

THE WINTER SEASON

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**Ed Pandolfino**  
**Stephen C. Rottenborn**  
**Michael M. Rogers**  
**Jeff N. Davis**

Calendar year 2013 was the Region's driest in recorded history, and this winter provided no relief to the drought. Much of the Region saw no rain at all in December and January, two months that normally supply nearly 40% of our annual rainfall total. Rains finally began in February, but even that month's rainfall remained below normal, leaving this winter's total precipitation around 20% of the historic average. The implications of this drought will be most evident over the next few seasons.

A Little Bunting at McKinleyville, Humboldt County was certainly the season's highlight. Of the five occurrences of this species in the lower 48 states, four have been in California, three in our Region. An Inca Dove in Tulare County and a Painted Redstart in Alameda County both lingered into winter, providing the Region with first winter records for both. The Northern Gannet, first reported in spring 2012, remained on Southeast Farallon Island through its second winter. The Region's fourth Black Vulture was in Humboldt County, the location of two of our three prior records.

**Abbreviations:** C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon Island, *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., *Alameda*); Point Blue (Point Blue Conservation Science); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest); UCSC (University of California Santa Cruz). 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 blue-morph Snow Goose at Half Moon Bay 26

Dec–11 Feb (MDeF, m.ob.) was only the second to be found in *San Mateo*; the first occurred in 1949. The only blue Ross's Goose found was at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 27 Jan among 15,000 white-morph birds (PJM). A Brant at Colusa N.W.R., *Colusa* 10 Dec (Mike Peters) was far inland, where unexpected; another at H.R.S. 24 Feb (RJR) was also a surprise so far into S.F. Bay. Following a good fall showing, Cackling Geese made rare winter appearances in *Mono* through Dec and into Jan, with 3 found at Crowley Lake 3 Jan (DHo). Trumpeter Swans continue to be well reported, with the largest numbers being found in *Modoc*, where 22 were at Modoc N.W.R. 2 Dec (AdS, DJM, STu, Amy Patten); 4 lingered through at least 19 Jan (PDB, AMR). Other reports included up to 5 along Midway Rd., *Butte* 1–4 Dec (†JHS, †Matt Forster), one in District 10, *Yuba* 14 Jan (JSL), and 6 at Lagoon Valley and nearby McCoy Lake 22 Dec–2 Jan (first record for *Solano*; Laurie Schremp, ph. Gordon Schremp, ph. mob.). Dry conditions associated resulted in few Tundra Swans coastally in *Humboldt* and *Mendocino*, but one at Anderson Marsh S.P. 20 Dec–14 Jan (Henry Bornstein, Gae Henry et al.) was a surprise in *Lake*. Bewick's Swans were reported from *Modoc* 2 Dec (AdS, DJM, STu, Amy Patten), *Yuba* 2 Dec (Dale Rubach) and 14 Jan (JSL), *Butte* 7 Dec (Justin Bosler) and 12 Jan (JHS), and *Mono*, where up to 2 continued at Crowley Lake through 15 Dec (DHo, m.ob.).

A Eurasian Wigeon at Copperopolis Pond 28–31 Jan (SRs, DRs, ph. KnS et al.) was unusual for *Calaveras*. A total of 56 Blue-winged Teal at Bridgeway Island Pond, *Yolo* 14 Jan (DAA) made a very high count for the Region; half that many were still present there in late Feb. Eight Eurasian Teal were found in six counties 19 Dec–22 Feb, along with several other reports of Eurasian Teal x Green-winged Teal hybrids. Redhead in unexpected locations included 2 at Phoenix Lake, *Tuolumne* 1–16 Dec (ph. John Harris, SUm) and a pair in Grass Valley, *Nevada* 3–4 Jan (Dale Rubach). Five Tufted Ducks, all ad. males, were more than expected. In addition to the continuing male at Lake Merritt, *Alameda* through 27 Feb (ph. m.ob.), others were at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 17 Dec–20 Jan (SNGH, Amy Trainer, m.ob.), at Pond 8 on Edgerley Island, *Napa* 13–18 Jan (DMo, ph. Caroline Lambert, m.ob.), at Stafford Lake in Novato, *Marin* 7 Feb–13 Mar (Mark Forney, ph. Justin Bosler, m.ob.), and at Lake Hennessey, *Napa* 17 Feb–2 Mar (ph. Alex Merritt, MBe). A female King Eider n. of the Redwood Creek mouth 5–24 Feb (Jeff Allen, m.ob.) was only the seventh or eighth for *Humboldt*. More inland White-winged Scoters than normal were found, including

singles at Bridgeport, *Mono* 1 Dec (CPD, Eric & Jean Dillingham), at Corcoran, *Kings* 7 Dec (ph. JLt, Susan Steele), and at Hume Lake 15 Feb+ (third record for *Fresno*; ph. Norman Peterson, m.ob.); one at Alviso 15 Feb (SCR, MMR) was the first to be found in *Santa Clara* since 2007. Black Scoters inside S.F. Bay, where rare, included a likely returning male at Richmond, *Contra Costa* 2–24 Dec (Logan Kahle, mob.) and a bird at H.R.S. 7 Jan (RJR). Inland Long-tailed Ducks included singles at Quail Lake 1–3 Dec (third *Fresno* record; ph. Jake Jensen, m.ob.), at Oroville, *Butte* 29 Dec (†AEn et al., ph. Billie Sommerfield), and at Bouldin Island, *San Joaquin* 16 Jan (DGY); another was inside S.F. Bay at Berkeley, *Alameda* 12 Jan (Greg Schechter). Several high counts of Hooded Mergansers were reported, but 200 at East Park Reservoir, *Colusa* 26 Dec (JSL) exceeded the highest count in our notebooks, of 193 at Lake Frey, *Solano* 9 Jan 1989 (MBe). Several inland Red-breasted Mergansers included *Sierra's* first, at Stampede Reservoir 16 Dec (ph. JLD); others were found in *Colusa* (2 birds), *Sacramento* (2 birds), *Calaveras* (2 birds), *Merced*, *Mono*, and *Kings*.

## LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

Pacific Loons caused some excitement on Millerton Lake, with 2 on 28 Dec (ph. EE) providing *Fresno's* second record before traveling to the *Madera* side, where they provided a fourth county record 30 Dec (LyH, George Folsom, m.ob.); on 31 Dec, 3 were seen in both counties (ph. JND, JSy, KER, m.ob.). Two at Lake Kaweah 18 Jan+ (DaF, m.ob.) furnished a rare *Tulare* record. Two broods of Pied-billed Grebe chicks at Lake Ranch Reservoir, *Santa Clara* 8–15 Jan (Greg Kerekes et al.) were unseasonable. Although this species has a protracted breeding season, Jan breeding records are scarce in the Region. On the heels of last spring's record inland count of Horned Grebes on Lake Almanor, *Plumas*, 130 there on 18 Dec (JLD) confirmed this as an inland hotspot for the species. Lake Almanor also hosted one of our 2 inland Red-necked Grebes on 18 Dec (JLD, TDM, WEH); the other was at Stony Gorge Reservoir, *Glenn* 20–25 Dec (JLD, SRs, DRs et al.). After 20 consecutive winters, "Al" the Laysan Albatross failed to appear at Point Arena, *Men-*



Despite its northerly location, Humboldt County has accounted for three of the four Northern California region's Black Vulture records, the most recent being this bird at Ferndale Bottoms 20–23 (here 21) February 2014. Photograph by Rob Fowler.

*docino*. Northern Fulmars were in good numbers along the coast in Dec and Jan, with a high of 3500 in 2 hours at Point Pinos, *Monterey* 21 Dec (BLS). We received single reports of two of our less common shearwaters: a Flesh-footed was on Carmel Bay, *Monterey* 27 Dec (TAm et al.), and a Manx was seen from McClures Beach, Point Reyes N.S., *Marin* 21 Dec (PP). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird came aboard a whale-watching boat less than 2 km off Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* 7 Jan (ph. Rick Thornton). Up to 8 Brown Boobies were reported. Imms. included one found dead at Oakland, *Alameda* 2 Jan (specimen to Museum of Vertebrate Zoology; ph. Philip Howard) and one at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 17 Jan (RSTh), while single ads. were at Pillar Point, *San Mateo* 22 Dec (AJ), Humboldt Bay 18 Jan (fifth *Humboldt* record; ph. RbF, m.ob.), Ocean Beach, *S.F.* 30 Jan (female; BFi), and Agate Beach, *Marin* 7 Feb (†Mark Dettling); the ages of one at EI. 21 Jan and 2 there 20 Feb (Point Blue) were not reported. The long-staying **Northern Gannet** continued at EI. throughout the period (Point Blue). Single American White Pelicans, rare on the n. coast, were at Arcata, *Humboldt* 13 Dec (Casey Ryan) and various coastal *Del Norte* locations 19 Jan+ (Wendell Wood, m.ob.).

## HERONS THROUGH CRANES

Coastal Cattle Egrets included singles in *Humboldt*, *Alameda*, and *Santa Clara* and 3 at Pescadero Marsh, *San Mateo* 22 Dec (ph. Sergey Pavlov). Up to 5 coastal White-faced Ibis were near the *Santa Cruz/Monterey* line throughout the period (m.ob.). *Humboldt's* third (and the Region's fourth) **Black Vulture** was at Ferndale Bottoms 20-23 Feb (ph. Brad Elvert, Samantha Bacon, ph. RbF, KBu, m.ob.). The **Sonoma Common Black-Hawk** was seen near Laguna de Santa Rosa 15 Dec (Guy Smith). A Swainson's Hawk near San Bruno, *San Mateo* 22 Feb (ADeM) was presumably an early northbound migrant but at a surprising coastal location. Thirteen Harlan's Hawks in eight counties (over half from *Humboldt* and *Shasta*) were more than expected; increased observer effort and awareness likely account for some of this increase. Rough-legged Hawks included cen. coast singles in *San Mateo* 6 Dec (LFI) and *Santa Clara/San Benito* 8 Jan (first in six years for *Santa Clara*; DLSH).

Eight Black Rails calling from Alviso Slough, *Santa Clara* 15-17 Feb (SCR et al.) indicated continued occupancy of the Alviso area, where the species was detected last year for the first time in at least 100 years. Another along Spring Valley Rd., *Yuba* 19 Dec (John York) was in a new area, although not far from locations of previous winter reports. Coastal Sandhill Crane reports from the nw. corner of our Region are on the increase. This season, single cranes were found in *Humboldt* over Arcata Bottoms 9 Dec

(RbF) and at Ferndale Bottoms 18 Dec-23 Feb (TKz, Casey Ryan, m.ob.). Another in Pope Valley 1 Jan (DRs, SRs, RLCL, Herb McGrew, Ellen Sabine) was only the fourth for *Napa*.

## SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

American Avocets at Crowley Lake 6 Dec (5 birds; DHo) and Mono Lake 21 Dec (2 birds; ES, IMb) provided the first Dec records for *Mono*. Black Oystercatchers were found again in *Solano*, with 2 at Benicia 18 Jan (JSL) and 9 Feb (RMu); a Wandering Tattler at the same location 7 Feb (JSL) was also notable. In a welcome change, Mountain Plovers were found in several locations away from their usual wintering area in *Solano*. Flocks of 25 were found in both *Madera* 29 Jan (ph. GaW) and *Fresno* 1 Jan (EE) and 24 Feb (SDS), 20 were e. of Gustine, *Merced* 17 Feb (Joe Devine), and singles were near Abbots Lagoon, *Marin* 3-16 Dec (Mark Dettling, ph. Caroline Lambert, m.ob.) and at Beale A.F.B., *Yuba* 18-19 Dec (ph. JLa). Notable anywhere in the Region in winter, a Solitary Sandpiper at Ball Ranch 28 Dec (ph. EE) provided the first winter record for *Fresno*. Unexpected inland Willets included one along W. Hamilton Rd., *Butte* 2 Dec (†Matt Forster, Charles Cornell) and *Mono's* first in winter, at Mono Lake 17-18 Dec (Deanna Dulen, ph. Kathy DuVall). The highest number of Lesser Yellowlegs was found inland, at Los Banos W.T.P., *Merced*, with 19 present 10 Dec (KVV) and 22 there 26 Dec (PJM, ADeM). Other notable inland occurrences included *Mono's* first for winter, at Hot Creek 15-23 Dec (2100 m elevation; KNN, m.ob.), and one in Isabel Valley, *Santa Clara* 30 Dec (710 m elevation; MMR, MJM, Nateri Madavan). Both Ruffs were inland, with one at Los Banos W.T.P., *Merced* 4-26 Dec (†KVV, ph. PJM, ADeM) and *Stanislaus's* second at Ceres W.T.P. 28 Jan (ph. JHG, m.ob.). The only Stilt Sandpiper reported was a continuing bird at Hudeman Slough, *Sonoma* through 10 Jan (ESH, MBe, ph. LHg, m.ob.). Three Pectoral Sandpipers lingered 4-10 Dec at Los Banos W.T.P., *Merced* (†KVV). Large flocks (totaling 2000+) of Red Phalaropes streamed past EI. 7 Dec (Point Blue); small groups were noted on the nearby mainland 2-11 Dec, and up to 2 were seen slightly inland at Alviso, *Santa Clara* 7-8 Dec (PDu, MJM).

Pigeon Guillemots are scarce in winter, so 2 at Point Arena, *Mendocino* 4 Jan (MtB, GEC, CEV) were noteworthy. A total of 4420 Rhinoceros Auklets at Baldwin Creek Beach, *Santa Cruz* 9 Jan (AMR) provided a high shore-based count. *Stanislaus's* fourth Little Gull, an ad., was at the Modesto W.T.P. 27 Jan-9 Feb (ph., †HMR, SSa, m.ob.). Our only Franklin's Gull was at Monterey Harbor, *Monterey* 6 Dec (BLS). Among 17 Mew Gulls in the Central Valley away from the Sacramento River Delta, the most notable was *Sutter's* second, at Yuba City 19 Dec (Richard



Inca Doves have been slowly expanding their range northwestward over many decades. Consequently, Northern California's first, a bird that visited a feeder in Tulare, Tulare County 16 May 2013 (here) through 5 January 2014, was not entirely unexpected. Photograph by Dane Fagundes.

Norton). Western Gulls are rare in *Sacramento* away from Sherman Island, so one in the Nimbus Fish Hatchery/Lake Natoma area 29 Dec-12 Jan (ClH, DaW) and another at the American River Parkway 24 Jan (WEH) were interesting. Single Thayer's Gulls at Colusa N.W.R., *Colusa* 15 Dec (Claire Gallagher, Tobias Rohmer) and *Sacramento* N.W.R., *Glenn* 27 Dec (KPa) represented our typical smattering of upper *Sacramento* Valley records. Six reports of Kumlien's Iceland Gulls (p.a.) accompanied by photographs suggestive of this taxon were received; first-cycle birds were at Baldwin Creek Beach, *Santa Cruz* 27 Dec (ph. JPo), with a different bird there 22 Jan (ph. JPo), and Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa* 9 Jan (ph. Noah Arthur), and ads. were at Schollenberger Park, *Sonoma* 27-28 Dec (†ESH, ph. Ron Storey) and Tiburon, *Marin* 14-20 Jan (2; ph. Noah Arthur, ph. Rob O'Donnell, TEa).

Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers continue to increase, with 10 reports this season. Different individuals were at the Yolo County Landfill, *Yolo* 7-12 Dec (second-cycle; ph. SCH), 7-18 Jan (ad.; SCH), and 14-15 Feb (second-cycle; TEa, SCH, MP); an ad. was at the *Fresno* W.T.P., *Fresno* 31 Dec (ph. †JLD), with a fourth-cycle bird there 28 Dec (ph. Marshall J. Iliff); *Tulare's* second and third were at Bravo Lake 21 Jan (second-cycle and ad.; ph. SDS, Priscilla Summers), with the ad. lingering through 26 Jan; one was s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 1 Feb (JLi); *San Benito's* first was at San Felipe Lake 8 Feb (second-cycle; SCR, DLSH); and an ad. was near Vacaville, *Solano* 13 Feb (ph., †JM, DSg). Slaty-backed Gulls were at Tiburon, *Marin* 7 Jan (ad.; ph. Noah Arthur) and 31 Jan (ad.; TEa, DSg, Noah Arthur, JSCh); Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, 9 Jan (third-cycle; ph. AJ) and 11 Feb (ad.; AJ); and the Vacaville/Dixon area, *Solano* 7 Feb-1 Mar (RMu, ph. TEa). The 31 Jan ad. at Tiburon had a distinctive white covert identifying it as an individual seen at several S.F. Bay locations in Jan 2013; this winter, the

bird was also seen at Miller/Knox R. S., *Contra Costa* 4-6 Feb (STu). Western Gull x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrids at Lake Almanor, *Plumas* 17 Feb (ph. CPD) and the Fairmead Landfill, *Madera* 20 Feb (ph. GaW), and a Glaucous-winged Gull at Gray Lodge W.A., *Butte* 18 Jan (Eric Goodill, MDo et al.), were unusual so far inland. Among 35+ Glaucous Gulls, C.V. birds away from the Sacramento River Delta included *Madera's* first, at the Fairmead Landfill 8 Jan (ph., †Gabriel Rivera), and one at Corcoran, *Kings* 25 Jan (MSy).

## DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Our only White-winged Doves were along the coast: one at Moss Landing, *Monterey* 12 Jan+ (ph. KVV, ph. DSy, m.ob.) and another at Struve Slough, *Santa Cruz* 16-23 Feb (PDB, JHW, m.ob.). The Region's first **Inca Dove**, present in Tulare, *Tulare* since 16 May 2013, was last seen there around 5 Jan (DaF). A Greater Roadrunner along South Butte Rd. 10 Dec (ph. Gordon Lakso, Bob Dunn, et al.) established the second record for *Sutter*. Three Costa's Hummingbirds included a male at Vasona C.P., *Santa Clara* through 7 Dec (Sastry Jandhyala) that had been present for at least 115 days. Another that was banded in fall at Vacaville, *Solano* was seen off and on there through 25 Feb (RLCL), and a female was at I-5 and Panoche Rd., *Fresno* 5 Feb (JTz, EE). An imm. male Rufous Hummingbird frequenting a feeder in Ukiah 1 Dec–28 Feb (ph. CEV) provided the first record of overwintering by this species in *Mendocino*.

Our only out-of-range Williamson's Sapsuckers were 2 in *San Mateo*, a female at Pilarcitos Lake 21 Dec (GrH, T. Sullivan) and a male near Pescadero 4-20 Jan (ph. M. Hero et al.). Sixteen Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included the first for *Plumas* at American Valley 14 Dec+ (CPD, ph. m.ob.) and the third for *Stanislaus*, near Knights Ferry 30 Dec–11 Jan (Sherrie Reeve; ph., †HMR; m.ob.). A total of 26 Red-naped Sapsuckers, including 5 in *Santa Cruz* and 4 each in *Mendocino* and *Santa Clara*, was more than twice the seasonal average and established a new high count for the Region. The apparent Ladder-backed Woodpecker x Nuttall's Woodpecker hybrid discovered at Oasis, *Mono* in fall was seen there again 4 Jan (Ron & Nancy Overholtz). The true identity of this bird—hybrid or pure Ladder-backed or even Nuttall's—is uncertain. Regardless, Oasis is outside the normal ranges of both of these non-migratory taxa. Apparently establishing the first record for *Sutter*, a Hairy Woodpecker was in the Sutter Buttes 1 Feb (†Rich Cimino).

A Crested Caracara, presumably the same bird that has been resident in nearby *Del Norte*, was found at the Eel River Estuary Preserve/Salt River delta, *Humboldt* 30 Dec–20 Jan (Jeff Allen, KMS, GSL, LPL). A Gyrfalcon that graced

Eel River Estuary Preserve 2-24 Feb (ph. Brad Elvert, Matt Delgado, RbF, DCo, KBU, SWH, m.ob.) was the second for *Humboldt*. Unlike previous California records, which have involved first-year, gray-morph birds, this was an ad. light morph. Another Gyrfalcon, an imm. reported from Bouldin Island 16 Jan (†DGY), was the first for *San Joaquin*.

Three *Empidonax* flycatchers were reported. One at Woodside, *San Mateo* 21 Dec (*vide* ADeM) was a Pacific-slope/Cordilleran (presumably a Pacific-slope); another calling bird at Lake Cunningham, *Santa Clara* 16 & 22 Feb (PDu, MDo et al.) was a Pacific-slope; and the other n. of Fresno, *Fresno* 28 Dec (George Folsom) was most likely a Hammond's but possibly a Dusky. Birders turned up 6 Eastern Phoebes: one at Marina, *Monterey* 1-12 Dec (ph. SRv, KVV et al.), one at Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* 6 Dec (SGe et al.), one continuing from fall at Lemoore, *Kings* 14 Dec (MSy), 2 interacting at the same locality in S.F., S.F. 21 Dec (†Russ Bright), and another returning for its third consecutive winter to Pescadero, *San Mateo* 4 Jan–2 Feb (DJK et al.). Two Vermilion Flycatchers included *Humboldt's* third, an imm. male, at the Salt River estuary 29 Dec–22 Jan (GAB, ph. RbF, et al.) and an ad. male n. of Los Banos, *Merced*, presumably returning for its second winter, 3 Jan–16 Feb (Kent Johnson, KVV). Ash-throated Flycatcher is less than annual in winter, but one at Antelope, *Sacramento* 5-17 Dec (ph. Frank Gray) and another n. of Arcata, *Humboldt* 14-22 Dec (ph. ADB et al.) marked the fourth consecutive winter that the species has been found in the Region. A total of at least 17 Tropical Kingbirds from seven coastal or near-coastal counties was more than twice the seasonal average. Two Cassin's Kingbirds included *Santa Clara's* fourth or so for winter along Hellyer Ave. 28 Dec (ph. PDu) and *Madera's* third ever along the San Joaquin River nw. of Fresno 4-11 Feb (ph. GaW).

Our southernmost Northern Shrikes were singles at Lee Vining, *Mono* 17 Dec (KNN) and at Huichica Creek W.A. 7-18 Jan (*Napa's* sixth; MBe, m.ob.). Two Plumbeous Vireos were noted, one at San Lorenzo Park, *Santa Cruz* returning for its third consecutive winter 13 Dec–24 Feb (AMR, PDB, DvS, ph. m.ob.) and another along River Rd., *Yolo* 22 Dec (CH). A Plumbeous/Cassin's Vireo was at Davis, *Yolo* 24 Feb (Chris Dunford), and a Cassin's Vireo was at Ferndale Bottoms, *Humboldt* 15 Dec (JCS), with another noted at Annadel S.P., *Sonoma* 14 Feb (Moss Henry). A Horned Lark at Anderson Marsh S.P. 20

Feb (JRW) established the second winter record for *Lake*. Twenty-six Barn Swallows were found in seven coastal and three inland counties during Dec and Jan. Although Barn Swallows have become almost expected in the lowlands during those months, one at 1900 m elevation at Tahoe City, *Placer* 19 Jan (†Michael Strom) was a surprise. Apparently wintering Northern Rough-winged Swallows, both single birds, were at Fremont, *Alameda* 8 Jan (Jeff Bleam) and at Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz* 1 Feb (ph. JGa). *Mendocino's* first Black-capped Chickadee, first discovered 15 Nov, continued at Lake Cleone at MacKerricher S.P. through the period (JRW, George Griffith, m.ob.). For the second consecutive winter, we received no reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches away from areas of residency. A House Wren on EI. throughout the period established the first overwintering record for the island (Point Blue). The Winter Wren discovered at Inverness Park, *Marin* 15 Nov continued there through 31 Dec (TEa, m.ob.). More than doubling the seasonal average, 13 Townsend's Solitaires were reported away from areas of residency.

## THRASHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Our only Gray Catbird was a holdover from fall that spent the entire winter in S.F. (m.ob.). The Region hosted 11 Sage Thrashers, second only to our 1998 winter total of 12. A Brown Thrasher was at Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 18 Dec+ (Linda Beidleman, ph. DR, m.ob.). A Le Conte's Thrasher at Fish Slough, *Mono* 27 Dec (ph. JiDP) suggested that this species may be a year-round resident at this known breeding location. Longspurs were sparsely reported this season, with Laplands at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 7-23 Dec (Mark Dettling, RDiG, DWM), Bedwell Bayfront Park, *San Mateo* 9-11 Jan (R. Ferrick et al.), and the Salt River estuary, *Humboldt* 18 Jan–22 Feb (TKz, m.ob.) and a single Chestnut-collared along W. Lathrop Rd., *San Joaquin* 10 Feb (TMCK). An Ovenbird at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 8-9 Dec (Alexandra Lamb, ph., vt. RbF, m.ob.) was notable both Regionally (we

record winter Ovenbirds about once every five years) and locally, providing the twenty-ninth warbler species for the vagrant-rich Arcata Marsh. *Humboldt* hosted half of our total of 6 Northern Waterthrushes. A total of 9 Black-and-white Warblers was an average showing. A Tennessee Warbler was in Golden Gate Park, S.F. 2 Dec (Chris Crow), and Lucy's Warblers included one bird lingering from fall to 4 Dec in Pacifica, *San Mateo* (L. Keitelman, JM) and another in S.F.



This immature male Vermilion Flycatcher remained at the Salt River estuary from 29 December 2013 through 22 (here 8) January 2014, providing the third record for Humboldt County, California. Photograph by Brad Elvert.



23-24 Dec (Carlo Arreglo, ph. MWE, m.ob.). Twenty-five Nashville Warblers, all coastal, provided an average showing. A male and a female Northern Parula at Quail Lodge, *Monterey* 11 Dec–20 Jan (BHL, ph. DR, ph. Cooper Scollan, m.ob.) were notable, as we average fewer than one record per winter in the Region. A total of 9 Yellow Warblers, while double our historical average, was consistent with totals from recent winters, supporting the possibility that this species is now wintering more frequently in the Region. Palm Warblers were present in typical numbers, with 24 reported from 10 coastal or S.E. Bay Area counties. Notable among our 6 Hermit Warblers was a seasonally rare C.V. report of a bird at Tuolumne River Regional Park, *Stanislaus* 24 Dec–2 Feb (HMR, ph. Tim Liquori, m.ob.). Three of 5 Wilson's Warblers were in *Santa Clara*. The **Painted Redstart** at Berkeley, *Alameda*, first found 12 Nov (Katie Bertsche, m.ob.), continued through 1 Mar and provided a Regional first for winter.

The only American Tree Sparrow was near West Valley Reservoir, *Modoc* 2 Dec (AdS). Five Clay-colored Sparrows were all in coastal or S.E. Bay Area counties. The only Brewer's Sparrow reported was in Shollenberger Park, *Sonoma* 18-22 Feb (Ron Storey, DN, ESH, m.ob.) and might have been an early migrant. As winter status and distribution of both Bell's and Sagebrush Sparrow remain uncertain, we encourage careful observation of these taxa in winter. This season, we received a report of 4 Sagebrush Sparrows at Long Valley, *Mono* 15 Dec (from Mammoth Lakes C.B.C., *fide* KNN) and a C.V. report from S. of Madera, *Madera* 11 Feb (ph. GaW). A Bell's Sparrow was at Loma Prieta, *Santa Clara* 28 Dec (Judy Donaldson, et al.). Our only Lark Bunting was a fall holdover at San Joaquin N.W.R., *Stanislaus* 1 Nov–5 Jan (KRb, m.ob.). Wintering Grasshopper Sparrows were found in *Santa Clara*, *San Mateo*, *Yuba*, and *Butte*. Forty-three Swamp Sparrows made a good total but pales in comparison to last year's record of 91. It was a particularly good year for Harris's Sparrows, with 13 birds in 10 counties nearly tripling our average. A White-crowned Sparrow showing characteristics consistent with the e. subspecies, *Z. l. leucophrys*, was at Lodi, *San Joaquin* 27 Nov+ (ph. DGY). Gray-headed Juncos are very rarely documented in the Region, so two reports (one with photographs) were noteworthy: one was briefly observed at C.R.P. 1 Jan (JTr), and the other provided the second record (first photographed) for *Santa Cruz* at the UCSC Arboretum 26-28 Jan (ph. Ryan Price, ph. JGa, m.ob.).

The season's highlight was a **Little Bunting**,



Establishing the third record for Madera County, California, this Cassin's Kingbird was along the San Joaquin River northwest of Fresno 4-11 (here 4) February 2014. Photograph by Gary Woods.

which provided *Humboldt's* first and California's fourth record, near McKinleyville 12-21 Dec (KMS, ph. RbF, JCP, DFx, ph. m.ob.). We received reports of 6 Summer Tanagers, with half that total coming from *Monterey*. Western Tanagers were reported widely, with 20 birds spread across eight counties. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Milpitas, *Santa Clara* 10 Dec (Matthew O'Brien), Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 24 Dec–3 Jan (Linda Beidleman), the Presidio, S.E. 29 Dec (Ivan Samuels), and San Jose, *Santa Clara* 1-19 Feb (Jane Jordan). A total of 13 Black-headed Grosbeaks set a new Regional high for the season, more than triple our average. Notable among these were 2 birds found in Fresno's Roeding Park, *Fresno*, a male observed on 7 Dec (George Folsom) and a female 15 Dec–15 Feb (Penny Stewart, m.ob.). Wintering Blue Grosbeaks are rare in the Region, and particularly rare in the C.V., making the ad. male at Stockton, *San Joaquin* 28 Dec+ (Nancy Ballot, DGY) an excellent find. A Painted Bunting at Trinidad 1-10 Jan (BBg, MHA, ph. RbF, m.ob.) provided *Humboldt's* sixth record and was only the fifth in winter for the Region in the past two decades. A Rusty Blackbird at Harkin's Slough 28 Feb+ (ph. Christian Schwarz, m.ob.) provided *Santa Cruz* its fifth record. Among our 7 Orchard Orioles, 5 were in S.E. Two Hooded Orioles were at Fort Mason, S.E. throughout the period (David Assman), and singles were on King's Island, *San Joaquin* 17 Dec (KRb) and at Foster City, *San Mateo* 22 Dec (AdEM). Ten Bullock's Orioles was right on our average. Our lone Baltimore Oriole visited a feeder in San Mateo, *San Mateo* 1 Jan–24 Feb (Merry Haveman). *Modoc's* first winter Lawrence's Goldfinch was at Modoc N.W.R. 3 Dec (AdS, DJM, STu).

**Corrigenda:** In a report of a Northern Parula in Glenn 11-12 Jun 2012 (*North American Birds* 66: 731), Jon L. Dunn (JLD) was mistakenly credited as an observer. The observer should have been John S. Luther. The Red-necked Grebe in *Alpine* 25-27 Nov 2012 (*North American Birds* 67: 153) was discovered 27 Oct 2012 by JSL.

**Cited observers** (county subregional editors in boldface): Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. **Ken Able** (Lassen), Dan A. Airola, Tim Amaral, Alan D. Barron, Bob Battagin, **Murray Berner** (Napa), Gary A. Bloomfield, Phil D. Brown, **William G. Bousman** (Santa Clara), Matthew Brady, Phil D. Brown, Ken Burton, George E. Chaniot, Josiah Clark, **Daryl Coldren** (*Humboldt* and *Del*

*Norte*), **Chris Conard** (Sacramento), **Rudy C. Darling** (Nevada), **Jeff N. Davis** (Madera), Maria DeFelice, Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel** (n. C.V. counties), Ryan DiGaudio, **Colin P. Dillingham** (Plumas and Sierra), Matthew Dodder, Jon L. Dunn, Pete Duntun, Todd Easterla, **Mark W. Eaton** (San Francisco), Elias Elias, Andrew Engilis, Kevin Enns-Rempel, Dane Fagundes, Brian Fitch, David Fix, Leslie Flint, **Rob Fowler** (RbF; *Humboldt* and *Del Norte*), James H. Gain, John Garrett, **Steve A. Glover** (Contra Costa), **Steve Gerow** (Santa Cruz), Melody Hamilton, Steve C. Hampton, W. Edward Harper, **John Harris** (Stanislaus), Stanley W. Harris, Garth Harwood, Cliff Hawley, Lynn Hemink, Bill Hill, Debbie House, Steven N.G. Howell, Lisa Hug, Eugene S. Hunn, **John E. Hunter** (Trinity), Alvaro Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer** (Mendocino), Dan J. Keller, Tony Kurz, Jim Laughlin, **Robin L. C. Leong** (Solano), Gary S. Lester, Lauren P. Lester, John Lockhart, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Ilene Mandelbaum, Timothy D. Manolis, **Dan J. Maxwell** (Marin), Tristan McKee, **Peter J. Metropulos** (San Mateo), Joseph Morlan, Dominik Mosur, Roger Muskat, Dan Nelson, **Kristie N. Nelson** (Mono), **Frances Oliver** (San Joaquin), **Ed Pandolfino** (Placer), Jim & Debby Parker, Kathy Parker, Michael Perrone, **Gary W. Potter** (Fresno), Jude C. Power, Peter Pyle, Harold M. Reeve, **Robert J. Richmond** (Alameda), Alex M. Rinkert, **Don Roberson** (Monterey), Kathy Robertson, Michael M. Rogers, Steve Rose, Diane Rose, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (Sonoma), Salvatore Salerno, Ken Schneider, Adam Searcy, **Jeff Seay** (Kings), Debra L. Shearwater, David Sidle, Daniel Singer, Keith M. Slauson, Jim H. Snowden, Mark Stacy, **John C. Sterling** (Modoc, Alpine, Calaveras, and Yolo), Emilie Strauss, David Styer, **David L. Suddjian** (Santa Cruz), **Tim Steurer** (El Dorado and Amador), Brian L. Sullivan, **Steven D. Summers** (Tulare), Ronald S. Thorn, **Jim Tietz** (FI.), John Trochet, Steve Tucker, **Steve Umland** (Tuolumne), Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren** (Merced), Jeff H. Wall, **Jerry R. White** (Lake), Dan Williams, David Wimpfheimer, Gary Woods, David G. Yee, **Bob & Carol Yutzy** (Shasta). ☺

**Ed Pandolfino**, (THRASHERS to FINCHES)

1328 49th Street, Sacramento, California 95819  
(erpfromca@aol.com)

**Stephen C. Rottenborn**, (LOONS to FRIGATEBIRDS, LARIDS to ALCIDES)  
983 University Avenue, Building D, Los Gatos,  
California 95032, (srottenborn@harveyecology.com)

**Michael M. Rogers**, (WATERFOWL to QUAIL, HERONS to SHOREBIRDS)  
499 Novato Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086  
(m.m.rogers@comcast.net)

**Jeff N. Davis**, (DOVES to THRUSHES)  
11238 N. Via Treviso Way, Fresno, California 93730  
(jdavis@colibri-ecology.com)