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 P.T 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).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Knute Andersson, Range Bayer (*Lincoln*), Gary Bletsch, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Mike & MerryLynn Denny, Dennis

Duffy, Shawneen Finnegan (Oregon), Jeff Fleischer, Cathy Flick, Andy Frank, George Gerdts (GGe), Greg Gillson (Washington, thebirdguide pelagics), Mike Golden, Dean Hale, Anne Heyerly, Dan Heyerly, Randy Hill, Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, Michael Hobbs, Stuart Johnston (Hood River, Klickitat, Skamania), Randy Knapp, Bruce Labar, Peter Low, Ryan Merrill (Washington), Harry Nehls (Oregon), Vic Nelson, Steve Nord, Mike Patterson (Clatsop), Tim O'Brien, George Pagos, W. Douglas Robinson, Tim Rodenkirk (Coos, Curry, coastal Lane); Em Scattaregia, Ryan Shaw, Stefan Schlick, Steve Shunk, Kevin Spencer, Andy Stepniewski, Noah Strycker, John Sullivan, Dave Trochlell (Union, Wallowa), Dan Waggoner, Terry J. Wahl, Jay Withgott, Charlie Wright (eBird).

David Irons, 2544 NW Marshall Street,
Portland, Oregon 97210, (Ilsdirons@msn.com)
Brad Waggoner, 7865 Fletcher Bay Road NE, Bainbridge
Island, Washington 98110,(wagtail@sounddsl.com)
Ryan Merrill, 1616 10th Street W,
Kirkland, Washington 98033, (rjm284@gmail.com)

# PL.St. Crescent R. Yreka Klamath Basin Refuges Arcata Eureka Redding Lake Almanor Honey Lake Ochico Fort Bragge Sacramento Valey Point Arena San Francisco San Jose San Jo

Ed Pandolfino (Thrashers to Finches)
Stephen C. Rottenborn (Loons to
Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)
Michael M. Rogers (Waterfowl to
Quail, Herons to Shorebirds)
Jeff N. Davis (Doves to Thrushes)

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 Whitefronted 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 (BHI), 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 Redheads on the Alviso ponds 18 Dec (MMR, SCR) nearly doubled Santa Clara's previous high count set just last season; similar numbers 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 Redbreasted 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 Rednecked 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 Claras 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.). Thisteen Mew Gulls were inland as far n. as Shasta and s. to Kings, fewer than during last winters influx but still above average. A Western Gull at the American Avenue Landfill, Fresno 12 🛌 (GaW, LyH, JND) was the farthest inland of 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 pass few years. Even following the report of 1000 in San Joaquin/Stanislaus in Mar 2011, 400 m the American Avenue Landfill, Fresno 12 Jan (GaW, LyH, JND) is an astounding total, ticularly since Fresno's previous high count. corded just last Mar, was only 50! A Thayers Gull near Yuba City 12 Dec (JLa) provided Sutter's 6th record, and another at Sacramerus

N.W. Two f the Y the o (AJ). best of bly o San F A firs 5-6 F of a I some C.B.R paler A found tinue Euger lake. (JRW) Landf Santa Stalle report at Fre was 1 in No terns

cycle

(ph. A

Alvisc

vided

San Fi

Slaty-

ph. JN indivi

et al.)

gorio Half N

the Ru

TEa e

tered

Tulare

Gulls

the M

2 at th

Jan (C

that w

Fagun

Winte

Humbe

Elegar

Bridge

et al.)

Mendo

winter

Murre

Parake

(†Euge

Single

bird o

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 secondcycle 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 Shorteared 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 Phoebes 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 Ronnenberg) 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

included one at O'Neill Ranch, Santa Cruz 17 Dec (DLSu) and another at Los Capitancillos percolation ponds, Santa Clara 6 Jan (ph. JPa). A Blue Jay that visited a backyard feeder in Chico, Butte 25 Dec+ thrilled many birders (Tim & Denise Devine, ph. m.ob.). Apparently wintering Northern Rough-winged Swallows included one at Friant, Fresno 27 & 31 Dec (JTz, EE), one at Nicasio, Marin 24 Jan (BBg), and as many as 4 at C.R.P. 13-14 Jan (JTr, CCo, m.ob.). A total of 18 reports of Barn Swallow included those of 2 inland birds, one from near Red Bluff, Tehama 24 Feb (BED), possibly an early spring migrant, and one from Crowley L., Mono 14 Jan (ph. DHo).

As noted in fall, irruptive Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers were absent through the winter. The **Winter Wren** found last season at C.R.P. continued through 25 Feb (vt. CCo, JTr). A Mountain Bluebird at Sierra Rd. summit 17 Dec (ph. MJM) and one to 2 others along Coyote Cr. Trail n. of Hwy. 237 in San Jose 3-20 Feb (PDu, ph. Chad Yarbrough, ph. m.ob.) were the first for *Santa Clara* since Jan 2000. Reports of Townsend's Solitaire away from areas of residency involved 8 birds from four coastal counties: *Humboldt*, *Sonoma*, *Marin*, and *San Francisco*.

### **THRASHERS THROUGH FINCHES**

A Northern Mockingbird at Eagle L., Lassen 15 Dec (JLD, KAb, Terry Hunt) was completely unexpected at this location. Sage Thrashers were on the C.V. floor 26 Feb in San Joaquin sw. of Camanche Res. (Linda Pittman) and at San Joaquin N.W.R., Stanislaus (Ralph Baker). A Red-throated Pipit continued from fall through 6 Dec at the San Jose-Santa Clara W.T.P., Santa Clara (SCR) to provide an extremely rare winter record for the Region. Our only Bohemian Waxwing was in a flock of Cedars at L. Hennessy, Napa 28 Dec (RAR). Lapland Longspurs were sparsely reported from a few coastal locations in Humboldt, Marin, and S.F., with the only inland birds along Rat Farm Rd., Shasta 5 Dec (KAb, Terry Hunt, m.ob.). The Shasta Lapland was joined by a Chestnut-collared Longspur 5 Dec (KAb, Terry Hunt). Single Chestnutcollareds were also at Pt. Reyes, Marin 4 Dec (RDiG) and C.R.P. 9 Feb (JTr). Snow Bunting reports (p.a.) came from Humboldt, with 2 on the Eel R. Spit 1 Jan (KBu, Greg Chapman) and 3 on Bald Jesse Mt. 17 Jan (KGR, Rachel Smith, SMcA), plus one in Del Norte n. of Crescent City 16 Jan (TKz).

The most notable aspect of warbler observations was the relative abundance of westernbreeding Neotropical migrants wintering in the Region. We received two to three times the average number of reports of Nashville, Mac-Gillivray's, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Hermit, and Wilson's Warblers. This phenomenon was widely reported, especially from coastal counties, but it is impossible to say how much was due to more birds being present or to more birders taking advantage of the dry weather.

Charleston Road marsh, Santa Clara hosted Northern Waterthrushes for the 11th consecutive winter, with at least 2 present through 26 Jan (m.ob.). Northern Waterthrushes were also in Humboldt at Arcata Marsh 16 Dec-28 Jan (PLo, m.ob.) and in Eureka 17 Dec (RbF, Janet Stock, Jim McIntosh). Nevada's first was at Lake-of-the-Pines 17-19 Dec (CrS, Scott Dietrich et al.), and another was in S.F. 5 Jan+ (BFi, m.ob.). Fifteen Black-and-white Warblers included Lake's 7th at Corinthian Bay 4-5 Jan (Suzanne Scholz et al.). All 6 Tennessee Warblers were in coastal counties. We average fewer than one Lucy's Warbler per winter, so 2 (or possibly 3) in S.F. was remarkable. A bird (or birds) continued from fall at Ferry Park through 30 Dec, and another was on Yerba Buena I. 2-5 Feb (Aaron Maizlish, m.ob.). Lighthouse Field S.B., Santa Cruz hosted still another Lucy's 4 Dec-8 Jan (John Garrett, m.ob.). American Restarts were at L. Cunningham, Santa Clara 20 Jan-20 Feb (Pete Dunten, m.ob.) and Mad R. Fish Hatchery, Humboldt 21 Feb (RHw). Our lone Blackburnian Warbler was a holdover from fall through 9 Dec at Palo Alto, Santa Clara (BHi et al.). All 25 Palm Warblers were in coastal counties. The Ferry Park, S.F. Yellow-throated Warbler continued from fall through 2 Jan, and another, San Mateo's first in winter, was at Coyote Point 27 Feb+ (RSTh et al.). We can go years between winter Prairie Warblers, so a bird lingering from fall to 13 Dec at Pt. Reyes (BBg et al.) was notable. An apparent Hermit Warbler x Townsend's Warbler hybrid at Baldwin Res. 26 Dec (ph. DaW) may be the first of this hybrid documented in Placer.

Single Green-tailed Towhees were at Roseville, Placer 1 Dec-4 Jan (Jerry Towner), at Pacific Grove, Monterey 28 Dec+ (SRv, ph. BLS, ph. DR, m.ob.), and on Mt. St. Helena, Sonoma 3 Jan (DgSh). As is typical of most winter occurrences, all 3 American Tree Sparrows were in the ne. part of the Region. Shasta hosted birds at two different locations near McArthur 5 Dec (KAb, B&CY, m.ob.) and 5 Jan (BED, BY), and another was at New Pine Cr., Modoc 28 Dec (SCR). Sixteen Clay-colored Sparrows represented more than three times our average and included C.V. occurrences near Corcoran, Kings 3 Dec (MSy) and at San Joaquin N.W.R., Stanislaus 1-15 Jan (Ralph Baker, HMR, Sherrie Reeve). A Black-throated Sparrow continued from fall through the period near Esparto, Yolo (m.ob.), and another was in the Panoche Hills, Fresno 21-24 Feb (DSg, MWE, et al.). Humboldt's first winter Lark Bunting was at Arcata Bottoms 16 Jan–18 Feb (John Oliver, ph. RbF et al.), and others were holdovers from fall in Fresno and Merced. Swamp and White-throated Sparrows were both reported in numbers nearly double our average (56 and 177, respectively). Harris's Sparrows were widespread, with singles in Mendocino, Yolo, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Plumas and 2 birds at C.R.P. 23 Jan+ (Maryanne Steurer, JTr, m.ob.).

Seven Summer Tanagers included a male possibly returning for its 2nd winter at Roeding Park, Fresno, Fresno 13 Jan-28 Feb (EE. m.ob.). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at San Mateo, San Mateo 18 Dec (Jim Jenson), Antioch. Contra Costa 29 Jan (ph. Paul Schorr), and near Watsonville, Santa Cruz 1 Jan (Bill Reese, Arthur Traum) and Capitola, Santa Cruz 9-19 Feb. (DLSu). Nine Black-headed Grosbeaks made for a good showing, more than twice our average. A Blue Grosbeak near Pescadero 31 Dec-14 Jan (DJK et al.) was San Mateo's first in winter and only the 3rd for the Region in the past 25 winters. An even more unusual winter occurrence was the presence of a Dickcissel at Pt. Reyes. Marin, which was found in late Nov and stayed through 7 Dec (BBg, Noah Arthur et al.), only our 2nd in winter in over two decades. Greattailed Grackles continue to consolidate their occupation of the Region, with new winter highs recorded in Contra Costa, Solano, and Sutter-Orchard Orioles were at two locations in S.F. a continuing fall bird at Fort Funston (m.ob.) and another at G.G.P. 16 Jan (David Assman). Seven Hooded Orioles were all coastal, as were 12 Bullock's Orioles. Mendocino's first Baltimore Oriole was at Fort Bragg 2 Jan-12 Feb (ADeM. DT, ph.RJK, m.ob.).

An unprecedented invasion of Common Redpolls began at June L., *Mono*, when one bird struck a window and later expired 1 Dec (Jean Dillingham, ph. BrtM, ph. KNN, \*LACNHM). Another *Mono* redpoll was at Paradise 21-22 Jan (ph. DHo, m.ob.). One was found on the Fall River C.B.C. near McArthur, *Shasta* 17 Dec (Ose tal.; B&CY). These were followed by another at Taylorsville, *Plumas* 6-25 Feb (SEd, ADE, CPD, RDB), 2 more near Tulelake, *Siskiyou* 10 Feb+ (ph. RCP et al.), *Yolo's* first at Woodland 22-25 Feb (ph. Jackie Schulters, JCS, m.ob.), and *Santa Cruz's* first at Santa Cruz 24-26 Feb (ph. Matthew & Sharon Madison, m.ob.).

Cited observers (county subregional editors in boldface): Steve Abbott, Ken Able (Lassen), Alan D. Barron, Bob Battagin, Murray Berner (Napa), William G. Bousman (Santa Clara), Matthew Brady (Stanislaus), Phil D. Brown, Ryan D. Burnett, Ken Burton, Peter B. Colasanti, Daryl Coldren, Chris Conard (Sacramento), Rudy C. Darling (Nevada)

DiGau Colin L. Du W. Ea Scott Jules ( Fowle Geiger Glove C. Hai er, Kar Rob H House (Trinity Rober Andy lin, Ro Paul L

Jeff N

Guy N Kimb

were a ruary v average norther first C Bluetai Gyrfald Arctic sparrov were h no influed Nut

Abbre Weapo (n. end Jeff N. Davis (Madera), Al DeMartini, Ryan DiGaudio, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties). Colin P. Dillingham (Plumas and Sierra), Jon L. Dunn, Pete Dunten, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (San Francisco), Amber D. Edwards. Scott Edwards, David Ekdahl, Elias Elias, Jules G. Evens, Gil C. Ewing, Brian Fitch, Rob Fowler (Humboldt), James H. Gain, Maureen Geiger, Steve Gerow (Santa Cruz), Steve A. Glover (Contra Costa), Lois Goldfrank, Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hansen, W. Edward Harper, Karen Havlena, Floyd Haves, Lynn Hemink, Rob Hewitt, Bill Hill, Alan S. Hopkins, Debbie House, Grant Hoyt, Lisa Hug, John E. Hunter (Trinity), Alvaro Jaramillo, Oscar Johnson, Robert J. Keiffer (Mendocino), Dan J. Keller. Andy Kleinhesselink, Tony Kurz. Iim Laughlin, Robin L. C. Leong (Solano). Ron LeValley. Paul Lohse, Michael I. Mammoser, Don Marsh.

Blake T. Matheson, Sean McAllister, Peter J. Metropulos (San Mateo), Bartshe Miller, Joseph Morlan, Dominik Mosur, Roger Muskat, Dan Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson (Mono), Frances Oliver (San Joaquin), Ed Pandolfino (Placer), Kathy Parker, Janna Pauser, Gary W. Potter (Fresno), Harold M. Reeve, Robert J. Richmond (Alameda), Alex M. Rinkert, Don Roberson (Monterey), Phil Robertson, Michael M. Rogers, Diane Rose, Steve Rose, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, Ruth A. Rudesill (Sonoma), Peter B. Sands, Adam Searcy (Marin), Jeff Seay (Kings), Doug Shaw, Dan Singer, Jim H. Snowden, Mark Stacy, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (Modoc, Alpine, Calaveras, and Yolo), Tim Steurer (El Dorado and Amador), Dick Stovell, David L. Suddjian (Santa Cruz and Mariposa), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (Tulare), Craig Swolgaard, Richard Ternullo, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz (FI.), 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.

Ed Pandolfino, 1328 49th Street,
Sacramento, California 95819, (erpfromca@aol.com)
Stephen C. Rottenborn, 983 University Avenue,
Building D, Los Gatos, California 95032,
(srottenborn@harveyecology.com)
Michael M. Rogers, 499 Novato Avenue,
Sunnyvale, California 94086, (m.m.rogers@comcast.net)
Jeff N. Davis, 11238 N. Via Trevisio Way,
Fresno, California 93730, (jdavis@colibri-ecology.com)

# Morro Bay Bakersfield Caste Caste

### Guy McCaskie Kimball L. Garrett

ost 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 Ramoña, 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 (GMcC) 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 (TF-H), 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-