

EXOTICS

A Mute Swan was at Wenas L., Yakima, WA, Aug. 7 (PtSu).

CORRIGENDA

Please note that in the article on the Bristle-thighed Curlew invasion (FN 52: 150–155) the name of the initial observer is Kathy Castelein, not Karen.

Initialed Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Scott Atkinson, David Bailey (DBa), Nigel Ball, Alan Barron, **Range Bayer (Lincoln)**, Dave Beaudette (DBe), **Thais Bock (Tacoma area)**, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Mike & Merry L. Denny, Angie Dillingham, **Colin Dillingham (Curry/Coos)**, Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler, Darrel Faxon, Greg Gillson, Dave Helzer (DHZ), **Carrie Herziger (Malheur)**, Randy Hill, Wayne Hoffman, Matt Hunter, Jim Johnson, Stuart Johnston, Ken Knittle, Alan Knue, **Merlene Koliner (Clarkston area)**, Bruce LaBar BrL), Bill LaFramboise, Dave Lauten (DLa), Gerard Lillie, **John Lundsten (Salem)**, Maitreya (M), **Tom & Alison Mickel (Lane)**, Craig Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls (Oregon)**, Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton (Olympic Peninsula)**, Mike Patterson, Scott Rea (SRe), Roger Robb (RRb), Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, Jim Rogers, **Russell Rogers (Washington)**, Skip Russell (SRu), **Eric Setterberg (Jackson)**, P. W. Smith, Kevin Spencer, Patrick Sullivan (PtSu), **Paul Sullivan (PaSu) (e. Oregon)**, Bill Tice (BTi), Dennis Vroman, Terry R. Wahl (TRW), Terry John Wahl (TJW), Clarice Watson, Bob Woodley

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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The fall was characterized by mild weather. In late Sep. and early Oct. a stationary low pressure system over east-central California forced winds counterclockwise winds, “shunting everything coastward from the northeast,” to quote Pyle from the Farallones, where they recorded the island’s 400th species during this period. The coastal vagrant season was exciting, but the headlines were again made by seabirds.

Omitted below for reasons of space are discussions of the migrations of flycatchers and swallows and the lowland invasion of Golden-crowned Kinglets. Researchers should know that we maintain “notebooks” of all records received that now span the last 45 years. This fall, for example, we received 138 records of Willow Flycatcher that document migration in this scarce species. These data and many more of interest can be mined by contacting the editors.

Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. This includes all C.B.R.C. review species and claims of first county records. Several interesting claims this season lacked details.



Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon Island); N.F. (National Forest); S.F. (San Francisco); S.B. (State Beach); S.P. (State Park); W.A. (Wildlife Area). 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.

GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS

W. and Clark’s Grebes on nests in Thermalito Afterbay Sep. 23 represented first *Butte* nesting records (TDM). Apparently different imm. **Short-tailed Alba-**

SA The region’s run of “extreme” pelagics since the mid-1990s, which has included Light-mantled Albatross, Great-winged Petrel, several Dark-rumped Petrels, Bulwer’s Petrel, a *Procellaria* petrel (probably Parkinson’s), and Swallow-tailed Gull, continued this fall. A **Great-winged Petrel** Oct. 18 (†SNGH, †DLSh, †m. ob.) and a dark-morph **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** Oct. 10, 11 & 21 (†TMcG, †DLSh, ph. †m. ob.) were well documented on Monterey Bay. The latter represented one of the few “chaseable” pelagic rarities ever in the Region. El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and more long-term oceanic warming in the eastern Pacific may be at least partially responsible for this rash of ultra-rarities. Overall oceanic food availability decreases dramatically during warm-water years, resulting in birds dispersing much more widely than normal. Food may become relatively restricted to localized nearshore patches, and wandering birds may find and frequent these patches. Boat trips to areas of concentrated, ephemeral prey resources may enjoy a higher probability of encountering extreme rarities relative to years when resources are more abundant and widely distributed.

trosses were offshore Bodega Bay Aug. 28 (ph. †G. Luneau, ph. †DN) and Oct. 26 (ph. †BMcK, ADeM, †m. ob.).

A N. Fulmar at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo*, Oct. 18 (RSTh) was rare so far inside S.F. Bay. Single "*Cookilaria*" petrels, probably Cook's, were 19 mi. w.s.w. of F.I. on Sep. 18 (†SCR, CAx) and 50 mi. w. of Princeton, *San Mateo*, Oct. 24 (BED, JBo). Six Manx Shearwaters were reported on Monterey Bay, with three on Aug. 8 (ph. †BMcK, DLSh) and singles on Aug. 9 (DLSh, BMcK), Aug. 21 (DLSu), and Oct. 25 (†ADeM); one was at F.I. October 5 (PRBO). This was the lowest number of fall reports since 1993 when this species was first confirmed in the Region. Black-vented Shearwaters showed up early (Aug. 8), as is usual in years when large numbers move north: 4600 flying N past Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo*, Oct. 9 (PJM) was the 3rd highest on record. Sixteen Wilson's Storm-Petrels Sep. 12 was a record high count for Monterey Bay (ShJ). Least Storm-Petrels staged a large influx, 2nd only to 1983, with 253 Sep. 8 building to 733 Sep. 12 on Monterey Bay (ShJ).

An ad. Red-billed Tropicbird 11.7 mi. s.w. of Pt. Pinos Sep. 5 (R. Chornock, DLSh, ph. BMcK) made this the 11th year of the last 12 that this species, or an unidentified tropicbird, has been recorded between Jul. 25 and Oct. 5. A subad. male Brown Booby of the race *brewsteri* was at F.I. Oct. 12–24 (†PP); this species has been recorded at F.I. each of the last 7 fall seasons. A booby near Golden Gate Bridge, S.F., Sep. 25 (†MEa, DPM, HuC) was reported by one observer as a Blue-footed; we have only 3 C.B.R.C.-accepted records of that species. An imm. Brown Pelican at the Wilbur Flood Control Area, Kings, Sep. 14–Nov. 6 (ph. †LkC) was unusual inland. Only our 2nd truly inland record, a Brandt's Cormorant at Clifton Court Forebay Oct. 12 was seen in both *Contra Costa* and *Alameda* (†SAG).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Least Bitterns continued at Olema Marsh, *Marin*, into October with the last sighting, a female, noted Oct. 10 (RS). A hungry male was picked up in downtown San Francisco Oct. 23, rehabbed in *Marin*, and released at L. Merced, S.F., Oct. 26 (*fide* RS). A melanistic Great Blue Heron, unprecedented in our 45-year notebooks, was in *Santa Clara* on Aug. 19 (†MJM). Twenty Great Egrets at L. Almanor, *Plumas*, Oct. 23 (HG) was a noteworthy concentration of trans-Sierran migrants. Thirty-eight White-faced Ibis were along the coast or inside S F Bay Aug 6–Nov 1 with over 80%

in *Monterey*, including a flock of 22 flying N past Pt. Pinos Oct. 6 (BGE). One at Nice Aug. 4–6 was *Lake's* third (JRW).

A coastally rare dark-morph Snow Goose at Humboldt Bay N.W.R. Sep. 3–Oct. 20 was *Humboldt's* first "Blue Goose" (SMcA, m. ob.). A family group of five "Aleutian" Canada Geese at Cottonwood L., San Jose, *Santa Clara*, Nov. 4 (†MJM) were the only ones reported away from *Humboldt*. A Eur. Wigeon at F.I. on Oct. 1 was the 400th species recorded there (PP). A pair of Canvasbacks bred at Pacines Res., *San Benito*, where three young were seen Sep. 2 (DLSh). Many of our wintering ducks may nest in the C.V. and Great Basin regions or even coastally when conditions are optimal. A Tufted Duck was reported at Modesto Oct. 18 (†KVV, JHG, MFi), which would be only a second *Stanislaus* record, but details suggested hybridization was not ruled out. Rare inland was an Oldsquaw at L. Shastina, *Siskiyou*, Nov. 9 (RE).

An interspecific communal roost of 20 White-tailed Kites and 30 N. Harriers near Arcata, *Humboldt*, Nov. 11 was unexpected but not without precedent (DFx). Sharp-shinned Hawk sightings by the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory at the *Marin* headlands were well above the 10-year average and more than double the counts for each of the past two years. September 26 was a banner day for Broad-winged Hawks when 15 passed the *Marin* headlands within 30 minutes (JM). Others reported on this date included singles at Pt. Reyes (MMC) and Angel I. (JsC) and three at the Presidio, S.F. (MEa, HuC, DPM). A flock of six was over Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey*, Oct. 26 (CKF). A very late Swainson's Hawk at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, Nov. 13 (†AME) was present through Dec. The small population of mostly dark-morph birds in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are the only ones known to winter in California. A well-documented **Gyr Falcon** was at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Nov. 24 (†RE, NEC). There are only 7 accepted records for the state.

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Two Sandhill Cranes flew S over Table Bluff Sep. 21 (KI) for a rare *Humboldt* occurrence. Late Am. Golden-Plovers were inland at Shasta Valley, *Siskiyou*, Nov. 25 (RE) and near Albaugh, *Tulare*, Nov. 9 (†DR). A **Mongolian Plover** at Eel River W.A. Oct. 2–3 was a first for *Humboldt* and 6th for our Region (†SNGH; †Sophie Webb, †DFx, †m. ob.). Rare coastal reports of Mountain Plover included individuals at Coyote Point

(inside S.F. Bay), *San Mateo*, Oct. 8 (RSTh), Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt*, Oct. 10 (CJR), and Point Reyes Nov. 24 (RS). Two Bar-tailed Godwits graced the region: an adult at Ravenswood Open Space Preserve Sep 12–29 (†RSTh, AME, †MFi) was *San Mateo's* third, while a juvenile at the confluence of Coyote and Alviso sloughs Oct 2 was both *Alameda's* and *Santa Clara's* 2nd (†SCR). Noteworthy county records included *Trinity's* first Marbled Godwit Sep. 12 at Trinity Center (†GJH, JEH, TWL, GAS) and *San Benito's* first Red Knot in Hollister Sep. 26–27 (JSL, †KVV). Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers were in moderate to low numbers. An apparent ad. Pectoral Sandpiper in the Arcata Bottoms was seen Nov. 18 (†DFx). Six Sharp-tailed Sandpipers was a good showing, and included a nicely documented juvenile inland at Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou*, Oct. 16–25 (†RE) Twelve Stilt Sandpipers included at least six in *Santa Clara*, a first for *San Benito* in Hollister Sep. 15–Oct 2 (†BMcK, DLSh, †KVV), and two singles in *Mono*: DeChambeau Ponds Aug. 21 (Barthe Miller) and Crowley Lake Sep. 19–20 (JLx, MEa) A show-stopping four Buff-breasted Sandpipers made a brief appearance in King Salmon, *Humboldt*, Sep. 4 (†KNN). Pelagic phalaropes were reported in very low numbers if at all: at F.I., where thousands of each are expected, about 100 Reds and no Red-neckeds were recorded this season.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Juvenal-plumaged Long-tailed Jaegers were rare finds inland at Shasta Valley W. A Aug. 21 (†RE), L. Don Pedro, *Tuolumne*, Aug 26 (ph. †TRY), and Indian Creek Res., *Alpine*, Oct. 3 (†TE); the latter two, as well as an adult near San Pablo Bay in w. *Solano* Sep 8 (†SAb), provided first county records Ad Laughing Gulls were in *Marin* at Stinson Beach Aug. 18–Sep. 13 (ARu, KH, m ob.) and Sausalito Oct. 25–Nov. 3 (ph. †SAb, m ob.), perhaps the same individual Franklin's Gulls were more widespread than in any previous season, with 12 individuals recorded in 10 counties Sep. 11–Nov 26, inland birds included five in the C.V and one at Mono Lake.

First-year Mew Gulls in Arcata Aug 2 (DFx) and Santa Cruz Aug. 9 (DR, RC) may have summered locally. Although a juv. Mew Gull at Santa Cruz Sep. 12 (BMcK, DLSh) and an adult with a juvenile at Pt. Reyes Aug. 15 (RS) were truly early, they fit an established pattern of early arrival by a very small number of birds in Aug. or early Sep Unusual inland were Mew Gulls at

Trinity Center Sep. 12 (†GjH, JEHu, TWL, GAS, first *Trinity* record) and L. Almanor, *Plumas*, Nov. 28 (RS, CLu). In *Santa Clara*, the ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull returned to Alviso for its 4th winter Oct. 21–Dec. (ph. SBT, †SCR, m. ob.). A first-winter gull at Davis, *Yolo*, Nov. 4–Dec. 12 (†SCH, †JM, ph MMR, m. ob.) may have been a Slaty-backed Gull, unprecedented in the Region, although eliminating other possibilities (including hybrids) is extremely difficult.

A count of 914 Sabine's Gulls on Monterey Bay Aug. 15 (ShJ) nearly doubled the previous Regional high, while a record 11 inland Sep. 5–Oct. 3 included *Trinity's* first at Trinity Center Sep. 7 (†MiF) and up to five in *Placer* (TE, PDe). One at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo*, Nov. 29 (RSTh) was very late, although there are at least 4 Dec. records. On Sep. 16, a concentration of at least 2900 Arctic Terns was 27 mi. w. of Pescadero, *San Mateo* (SCR, CAx), at the same time that 909 were on Monterey Bay (JLD et al.), providing the second highest one-day total for the Region. Lake Tahoe, *Placer*, hosted the only two interior Arctic Terns Sep. 19 (TE). Approximately 20 Black Skimmers were in 6 counties n. to *Sonoma*, with as many as 14 in *Santa Clara*.

Two **Long-billed Murrelets** were at Point St. George, *Del Norte*, one July 21–29 (†ADB) and a different bird Aug. 22–23 (ADB, †BED). Craveris' Murrelets were recorded Aug. 15–Oct. 13, with a high of 29 on Monterey Bay 16 Sep. (JLD et al.). Farther north, at least 12 were at F.I. where there had been only one previous record (PRBO), and 15 was a high count at Cordell Bank Sep. 14 (ShJ). Two Xantus's Murrelet chicks were on Monterey Bay 15 Aug. (ShJ), the second time that young Xantus's have been seen on the Bay. The only Horned Puffin reported was 11 mi. off Santa Cruz Aug. 21 (DLSu).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Seven White-winged Doves were along the coast Aug. 20–Oct. 22. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, Sep. 20–21 (†NL, JBo, †DR) was a very rare vagrant. Wildlife biologists' data pinpointed at least 37 Barred Owls in *Humboldt* (*fide* Dfx), where clear-cutting has led to continued range expansion.

A Lesser Nighthawk in the upper Owens Valley Sep. 6 (DS) was near the *Mono* range-extension found this summer; one flushed at Moss Landing, *Monterey*, Nov. 18 (BHG) was exceptionally late. A Com. Poorwill found dead in McKinleyville Oct. 19 (Peggy Stebbins) and one alive at

Lanphere-Christiansen Dunes Nov. 8 (CJR) were in coastal *Humboldt* where they are casual.

An imm. female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** captured on F.I. Aug. 25 (†PP) was the 4th here between Aug. 23–Sep. 12; what may have been the same individual was at Pt. Reyes lighthouse, *Marin*, the next day (†RS). This species may be more regular than shown by the few California records. A long overdue first for *San Mateo* was an imm. male Black-chinned Hummingbird at Coyote Point Sep. 20 (†RSTh). Costa's Hummingbirds at Eureka, *Humboldt*, Oct. 16 (GjH), Redding, *Shasta*, Sep. 27–30 (B&CY), and Fish Slough, *Mono*, Sep. 5 (PJM) were n. of usual ranges.

Vagrant Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were at Presidio, S.F., Sep. 27 (JsC), L. Mendocino, *Mendocino*, Nov. 28 (†GEC), Woodfords Nov. 27 (†CHo; first for *Alpine*), and Mono Co. Park, *Mono*, Oct. 17 (†A. Hensley, S. Edwards).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES

A silent wood-pewee on F.I. Sep. 5 (†PP) was thought an Eastern on extremes in plumage and shape, and a "Traill's" Flycatcher giving a "pic" call at Pt. Reyes Aug. 26 (RS) was believed an Alder. Both claims are controversial, but i.d. criteria are slowly developing. Distinguishing siblings in "Western" Flycatcher remains intractable, even for many vocalizing birds. What to make of a "singing Cordilleran Flycatcher" at Pt. Reyes Sep. 26 (†RS)? That bird "sounded just like breeders in the Chiricahuas and unlike local Pacific-slopes" but Johnson (*Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.* 112, 1980) showed wide intra-specific variation in both songs and calls of both taxa. There are no acceptable coastal records of Cordilleran, and an audio recording will likely be required to confirm this form's occurrence here.

About 15 Least Flycatchers reached the coast Aug. 24–Oct. 29 (six on F.I.), some nicely documented (†JM, †MEa, †DN). An E. Phoebe returned for its 6th winter at Shady Oaks Park, San Jose, Nov. 24 (MJM); others were at Half Moon Bay Oct. 11 (BS) and F.I. Oct. 27 (PP). An imm. Vermilion Flycatcher at Big Sur R. mouth Oct. 16 (†K. Moore, JBo) was unexpected. At least 28 Tropical Kingbirds were scattered from *Monterey* to *Humboldt* after Aug. 26. Rarer still were four E. Kingbirds: Big Sur R. mouth Sep. 1 (JBo); Pt. Reyes Aug. 27 (RS); Ten-mile River, *Mendocino*, Sep. 13 (JRW); and Arcata Sep. 21 (J. Ward, m. ob.).

More N. Shrikes than usual were found throughout the interior after mid-Oct., and

an immature lingered in San Antonio Valley, *Santa Clara*, after Nov. 14 (MMR, †MJM, †SCR).

VIREOS THROUGH CORVIDS

Since the split of "Solitary Vireo" into 3 species, we have learned that Plumbeous is a rare but expected fall coastal vagrant (about 10 this Aug. 23–Nov. 8). The eastern Blue-headed is more problematic. Fall vagrants do appear annually, but claims of late birds can pertain to bright, fresh Cassin's. This season only 4 of 7 reports of Blue-headed were documented: Big Sur R. mouth Sep. 28 (ph. JBo); F.I. Oct. 1 & 11 (†PP); and Half Moon Bay Nov. 1 (†RSTh). Likewise four of five Philadelphia Vireos were documented: Big Sur R. mouth Oct. 27 (ph. JBo); El Granada, *San Mateo*, Oct. 4 (†RSTh); Bodega Bay Sep. 5–10 (†DN, †BDP, RAR, m. ob.); and Fairhaven, *Humboldt*, Oct. 2–3 (DLSH, ADeM, †MMR, †GMCC, †et al.). Observers located a dozen Red-eyed Vireos along the coast, including a very late bird at Phipps Ranch, *San Mateo*, Nov. 5–6 (†AWn). Better yet were four **Yellow-green Vireos**: Santa Cruz Oct. 15–16 (†SG); Moss Beach, *San Mateo*, Oct. 4 (†PJM); Ft. Funston, S.F., Sep. 30–Oct. 4 (BE, †JM, †LkC, †MEa, m. ob.); and Pt. Reyes lighthouse Sep. 28 (B. Brandriff, RS, m. ob.).

Flocks of 50–110 W. Scrub-Jays surprised observers at Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, Sep. 18 & Oct. 30 (JBo), Watsonville, *Santa Cruz*, Sep. 2 (DLSu), and Coyote Pt., *San Mateo*, Sep. 20 (RSTh). Booker wrote that these "large dispersing flocks challenge the notion that they are strictly sedentary." But could these aggregations be locally-fledged youngsters forced out of their parents' territory? Who would have thought the common scrub-jay would present such a mystery?

NUTHATCHES THROUGH PIPITS

A White-breasted Nuthatch at the Presidio, S.F., Sep. 26–27 (BE, m. ob.) was a rare find. A **Cactus Wren** building a "shelter-nest" at Fish Slough, 10 mi. n. of Bishop, *Mono*, Sep. 5 (†PJM) was the first for our Region and the 2nd for N. California. One on Jun. 26, 1992 (AB 46: 1175) was in the small corner of *Mono* covered by the S. Pacific Coast Region. (A published C.B.C. claim [AB 33: 655] is undocumented and should be disregarded; *fide* PJM.)

Two **Veeries** in *Monterey* were exceptional: one banded Sep. 21 at Big Sur R. mouth (ph. JBo, SFB) and another at Carmel R. mouth Sep. 21–22 (†REM, †BHG; †DR). There are only 5 C.B.R.C.

**Eastern Warbler Records
from the Middle Pacific Coast Region**

Species	Fall 1998	Fall 1997	Fall 1974	Comment
Tennessee	31	12	43	average
Northern Parula	7	8	6	average
Chestnut-sided	51	18	36	great
Magnolia	29	12	31	good
Cape May	3	1	7	good
Black-throated Blue	26	15	21	great
Black-throated Green	4	1	2	average
Blackburnian	9	3	14	average
Prairie	19	15	8	good
Palm	158	100	121	average
Bay-breasted	5	2	10	good
Blackpoll	168	24	180	great
Black-and-white	42	17	17	great
Amer. Redstart	44	17	59	average
Ovenbird	9	1	9	good
N Waterthrush	33	22	6	good
Hooded	4	0	2	good
Canada	4	3	9	average

accepted records for our Region. Swainson's Thrushes banded at Big Sur R. mouth Nov. 1 & 2 were quite late (CHo, JBo).

Four Gray Catbirds were a good showing: Tunitas Cr. Road Oct. 23 (†AWn; first for *San Mateo*); F.I. October 31; Pt. Reyes Sep. 22–23 (RS, GFi, GGF, m. ob.); and Campbell Cove, *Sonoma*, Sep. 22–Oct. 8 (Alan Wight, †DN, m. ob.). Some 19 Sage Thrashers were west of the C.V. this fall, including four together at Wildhorse Canyon, *Monterey*, Nov. 25 (REM, RFT) and one in the C.V. in *Butte* Sep. 23 (TDM, BWb). Rounding out rare thrashers were four Browns: Gazos Cr. Road, *San Mateo*, Oct. 23 (Chris Corben, Lisa Hug); F.I. Sep. 21–22; Pt. Reyes Oct. 6 (RS) and Oct. 31 (BDP).

A **White Wagtail** foraging on sandbars in the Big Sur R. Sep. 28 (TEa, ph. †DR et al.) was only the 2nd for our Region. The "best" landbird was California's first **Olive-backed Pipit** on F.I. Sep. 26–29 (R. Burnett, P. Capitolo, W. Richardson, ph. †PP). This Siberian vagrant was presaged by records from Nevada and Baja California. Single Red-throated Pipits were at San Jose Sep. 26 (†NL) and Abbotts Lagoon, Pt. Reyes, Oct. 18 (RS).

WARBLERS

For coastal birders, fall 1998 (especially the last week of Aug. through early Oct.) was great for "eastern" warblers; at Pt. Reyes Stallcup termed it the "best since the mid-1970s." Highlights were a male Golden-winged Warbler on F.I. Sep. 29–30 (†PP); an *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler at Carmel R. mouth Sep. 9 (REM, †DR, m. ob.); a Worm-eating Warbler at Moss Landing,

Monterey, Nov. 16 (†RF); and documented Mourning Warblers at Big Sur R. mouth Sep. 20 (†D. Haupt) and F.I. Sep. 15–16 (†PP). From the southwest came six Virginia's (including one at Westhaven, *Humboldt*, Sep. 29 [†TWL]); two Lucy's (both *Monterey*); and two **Painted Redstarts** in *Marin*: at Marin Headlands Sep. 28 (K. Francone, †RS, m. ob.) and Pt. Reyes Sep. 30 (Jim Holmes, †RS et al.). A remarkable 15 Prothonotary Warblers were discovered: five in *Humboldt* Sep. 2–Oct. 6 (†DFx, †GAS, m. ob.), four in *Monterey* Sep. 6–Oct. 12 (†R. Fowler, †B. Hill, m. ob.), and singles in *Santa Cruz*, *San Mateo*, *San Francisco*, *Marin*, *Sonoma*, and *Mendocino* (county first at Hopland Oct. 19; †CEV). More regular "eastern" warblers are summarized in Table 1, which lists the totals this fall, last fall (a "poor" year), and in fall 1974 (a "great" year), along with comments on how fall 1998 ranked against an "average" year.

Away from the coast and S.F. Bay, a Tennessee Warbler was at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, Sep. 23 (JTr); a Chestnut-sided was at Bobelaine Sanctuary, *Sutter*, Sep. 26 (John Ranlett); an exceptional Bay-breasted was at Oroville, *Butte*, Oct. 16 (RS); a Blackpoll was at Oasis, *Mono*, Sep. 13 (AME); a N. Waterthrush was banded at Stone Lakes N.W.R., *Sacramento*, Aug. 26 (*vide* TDM); and two Am. Redstarts were in *Mono* (ES, LkC).

TANAGERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

Eight Summer Tanagers were coastal vagrants. A young male Scarlet Tanager was at Pt. Reyes Sep. 30 (†RS). It was a fine fall for the following vagrants to the coast or S.F. Bay area, with five Green-tailed Towhee, four Am. Tree Sparrow, 16 Brewer's Sparrow, 29 Vesper Sparrow, 25 Lark Sparrow, 15 Lark Bunting, and 50+ Swamp Sparrow. A Brewer's Sparrow along American R. Parkway, *Sacramento*, Sep. 28 (†TDM) was rare in the C.V.

Observers reported 108 Clay-colored Sparrows to coastal and S.F. Bay regions, eclipsing all records in most areas, while interesting interior individuals appeared in *Lake* (2 birds; JRW) and *Siskiyou* (†RE). Three rare Black-throated Sparrows reached the coast: *Santa Cruz* Sep. 6–11 (a *Santa Cruz* first; B. Johnson, †SG et al.); F.I. Sep. 14–22; and Pt. Reyes (RS). Vagrant Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were located in Carmel R. mouth marsh Oct. 1 (†REM) and on F.I. (2nd island record; PP). Four of five *zaboria/iliaca* Fox Sparrows were in Nov., probably a typical fall (and likely all *zaboria; iliaca* is unrecorded in California)

The lone Harris's Sparrow was in Arcata bottoms Nov. 11 (†DFx, JCP).

As usual, late fall brought a smattering of Lapland (43 plus a flock of 50+ in Arcata bottoms Oct. 25–27; KI) and Chestnut-collared (22) longspurs, including a 2nd *San Benito* record of the latter Nov. 20 (JBo) Single Snow Buntings were on F.I. Nov. 1 (†PP) and at Arcata Oct. 29 (†P. Lohse)

It was an average autumn for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (28 coastally plus one inland along the American R., *Sacramento*, Aug. 8; M. James) but quite poor for Blue Grosbeaks (7) and Indigo Buntings (4) Two imm. female Painted Buntings appeared: Pt. Reyes Sep. 29 (†JMR, RS et al.) and, exceptionally, along the Shasta R. near Grenada, *Siskiyou*, Sep. 19 (†RE). The only Dickcissel was on F.I. Sep. 24.

ICTERIDS THROUGH FINCHES

A reasonable fallout of Bobolinks (over 50) included a flock of 20+ in Arcata bottoms Oct. 2–3 (BMcK, GMcC, m. ob.) and one inland at Cosumnes R. Preserve Sep. 27 (a *Sacramento* first; MP, JTr et al.). About 40 Yellow-headed Blackbirds reached coastal lowlands where they are scarce, and additional individuals reached little-known *Trinity* Sep. 6 (GjH, JEH, RHw) and *Ione*, *Amador*, Sep. 7 (KVV, JSL), providing 2nd & first county records, respectively. Rarer yet was a Rusty Blackbird in the Arcata bottoms Oct. 22 (D. Faulkner).

Great-tailed Grackles continue to fill in previously missed locales, including seven at Gonzales, *Monterey*, Aug. 17 (adults with youngsters; bred?; KVV); a female in *Merced* Aug. 11–18 (JSL, DR, RC); and a male at Clear Lake S.P. Aug. 22 (first for *Lake*; †SCR). The flock at Woodlake, *Tulare*, had grown to 43 by Oct. (KH). Among vagrant orioles were a dozen coastal Orchards and a half-dozen Baltimores

Cited observers (county coordinators bold-faced):

Steve Abbott, Chuck Alexander, Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldrige, Alan D. Barron, **William G. Bausman**, Jim Booker, **Penelope K. Bowen**, Rita Carratello, George E. Chanot, Josiah Clark, Neal E. Clark, **Luke Cole**, Hugh Cotter, Pierre Delastre, Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark Eaton, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom**, Bruce G. Elliot, Mike Feighner, George Finger, Brian Fitch, **David Fix**, Rick Fournier, James H. Gain, Bruce H. Gerow, Steve Gerow, **Steve A. Glover**, Helen Green, George Griffiths, Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hansen, Gjon Hazard, Rob Hewitt, Craig Hohenberger,

Alan S. Hopkins, Steve N.G. Howell, Lisa Hug, **John E. Hunter**, Ken Irwin, **Robert J. Keiffer**, Clay Kempf, **Robin L.C. Leong**, Tom W. Leskiw, Nick Lethaby, Cindy Lieurance (CLu), Leslie Lieurance (LLu), Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, **Timothy D. Manolis**, Robert E. Maurer, Sean McAllister, Guy McCaskie, Mac McCormick, Todd McGrath, **Bert McKee**, **Peter J. Metropulos**, Joseph Morlan, Dan P. Murphy, Dan Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Michael Perrone, **Jude Claire Power**, Peter Pyle, C. John Ralph, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, **Don Roberson**, Michael M. Rogers, Stephen C. Rottenborn, **Ruth A. Rudesill**, Andrew Rush, Tom Ryan, Barry Sauppe, Greg A. Schmidt, Debra L. Shearwater, Dave Shuford, Rich Stallcup, **Emilie Strauss**, **David L. Suddjian**, Richard Ternullo, Scott B. Terrill, Robert F. Tintle, Ronald S. Thorn, John Trochet, Chuck E. Vaughn, Kent Van Vuren, Bruce Webb, **Jerry R. White**, Adam Winer, **Bob & Carol Yutzy**
 Many more observers were not specifically cited, but all are appreciated.

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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 *North American Birds* are keyed on page 24.

southern pacific coast region



GUY MCCASKIE

The season was relatively storm-free, which enables normal migrants to pass through this Region without problems. Large numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters were close to shore in the early part of the season. Some mountain and berry-eating passerines were evidently on the move but not in massive numbers. Accidental stragglers included California's first **American Woodcock**.

Abbreviations: C.L. (*China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo Co.*); N.E.S.S. (*n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); S.E.S.S. (*s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*); S.F.K.R.P. (*South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.*). Since virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A Red-throated Loon on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, Nov. 30 (T & JH) was far inland, and another on L. Perris Nov. 21 (MAP) was only the 4th to be found in *Riverside*.

Black-vented Shearwaters were more numerous than usual close to shore, with

such numbers as 10,000 visible from Pt. Vicente on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, *Los Angeles*, Aug. 15 (DMH, KLa), 20,000 from the pier in Newport Beach, *Orange*, Sep. 1 (MSanM), and 5500 from shore in La Jolla, *San Diego*, Oct. 5 (SWal). Ashy and Least storm-petrels were also visible from shore, along with the more expected Black Storm-Petrels, in *San Diego* and *Orange* during Aug. and Sep., with high counts from the Newport Beach pier of 5 Ashy Sep. 25–26 (JEP) and 20 Least Sep. 1 (MSanM). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel from the Newport Beach pier Aug. 31 (JEP) was the first to be seen from shore in S. California, and one of a very few reported in this Region. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel seen from the Newport Beach pier Aug. 11 (JEP) was unusually far south and exceptional at this time.

A Red-billed Tropicbird near San Nicolas I. Aug. 22 (KLG) was the highlight of the Los Angeles Audubon Society's pelagic birding trip. A Red-tailed Tropic-bird identified from a low flying aircraft about 100 mi. s.w. of San Nicholas I. Aug. 14 (CRo) was in an area where small numbers probably occur regularly. A Neotropic Cormorant reported from Imperial Dam, *Imperial*, Sep. 26 (DT) was on the California side of the Colorado R. Imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds along the coast over Coronado, *San Diego*, Aug. 4 (*fide* DWA), San Pedro, *Los Angeles*, Aug. 6 (DMH) and Huntington Beach, *Orange*, Aug. 11 (ToH), and slightly inland over Cypress, *Orange*, Aug. 10 (KP) were associated with the major influx of these birds in Jun. and Jul. An immature at S.E.S.S. Sep. 12 (N & MF) was probably associated with tropical disturbances in the Gulf of California.

The imm. Tricolored Heron found in Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, Jul. 25 was still present at the end of the period (*fide* DWA), but one at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, Oct. 13 through the end of the period (DSm) was the only other one reported. An ad. Reddish Egret in Imperial Beach Aug. 2 through the end of the period (GMcC) was joined by an immature Oct. 4 (BM), one was at Seal Beach, *Orange*, Aug. 8–Sep. 15 (JF) and another at Bolsa Chica Sep. 7–28 (SWar)—an average number for this time of year.