

Walla Walla, 5 Nov (MD, MLD), and two near Iowa Beef 25 Nov (MD, MLD). A Great-tailed Grackle, casual in ne. OR, was at Mission, *Umatilla*, late Oct-late Nov (CC); almost all Regional records come from *Harney*. Many White-winged Crossbills were present in the central Oregon Cascades, with flocks at McKenzie Pass 6 Sep–Nov (J&J Carlson, SD), Waldo L., *Lane*, 2–24 Oct (PS, FM, TM, AM), and near Sisters, *Deschutes*, 14 Aug (SS). Three near Goldendale, *Klickitat*, 29 Aug (SJ) and one at Tiffany Mtn., *Okanogan*, 19 Sep (SDs) were in Washington's Cascades. Com. Redpolls irrupted into the eastside beginning mid-Nov with ± 450 reported from Washington and 15 from Oregon. The largest concentration was 125 at Ritzville, *Adams*, 20 Nov (MD, MLD) and the southernmost were eight at Black Butte Ranch, *Deschutes*, 27–28 Nov (A. Averill). On the westside, where not annual, singles were at Lummi Flats, *Whatcom*, 28 Nov (KK) and Gresham, *Multnomah*, 27 Nov (S. Finnegan, PS). This incursion was larger and several weeks earlier than most.

ADDENDUM

An Emperor Goose at Leadbetter Pen., *Pacific*, 2 Apr 1999 (†M. A. Patten) was inadvertently omitted from the spring report.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Ken Aldridge, Bud Anderson, Tom Aversa, Alan Barron, Dan van den Broek, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Ed Deal, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Steve Dowlan, Scott Downes (SDs), Dennis Duffy, David Fix, Jim Flynn, Roy Gerig, **Jeff Gilligan** (w. OR), Greg Gillson, Carol Hallett, Carl Haynie, Randy Hill, Matt Hunter, Stuart Johnson, Ken Knittle, Ray Korpi, Bill LaFramboise, Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Frank Mayer, Allison Mickel, **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (*Clallam*), Michael Patterson, Nancy Peate, Phil Pickering, Gene Revelas, Roger Robb (RRb), Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Rick Romea (RRm), Owen Schmidt, Ryan Shaw (RSh), Bill Shelmerdine, Tim Shelmerdine, Stephen Shunk, Kevin Spencer, Jason Starfire, Andy Stepniewski, Judy Stevens, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Ruth Sullivan, **Paul Sullivan** (e. OR), Bob Sundstrom, Tahni Sutura (TSu), Todd Thornton, Greg Toffic, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Nathaniel Wander, Bob Woodley.



middle pacific coast

DON ROBERSON

(thrashers through finches)

282 Grove Acre Ave., Pacific Grove CA 93950
(creagrus@montereybay.com)

STEPHEN C. ROTTENBORN

(larids through alcids)

H. T. Harvey & Associates, 3150 Almaden Expwy., Ste. 145, San Jose CA 95118 (rottenbo@pacbell.net)

SCOTT B. TERRILL

(loons through frigatebirds)

H. T. Harvey & Associates, 3150 Almaden Expwy., Ste. 145, San Jose CA 95118
(sterrill@harveyecology.com)

DANIEL S. SINGER

(herons through shorebirds)

c/o Arroyo & Coates, 500 Washington St., Ste. 700, San Francisco CA 94111 (dsg@isp.net)

STEVEN A. GLOVER

(doves through wrenit)

6526 Conestoga Lane, Dublin CA 94568
(Sgloverccc@aol.com)

Although warm-water pelagics such as Black-vented Shearwaters and Least and Black Storm-Petrels were scarce, some seabird species were present in record or near-record numbers. Late fall was mild and dry; numerous late or high-elevation landbird migrants were encountered in the Sierra and east, but space precludes details (data in our *N.A.B.* notebooks). There were no irruptions (e.g., Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, finches), except a middling flight of Varied Thrush. It was a good fall for eastern vagrants, but Peter Pyle, summarizing Farallon banding data, asserted that “the big story was a noticeable paucity of western landbird migrants, especially those that winter in California. . . . Many of these were in their lowest abundance recorded here in the past 30 years, and for most the proportion of arrivals that were adults (50%+) was way out of the typical range of 10 to 20%. Our conclusion is that these species must have had very poor re-



productive success in the Northwest, consistent with early analysis of results from [banding] programs in Alaska.” Pyle also suggested that “summer productivity [may have] more to do with occurrence of vagrants than [do] weather patterns; in 1999 productivity seemed good in eastern North America, perhaps accounting for the good vagrant year.”

Abbreviations: C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); R.S. (*Regional Shoreline*); S.R. (*State Reserve*); W.A. (*Wildlife Area*). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published, including California Bird Records Committee review species and claims of first county records. Banded birds at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, should be credited to Big Sur Ornithology Lab and those on F.I. to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD

California's first **Shy Albatross**, an individual of the nominate race, was well documented 9 mi wsw. of Pt. Arena, *Mendocino*, 24 Aug (†Jid, W. Russell, BMcK, ph. DLSh, †ph., m.ob.) and was apparently seen off *Sonoma* 25 Sep by the same boat crew (V. Orsini, R. Garcia). A count of 20 to 22 Laysan Albatrosses at Cordell Bank, *Marin*, 31 Oct (ShJ), and Black-footed Albatross totals of 204 off *Santa Cruz* 1 Aug (ShJ), 431 off *Sonoma* and *Mendocino* 24–25 Aug (ShJ), and 140 together off *Humboldt* 17 Sep



On the heels of a dark-morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater on Monterey Bay in Oct 1998, this light-morph bird just outside Monterey Harbor 26 Sep 1999 provided just the fourth acceptable record for California. Photograph/Debra L. Shearwater

(H. Genger) attested to their abundance. The region's fifth imm. **Short-tailed Albatross** in 12 months was 15 mi w. of Cypress Pt., *Monterey*, 7 Aug (BMcK, RyC, DLSh, †ph. SBT, †m.ob.). A light-morph **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** just outside Monterey Harbor 26 Sep (ph. CKf, ph. DLSh, m.ob.) was California's fourth and *Monterey's* third. Flesh-footed and Buller's Shearwaters were in good numbers, with peak counts of eight on Monterey Bay 16 Oct (ShJ) and 2,115 at Cordell Bank 1 Oct (ShJ), respectively. Only four of 11 Manx Shearwaters were documented: one 6 Sep (†DR, SFB, JBo), one 14 Sep (†JLD), and two 9 Oct (†MMR), all on Monterey Bay. Cold-water *La Niña* conditions were likely responsible for the paucity of Black-vented Shearwaters; singles e. of F.I. 29 Aug (†ASH, LkC) and on Monterey Bay 28 Nov (DLSh et al.) were the only ones reported.

High storm-petrel counts included 2,303 Fork-taileds off Bodega Bay 23 Aug (SNGH, DLSh et al.), an amazing 5,650 (five times the previous Regional record) Fork-taileds at Cordell Bank 13 Sep (DLSh, SNGH, SW et al.), and 1,030 Leach's 60–100 mi. off Gold Bluffs Beach, *Humboldt*, 3 Aug (D. Spight, SWH, DfX). In contrast, the peak Black Storm-Petrel count of 231 off Santa Cruz 4 Oct (ShJ) was far below normal. Four Brown Boobies were recorded this fall, ad. females 35 mi wsw. of Pt. Pinos 23 Sep (ph. J. Wettle, J. Lucido) and at F.I. 1–7 Nov (†PP) and ad. males at F.I. 2–19 Oct (†PP) and Monterey Bay, *Santa Cruz*, 20 Oct

(†JBo, ph. RT, m.ob.). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird near Bodega Bay, *Sonoma*, 14–15 Nov (DN, NTC) may have been the imm. frigatebird seen in coastal cen. *Humboldt* 12 Nov (E. Rose, KNN).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Five Am. Bitterns at Abbotts Lagoon, Pt. Reyes, in mid-Nov were a high concentration for *Marin* (RS). A Great Egret at Prosser Creek Res., *Nevada*, 12 Sep was rare in the Truckee Basin (BDW). Fourteen Cattle Egrets at Kutras L. 9–13 Nov provided *Shasta's* second record (BED, BY, CY). Just nine White-faced Ibis were reported along the coast, one of them at F.I. 17–18 Sep, where the last occurrence was in 1884 (PRBO)! One at Martis Creek L. 5–21 Aug was a first for *Nevada* (T. Floyd, m.ob.).

Coastal flights of Gr. White-fronted Geese are uncommon but expected every few years but this fall exceeded all expectation with ± 600 reported between *Sonoma* and *Monterey* during the first three weeks of Oct. They may have overshot the C.V. but many could have been moving s. to wintering areas in Mexico. One hundred Snow Geese at Mono L., *Mono*, 24 Nov were four times the previous high there (I. Mendelbaum). A flock of 80 small Canadas over Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino*, 7 Oct were considered Aleutians (RJK, CEV, DT, J. Ward). A Bewick's Swan was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, 22 Nov (†RE). An imm. **Garganey** at Rodman Slough 16–22 Oct was *Lake's* first (RS, †JRW, †KKC, †RI).

Three documented Tufted Ducks (singles in *Marin*, *Contra Costa* and *Santa Clara*) were a good fall showing. Nine Long-tailed Ducks included two inland at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced*, 11 Nov (KVV, SRV, SAG) and one at Crowley L., *Mono*, 28 Nov (JLD).

Broad-winged Hawks away from the Marin Headlands included two in *Contra Costa* 26 Sep (SAG), four in *Santa Cruz* 8 Oct–17 Nov (DLSu, B. Walton), and one in *San Mateo* 27 Sep (RSTh). Single Swainson's Hawks near Coyote Cr. 15 Aug (LCh) and 22 Sep (AJ) were the first fall reports for *Santa Clara* since 1966 and suggestive of this species' continued recovery in n. California. Rough-legged Hawks staged an invasion starting mid-Oct, with 28 sightings including a dark-morph at F.I. 16 Oct (PRBO). A Gyrfalcon was reported without details at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, 14 Nov (K. Spencer).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A freshly eaten **Yellow Rail** corpse at the Smith R. estuary 30 Oct was *Del Norte's* first (ph. ADB, E. Cooper). Rarely noted in migration, a Black Rail flushed at Ukiah 2 Nov was a first for *Mendocino* (†GEC). Rare coastal Sandhill Cranes were at Arcata, *Humboldt*, 14 Oct (KI) and in *San Mateo* 17 Oct (RSTh) and 20–26 Oct (†B. Nerricio, m.ob.), *Santa Clara* 28 Oct (W. Cabot), and *Sonoma* 8 Nov (D. Ashford, T. Eliot).

Six Black-bellied Plovers at Clear L. 24 Aug–12 Oct more than doubled totals for *Lake* (DvW, JRW). Seventeen Mountain Plovers at Hayward R.S., *Alameda*, 29 Oct was a high number away from wintering sites (RJR). A Solitary Sandpiper at Indian Creek Res. 22 Aug was *Alpine's* first (†MIF). A juv. Hudsonian Godwit was at the Eel River W.A., *Humboldt* 17–19 Oct (†KI, †KNN, ph. BAc). F.I.'s first Bar-tailed Godwit appeared 11 Sep (†PP); another was at King Salmon, *Humboldt*, 29 Aug (†KNN). A Ruddy Turnstone at Lincoln 2 Sep (C. Hawley, E. Panolfini, BWb) was *Placer's* first but was eclipsed by *Lake's* first **Black Turnstone** at Clear L. 15 Sep (†DvW, †JRW). Among 38 inland Sanderlings was *Trinity's* first at Lewiston Res. 7 Aug (†SAG). Interior Semipalmated Sandpipers were *Alpine's* first at Indian Creek Res. 21–24 Aug (TEa, JSL), *Placer's* second or third at Lincoln 18 Sep (†C. Hawley), and one at Mono L. 11 Sep (PJM). A Baird's Sandpiper at King City, *Monterey*, 5 Nov provided one of few Nov records for the Region (J&HBA). The only Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was a juv. at Salinas, *Monterey*, 9–11 Oct (BHG, ph. BHI). A Curlew

Sandpiper was at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, 14–19 Sep (M. O'Brien, RS et al.). Lone Buff-breasted Sandpipers were in *Santa Clara* 7 Sep (SCR) and in *Humboldt* 13–16 Sep (SMcA) and 20–28 Sep (RHw). Two Short-billed Dowitchers at Loyaltone Sewage Ponds 12 Aug were the first documented in *Sierra* (†MMc); eight at F.I. 1–14 Oct nearly doubled the island total (PP).

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

Monterey counts of 28 South Polar Skuas on *Monterey Bay* 18 Sep (ShJ) and 25 w. of Pt. Pinos 19 Sep (ShJ) were high; eight at F.I. 1–14 Oct nearly doubled the island total (PP). A good showing of Pomarine Jaegers included 70 at Cordell Bank 13 Sep and 14 Nov and 77 w. of Pt. Pinos 19 Sep (all ShJ). Long-tailed Jaeger counts peaked at 62 at Cordell Bank 29 Aug (RS); one–two near Cordell Bank 14 Nov. (DLSH et al.) were only two days shy of the record late date. Rare inland jaegers included a juv. Parasitic at L. Berryessa, *Napa*, 30 Oct (RSTh) and *Lake's* second Long-tailed, a subadult at Indian Valley Res. 31 Aug–11 Sep (W. McKinney, †JRW).

A total of three Laughing Gulls, adults at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey*, 25 Aug (†JBo, JND) and Pebble Beach, *San Mateo*, 11 Sep (AWi) and a second-year bird at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma*, 28–29 Aug (ph. RS, CCb, m.ob.), was high, especially in fall. Fourteen Franklin's Gulls (nine coastal, five inland) from a record 10 counties 8 Aug–21 Nov included *Placer's* first at Folsom L. 5 Nov (BWb) and *Nevada's* second at Prosser Creek Res. 12 Sep (BDW). In San Jose, *Santa Clara*, the ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull returned to Alviso for its fifth winter 16 Oct (†SCR) and the fourth-basic bird returned to L. Cunningham for its third winter 1 Nov+ (†MMR). Sabine's Gull counts of 650 at Cordell Bank, *Marin*, 13 Sep (ShJ) and 600 (including 500 in one flock) sw. of *Humboldt Bay* 19 Sep (SWH et al.) were high, but a juv. at Crowley L. 11 Sep (JLD) was the only one inland.

Com. Terns were widespread and in good numbers, peaking in mid-Sep. A count of 240 at *Humboldt Bay* 14 Sep (DFx) was high. Inland, one in juv. plumage at Stampede Res., *Sierra*, 8 Sep (†SAG) and up to 15 at Kelsey Cr. mouth on Clear Lake 10–22 Sep (†JRW et al.) provided first county records, while 21 at Crowley L. 10 Sep (PJM) doubled the previous inland high. A juv. Arctic Tern at the Lodi sewage plant 12–20 Sep (DGY, WRH) was the fourth for the C.V., all from *San Joaquin*; 3,500 at Cordell Bank 13 Sep (ShJ) was high. California's second



California's second White-winged Tern, photographed 7 Sep 1999, remained at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey, 17 Aug–16 Oct, long enough to complete molt from Alternate I to Basic II plumage.

The gray crown, whitish rump, square-tipped tail, small bill, and lack of dark breast-side patches distinguish this species from the Black Tern in this plumage. Photograph/Ronald L. Branson

White-winged Tern was at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey*, at least 6 Sep–16 Oct (E. Kwater, m.ob.). Apparently present since 17 Aug, this bird was misidentified as a Black Tern by birders unfamiliar with its first-basic plumage until scrutinized by Kwater. Its long stay allowed observers to study its molt into second-basic plumage by Oct. As Black Skimmers increase, tracking numbers and movements is increasingly difficult. Noteworthy among the 15–30 in seven counties were two at Bodega Bay 20–24 Sep (DN, BDP), at least three in *Marin*, including the county's first bayside bird in Corte Madera 8 Aug (M. Sundove, RS), and late nesting at Hayward R.S., where a nest with three eggs 30 Aug was later abandoned (†RJR).

An imm. Thick-billed Murre off *Santa Cruz* 4 Oct (BMcK, CKf, DLSH, ph. S. Fried) and an alternate adult nearby 17 Oct (DLSH, TMcG, ph. A. Hunter) represented the second and third *Santa Cruz* records; another 2.5 mi. off Pt. Sur, *Monterey*, 18 Sep (†CHO, JBo) was only the second state record s. of Cypress Point. Marbled Murrelet counts of 150 near Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo*; 16 Aug (PJM) and 109 off s. *Santa Cruz* 24 Nov (L. Henkel) were high for these areas. Although Xantus's Murrelets were not par-

ticularly numerous, the predominance of the southerly race *hypoleucus* relative to the more expected *scrippsi* race was unprecedented; 30 of 34 at Cordell Bank 13 Sep were apparently *hypoleucus* (DLSH et al.). An influx of Horned Puffins brought ten to the cen. coast 7–26 Aug.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Four White-winged Doves reached coastal *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 20 Aug–11 Nov. Five Barn Owls 27 Oct provided a new F.I. high and one at Mono L. 26 Nov (J.R. Jehl) was the latest record in *Mono*. A Flammulated Owl at Cosumnes R. Preserve 25 Oct (JTr) was *Sacramento's* third, all from Oct. A Barred Owl at *Humboldt Bay's* n. spit 28 Sep was *Humboldt's* first outer-coastal occurrence (KI et al.). An injured Com. Nighthawk in *Sacramento* 15 Sep (TDM) provided a rare C.V. record, but what would have been *Yolo's* first went undocumented. Two Chimney Swifts were on F.I. 16 Sep (PP). The landbird highlight of the season was a **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** at Westhaven, *Humboldt*, 17–23 Sep, representing the northernmost occurrence of this species (S. de Rooy, †SWH, ph. RLeV, ph. GJH, m.ob.). Vagrant Black-chinned Hummingbirds provided F.I.'s fourth record 9 Sep and *Del Norte's* second at Crescent City 1 Oct (ADB). Three imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported: Phipps Ranch, *San Mateo*, 16 Oct (RSTh, AWi), and in *Santa Cruz* at Soquel 15 Nov (DLSu) and Rancho Del Oso 20 Nov+ (A. Kopitov, DLSu).

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** giving both upslurred *pwee* and multiple *chip* calls was voice recorded near Pt. Sur, *Monterey*, 21–25 Sep (†JBo, tape B. Wilkerson, †CHO, †DR et al.). Over 140 Willow Flycatchers, with a high of 23 at Piper Slough, *Contra Costa*, 3 Sep (SAG), were found 20 Aug–16 Oct; three on F.I. 4–15 Sep showed characters of the nominate eastern race. Seven Least Flycatchers 11–23 Sep included one at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, 23 Sep (TEa) and two well-documented at Coyote Creek, *Santa Clara*, 20–23 Sep (†SCR, NL, †MMR, †MJM). Other *Empidonax* included three coastal Hammond's 27 Sep–18 Oct, five coastal Dusksies 12–22 Sep, and *San Joaquin's* first fall Gray 14 Aug (DGY). Eight E. Phoebes beginning 19 Sep included mainland *S.F.'s* first 1 Nov (†K. McKerrigan) and one at Merced N.W.R., *Merced*, 23 Nov+ (†RE, †KKw et al.). A Great Crested Flycatcher thrilled many 16–19 Sep at Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* (CT, †DR, m.ob.). The Region's sixth **Sulphur-bellied**

Flycatcher was at Pescadero, *San Mateo*, 18–20 Sep (†RSTh, vt. D. Powell et al.). Among 24 Tropical Kingbirds was *Humboldt's* earliest 12 Sep at Eel R. mouth (JEH, D. Solis). Six E. Kingbirds 5–30 Sep were coastal. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (ad. female?) graced Samoa, *Humboldt*, 16–17 Oct (P.&L. Rousch, m.ob.).

Six N. Shrikes included an imm. near Clear L. Oaks 11–15 Nov, *Lake's* third (DvW, JRW et al.); a Loggerhead at Hopland 4–6 Oct was the first in *Mendocino* "in several years" (RJK et al.). Seven Blue-headed Vireos 12 Sep–14 Nov and five Plumbeous Vireos 10 Sep–5 Nov were coastal, but only two Blue-headed were documented: Big Sur R. mouth 12 Sep (†CHO; banded) and Eureka, *Humboldt*, 3 Nov (†JCP). *Monterey's* summering Yellow-throated Vireo was recaptured 17 Sep at Big Sur R. mouth and fall vagants appeared in "early Sep" at Olema marsh, *Marin* (RS) and Carmel R. mouth 15–23 Oct (†DR, BHL, RC, m.ob.). Philadelphia Vireos were at Drakes Beach, *Marin*, 12 Sep (RS, m.ob.), Moss Beach, *San Mateo*, 24–25 Sep (†RSTh, AWi et al.), Golden Gate Park, S.F., 25 Sep–18 Oct (J. Matkin, †MEa, †HCT), Big Sur R. mouth 29 Sep–17 Oct (ph. JBo; banded); Carmel R. mouth 29 Sep–3 Oct (†BHL et al.), and Five Brooks, *Marin*, 29 Sep (RS et al.). Twelve Red-eyed Vireos included *Santa Cruz's* latest at Santa Cruz 1 Nov (M. Scott). Scattered migrant Purple Martins included two records from S.F. Bay, Coyote Pt., *San Mateo*, 11 Aug (six; RSTh) and Sunnyside, *Santa Clara*, 5 Sep (MJM). Four Cliff Swallows at F.I. 23–27 Oct continued the mysterious recent trend of late Oct records. Single Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at F.I. 10–16 Sep and Pt. Reyes lighthouse, *Marin*, 1 Oct (RS, CCB, LHg, H. Cameron).

THRASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Gray Catbird near Lincoln 12 Sep (†TEa) was a *Placer* first. Brown Thrashers were at Muddy Hollow, *Marin*, 11 Oct (BDP) and on F. I. 14–17 Oct (PP). It was not a season for Siberian vagrants, but a Yellow Wagtail was on F.I. 12 Sep (no details received) and Red-throated Pipits were documented from Pt. Reyes 1–4 Oct (RS, †CCB et al.), F.I. 16–18 Oct, and Arcata bottoms, *Humboldt*, 20 Oct (†DFx). An early Am. Pipit was on New Brighton S.B., *Santa Cruz*, 24–25 Aug (worn or molting ad.; R. Wolfe). Unexpected Phainopeplas were at Big Sur R. mouth 6 Sep (KVV) and at Sutter, *Sutter*, 16 Oct (two imm.; BED).

Writing about fall warblers in our Re-

gion has become like writing about baseball: heavy on statistics. Leading the hit parade were (coastal totals in parentheses): Palm (185), Blackpoll (105), Chestnut-sided (101), Am. Redstart (97), Tennessee (40), Magnolia (37), Black-and-white (35), N. Waterthrush (26), Blackburnian (25), Prairie (22), Black-throated Blue (15), and Ovenbird (12). These totals were solidly high, but just how high? Consider the Chestnut-sided Warbler, whose 101 individuals set a new fall record. In 1974, a "great" fall for eastern vagrants, there were only 36 birds, 29 (81%) from F.I. or *Marin*. This fall F.I. and *Marin* contributed 41 birds, so numbers were up, but 13 were found by eight observers at nine different *San Mateo* sites and another 12 were from *Monterey*, counties where none were reported 25 years ago. We think Chestnut-sideds had a fine year—reflective of high populations and productivity in the East—but totals are now exaggerated by a much wider search. A simple comparison between decades can be misleading.

More coverage inland yielded commoner vagrants. Tennessees were at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, 14 Sep (JTr) and Lodi Lakes, *San Joaquin*, 12 Sep (DGY, WRH). Chestnut-sideds were at Butte College, Durham, 18–20 Oct (*Butte's* second; A. Bills, †TDM, BWb) and Merced N.W.R. 26 Nov–12 Dec (*Merced's* first; †KKw et al.). Given its recent rarity statewide, a Cape May at Lodi Lakes 9 Oct (†TEa, F. Steurer) was exceptional and a *San Joaquin* first. Three Blackpolls were at Cosumnes R. Preserve 11–14 Sep (JTr, ph. WEH, JML); one near Lincoln 12 Sep was a *Placer* first (†TE). An ad. male Am. Redstart in Yosemite Valley 21 Sep (†DLSu) and a N. Waterthrush at E. Park Res. 11 Sep (†BDW) were, respectively, *Mariposa* and *Colusa* firsts.

Spruce-forest specialists were well down (as they have been all decade), with only one coastal Cape May 1 Oct at Pt. Reyes (†CCB, LHg); two Bay-breasteds, 2–4 Oct near Pt. Sur, *Monterey* (JBo, †DR, SFB et al.) and 4–5 Oct near Fairhaven, *Humboldt* (KI); and five Canadas on F.I. Also oddly low were N. Parulas (three) and Black-throated Greens (four). Among scarcer s. species, the fall brought 11 Virginia's, including *Santa Clara's* second at Palo Alto Baylands 13 Sep (†SCR, MMR, MJM), three Lucy's, one *albilora* Yellow-throated 25 Oct in Arcata, *Humboldt* (†DFx, JCP), five Prothonotaries, including *Mendocino's* second at Ft. Bragg 7–12 Nov (L. McMurty, ph. †RJK, †KKC, †RKI), and two Hoodeds, 2–3 Oct at Pt

Reyes (RS, GGrf, †KSw et al.) and a male at Aptos, *Santa Cruz*, 29 Oct–12 Dec (H De Diego). Well-documented mainland *Oporornis* were a Connecticut at Pt. Reyes 2–4 Oct (RS, E. Blustem, †BDP, †KSw, m.ob.) and Mournings at Pt. Pinos 11–12 Sep (SBT, L. Terrill, JSy, †DR, RC), Big Sur R. mouth 15 Sep (male banded), and Tunitas Cr. mouth, *San Mateo*, 12 Sep (†RSTh), FI hosted two Connecticuts and three Mournings (†PP).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Only four Summer Tanagers appeared, but included *Mendocino's* second at Van Damme S.P. 13 Nov (†A. DeMartini) and two in *Sacramento*, at Cosumnes R. Preserve 6 Sep (A. Engilis) and Arden Park 7 Oct (†TDM). A late Scarlet Tanager was described from Pt. Reyes 28 Nov (†KSw). Rufous-crowned Sparrow is primarily resident but some dispersal occurs in late fall, accounting for firsts for Hayward R S, *Alameda*, 10 Oct (RJR) and F.I. 29 Nov+ (PP). Seven coastal Am. Tree Sparrows from *Humboldt* to F.I. were more than usual Totals of coastal/Bay Area Clay-colored (68), Brewer's (16), and Vesper (27) Sparrows were also high, setting records in some counties. Rarer still were coastal Black-throated Sparrows at Big Sur R. mouth 4–5 Sep (SBT, †DR, RC) and Eel River W.A., *Humboldt*, 20 Oct–1 Nov (†KKN et al.). Three Lark Buntings strayed far west, including *Santa Clara's* 4th in Alviso 18 Sep (†NL). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in the Eel R. delta 10 Nov (SMcA) was a *Humboldt* highlight. Coastal Swamp Sparrows were numerous from *Del Norte* (8 birds; ADB) to *Monterey* (12), another was at Mono L. Park 24 Oct (MMR, SCR). A "pure" *caniceps* Gray-headed Junco visited a Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, yard 14 Nov (ph. DR, RC).

Scattered coastal longspurs were expected, but a mixed flock near Dunnigan after 23 Nov of 50+ Chestnut-collareds, a half-dozen Laplands, and four McCown's (a *Yolo* first; TEa, SCH, m.ob.) was a C.V. surprise. Additional Laplands and Chestnut-collareds were in *Sutter* 24 Nov (TEa, M Baumgardner) and near Tulare 26 Nov (four Lapland, two Chestnut-collared, the former a *Tulare* first; RH, KH). Another Chestnut-collared was at South L. Tahoe, *El Dorado*, 23 Nov (TEa). Snow Buntings reached Clam Beach, *Humboldt*, 14–15 Nov (ph. BAC, †KI), F.I. 28 Oct and 6 Nov (†S Anderson), and Purisima Cr. mouth, *San Mateo*, 7 Nov (†RSTh).

Numbers of vagrant grosbeaks and

buntings were down. About 16 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reached the coast but an ad. male visited a feeder in *Nevada* 16–17 Aug (J.&J. Olsen). Only four Indigo Buntings appeared but included an ad. female feeding a fledgling at Pt. Reyes 12–17 Sep (RS) and late birds 14–15 Nov at Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz* (†SRv et al.) and 16–17 Nov at Pacifica, *San Mateo* (B. Nerricio, DSg, JM). An imm. Painted Bunting briefly visited Carmel R. mouth 19 Sep (†SRv, D. Werner). Three Dickcissels hit the outer coast from *Del Norte* to *Santa Cruz*. Only 22 Bobolinks were reported (13 on F.I.).

Unexpected Yellow-headed Blackbirds included the first S.F. City record in a decade (DPM, ph. MEa) and 7+ near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte*, 22 Aug–14 Oct (ADB). The only Rusty Blackbird was along Harkins Slough 20 Oct (DLSu). Wayward Great-tailed Grackles included a female at King Salmon 28 Nov+ (*Humboldt's* second; M. Wachs, T. Leskiw, DFX, JCP) and a pair at Pt. Pinos 17 Oct (JBo et al.); small groups at Seaside, *Monterey* (RC, m.ob.) and Beals Pt., Folsom

L., *Placer* (BWb) now appear resident. Vagrant orioles included 16 Orchards but just two Baltimores. A family party of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches near Thimble Peak 8 Aug provided records for *Alpine* and *Amador* (MFRb), where rarely reported.

ADDENDUM

A singing N. Parula at L. Almanor 30 May 1999 (†Aaron Brees) was a *Plumas* first and one of few in our interior mountains.

Cited observers (county coordinators bold-faced): Brian Acord, Stephen F. Bailey, Jim & Helen Banks, **Alan D. Barron**, **William G. Bousman**, Jim Booker, **Penelope K. Bowen**, Rita Carratello, Kris K. Carter, George E. Chaniot, Les Chibano, Ryan Chornock, **Luke Cole**, Nancy T. Conzett, Chris Corben, **Hugh Cotter**, Jim Danzenbaker, Jeff N. Davis, **Bruce E. Deuel**, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark Eaton, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom**, Rick Fournier, **David Fix**, Bruce H. Gerow, Yohn Gideon, **Steven A. Glover**, George Griffiths, Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hansen, Rob Hansen, W. Ed Harper, Stanley W. Harris, Gjon C. Hazard, Rob Hewitt, Bill Hill,

Craig Hohenberger, Waldo R. Holt, Alan S. Hopkins, Steve N. G. Howell, Lisa Hug, **John E. Hunter**, Ken Irwin, Richard K. Irwin, Al Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer**, Clay Kempf, Keith Kwan, Jeri M. Langham, **Robin L.C. Leong**, Nick Lethaby, Ronald LeValley, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, **Timothy D. Manolis**, **Peter J. Metropulos**, Sean McAllister, J. "Mac" McCormick, Todd McGrath, Bert McKee, Joe Morlan, Dan P. Murphy, Kristie N. Nelson, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, **Jude C. Power**, **Peter Pyle**, Robert J. Richmond, **Michael F. Robbins**, **Don Roberson**, Michael M. Rogers, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, **Ruth A. Rudesill**, Jeff Seay, Debra L. Shearwater (DLSH), Shearwater Journeys, Dan Singer, Rich Stallcup, **Emilie Strauss**, **David L. Suddjian** (DLSu), Kirk Swenson, Chris Tenney, Richard Ternullo, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren**, Bruce Webb, Sophie Webb, **Jerry R. White**, **Brian D. Williams**, Adam Winer, Dave Woodward, David G. Yee, **Bob & Carol Yutzy**. Many more observers were not specifically cited, but all are appreciated.



southern pacific coast

GUY MCCASKIE

San Diego Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 121390, San Diego, CA 92112

Southern California experienced one of the driest falls on record, with no storms from the Gulf of Alaska pushing south into the Region by the end of November. A steady movement of "normal" western migrants in August and September appeared to end at the end of September, with only stragglers still on the move in October and November. No major movements of mountain species into the lowlands or northern birds into the Region were detected. An expected number of rarities were found, including a few accidental stragglers to California, along with one species previously unrecorded in the state.

Abbreviations: C.L. (*China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern Co.*); E.A.F.B. (*Edwards Air Force Base, se. Kern Co.*);

F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Park, Inyo*); G.H.P. (*Galileo Hill Park, extreme e. Kern Co.*); I.M.P.P. (*Iron Mountain Pumping Plant, se. San Bernardino Co.*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*); S.F.K.R.P. (*South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.*). Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) review list is forwarded to the CBRC Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

Reports of Pacific Loons from inland included two in the Owens Valley, *Inyo*, between 30 Sep and 6 Nov (T&JH), one at C.L. 2 Oct (JCW), one at S.E.S.S. 24 Oct



(GSLeB) and one on Silverwood L. in the San Bernardino Mts. 20 Nov (SJM); this species is a rare but regular fall migrant through the interior. A Flesh-footed Shearwater 30 mi sw. of Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, 19 Sep (GPS) was the only one reported. Buller's Shearwaters appeared to be more widespread in s. California waters than usual, as suggested by twenty-five 40 mi sw. of Morro Bay 10 Sep (GPS), 30+ between Santa Barbara and Santa Rosa I. 28 Aug (GR), one 9 mi s. of Pt. Fermin, *Los Angeles*, 14 Oct (BA), two off Newport Beach, *Orange*, 11 Sep (GLT), and six off San Diego 29 Aug (GmC). A **Manx Shearwater** five mi off Ventura 20 Sep (ST, DDJ) is the southernmost thus far reported in California. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels 40 mi sw. of Morro Bay 10 Sep (GPS) and 50 mi