

oregon–washington region



**BILL TWEIT, BILL TICE,
and STEVE MLODINOW**

The weather was extremely wet in the first half of December, and then a cold front from the north after the third week caused temperatures to drop into the low teens. There were impressive numbers of gulls inland for a short time, particularly in the Willamette and Umpqua valleys. In Seattle, the November/December combined rainfall was over four inches higher than the previous combined record for those two months. January and February were also much wetter than normal, and even though temperatures were near normal, the reduced amount of sunlight made the winter seem quite gloomy and cold.

The adjective of the season was “lingering,” particularly on the westside but to a lesser extent in the interior. Unusual numbers of pelicans, vultures, Osprey, warblers, swallows, sparrows—you name it—were reported later than usual. Few northern migrants appeared; both winter finches and irruptive raptors were scarce. There may have been a small Siberian invasion, as indicated by reports of Arctic Loon, Slaty-backed Gull, Sky Lark, Rustic Bunting, and Brambling.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (*Fern Ridge Res., Lane Co., OR*); Sauvie (*Sauvie I., Columbia/ Multno-*

mah Co., OR); S.J.C.R. (*south jetty of the Columbia River, Clatsop Co., OR*); W.W.R.D. (*Walla Walla R. delta, WA*).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Details of an **Arctic Loon** reported from Brownsmead, *Clatsop*, Dec. 26–Jan. 16 (MP, m.ob.) are under review by the Oregon Records Committee. The Yellow-billed Loon at Sequim Bay, *Clallam*, WA, remained until Dec. 4 (*fide* BN), providing the only report. Three unusual inland winter records of Red-necked Grebe included singles on Staat’s Pond, *Marion*, OR, Dec. 1–8 (SD, m.ob.); at Finley N.W.R., *Benton*, OR, Dec. 9 (TB), and at Toppenish, *Yakima*, WA, Dec. 13 (DG). An unusually small number of Clark’s Grebe reports included two that wintered on Coos Bay, OR (TR), one dead at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, Dec. 4 (F. Issacs), one at Utsalady Bay, *Island*, WA, Dec. 6 (SM), and one at Portland Jan. 23 (DBa).

Seabird censuses over the Continental Shelf off both Washington and Oregon Dec. 13–14 found roughly equal numbers of Black-footed and Laysan albatrosses, 65 and 70, respectively (MF). This is the highest Regional total to date for Laysan Albatross. Northern Fulmar numbers were unimpressive, a total of 150 off both coasts (MF). Other tubenose reports included one Sooty Shearwater off Washington, 49 Short-tailed Shearwater, and one Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (MF). Not unexpected were three Short-tailed Shearwaters in Puget Sound in early December: one off Edmonds, *Snohomish*, Dec. 6 (DBe) and two off Point No Point, *Kitsap*, Dec. 14 (VN).

At least four Am. White Pelican wintered in w. Oregon: two+ in the greater Portland area Dec. 2–Jan. 3 (P. McGinnis, C. Hallett, both *fide* HN) and two at F.R.R. Dec. 21+ (TB, m.ob.). Brown Pelicans were found in numbers that would have been unprecedented only a few years ago. Twenty-four in w. Oregon from Dec. 3 to Jan. 2 included two inland, where casual, on the Columbia R. at Oaks Bottoms, *Columbia*, Dec. 3 (*fide* HN). Washington had an even larger total of 48. The largest concentration was 43 at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, Dec. 2 (BB) with 12 still there Jan. 1 (PtSu). Inside Puget Sound, one

was near Olympia Dec. 6 (BS, BTw); two were at Point No Point Dec. 16 (VN); and one was at Quartermaster Harbor, *King*, Dec. 17 (G. Shugart). Great Egrets were present this winter in good numbers, but not equaling last year’s influx. Up to 200 were found in w. Oregon; large concentrations included 40 at Scappoose Bottoms, *Columbia* (HN); 21 at F.R.R. (B. Combs); 78 at Coquille, *Coos* (*fide* AC); and 43 at Myrtle Pt., *Coos* (TR). The Washington total was 30+, most along the lower Columbia R. (JE). After the smallest fall total of Cattle Egrets in a decade, six near Wallula, *Walla Walla*, WA, Dec. 8 (M&MLD) were surprising. A total of 47 Black-crowned Night-Heron reports from w. Oregon, five from w. Washington, and nine from e. Washington reflected an increasing wintering population.

The 500+ Snow Geese in the Columbia R. bottomlands this winter (HN, JE) represented a large increase in the numbers wintering in this area. A blue-morph Snow Goose at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla*, WA, Jan. 20 (BW) was a rare winter record. Four Ross’s Goose reports were above average and included singles at Finley N.W.R., *Benton*, OR, Jan. 3 (E. Knight); Kent, *King*, WA, Jan. 17+ (DBe, m.ob.); White City, *Jackson*, OR, Feb. 5 (GS); and Sauvie Feb. 11 (HN). Three Emperor Goose reports were about average; they included the Sandy R. bird present for the period (m.ob.); one continuing in *Clallam*, WA, to Jan. 16 (BN, m.ob.); and one in *Tillamook*, OR, Feb. 15 (MT, C. Roberts). Two Com. (Green-winged) Teal were found: one in Brownsmead, OR, Jan. 18+ (MP, JG) and one on Sauvie Feb. 3+ (GL). While only one Blue-winged Teal was reported, w. of Perrydale, *Polk*, OR, Dec. 18 (BTi), many Cinnamon Teal were found. The w. Oregon total was 18, and five more were in Washington. The interior tally of Eur. Wigeon was 10, a few more than normal. The 100 Redhead on Agate L., *Jackson*, OR, Feb. 5 furnished a large westside congregation (GS). Tufted Duck reports included a female on Garrison L., *Curry*, OR, Feb. 2–15 (†CD, N. Wander) and a male present at Bingen, *Klickitat*, WA, through Jan. 29 for the 4th consecutive win-

ter (SJ). The count of 3500 Greater Scaup at W.W.R.D. Feb. 27 (M&MLD) was a very high total for an interior locale and may be indicative of their growing abundance on the Columbia R. There were 1200 e. of Biggs, *Wasco*, OR, (DBa), also indicative of their current numbers on this stretch of the Columbia.

RAPTORS THROUGH ALCIDS

Numerous Turkey Vultures wintered in w. Oregon with at least 20 reported during December and January, an unprecedented number. Ospreys overwintered in above-average numbers: eight+ were reported from w. Oregon and one from s.w. Washington. One in the interior, at College Place, *Walla Walla*, WA, Dec. 2 (M&MLD), was very late.

SA White-tailed Kite numbers were remarkable with reports exceeding 100 for the first time ever. This high count was due at least partially to systematic searching at the n. edge of their range in s.w. Washington. It also appears to have been an above-average winter as the Oregon totals were from locales where they are reported annually. In w. Oregon, over 80 were reported from the Willamette valley, the coast, and the Rogue valley. In s.w. Washington, 19 kites were found in *Lewis* (DBe) Feb. 20, nine in *Thurston* (RR, C. Haynie, BS), and one in *Pacific* (DBe).

Red-shouldered Hawks, another "southern" raptor with an increasing distribution in the Region, were reported in better-than-average numbers. Almost 40 were found in w. Oregon. The s. coast valleys of the Illinois and Coquille accounted for 34 of those (*vide* AC). In the Willamette, birds were near Brownsville, *Linn*; at F.R.R.; near Sutherlin, *Douglas*; and, farthest north, at Sauvie. One wintered in the interior at Klamath Falls, OR (K. Spencer). Three Ferruginous Hawk reports from e. Washington are another indicator of the mildness of the winter: two+ in *Klickitat* (SJ) and one, maybe an early migrant, in *Grant* Feb. 20 (DG). At least 5 Golden Eagle reports from the west-side, 4 of those from w. Oregon, represent the expected number and pattern. The Gyrfalcon total included one in w. Oregon, at Brownsmeade, for the winter (MP, m.ob.); at least one in e. Washington (KK); one in e. Oregon (M&MLD); and five+ in w. Washington (B. Anderson, m.ob.).

Soras winter in irregular numbers. The total of 10 is another result of the mild winter. One in the interior, at Gloyd Seeps, *Grant*, WA, Dec. 28 (RF), was remarkable. The other Washington report was one at Skagit W.M.A. Dec. 26–Jan. 11 (SM, G. Toffic). All but 2 of the Oregon reports were from the outer coast where the farthest north was at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, Jan. 2 (*vide* P. Weaver). The inland reports of Sora were one at Forest Grove, *Washington*, Dec. 26 (*vide* M.A. Solhstrom) and one in the Rogue Valley, *Jackson*, Jan. 2 (C. Brumitt).

The 41 Snowy Plovers reported included 11 far north at Midway Beach, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Feb. 17 (S. Richardson). A golden-plover (sp.) near Langlois, *Curry*, OR, Dec. 28 (TJW) was the only one reported. The Am. Avocet that overwintered in the Coos Bay area (TR) was a very rare winter west-side record. The Marbled Godwit population wintering in s.w. Washington continues to increase: 420 were counted at Tokeland, *Pacific*, Jan. 9 (SM). Dunlin counts in the Columbia Basin of e. Washington totaled almost 550 in December (BW, R. Hill, M&MLD) but dwindled quickly to less than 15 in January. A Short-billed Dowitcher at Coos Bay, OR, Dec. 20 (*vide* TR) contributes to a growing number of winter records. The season's only Red Phalarope reports were one inland at the Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, WA, Dec. 1 (BW) and two off San Juan I., WA, Dec. 19 (SM). Six Pomarine and one Parasitic jaeger were found offshore on the Dec. 13–14 survey (MF).

A **Franklin's Gull** at Sauvie Feb. 15 (R. Lockett) represents about the 10th Regional winter record. Little Gulls were found at their usual haunts with one at American L., *Pierce*, WA, Dec. 3–Jan. 5 (M. Priebe, PtSu) and one at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, Jan. 15 into March (M. Blue, VN). Heermann's Gulls, now rare but regular in winter, were represented by two at the Chetco R. mouth, *Curry*, OR, Dec. 7 (DM) and one on the Coos Bay CBC Dec. 20 (*vide* TR). Mew Gull records from e. Washington seem to be increasing with three this winter: Medical L., *Spokane*, Dec. 1 (JA); Ice Harbor Dam Dec. 5 (M&MLD); and Spokane Jan. 3–16 (K. Dumroese). A 2nd-winter **Iceland Gull** reported on Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, Dec. 21 (†E. Hunn) will provide the 5th Washington record if accepted by the W.B.R.C.

A relatively pale-mantled **Slaty-backed Gull** was described from near Sequim, *Clallam*, WA, Feb. 1–21 (†BSu, m.ob.). There is great controversy whether such birds are within the variation of Slaty-backed or whether they represent hybrids with other

species or even *vega* Herring Gulls. Western Gulls are regular along the Columbia R. e. to the Snake R. confluence, so one at Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, Jan. 7 (BW) was expected. One much farther upstream at Bridgeport, *Douglas*, Dec. 19 (KK) was much rarer. Thirty-one Glaucous Gulls this winter represented an average total. A Black-legged Kittiwake at Boston Harbor, *Thurston*, Dec. 6 (BTw) was in southernmost Puget Sound, where casual. One-thousand Ancient Murrelets at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, WA, Feb. 3 (BSu) furnished an impressive count, especially for late winter.

OWLS THROUGH TROGLODYTES

It was a very poor winter for Snowy Owls with only 3 Washington records: one in *Lincoln* Jan. 11–22 (JA); two in *Grant* Jan. 22 (RF); and one in Renton, *King*, Dec. 18 (P. Couzens, JF). Winter Burrowing Owls are less than annual e. of the Cascades, so one at Goodnoe Hills, *Klickitat*, WA, Dec. 12 (SJ) and another at Kennewick, *Benton*, WA, Jan. 16 (D. Rockwell) were good finds. West of the Cascades, this species is rare but regular in winter, but three represent a good total: near Salem, OR, Dec. 3+ (SD); near Albany, *Linn*, OR, Dec. 12–23 (M. Hoefler); and near Lebanon, *Linn*, OR, Feb. 20 (D. DeWitt). A Great Gray Owl at Havillah, *Okanogan*, Feb. 21 was at the most regular site in Washington. (JF).

Over the last 20 years, Costa's Hummingbirds have become annual visitors to Oregon, but one at Portland Dec. 8–13 (DBu) was farther north than usual and present during winter, when least common. Somewhat more typical was one that remained on territory at Grant's Pass throughout the period for the 3rd consecutive year (*vide* DV). Two Acorn Woodpeckers near Lyle, *Klickitat*, Dec. 19–26 (PtSu) show that Washington's tiny resident population continues to hang on. Oregon's 10th **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was near Gold Beach, *Curry*, Dec. 20–28 (†CD). There are very few Washington winter records of Williamson's Sapsucker, so two this winter were exceptional: Kennewick, *Benton*, Dec. 19 (N&BL) and Trout L., *Klickitat*, Dec. 19 (SJ).

Say's Phoebes return to the interior in mid-to-late February, but one at Dallesport, *Klickitat*, WA, Dec. 12–26 occurred at a time when very rare (PtSu, SJ). Four were in w. Oregon where rare at any season: one in Roseburg Dec. 21 (*vide* R. Maertz); one at Phoenix, *Jackson*, Jan. 24 (D. Cronberg); one at Lebanon, *Linn*, Jan. 29 (B. Thackaberry); and one at Sauvie Feb. 26–28 (OS, JG). An **Eastern Phoebe** near Bandon, *Coos*, Dec. 30

SA Two **Sky Larks** found near Sequim, WA, Dec. 23 (PtSu, BB, ph. RS) provided the first Regional record away from the introduced population on the San Juan Is. Both birds remained through Dec. 30, and one remained to through the end of February. Remarkably, Steve Madge's analysis of the photos suggests that this bird is of E. Asian origin. Currently, there is only one North American record away from Alaska of a Sky Lark of Asiatic origin. This comes from Pt. Reyes, CA, where a Sky Lark returned for 7 consecutive winters. There is, however, a record of Sky Lark from the Queen Charlotte Is., B.C., and another from N. Vancouver I., B.C., both of which may well have been from Asia.

through winter's end furnished Oregon's 4th record (KC, DL, TR). Almost equally rare was a winter **Empidonax**, felt to be a Dusky, at Millacoma Marsh, Coos, OR, Dec. 4–18 (TR, E. Horvath).

As with Say's Phoebe, both Tree and Violet-green swallows return to the Region in February but are quite rare earlier in the winter. This year there were 10 December/January sightings of Tree Swallow (eight from w. Oregon and two from w. Washington) and three of Violet-green, which were at Kent, King, WA, Dec. 1 (DBe); Fernhill L., Washington, OR, Dec. 8 (HN); and Elma, Grays Harbor, WA, Jan. 6 (T. Aversa). A N. Rough-winged Swallow at Coquille, OR, Feb. 28 (TR) was about a month early. Six records of Barn Swallow scattered throughout the winter were also exceptional. The most northerly of these was at American L., Pierce, WA, Dec. 19–26 (M. Roening). Completing the swallow bonanza, a Cliff Swallow in the interior at the Yakima R. delta, Benton, WA, Dec. 21 (PtSu) added to the handful of winter records. Ten Blue Jays, seven from e. Washington and three from e. Oregon, were more than average and followed an excellent fall for this species. Remnants from last fall's Mt. Chickadee incursion into the lowlands were widely scattered on both sides of the Cascades.

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

Five W. Bluebirds at Tonasket, Okanogan, WA, Dec. 27 were quite far north for mid-winter (BS, TS). Mountain Bluebirds are rare but regular during winter w. of the Cascades. This year one was near Sequim, WA, Dec. 12–26 (BN); another was at Portland Dec. 15–Jan. 2 (EM); and one was at Monmouth, Polk, OR, Feb. 28 (T. Snet-

singer). As with many other facultative winterers, Hermit Thrushes were more numerous than usual with a maximum of 13 near Lime Kiln S.P., San Juan, WA, Dec. 19 (SM). A count of 140 Varied Thrushes at Lime Kiln that day was also exceptional (SM). Seven N. Mockingbirds this winter was about average. Two were in Washington: Elma, Grays Harbor, Jan. 3–9 (JF) and Eg-lon, Kitsap, Dec. 10 (VN). Winter Logger-head Shrikes are less than annual w. of the Cascades, so one at Steigerwald L. N.W.R., Clark, WA, Jan. 24 was a good find (W. Cady).

Given the superb diversity and number of lingering warblers last fall, a good winter for warblers was expected, and 11 species represented a good winter indeed. A Nashville Warbler near Brookings, Curry, OR, Dec. 4 (DM) added to only a few Regional winter records. Yellow Warblers are casual during winter, but this year there were two: Millacoma Marsh, Coos, OR, Dec. 6–14 (TR) and Pony Slough, Coos, Dec. 10 (TR). The Region averages about one Black-throated Gray Warbler every other year. This year there were two: near Lake Oswego, Clackamas, OR, throughout the winter (KH) and in Portland Jan. 6 (J. Valdivik). A Hermit Warbler near Lake Oswego Feb. 10–28 (KH) was even more unusual. Palm Warblers winter regularly in small numbers along the coast, but one at Portland Jan. 10–12 was exceptional (M. Calvin, DBa). A **Black-and-white Warbler** at Sequim Bay, WA, Dec. 17 was an excellent find (BN). There are about 35 records of Black-and-white Warbler from Washington, but only a few from winter. A N. Waterthrush at Warrenton, Clatsop, OR, Jan. 2 (MP) was almost as unusual. Winter Com. Yellowthroats are less than annual in the Region except along the s. coast. This winter there were seven: one at Everett, Snohomish, WA, Dec. 10 (KA); two near Monroe, Snohomish, WA, Dec. 10 (KA); two at Millacoma Marsh, Coos, OR, Dec. 14 (TR); one at Coquille, OR, Jan. 2 (*vide* AC); and one at Skagit W.M.A., Skagit, WA, Jan. 21 (DBe). Finally, a Tennessee Warbler in Seattle Nov. 25 (BFeltner) was received too late to include in the fall report, but deserves mention as a late date for this casual migrant.

An injured male **Western Tanager** was at Federal Way, King, WA, Dec. 25–Jan. 1 (JF). There are fewer than 10 Regional winter records for this species. There are also fewer than 10 Regional winter records for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, but this winter there were two: a female or immature at Brookings, Curry, OR, Dec. 12 (†CD) and a

male at College Place, Walla Walla, WA, Dec. 12 (M&MLD). American Tree Sparrows were present in good numbers as highlighted by 26 near Enterprise, Wallowa, OR, Dec. 12 (PtSu) and eight at Skagit W.M.A., Skagit, WA, Jan. 21–23 (T. Greager). Chipping Sparrows are annual during winter in s.w. Oregon, but elsewhere they are quite rare, especially e. of the Cascades. This winter there were one at Port Angeles, Clallam, WA, Dec. 8 (A. Watkins); three at Airlie, Polk, OR, Jan. 25 (TB); one near Monroe, Snohomish, WA, in February (DD); and one on the east-side at Spokane Dec. 27 (JA). Five Clay-colored Sparrows also provided an excellent winter total: singles at Toledo, Lincoln, OR, Dec. 3 (D. Faxon); Cape Blanco, Curry, OR, Dec. 6 (TJW); Leque I., Snohomish, WA, Dec. 6–17 (SM); Elma, Grays Harbor, WA, Jan. 3–9 (JF, PtSu); and Langlois, Curry, OR, Feb. 21 (TJW).

Vesper Sparrows are less than annual during winter. Two were found this year: one at F.R.R. Dec. 17 (M. Nikas) and one at Auburn, King, WA, Dec. 28 (DBe). A Sage Sparrow at Lake Sammamish S.P., King, WA, Feb. 23 (M&J Hobbs) was w. of the Cascades, where less than annual. Most westside records are in early spring when breeders are returning to their normal eastside haunts. A "Red" Fox Sparrow was at Corvallis, OR, Jan. 17 (N. Holcomb). This form seems to be annual in the Region, but documentation remains scarce. Seven Swamp Sparrows from Washington and 13 from Oregon were about average, but two were from the east-side where barely annual during winter: McNary N.W.R., Walla Walla, WA, Dec. 5 (M&MLD) and Chief Timothy S.P., Asotin, WA, Dec. 21 (PtSu). The excellent fall for White-throated Sparrows translated into an excellent winter as highlighted by 12 at Sauvie Feb. 15 (TS). Though White-crowned Sparrows are one of the Region's most common wintering birds, 2500 at Big Flat, Franklin, WA, were truly exceptional (M&MLD). Sixteen Harris's Sparrows (11 in Washington, five in Oregon) were about average despite the fall's poor showing.

A **Rustic Bunting** near Leavenworth, Chelan, WA, Jan. 9–23 (D. Stephens, ph. RS) provided the 4th Regional record and about the 12th from North America outside of Alaska. A Snow Bunting e. of Lebanon, Linn, Feb. 6 (J. Harding) was in the Willamette Valley where less than annual.

A male Tricolored Blackbird near F.R.R. Jan. 6 (D. Wendt) furnished a first Lane record; they are quite rare in the s. Willamette Valley. It was an excellent winter for W. Meadowlarks as highlighted by 100 at

Leque I., *Snohomish*, WA, Dec. 14 (DD) and 225 near Goldendale, *Klickitat*, WA, Jan. 2 (SJ). Six Bullock's Orioles represented an amazing total for this less than annual winterer: one at Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, WA, Dec. 1 (NL); one at Cape Meares, *Tillamook*, OR, to Dec. 20 (MT); one near Brookings, *Curry*, OR, Dec. 22 (DM); one near Gold Beach, *Curry*, OR, Dec. 24 (CD); and two along Smith R., *Curry*, OR, Dec. 27 (CD). A **Brambling** at Portland Dec. 13–Jan. 10 (EM, DBu, m.ob.) and another at Sweet Home, *Linn*, Dec. 26–27 (N. Bock) provided the 5th and 6th Oregon records. There are now 19 Regional records. Thirty-one Pine Grosbeaks at Trout L., *Klickitat*, WA, Dec. 22 (SJ) furnished a superb count for the Region while two at Lummi Flats, *Whatcom*, WA, Feb. 20 (J. Duemmel) were w. of the Cascades, where rare.

There were 2 reports of the erratic White-winged Crossbill this winter. Four at Glenwood, *Klickitat*, WA, Dec. 19 (SJ) were in the Cascades where most records come from. Twenty at Bay Center, *Pacific*, WA, Dec. 19 (H. Gilmore) were on the outer coast, where casual. A count of 50 Lesser Goldfinch at Maryhill, *Klickitat*, Jan. 8 (SJ) shows that this species' small population in Washington is doing well.

Initialed observers, with subregional editors in boldface: Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Range Bayer (*Lincoln*), David Bailey (DBa), Dave Beaudette (DBe), Bob Boekelheide, Debbie Bush (DBu), Trent Bray, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Mike and Merry Lynn Denny, Colin Dillingham, Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler, Robert Flores, Jim Flynn, Michael Force, Jeff Gilligan, Denny Granstrand, Konnie Hoover, Stuart Johnston, Ken Knittle, Dave Lauten, Bill & Nancy LaFramboise, Gerard Lillie, Ed McVicker, Tom Mickel (*Lane*), Steve Mlodinow, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (western Oregon), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton, Mike Patterson, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (Washington), Owen Schmidt, Gary Shaffer, Bill Shelmerdine, Tim Shelmerdine, Patrick Sullivan (PtSu), Paul Sullivan (PlSu), Ruth Sullivan, Bob Sundstrom (BSu), Margaret Tweelinckx, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl (TJW), Bob Woodley.

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middle pacific coast region



This immature Short-tailed Albatross off Monterey, December 21, 1998, provided the third Regional record in just four months, pointing to the recent strong rebound of the breeding population. Photograph/Ronald L. Branson

**SCOTT B. TERRILL,
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After a decade that began in drought and then was drenched in El Niño rains, this season was about as "normal" as any in a long time. Perhaps the only noteworthy feature was higher-than-average temperatures that permitted numerous insectivores (especially swallows) to remain farther north than usual.

A boundary change takes effect this season. Henceforth, ALL of Mono County will be within this Region, including the southeastern sliver around Oasis that has been covered by the Southern Pacific Coast Region since 1971. Boundaries now correspond to most observers' ideas about "northern" and "southern" California. Our Region includes the northern 47 counties; the Southern Pacific Coast Region has the southern ten counties plus Inyo County.

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.



Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon I.*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); S.B. (*State Beach*); S.R. (*State Reserve*); W.A. (*Wildlife Area*).

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

A Yellow-billed Loon returned Nov. 24–Feb. 17 just offshore Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, for its 6th winter (RT; †DR, JBo). Pacific Loons