

(J. Starfire); Moro, *Sherman*, OR, in December (PtSu); and Odell L., *Klamath*, OR, Feb. 1 (J. Harding). Pine Siskins were reported in minute numbers in most areas (BW, HN, BT). Flocks of 36 Lesser Goldfinch in Portland Jan. 3 (*vide* RK); nine in Salem, *Marion*, OR, for most of the period (AC); eight in W. Salem, *Polk*, OR (RG); and 13 at Lyle, *Klickitat*, WA, Feb. 16 (PtSu) are an indication of the strength of the population at the n. edge of their range. A **Lawrence's Goldfinch** at a feeder in Jacksonville, *Jackson*, OR, mid-December–Feb. 1 (S. Faught) would represent the 3rd state record if accepted by the ORBC.

EXOTICS

A Ruddy Shelduck was at Stevenson, *Ska-maniamia*, WA, Nov. 29 (BT) to Jan. 29 (PtSu, SJ). A Red-crested Pochard was in Tacoma Dec. 20 (PtSu). A Red-breasted Goose, a Bar-headed Goose, and several Black Swans were in the Willamette Valley this winter. A Crested Caracara at Neah Bay, *Clallam*, Jan. 4–Feb. 1 (BN, m.ob.) inspired a great deal of debate, but the WBRC treated it as of uncertain origin. The Portland colony of Monk Parakeets had 12 birds Jan. 17 (RK).

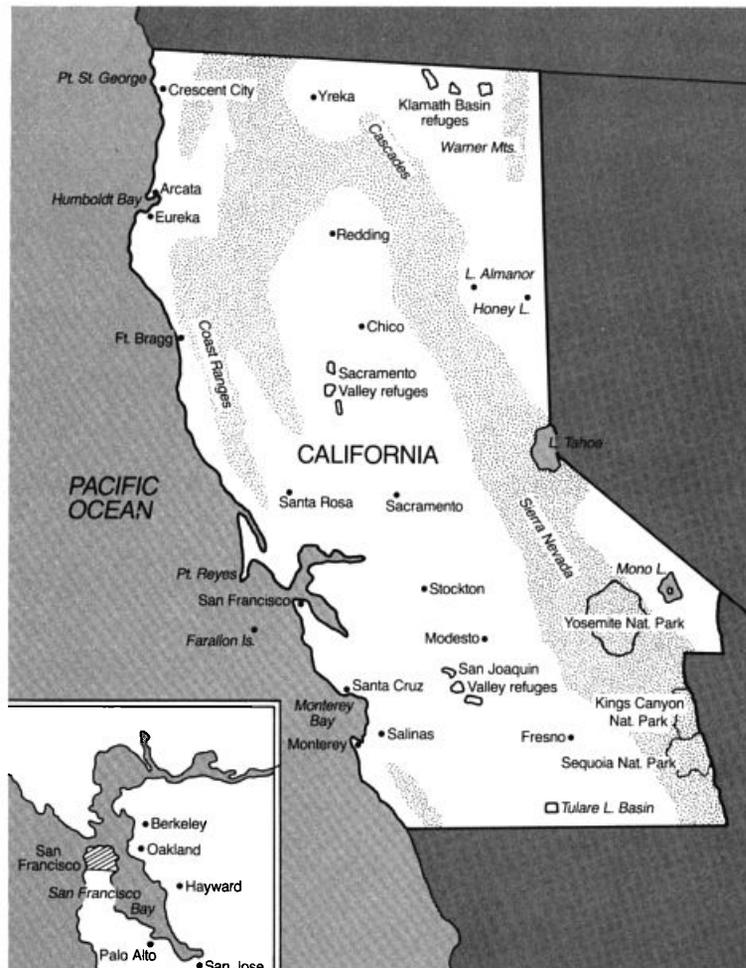
Initialed observers, with subregional editors

in boldface: Jim Acton, Scott Atkinson, Tom Aversa, Range Bayer (*Lincoln*), David Bailey (DBa), Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Barbara Combs, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Mike and Merry Lynn Denny, Steve Dowlan, Kas Dumroese, Joe Engler, Anthony Floyd, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Warren Hall, Tim Janzen, Stuart Johnston, Ray Korpi, Dave Lauten, Bill & Nancy LaFramboise, Gerard Lillie, Ron Maertz, Larry McQueen, Kathy Merrifield, Tom Mickel (*Lane*), Craig Miller, Steve Mlodinow, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (western Oregon), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton, Mike Patterson, Jonathon Plissner, Tim Rodenkirk, Jim Rogers, **Russell Rogers** (Washington), Tom Rogers, Bill Shelmerdine, Tim Shelmerdine, Paul Sherrell (PSh), Jamie Simmons, Andy Stepniwski, Patrick Sullivan (PtSu), Paul Sullivan (PtSu), Bill Tice (BTi), Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Bob Woodley.

Bill Tweit, P.O. Box 1271, Olympia, WA 98507-1271, and **Bill Tice**, 750 Wood St., Falls City, OR 97344 (Polkman@navicom.com)



middle pacific coast region



DON ROBERSON, STEPHEN F. BAILEY, and DANIEL S. SINGER

El Niño conditions throughout the Pacific Basin pulled the northern jet stream south, bringing wave after wave of Alaskan storms slamming into the northern California coast from January into March. Many areas set new precipitation records. Flooding was widespread along the coast and in the Central Valley, and landslides closed numerous roads throughout the Region. These savage storms affected seabirds surprisingly little, but landbirds were locally displaced. Mountainous areas of *Trinity* had few birds, while the Trinity River canyon in eastern *Humboldt* sheltered

“up to a million” American Robins gorging on madrone berries (Fix). The fast-moving systems dumped their heavy loads before or on the Sierra Nevada; east of the mountains it was cold without much snow until mid-February.

Despite the tempests, temperatures west of the Sierra averaged higher than usual, enticing insectivores to linger late—some remained to winter. Swallows were particularly conspicuous. Wintering Tree and Violet-green swallows are expected, but Barn and Northern Rough-wingeds, normally very rare in winter, were widely reported. The mild temperatures likely account for a smorgasbord selection of wintering flycatchers, wrens, and warblers despite the rains, but nectar-feeders (particularly

orioles) were almost absent. The season was also notable for its lack of any irruptive species. In contrast to a year ago, we have virtually nothing to say about nutcrackers, nuthatches, solitaires, waxwings, or finches.

An analysis by W.G. Bousman of San Francisco Bay Area CBC trends (27 years) showed declines in Western/Clark's grebes (due to herring harvest in *Marin*?) and American White Pelican (migrating to the Great Basin earlier?) and increases in Brown Pelican (recovered), Western Gull, and Forster's Tern.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); S.B. (*State Beach*). Banded birds from Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, should be credited to Big Sur Ornithology Lab, and those from F.I. to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Reports of exceptional vagrants (including first county claims) are generally not published without written details or other documentation.

LOONS TO PELICANS

The only two Yellow-billed Loons were the adult wintering off Pacific Grove, *Monterey* (RT, DLSh, SFB, AB), and an apparent adult at Fields Landing, Humboldt Bay, Jan. 18 (†MHM, †DFx, JCP, EE). The lack of the usual immatures leads one to speculate about breeding failure last summer.

Fifteen Horned Grebes on San Justo Res. Feb. 17 furnished a record number for *San Benito* (ADeM, DLSh). At least 29 Red-necked Grebes were reported inland in 14 counties, and they were numerous along the coast. Nine in *Santa Clara* equaled all previous county records. One on Trinity L. Dec. 6 (†GjH, JEH, G. Schmidt) was the first confirmed in *Trinity*. These trends began in the fall and developed well before the major winter storms.

The Laysan Albatross's return to Pt. Arena Cove, *Mendocino*, was discovered Nov. 27 (*fide* G. Steuer), and it visited this site through the period. Contrasting with the absent Sooty Shearwater, 29 Pink-footed Shearwaters at Monterey Seavalleys Jan. 19 (SFB, DLSh) provided a high mid-winter count. Two Flesh-footed Shearwaters were 44 and 48 mi w. of Pacifica, *San Mateo*, Dec. 8 (SCR). Two Manx Shearwaters were reported without details from Monterey Bay. Moderate numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters persisted through the Season. Three Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels seen from Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo*, Jan. 3 (BS) were the most reported.

Many Brown Pelicans lingered far north,

as exemplified by 260 on Castle Rock, *Del Norte*, Dec. 21 (ADB) and 120+ at Ten Mile R., *Mendocino*, Jan. 10 (DT). A Brown Pelican at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced*, Feb. 17 (SDF) was very rare in the Central Valley.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

Cattle Egrets were noted in high numbers in *Contra Costa*, with up to 72 at Bethel I. Feb. 9 (SAG). Coastal White-faced Ibises were found only at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey*, where two–three occurred between Dec. 28–Jan. 1 (YG, PJM).

Large waterfowl congregations were noted in S.F. Bay before the onslaught of storms: an estimated 80,000–90,000 diving ducks, comprising mostly scaup, also included 3000–4000 Surf Scoters. After the early February storms, Greater Scaup and Surf Scoters were widely reported from various inland locations, and many lingered through the winter at inland reservoirs and lakes in *Santa Clara* and *San Benito*.

Tundra Swans in near-record numbers were in *San Benito*, where 119 were n. of Hollister Feb. 8 (SCR). Anomalous north-bound Brant included 60 at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, Dec. 21 (T. Amaral, SFB) and 463 at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo*, Jan. 3 (BS). No less than 13 Tufted Ducks were reported Nov. 30–Mar. 9 (m.ob.), but few were documented. Though many observers may take this species' presence in our Region for granted, it is quite rare and most reports without descriptions won't be published. A female at O'Neill Forebay Nov. 30 (†JCS) and a well-documented migrant pair near San Lucas, *Monterey*, Mar. 9–15 (H&J Banks, †DR et al.) bracketed the season. Up to five were in *Marin* and *Sonoma* throughout much of the period (RS). Tufted Duck × scaup hybrids were found at O'Neill Forebay Nov. 30 (†JCS) and Redwood Shores, *San Mateo*, Feb. 17 (†RSTh). Up to 17 White-winged Scoters in Alviso, *Santa Clara*, Feb. 11–26 (m.ob.) marked an unprecedented invasion there. Red-breasted Mergansers were also reported inland in impressive numbers, with 23 at Clear L., *Lake*, Jan. 19 (JRW), while *San Benito's* first, two at Paicines Res. Jan. 20 (†ADeM), were quickly followed by individuals Feb. 16 at Hollister (†KVV, SRv) and San Justo Res. (ADeM, DLSh).

RAPTORS

A single Turkey Vulture near Benton, *Mono*, Jan. 14 (E. Gann) may have been a very early spring migrant, and pushed back the early arrival date by almost 6 weeks. Broad-winged and Swainson's hawks went

unreported. Rough-legged Hawks made their best showing in c. California in many years.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Up to six Black Rails at Palo Alto Baylands Dec. 13–Feb. 8 (m.ob.) represented a good showing. A Sora at Mono L. Jan. 9 (ES) furnished a winter first for *Mono*. A particularly cold January there made this record all the more impressive.

Single Rock Sandpipers reported throughout the period from *Mendocino*, *Sonoma*, *San Mateo*, and *Santa Cruz* (m.ob.) furnished our strongest showing in years. Red Phalaropes were widely recorded coastally during or after several storms in January and February. Individuals at San Felipe L., *San Benito* (SCR), and in Ukiah, *Mendocino*, Feb. 8 (CEV) were thought to represent 2nd county records. The biggest influx was recorded around Monterey Bay, but moderate numbers were scattered coastally throughout the Region, and numerous sightings were made inside S.F. Bay.

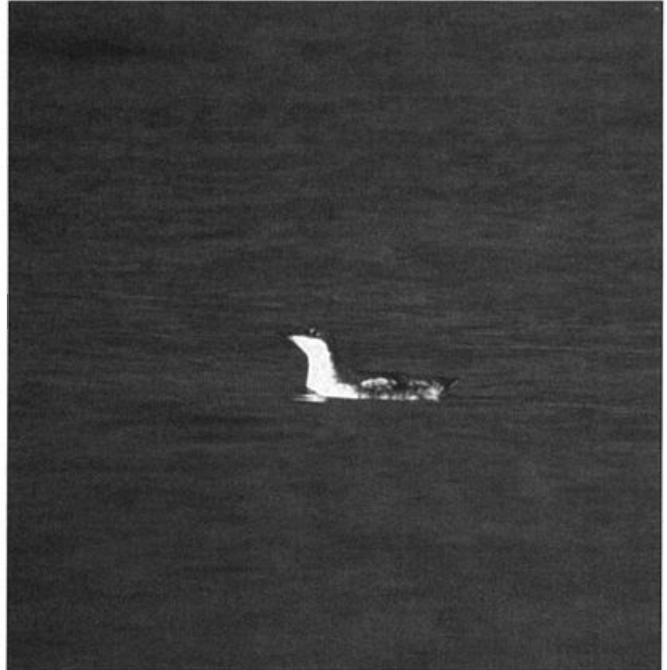
LARIDS TO ALCIDS

An unprecedented four Laughing Gulls graced our Region; we had only 3 prior winter records. An adult at Pillar Pt (first for *San Mateo*) was only seen Feb. 3 (†D&D Pomeroy), but three first-basic birds tarried longer: Palo Alto (2nd for *Santa Clara*) Nov. 29–Dec. 8 (†TGr, †SCR, m.ob.), Llantour Beach, *Marin*, Jan. 10–Feb. 7 (RS), and Moss Landing, *Monterey*, Jan. 30–April (CKf, †RE, †DR, †Cho, †SRv). *Monterey* still has the majority of this Region's records. Continuing fall's dearth of Franklin's Gulls, the only report was of a first-basic bird in *Kings* Dec. 17 (LkC). As usual paralleling Brown Pelicans, many Heermann's Gulls lingered in *Humboldt* and farther north (DFx).

Gull censuses at the Newby I. landfill, *Santa Clara* (MMR, NL, AJ), estimated up to 20,000 Herring Gulls and 350 Thayer's Gulls Feb. 24. The past 2 decades have proven that such garbage dumps, located farther into the S.F. Bay/Delta system than the more aggressive W. Gulls prefer to penetrate, can host the majority of our Region's populations of Herring and Thayer's gulls. However, these gull foci are a highly dynamic feature of their unnatural habitat, as dumps continually close, move, or otherwise restrict the availability of garbage to the gulls. In 1997–1998, it seems, Newby I. must have been "Herring Gull City, California" Perhaps reflecting this were unusual



Lesser Black-backed Gull in second-winter (second basic) plumage at Lake Cunningham, San Jose, California, on November 28, 1997. This individual remained for the winter, and an adult spent the season not far away. Photograph/Don Roberson



A wanderer from Asia, this Long-billed Murrelet was south of Muir Beach, Marin County, California, on December 27, 1997. Although Long-billeds (only recently split from Marbled Murrelet) have strayed to various parts of North America—even as far south as Florida — this individual was the southernmost yet on our Pacific Coast. Photograph/Alan S. Hopkins

inland *Santa Clara* counts of 150–200 Herring Gulls at Almaden L. (A. Verdi).

Three first-basic “**Kumlien’s**” **Iceland Gulls** were well-described, so it was good news that the C.B.R.C. had decided once again to review records of this taxon. Two apparently different birds were at Alviso, *Santa Clara*, Jan. 16 (SBT, †SCR, AJ, M. Heindel), and presumably one of these birds was nearby Jan. 28 (AJ). One was at Moss Landing Feb. 15–20 (RS, †DR, CKf, MCM).

Both of the fall season’s **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** stayed into winter in *Santa Clara*. The second-basic individual inhabited L. Cunningham, San Jose, through the period (†SCR, m.ob.). The returning adult was seen at Alviso to Jan. 23 (AJ), but apparently visited L. Cunningham Jan. 8 (†BMcK). Only 17+ Glaucous Gulls surprisingly included two adults [Newby I. Dec. 19 and Feb. 24 (MMR, NL, AJ) and e. *Solano* Feb. 24 (†GFi)] and two second-basic birds [Palo Alto Feb. 3 (TGr) and Moss Landing Feb. 17–23 (†DR, SFB)].

Four or five Caspian Terns at Hookton Slough, Humboldt Bay N.W.R., Jan. 11 were believed to be regular winterers (JCP, DFx). Sixteen Elegant Terns at Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, Dec. 6 (BJW) were a rather late flock.

Our flock of Black Skimmers wintered at Charleston Slough and Palo Alto, *Santa Clara*, with numbers slowly dropping: 15 Jan. 3 (D. McIntyre), 14 Jan. 24 (V. Tiwari), and 12 from Feb. 18 on (AME). Two wanderers were at Oakland Dec. 1 (A. Wilcox) and one was at Limantour Estero, *Marin*, Dec. 29 (E. Pandolfino).

A **Long-billed Murrelet** (*Brachyramphus perdix*) s. of Muir Beach, *Marin*, Dec. 27 (ph. ASH) made this recently split species’ southernmost record on our Pacific coast, although several vagrants have been found farther south in the Atlantic states! (Mlodinow, S.G., 1997, *Birding* 29:460–475). Ancient Murrelets were scarce off *Monterey* and 16 at Bodega Head, *Sonoma*, Dec. 28 (BDP) were the only reported concentration.

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl distribution remains poorly understood. Surprises this winter were owls near Hollister, *San Benito*, Dec. 24–27 (DLSh, ADeM); Shasta Valley and the Killgore Hills, *Siskiyou*, Jan. 19–Mar. 13 (RE); and two roosting in aspens near Mono L. Jan. 11 (ES). Short-eared Owls were again widespread in the C.V. and north-coastal lowlands, but one at Mono L.

Dec. 27 (B. Noles) furnished a rare winter occurrence.

An apparent Anna’s × Costa’s Hummingbird hybrid was at Alviso, *Santa Clara*, Nov. 20–Feb. 18 (†SCR et al.), while a male Costa’s returned to winter at Willits, *Mendocino* (S. Harris, RJK, CEV). A *Selasphorus* at Santa Rosa, *Sonoma*, Dec. 21 (RAR) was likely a Rufous at that date. The earliest arriving male Allen’s Hummingbird reported was Jan. 15 at San Mateo (PJM). [Rumors of arrivals as early as Jan. 1 appear in the *Santa Cruz Bird Club* newsletter, but we cannot use such 2nd-hand evidence.] Male Allen’s reached McKinleyville, *Humboldt*, by Feb. 4 (LPL); a female at Pt. Pinole, *Contra Costa*, was already building a nest by Jan. 28 (SAG).

Four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were scattered from *Humboldt* to *San Mateo*; a male at Ed Levin Park, *Santa Clara*, returned for a 4th winter (SCR). *San Benito*’s 3rd Red-naped Sapsucker was near Hollister Jan. 11–17 (DLSh, ADeM). A Red-breasted Sapsucker, rare e. of the Sierra in winter, visited a Mono City feeder Dec. 27 (CYa).

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

A shy *Empidonax* found Feb. 9 along the

Trinity R. e. of Willow Creek, *Humboldt*, but 50 yards inside *Trinity* (TWL), proved to be a **Least Flycatcher** (†DFx, †JCP); it remained through the period. This is by far the northernmost wintering Least in California, but there is a December report from w. Oregon. Silent "Western" Flycatchers provided first winter records for their counties at Concord, *Contra Costa*, Dec. 27–28 (KGH, †SAG) and Clear Lake S.P., *Lake*, Dec. 19–Jan. 1 (†JRW et al.); another three were found elsewhere. For the 4th consecutive winter, an E. Phoebe wintered at Shady Oaks Park, San Jose, after Nov. 7 (m.ob.).

Three Dusky-capped Flycatchers were a good showing: Nearys Lagoon, *Santa Cruz*, from Dec. 9 on (SGE, m.ob.); Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, Dec. 1 (†RSTh, ph. †BMcK); and L. Merced, *San Francisco*, Dec. 30 (†PJM). An Ash-throated Flycatcher reappeared for a 2nd winter along the Guadalupe R. near Montague, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 21 (DLSh, ADeM). Five Tropical Kingbirds were located along the coast from *Humboldt* to *Santa Cruz* in December to early January; none remained longer and they are best considered "the residue of the fall," quoting Fix. A W. Kingbird at Hopland, *Mendocino*, Jan. 16 (†CEV, †RJK) was most unexpected.

Hundreds of Tree Swallows wintered in s. portions of our Region, and February saw an early push northward. "First arrivals" appeared at Ukiah, *Mendocino*, Feb. 8 (CEV); Table Bluff, *Humboldt*, Feb. 5 (GSL); Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Feb. 11 (still a "frozen tundra" on that date, RE); and Lewiston L., *Trinity*, Feb. 15 (JEH). Among all the Trees were N. Rough-winged Swallows in 4 counties n. to Ukiah Dec. 6 (CEV et al.). Some 16 Barn Swallows, normally very scarce in winter, were reported from 7 counties, including up to three at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt*, Jan. 21–Feb. 18 (B. Cariss et al.), and as far inland as Shasta Valley, *Siskiyou*, Dec. 12 (RE), and Consumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, Jan. 12 (EDG).

JAYS TO VIREOS

Two **Blue Jays** reached n.w. California; both were at backyard feeders in wooded country: Nov. 27–Dec. 1 at Crescent City, *Del Norte* (ph. C&B Swart) and after Dec. 2 near Willow Cr., *Humboldt* (B. Botley; †MiF, m.ob.). There has been only one other record in this decade (February 1992 Sea Ranch, *Sonoma*).

Unexpected Canyon Wrens were at the confluence of Mad R. and Wilson Cr.,

Humboldt, Dec. 6 (M. Cardoza) and w. of Avenal, *Kings*, Dec. 17 (†LkC). The latter could be the bird at the same site Sept. 20, 1997 (R. Hansen), which furnished a first county record. A House Wren at Redding Jan. 6 (BED) was exceptional in winter. The mild (if stormy) weather also permitted many Blue-gray Gnatcatchers to winter, including an odd bird amongst a sparrow flock Jan. 4 in the Panoche Hills, *Fresno* (ADeM, DLSh). Another unusual winterer was a Sage Thrasher at Arcata Marsh Feb. 27–28 (†K. Nelson).

No details support a first *Contra Costa* claim of N. Shrike, but an immature along Humboldt Bay after Jan. 11 was observed at length and sang frequently (DFx, JCP et al.); an adult was also at this same site Mar. 8. Loggerhead Shrikes, scarce in northernmost California in winter, were widely scattered this season.

Four Cassin's Vireos were found late December to mid-January (two each for *San Mateo* and *Humboldt*), which is about average, but none was known to winter. Likewise, a Plumbeous Vireo Dec. 29 in Pacific Grove (JCS), *Monterey's* first for the winter season, was not recorded thereafter.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Twenty-one warbler species put in appearances this winter. Among now-routine winterers were at least five Tennessees, 20 Nashvilles, seven Yellows, at least ten Black-throated Grays (more from Christmas counts were not reported to us), a dozen Hermits away from regular sites (plus a Townsend's × Hermit hybrid), about 20 Palms, four Black-and-whites, one Am. Redstart (ad. male at Pt. Pinole, *Contra Costa*, Jan. 28; SAG); four N. Waterthrushes; and a couple Wilson's. More unusual were four MacGillivray's Warblers: Pebble Beach, *Monterey*, Dec. 25 (B. Barrett); Santa Cruz Jan. 17 (JND); L. Merced, S.F., Jan. 25 (H. Fuller); and Eureka, *Humboldt*, Dec. 20 (JCS).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

One Summer and up to five Western tanagers wintered in Golden Gate Park, S.F. (ASH, PJM, m.ob.). Five other Westerns wintered in *San Mateo/Santa Clara*, and one was n. to Rohnert Park, *Sonoma*, Feb. 4 (A. Wight). All three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported this season were at *Humboldt* feeders (B. Slocum et al.), but two Black-headededs were in *San Mateo* in December (†AME et al.). A claimed Indigo Bunting from Eureka was not supported by details. The ad. male Painted Bunting along

Pescadero Cr., *San Mateo*, mentioned in the fall report was seen again Dec. 27 (†AME); its faded orange belly suggested prior captivity. Painted Buntings are common cage-birds in Mexico and disproportionate numbers of ad. males in winter in California suggest these reports are of escapees.

We rarely mention resident species in our reports; species that don't migrate don't "spin off" vagrants to excite observers. However, the edge of California Towhee's range continues to push north-

SA We used to have fixed ideas about which vagrant warblers could winter in California, but many of these concepts have proven erroneous. This season there were single Lucy's at Nearys Lagoon, *Santa Cruz*, Dec. 3–17 (SGE, DLSu); Sutro Baths, S.F., after Dec. 28 (PJM, †LkC); and L. Merced, S.F., Nov. 22–Jan. 1 (PJM, DSG). There were single Hoodeds, including a female at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, Dec. 20 (A. Kratter, G. Deghi) and male at Eureka sewage ponds Dec. 21–22 (ph. B. Acord, JCS, DFX, JCP et al.). Individual vagrants were a male Black-throated Blue at Capitola, *Santa Cruz*, December 30–Jan. 11 (DLSu); a Yellow-throated Warbler at Old Town, Eureka, Jan. 14 (†MHM; possibly same bird seen nearby Oct. 8); an imm. Prairie on the Guadalupe R. in San Jose Nov. 21–Jan. 27 (SCR, m.ob.; first winter record for *Santa Clara*); and a bright male Prothonotary in Golden Gate Park, S.F., after Jan. 2 (ASH, m.ob.).

A few warblers have wintered in s. California but not yet in our Region; these seem likely winter candidates here: Golden-winged (December specimen in s. California and has wintered in England!), Grace's, Pine, Bay-breasted, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, and Mourning. There are too few state records of Golden-cheeked and Red-faced warblers, both of which winter in Mexico, to draw conclusions. The only warblers recorded in California that now seem *unlikely* to winter in the state are Blackpoll, Cerulean, Connecticut, and Canada. What these species have in common is that they are the only North American parulids to winter exclusively in the Amazon Basin of South America or the adjacent Andean foothills.

ward in *Humboldt*, where Arcata suburbs were reached a couple years back. One at Blue L. Dec. 20 (MHM) was yet another step northward.

A Lark Sparrow at a Fortuna, *Humboldt*, feeder Jan. 26–Feb. 4 (R. Crane) was a rare overwintering occurrence. *San Benito's* 2nd Black-throated Sparrow was with a flock of 1000+ Lark Sparrows Jan. 13–20 in Panoche Valley (†ADeM, DLSh, †KVV et al.). Panoche Valley also hosted up to three different Lark Buntings Dec. 9–Jan. 31 (DLSh, ADeM et al.); two more were near Bethany Res., *Alameda*, Dec. 23–Jan 3 (ALE, GFB et al.).

“Red” Fox Sparrows, presumably *P. i. zaboria*, were at Alviso, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 15–Jan. 8 (SCR, BMCK) and banded at Big Sur R. mouth Jan. 5 (JBo); this form is more common along the coast than the very rare Harris’s Sparrow, but much less common than White-throated Sparrow. Hundreds, if not thousands, of White-throated Sparrows winter in our Region and they are widely distributed, as each new Christmas count shows (e.g., Pinnacles and Parkfield last winter). The only place Harris’s outnumber White-throated Sparrows is e. of the Sierran crest (see D.A. Gaines, 1988, *Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope*). This winter, east-slope White-throateds were in Mono City Dec. 27–Feb. 21 (CYa) and Lee Vining Jan. 11 (ES). West of the Sierran divide, Harris’s reached the coast at 2 *Humboldt* sites, at Año Nuevo Pt., *San Mateo*, Jan. 3 (PJM, GJS), and near Watsonville, *Santa Cruz*, Dec. 30–Jan. 3 (DEG, RF et al.).

Over 100 Yellow-headed Blackbirds on the Holland Tract, *Contra Costa*, through January was a large winter assemblage for our Region (SAG). A vagrant Rusty Blackbird Dec. 22 was at Jasper Ridge Reserve, *San Mateo* (R. G. Jeffers, P. LaTourette). A male Great-tailed Grackle at Crystal Springs Res. Jan. 13 (RSTh) was only the 2nd for *San Mateo*, but nearly a dozen were at Woodlake sewage ponds, *Tulare*, Jan. 2 (JCS et al.).

Finally, the only finch worth mentioning was a female House Finch Jan. 9 at Mono L. County Park (ES); the first in winter for the Mono Basin.

Cited observer initials (county coordinators boldfaced): Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldrige, Alan D. Barron, George F. Bing, Jim Booker, **William G. Bousman**, **Penelope K. Bowen**, Luke Cole, Jeff N. Davis, Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel**, Arthur L. Edwards, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom**,

Elias Elias, Mike Feighner, George Finger, Sam D. Fitton, **David Fix**, Rick Fournier, Doug E. George, Bruce H. Gerow, Steve Gerow, Yohn Gideon, **Steve A. Glover**, Edward D. Greaves, **Helen Green**, Tom Grey, Gjon Hazard, Craig Hohenberger, Alan S. Hopkins, **John E. Hunter**, Ken Irwin, Alvaro Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer**, Clay Kempf, Nick Lethaby, **Robin L.C. Leong**, Tom W. Leskiw, Gary S. Lester, Lauren P. Lester, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Michael J. Mammoser, **Bert McKee**, **Peter J. Metropulos**, Mark C. Miller, Michael H. Morris, Dan Nelson, Kristie Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, **Jude Claire Power**, Jean M. Richmond, **Don Roberson**, Mike M. Rogers, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, **Ruth A. Rudesill**, Barry Sauppe, Debra L. Shearwater, Daniel Singer, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, Gary J. Strachan, **Emilie Strauss**, David L. Suddjian, Richard Ternullo, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, Chuck E. Vaughn, Kent Van Vuren, Brian J. Weed, **Jerry R. White**, Colleen Yancey, **Bob & Carol Yutzy**. Many more observers were not specifically cited, but all are appreciated.

Don Roberson (Doves to Finches), 282 Grove Acre Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950 (creagrus@montereybay.com); **Stephen F. Bailey** (Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids), Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, 165 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950 (sfbailey@mbay.net); **Daniel S. Singer** (Hérons to Shorebirds), c/o Arroyo & Coates, 500 Washington St., Ste. 700, San Francisco, CA 94111 (dsg@isp.net)



Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as “C.B.B.T.” or “W.P.B.O.” Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 160.

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