been the Region's first and state's 2nd **Common Snipe**, but fall reports from *Marin* 3 Nov-17 Dec and *Yolo* 8 Nov submitted to the C.B.R.C. would predate it (p.a.). A Wilson's Phalarope at Alviso 18 Dec and 15 Jan provided *Santa Clara's* 2nd winter record (ph. MMR, SCR, MJM).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

The San Rafael, *Marin* Laughing Gull, present since Sep 2010, continued through the period (FHa). The only Franklin's Gull was at Fernbridge, *Humboldt* 13-17 Jan (TEa et al.). Thirteen Mew Gulls were inland as far n. as *Shasta* and s. to *Kings*, fewer than during last winter's influx but still above average. A Western Gull at the American Avenue Landfill, *Fresno* 12 Jan (GaW, LyH, JND) was the farthest inland of any reported. Inland Thayer's Gull numbers have steadily increased over the past two decades, with the highest concentrations at landfills, but numbers seem to have skyrocketed the past few years. Even following the report of 1000 in *San Joaquin/Stanislaus* in Mar 2011, 400 at the American Avenue Landfill, *Fresno* 12 Jan (GaW, LyH, JND) is an astounding total, particularly since *Fresno's* previous high count, recorded just last Mar, was only 50! A Thayer's Gull near Yuba City 12 Dec (JLa) provided *Sutter's* 6th record, and another at *Sacramento*

N.W.R. 12 Feb (†AJ) represented *Glenn's* 2nd. Two first-cycle Vega Gulls were reported, one at the Yolo County Landfill, *Yolo* 9 Jan (SCH) and the other at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 7 Feb (AJ). Among several Iceland Gulls reported, the best documented was a first-cycle bird, possibly of the nominate subspecies, at Fort Baker, *San Francisco/Marin* 2-9 Feb (ph. SCH, m.ob.). A first-cycle gull at Napa Valley College, *Napa* 5-6 Feb (ph. MBe et al.) showed the features of a Kumlien's Iceland Gull but was similar to some birds that have not been accepted by the C.B.R.C. over concerns about variability among paler Thayer's Gulls.

A second-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull found s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 7 Sep 2011 continued through 18 Feb (MSy, ph. SDS, ph. Eugene Hunn), and an ad. first seen at Clearlake, *Lake* 21 Nov 2011 was seen again 20 Jan (JRW). Other ads. were at the Yolo County Landfill, *Yolo* 10 Dec (ph. SCH) and in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 18 Dec (ph. David McIntyre, Dale Stallecker). The total of 8 Slaty-backed Gulls reported was above our recent average. An ad. at Fremont, *Alameda* 31 Jan (ph. Jerry Ting) was likely the same individual present there in Nov. Comparison of bill and feather patterns in photographs revealed that a second-cycle bird at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 30 Jan (ph. AJ) was the same as one 43 km away at Alviso 11 & 18 Feb (ph. SCR et al.) that provided *Santa Clara's* 2nd record. At Fort Baker, *San Francisco/Marin*, an ad. and a second-cycle Slaty-backed Gull were present 7-9 Feb (TEa, ph. JM, m.ob.). Others included a third-cycle individual at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 9-11 Feb (RS et al.), different ads. in *San Mateo* at San Gregorio S.B. 11 Feb (†RSTh, Michael Scott) and Half Moon Bay 20 Feb (ph. AJ), and an ad. at the Russian R. mouth, *Sonoma* 20-21 Feb (ph. TEa et al.). Glaucous-winged Gulls were scattered among a number of C.V. counties, from *Tulare* n. to *Tehama*. Of about 60 Glaucous Gulls reported, birds far inland included 2 at the Modesto W.T.P., *Stanislaus* 30 Dec (JHG), 2 at the American Avenue Landfill, *Fresno* 12 Jan (GaW, LyH, JND), and one s. of Corcoran that was seen in both *Tulare* 3 Feb (ph. Dane Fagundes) and *Kings* 5-7 Feb (ph. MSy et al.). Wintering Caspian Terns in Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* peaked at 8 on 30 Jan (RbF). An Elegant Tern at Seabright S.B. and Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz* 23-25 Dec (PDB, SGe et al.) and a Pigeon Guillemot at Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* 2 Jan (RLeV) were both unusual in winter. Two rare *Sonoma* alcids, a Long-billed Murrelet off Duncan's Landing 4 Dec (RS) and a Parakeet Auklet 8 km w. of Bodega Bay 28 Jan (†Eugene Hunn, PBC), await C.B.R.C. review. Single Horned Puffins included an exhausted bird on the beach at Pajaro Dunes, *Santa Cruz*

18 Jan (Gary Kittleson) and one just outside Monterey Harbor, *Monterey* 26 Jan (RT).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Illustrating the degree to which numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons can vary between neighboring areas were the disparate tallies from two C.B.C.s. At 51, the total from San Felipe Valley, *Santa Clara* on the Calero-Morgan Hill C.B.C. 30 Dec (MMR) was down from a high of 449 in 2009. In contrast, a total of 1348 on the Santa Cruz C.B.C., *Santa Cruz* 17 Dec represented 170% of the 10-year average (fide DLSu). The invasion of Eurasian Collared-Doves continued unabated. Representative were new high counts of 76 for the Benicia C.B.C., *Solano* 19 Dec (fide RLCL), 34 for the Eagle Lake C.B.C., *Lassen* 15 Dec (fide KAB), and 6 for the Mt. Hamilton C.B.C., *Santa Clara* 2 Jan (WGB, Richard Page), where none had been recorded previously. Following the first *Tulare* records from 2009, 3 Common Ground-Doves were e. of Earlimart 7 Dec (SDS), and 2, possibly involving some of the same birds, were ne. of Earlimart 6 Feb (Dane Fagundes).

The Greater Roadrunner mentioned last season from urban Clovis, *Fresno* was last reported from that area 3 Dec (Connie Luczo). Western Screech-Owls were previously unknown in *Mono* in winter, so 2 road-killed birds, one on Hwy. 167 n. of Mono L. 24 Dec and another at Topaz 19 Jan (both KNN), were of interest. A Burrowing Owl in Sierra Valley 15 Dec (SEd, ADE, EP, ph. PRO) established a first winter record for *Plumas*. Reports of roughly 75 Short-eared Owls from 15 counties represented a good showing. A Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Sutter Buttes 4 Jan (ph. PBS) established the first record for *Sutter*. *Mendocino's* 3rd winter Common Poorwill record came about by unusual circumstances: a nighttime house fire in Ocean Meadows 20 Jan (KHv) apparently stirred up a bird that may have been hibernating on the gravel roof of the house.

A flock of about 250 White-throated Swifts at Shaver L., *Fresno* 7 Jan (JTz) was a large winter group for anywhere in the Region. We received two reports of Black-chinned Hummingbirds, neither of which included photographs or other documentation. This species is essentially unknown and unexpected in the Region in winter, so any record should be carefully documented. Two Rufous Hummingbirds at the U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum, first noted last season, remained through the period, establishing the first overwintering occurrences for *Santa Cruz* (SGe et al.). Record early arrivals were also observed 24 Jan at H.R.S. (RJr) and 28 Jan ne. of Scotts Valley, *Santa Cruz* (BRM, KHM). Sixteen Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included 2 inland: one continuing from last season below Kaweah

L., *Tulare* 2 Dec (Dane Fagundes), and another at the Micke Grove Golf Links s. of Lodi, *San Joaquin* 18 Dec (FrO, Joanne Katanic). Similarly, 15 Red-naped Sapsuckers were nearly all coastal. The exception was one at East Lawn Cemetery, *Sacramento* 13 Dec-24 Feb (Mary Beth Metcalf, MGg, GEw, m.ob.).

Our only Least Flycatcher was at Rangle Ranch R.P. in Sebastopol, *Sonoma* 24 Jan-6 Feb (DN, LHg, m.ob.). Six Hammond's Flycatchers, 5 inland and one coastal, represented a good showing. A Dusky Flycatcher at Caswell Memorial S.P. 17-18 Jan (ph. JND) established the first winter record for *San Joaquin* and provided one of very few for the C.V. Another, continuing from last season, was at Lighthouse Field S.B., *Santa Cruz* through 24 Dec (SGe, AMR et al.). Six Pacific-slope Flycatchers were split, with 3 coastal and 3 inland. The Benicia C.B.C., *Solano* racked up an impressive total of 280 Black Phoebe 19 Dec (fide RLCL). Seven Eastern Phoebes were all coastal or nearly so. Four Vermilion Flycatchers were found: one at L. Elizabeth in Fremont lingering from last season through 9 Dec (*Alameda's* first; m.ob.), remarkably another in *Alameda* at w. Livermore 7 Dec (Matt Ricketts, Eric Lichtwardt), one apparently returning for a 2nd year at the Valley Oaks G.C., *Visalia, Tulare* 12 Jan-22 Feb (Christina Sundstrom, ph. SDS et al.), and another on Gun Club Rd., *Merced* 15 Jan+ (Jean Okuye, KVV). Two Dusky-capped Flycatchers included one in *Santa Cruz* along the lower San Lorenzo R. 17 Dec-16 Jan (Jered Karr, ph. m.ob.) and one in G.G.P. 27 Dec-28 Jan (ASH, ph. MWE, et al.). Providing an exceptional winter record for the Region, an Ash-throated Flycatcher surprised a birder in *Mariposa* along Hwy. 140 near Old Hwy. on 10 Feb (†Cin-Ty Lee). Perhaps the first Dec record of Cassin's Kingbird for *San Joaquin* was of a bird at Tracy S.T.P. 5-9 Dec (Terry Ronneberg, John Blades). Three Western Kingbirds, one near Folsom, *Sacramento* 12 Dec-2 Jan (SAbb, BWb), one on the Oakland C.B.C. at Dunsmuir, *Alameda* 18 Dec (Pat Bacchetti), and another on the Benicia C.B.C. along Hwy. 580, *Solano* 19 Dec (SRs, DRs, RMu), were late fall migrants or possibly overwintering. In contrast, one on S. Waverly Rd., *San Joaquin* 12 Feb (Terry & Jean Ronneberg) and another at Livermore, *Alameda* 24 Feb (DGY) may have been very early spring migrants. Six Tropical Kingbirds from five coastal or near-coastal counties represented an above-average showing.

The southernmost Northern Shrike was at Folsom Lake S.R.A., *El Dorado* 26 Dec (Kevin Thomas). A Plumbeous Vireo at San Lorenzo Park 28 Dec-11 Feb (Kathy Kuyper, SGe, AMR, ph. m.ob.) furnished the first winter record for *Santa Cruz*. A total of 11 Cassin's Vireos included 5 in *Humboldt*. Two Warbling Vireos

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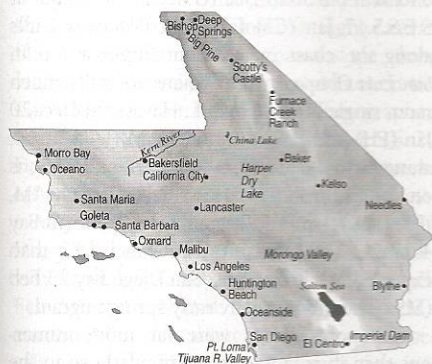
Swolgaard, Richard Ternullo, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz (E.I.), Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Kent Van Vuren (*Merced*), Bruce Webb, Brian J. Weed, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Denise S. Wight, Dan Williams, David Wimpfheimer, Gary Woods, David G. Yee, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺

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Most of the Region received precipitation well below average through the winter, and while temperatures in December were a bit cooler than normal, January and February were slightly to significantly warmer than average. Highlights this winter had a distinct northern and Asian flavor, including California's first Common Snipe and second Red-flanked Bluetail, along with Southern California's first Gyrfalcon and Common Redpoll, and its third Arctic Loon. Numbers of many normally scarce sparrow species, notably Clay-colored Sparrows, were higher than normal. There was essentially no influx of such irruptive species as Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of Salton Sea, Riverside); P.M.N.A.S. (Pt.

Mugu N.A.S., Ventura); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara R. estuary near Ventura, Ventura); S.E.S.S. (s. end of Salton Sea, Imperial); S.J.W.A. (San Jacinto Wildlife Area near Lakeview, Riverside); S.J.W.S. (San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine, Orange); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg A.F.B., nw. Santa Barbara). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). Because most rarities in s. California are seen by multiple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and/or identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review list (see <www.californiabirds.org>) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

The southernmost Tundra Swans were single imms. at S.E.S.S. 19 Dec–7 Jan (OJ), at L. Henshaw, San Diego 26–31 Dec (SC), and near Ramona, San Diego 2–31 Jan (MM). A Eurasian Wigeon at Palm Springs, Riverside 1 Dec (BMA) and at least 2 around S.E.S.S. 20–26 Dec (GMC) were the only 3 of the 25–30 in the Region reported from e. of the mountains. Single Eurasian Teal were on Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 10–19 Feb (JSR), S.J.W.S. 4 Dec–11 Mar (TFH), and in Anaheim, Orange 14 Jan–17 Mar (DRW); this subspecies of Green-winged Teal is scarce but annual in s. California, though more numerous to the north. A Harlequin Duck at Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo 29 Dec–22 Feb (VM) was the only one reported in s. California this winter. The only Surf Scoters found inland were one at Parker Dam, San Bernardino 24

Southern California

Nov–5 Feb (DVanP), 2 on the San Bernardino portion of L. Havasu 7–20 Jan (DVanP), and up to 2 at N.E.S.S. 2–15 Jan (CAM, RMCK). Only 3 White-winged Scoters were reported along the coast s. of Pt. Conception, but one inland on Quail L., Los Angeles 25 Nov was still present 13 Jan (KLG). Fourteen Black Scoters s. of Pt. Conception included an impressive 6 together at Bolsa Chica, Orange 29 Jan (BED); in addition, one was inland at N.E.S.S. 2 Jan (CAM). The 11 Long-tailed Ducks this winter included one a short distance inland on L. Casitas, Ventura 17 Dec–1 Mar (KK), with the rest along the coast. Unexpected were single Barrow's Goldeneyes on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, Inyo 11–18 Jan (JLD), at L. Isabella, Kern 1 Jan–2 Feb (AMS), on Quail L. 28 Dec–1 Jan (DVanP), and at S.E.S.S. 20 Dec (OJ), all being w. of the Colorado R., where of annual occurrence.

Single Red-throated Loons on Castaic Lagoon, Los Angeles 12 Jan–7 Apr (JLD), in e. Anaheim, Orange 18–25 Feb (DRW), and at S.J.W.S. 1–2 Jan (BED) were all a short distance inland, as was a Pacific Loon on Castaic Lagoon 10 Jan–12 Mar (JSF), while single Red-throated Loons on L. Havasu 30 Nov–14 Dec (LH) and 9 Dec (LH), along with a Pacific Loon there 12 Dec (LH), were well inland at a location where proving rare but regular. An ad. Arctic Loon at the San Simeon Cr. mouth 13–15 Jan (CAM, TME) provides the 2nd record for San Luis Obispo and the 3rd for this Region. About 150 Horned Grebes on L. Perris, Riverside 20 Feb (CMCG) is no doubt the largest single flock recorded inland in s. California, and 16 at N.E.S.S. 18 Feb (CMCG) is the largest num-