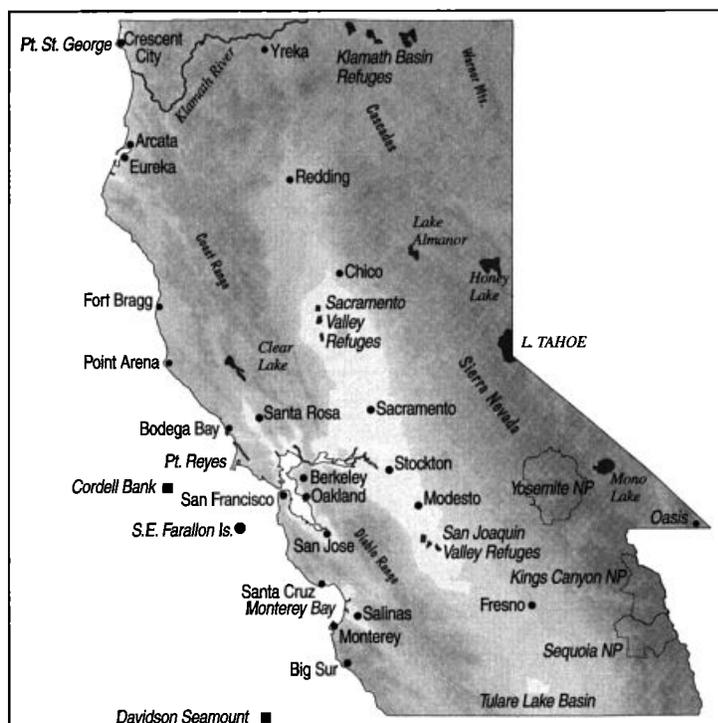


Middle Pacific Coast



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The first New World occurrence of Greater Sandplover dominated the avian news, but Whooper Swans and a Black-backed Wagtail also made headlines, giving a decided Old World flavor to this Winter's season on the mainland. Among seabirds, Greater Shearwater and Red-legged Kittiwake represented genuine highlights.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.V. (Central Valley); N.S. (National Seashore); S.F. (San Francisco); R.P. (Regional Park); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.R. (State Reserve); W.A. (Wildlife Area).

Glover pulled a double load this Season by drafting the entire landbird text during Roberson's absence overseas; many thanks. Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. Observers wishing C.B.R.C. review should also send documentation to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, San Diego CA 91933.

Loons Through Storm-Petrels

Very rare inland, a Pacific Loon at Crowley L. 9 Dec (JLD) was only the 2nd Dec record for *Mono*; one at Black Butte Res. 17 Dec (BED) likely represented a 2nd for *Tehama*; and one present since last fall was still in Redding, *Shasta* through the period (*fide* BY). A juv Yellow-billed Loon was off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 18 Dec–15 Jan (DLSh, ph. CKf, ph. SBT, ph. Eric Preston). This species has been annual in winter in this area in recent years. A Red-necked Grebe was at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 15 Jan (RJR). This species is quite scarce inside the Bay.

Laysan Albatrosses were present in good numbers, with 32-40 over 30 mi w. of Ft. Bragg *Mendocino* (DLSh). Northern Fulmars were unusually numerous off S.F., with hundreds on 23 Jan; one made it inside the Bay at Emeryville, *Alameda* 22 Feb (ph. DSW). A **Greater Shearwater** was off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 13-15 Jan (RT, †Erik Hendrickson, †Bill & †Cheryl Schreier, †SBT, DLSh, ADeM et al.). There are two previous North Pacific records of Greater Shearwater, both from Monterey Bay. One was photographed during 1-2 Oct 1994 (*Field Notes* 49:95) and has been accepted by the C.B.R.C., but a 24 Feb 1979 sight record (*American Birds* 33:309) has been variously accepted (*Western Birds* 14:2, Roberson, 1985, *Monterey Birds*) or questioned (*Western Birds* 27:116). This Jan 2001 record adds credence to its occasional winter occurrence in the North Pacific.

A Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater was inside S.F. Bay at Pt. Isabel, Richmond, *Contra Costa* during a major storm 24 Feb (SAG). Up to 2-3 Manx Shearwaters were present off *Monterey* 15 Jan (SFB, †SBT et al.). Typically a bird of far offshore waters, remarkable was *Contra Costa's* 2nd Leach's Storm-Petrel driven inside the Bay by strong storms 24 Feb (RJR).

Herons Through Raptors

Winter reports of Cattle Egret continued to decline in the Region, with only 26 tallied. Small concentrations were in *Contra Costa*, with 16 at the Holland Tract 23 Dec (SAG et al.) and in *Humboldt* with 7-8 in Arcata 16 Dec–11 Feb (m.ob.). Aside from a long-returning individual at Lake Merritt, *Alameda*, the only coastal report was of one that lingered from autumn until 15 Jan near Moss Landing, *Monterey* (Yohn Gideon). An impressive **3460** White-faced Ibis were ne. of Marysville, *Yuba* 14 Dec (*fide* TDM). A Turkey Vulture at Hammil Valley, *Mono* 17 Feb was very early e of the Sierra (J&DP).

More than 100 white geese flying over Skyline Blvd. 16 Dec were the most seen in *San*

Mateo in over 50 years (Werner Schuman). Large numbers were said to be seen in *Santa Cruz* the same day (*vide* PJM, DLSu). A Brant in early Feb on Sherman Is. was believed to be *Sacramento's* first (JTr). Two ad. Trumpeter Swans were seen with Tundras ne. of Marysville, *Yuba* 14 Dec (†BED et al.). An imm. Trumpeter reported 14–16 Dec at L. Combie, *Placer* lacked details. Five **Whooper Swans** at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* included one ad. 1 Jan–10 Mar (RE, Dave Menke, †JM) and another ad. accompanied by three imms. 10 Jan–10 Mar (ph. Dave Menke, m.ob.). One of the ads. was presumably the same individual seen most years since 1991. Whether or not the 5 constituted a family group remains a mystery (one observer speculated the young were a result of a pairing with Tundra Swan, but photographs suggested otherwise). An imm. male King Eider was off outer Point Reyes, *Marin* 23 Dec–Mar (Sandy Koonce; †CLU, †LLU, ph. EDG, m.ob.). Up to 135 Barrow's Goldeneye at the Carquinez Straits, *Contra Costa* from at least 30 Nov–12 Dec (Kirk Swenson) was one of the largest flocks ever reported in the S.F. Bay area.

A Swainson's Hawk at Castroville, *Monterey* 16–18 Dec was late (Tim Amaral, Bruce G. Elliot), but there are recent winter precedents from *Santa Cruz* and *San Mateo*. Rough-legged Hawks were considered abundant in *Humboldt* throughout the winter. Individuals were widely noted but not numerous around the S.F. Bay area, while numbers were down significantly in Sierra Valley from last year.

Shorebirds

A Semipalmated Plover at Rodman Slough 18 Jan (JRW) was a very rare winter record for *Lake*. Ten Rock Sandpipers at the n. jetty of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 16 Dec–5 Jan (BED, EE, m.ob.) were the largest numbers reported to us in many years. A Stilt Sandpiper at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 16 Nov–2 Feb (PJM et al.) was an exceptional winter record for the Region.

Gulls Through Alcids

The Lesser Black-backed Gull returned to L. Cunningham, *Santa Clara* for the 5th consecutive winter (*vide* WGB). A Mew Gull at Folsom L. 16 Jan (LkC, EPdf) represented one of the few records for *Placer*. Western Gulls, rare inland, made a good showing, with an ad. at Redbud Park, *Lake* 16 Dec (JRW); one to 3 first-winter birds reported 3–12 Jan at Folsom L. (JKn), likely a 2nd *Placer* record; a 5th for *Shasta* at Kutras Lake (BED, BY); one at Davis, *Yolo* 30 Dec (SCH); 2 at Nimbus Fish Hatchery, *Sacramento* 2 Dec (JKn, EPdf); and one

SA A Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii* discovered 29 Jan at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin* (Sue Abbott, SNGH, †PP, †JM, vt. LLu) and still present 6 Apr was an unexpected first for the Western Hemisphere. Debate over its identity ensued (Greater vs. Lesser *C. mongolus*, a.k.a. Mongolian Plover), while a consensus gradually formed during the next few weeks, based on a suite of characters, that the bird was indeed a Greater. An identification paper by E. Hirschfeld, C. S. Roselaar, and H. Shirihai in *British Birds* 93:162–189 (Apr 2000) was of great value in reaching this consensus, as was Erik Hirschfeld's positive review of Internet-posted photos. Confirmation was obtained 15 Mar when the bird was captured and measured. "It is clear by all measurements that the Stinson Beach bird was a Greater Sandplover, most likely of the nominate subspecies" (Peter Pyle). While "astonishing" seems as good a word as any to describe this remarkable record, the nominate subspecies of Greater Sandpiper breeds to ne. China and migrates as far as Madagascar and South Africa. With at least 66 vagrant records in Europe, it might have been anticipated to eventually reach the New World.

remaining from the fall period at Eagle L., *Lassen* (TM, AM, Lew Oring). An ad. **Red-legged Kittiwake** found alive 13 Feb at Ross, *Marin* (*vide* ph. RS) died that night despite efforts to save it (*Calif. Academy of Sciences). Another ad. was well studied on the water 26 Feb about seven mi. w. of Davenport, *Santa Cruz* by seabird biologists very familiar with this species (†LSp, DGA). There is only one previous record for California.

Quite rare inside S.F. Bay, a storm-driven Cassin's Auklet flew from *Contra Costa* (first county record) to *Alameda* waters (3rd record) 24 Feb (†SAG), and a Rhinoceros Auklet at Brooks I. 27 Feb was a first for *Contra Costa* (RJR).

Owls Through Flycatchers

Unusual in the C.V. was a Northern Saw-whet Owl 20–21 Feb at Hanford, *Kings* (Christy Uhor, Mark Stacy). Early *Selasphorus* hummingbirds included a male Allen's in Seaside, *Monterey* 29 Dec (Chris Hartzell) and an unidentified male at San Pablo Res., *Contra Costa* 4 Jan (JTz). Lewis's Woodpeckers in unusual locales included one at Manchester S.B., *Mendocino* 2 Dec (ADeM), one at Crystal Springs Res., *San Mateo* 16 Dec–27 Feb (Sue

James et al.), and 2 at Round Valley R.P. 17 Dec–28 Feb, the first to winter in *Contra Costa* in over a decade (Otto Haubensak et al.). Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, about the recent average, were noted: w. *Sonoma* 30 Dec (*vide* RAR); Elk River near Eureka 31 Dec (TWL) and Ferndale, both *Humboldt*, 31 Dec (GSL). S.F.'s male Williamson's Sapsucker was last reported 17 Dec (JM, DSg); another male 30 Dec in e. *Humboldt* was just the 4th for that county (Dick Norton). A Pileated Woodpecker along Green Valley Rd. was a rarity for *Solano* and a first for the Benicia C.B.C. (Jo Maillard, Fran Scarlett).

Wintering *Empidonax* flycatchers consisted of 3 Hammond's, one probable Dusky near Sheridan, *Placer* 16 Dec (BDW), one Pacific-slope 24–29 Dec at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* (singing male; RbF, PJM), and a Western in Carmel, *Monterey* 29 Dec (SRv, JCS). Three Eastern Phoebe's wintered: a continuing fall bird at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* to at least 2 Feb (PJM); one at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 29 Nov–7 Dec (JBo, Jason Scott, DR); and a different bird a bit farther upstream 7 Dec–20 Jan (Jason Scott; likely returning for a 2nd winter). A Say's Phoebe in Sierra Valley, *Plumas* 13–16 Feb was unusually early (MMC, Eric Sorenson). A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers near Lemoore 13 Jan–28 Feb provided a rare regional record, particularly in winter, and were the first for *Kings* (Christy Uhor, Mark Stacy, m.ob.). Three Tropical Kingbirds wintered: 2 in S.F. into spring (Steve Snyder, MMcC, m.ob.) and one at Bayside Park, *San Mateo* 23 Jan–10 Feb (RSTh). *San Mateo's* **Thick-billed Kingbird** was still present at Half Moon Bay through at least 27 Feb (Gary Deghi, m.ob.). No reports of Northern Shrikes in the C.V. were submitted; all 7 were at usual locations in *Humboldt*, *Siskiyou*, and *Mono*. Unseasonal Loggerhead Shrikes were at Crowley L., *Mono* 6 Jan (3; Thomas Miko) and Alton, *Humboldt* 7–18 Feb (PAH, RHw).

Vireos Through Wagtails

Records of wintering "Solitary" Vireo have numbered from four to seven the past three winters, yet this winter not a single report was received. A Steller's Jay at Hickey Park, *Kings* 7 Feb (ADeM) was one of few ever found in the San Joaquin Valley. Mountain Chickadees appeared to have staged a minor incursion into the foothills of the Sacramento Valley, including 10 on the Auburn C.B.C. 16 Dec (first since 1983) and 5 at the Oroville Fish Hatchery, *Butte* 10 Dec (BED et al.), but the only bird recorded on the C.V. floor was at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* 11 Dec (JTr). Single Brown Creepers 7–17 Feb in the C.V. around

Hickey Park near Hanford were rarities for *Kings* (ADeM, LkC, SAG).

An American Dipper on the Cosumnes R. at Michigan Bar 16 Jan was a rarity for *Sacramento* (JTr). Townsend's Solitaires at Coal Mine Ridge 18 Dec (Sue & Jerry James) and Crystal Springs 19 Dec (ADeM) provided rare records for *San Mateo*. A Swainson's Thrush picked up dead at Humboldt State University, Arcata 2 Jan (Anthony Desch) provided *Humboldt's* 2nd winter record and is one of few ever found this time of year in our Region. American Robins rarely receive mention here but 53,196 (not a roost count!) on the Willow Creek C.B.C., *Humboldt* seems noteworthy (GSL).

The landbird highlight of the season was an adult **Black-backed Wagtail** 17 Dec–7 Apr on non-public salt ponds at Alviso, *Santa Clara* (David McIntyre, ph. MMR, m.ob.). This is our 7th Regional record but the first to winter (another Black-backed wintered in s. California in 1996; at least 7 White Wagtails have wintered in w. North America).

Warblers Through Sparrows

Wintering warblers, including the now-expected e. and s. warblers, were found in low or average numbers: Tennessee (2), Nashville (14), Yellow (5), Palm (24), Black-and-white (7 including one on 27 Dec at Merced Falls, *Merced*; PJM), American Redstart (3), Northern Waterthrush (1), MacGillivray's (2), and Wilson's (3). A Lucy's Warbler was at Arroyo Leon, *San Mateo* 11 Feb (RSTh). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was found at Bayside, *Humboldt* 16 Dec (DFx, JCP, Colin Dillingham, Brooke McDonald). A Magnolia Warbler at El Granada 16 Dec was thought to be the first winter record for *San Mateo*, although (as with many Dec records) it was never seen again (RSTh). A much-seen male Cape May Warbler, first found 1 Jan at Stinson Beach, *Marin*, continued into Mar (ph. RS; ph. WEH, m.ob.). Most unusual was a **Kentucky Warbler** 1 Jan at Pfeiffer-Big Sur S.P. (†Thomas C. Wood; first *Monterey* record for winter). Significant records of Common Yellowthroat included one near Lincoln, *Placer* 16 Dec (first for Auburn C.B.C.; BDW), one at the Eel R. Delta, *Humboldt* 31 Dec (JTz), and one at Wilson Cr., Mono L. 22 Dec, the first in winter for *Mono* (Sally Miller, Paul McFarland). Single Hooded Warblers were at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 13 Jan (Shirley Jewel) and Rossmoor, *Contra Costa* 15 Jan–18 Feb (Jim Jardine et al.).

The region's lone wintering Summer Tanager was last noted at Forestville, *Sonoma* 1 Feb (Mike Heffernon). Of 11 Western

Tanagers, 8 were inland, 2 were semi-coastal, and just one was coastal. A Green-tailed Towhee 22 Dec at Wilson Cr., Mono L. was just the 3rd Dec record for *Mono* (Sally Miller, Paul McFarland). Four American Tree Sparrows were found, but none may have wintered: Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 3–30 Dec (RSTh, Cindy Reed); Kehoe Marsh 16 Dec (†Kirk Swenson) and McClures Beach 17 Dec (LLu, CLu), both Pt. Reyes N.S., *Marin*; and Bayside, *Humboldt* 20–22 Dec (†DFx, JCP). A Chipping Sparrow at Yreka 21 Dec may have been the first in winter for *Siskiyou*, although the bird was never refound (MFRb). Of 5 Clay-colored Sparrows, 3 were coastal from *Humboldt* to *San Mateo*, one was near-coastal at Shoreline Park, *Santa Clara* 10–13 Dec (Dick Stovel, AME, MMR et al.), and one was truly inland at Bartlett Park, *Tulare* 30 Dec–Mar (†LLu, CLu et al.). The lone Lark Bunting in a poor winter for them was near Watsonville, *Santa Cruz* 1–2 Jan (Randy Morgan, †PJM, ADeM, CCb, LHg). Of 17+ Swamp Sparrows at least 15 were coastal, primarily in *Monterey* and *Humboldt*, with inland birds only at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 2 Dec (PJM) and Concord, *Contra Costa* 16 Dec (first for the Contra Costa C.B.C.; JCR, SAG). Five Harris's Sparrows was a bit below average: 16 Dec at Millbrae, *San Mateo* (ad.; Joe Macho, ADeM); through 28 Feb at Cotati, *Sonoma* (ad.; Richard Merriss); 4–17 Dec at Arcata, *Humboldt* (Kerry Ross, Mark & Stephanie Morrisette); 15 Feb near Beale A.F.B., *Yuba* (JCS); and, where more expected, at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 19 Dec (RE).

Longspurs Through Finches

At least 2 McCown's Longspurs returned to last winter's site on Browning Rd., *Colusa* through at least 12 Feb (†BDW), but this was overshadowed by one on Gloria-Camphora Rd. 3–4 Dec, which provided a long-awaited first for *Monterey* (†TEa; SFB, †DR et al.). A male Lapland Longspur s. of Benton, *Mono* 17–24 Feb was well into alternate plumage (MSanM, NBB, DR). A Snow Bunting near Benton 10–11 Feb was *Mono's* first and one of few to have ever wintered in the interior of the Region (†Chris Brady, Debbie House). Of wintering *Phœnicurus* grosbeaks, 8 were Rose-breasteds and 3 were Black-headed, with one Black-headed 21 Jan on McClellan Ranch, *Santa Clara* being the only bird away from the immediate coast (Kay Partelow). An ad. male Indigo Bunting 11 Feb at Arroyo Leon, *San Mateo* provided a rare winter record (RSTh).

Unseasonal or out-of-place Yellow-headed Blackbirds included a female at Ukiah, *Mendocino* 5–7 Dec (GEC, MMTt, CEV), one in Sierra Valley, *Plumas* 16 Dec (Bob & Jim

Battagin), and a female at Pacifica, *San Mateo* 28 Dec (Calvin Lou). A flock of 445+ at Holland Tract 23 Dec was easily the largest ever found in *Contra Costa* (John Ascher, SAG). A male Great-tailed Grackle, present at Tule Lake, *Siskiyou* 15 Dec into spring was thought to be the same bird there in July 2000 (KS, RE). It was a poor year for wintering orioles, with just one Orchard, 4 Hoodeds, and 4 Bullock's. The male Orchard was at a feeder near Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 7 Feb (RF); amongst the Hoodeds were 2 videotaped in a Redding, *Shasta* yard 11 Feb (Bea & Bob Currie).

A male **Black Rosy-Finch** at Benton Hot Springs, *Mono* 16 Feb–2 Mar (†MSanM, NBB; †DR et al.) was our 4th Regional record and the 3rd in winter; this taxon may be more regular in this little-worked corner of the Great Basin than current data suggest. Prior *Mono* records are a Jan 1904 specimen and a 31 Mar 1980 sighting, but two 1941 specimens attributed to *Lassen* were actually just over the Nevada state line (*contra* Small, 1994, *California Birds*). Finches were otherwise rarely noted this season. Evening Grosbeaks of note were 3 at Bloomfield, *Sonoma* 30 Dec (Fred Jacobs); up to 10 at San Gregorio 30 Dec–18 Jan (Pat Pauch, ADeM) and 4 at Pescadero 18 Jan (ADeM), both *San Mateo*; one at Olive School Ln., *Solano* 7 Jan (Roger Muscat); one at a feeder in Napa, *Napa* 9 Jan–Mar (Denise & David Hamilton); and singles in Auburn, *Placer* 13 & 25 Feb (Deren Ross, Joan Jernegan).

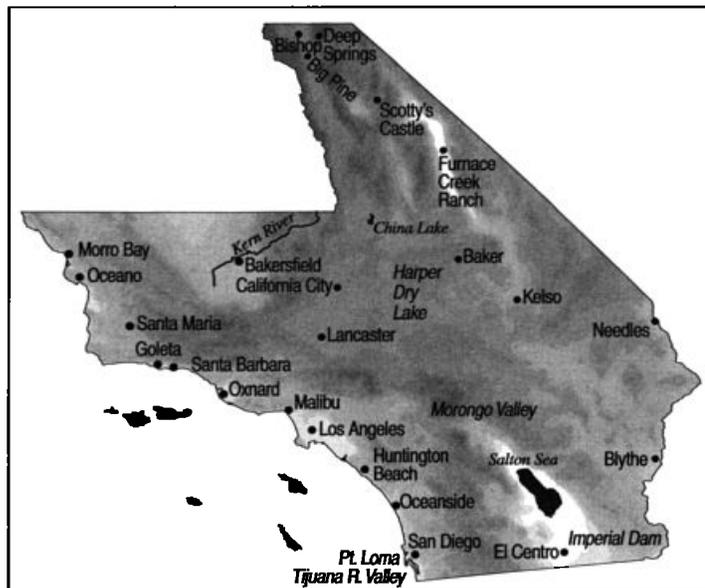
Exotics

The spread of Eurasian Collared-Dove across North America has been a topic of some interest in this journal's pages over the past decade, with most observers opining that an exploding range expansion accounts for far-flung reports (see a fine 1999 summary by C. Romagosa & T. McEaney, *NAB* 53:348–353). In our Region, however, a growing population first discovered in King City, *Monterey* in spring 1999 is not an influx from s. California (these doves are breeding in Morro Bay in the next county s. of *Monterey*). Rather, the original 3 were traced to an intentional release by a neighbor; those released birds have now grown into a population of 24 (J&HBa).

Corrigenda

Chestnut-collared Longspur was inadvertently missing from our Spring report (*NAB* 54:325). The opening sentence about longspurs was not solely about McCown's but should have read "The Winter's invasion of C.V. longspurs concluded with up to 6 McCown's along Browning Rd., *Colusa* to 16 Mar (LLu, CLu et al.) and up

Southern Pacific Coast



to 30 Chestnut-collareds in n.e. Yolo to 1 Apr (EDG et al.)” We thank EDG for bringing this error to our attention.

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): David G. Ainley, Stephen F. Bailey, Jim & Helen Banks, Jim Booker, **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), N. Bruce Broadbrooks, **Penelope K. Bowen** (*Alpine & Calaveras*), June Buntin, Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, **Luke Cole** (*Kings*), Chris Corben, **Hugh Cotter** (*S.F. city*), Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel** (*n. C.V. counties*), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark Eaton, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, **David Fix** (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier, Rob Fowler, **James H. Gain** (*Stanislaus*), **Steven A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Edward D. Greaves, Steve C. Hampton, W. Ed Harper, Pablo A. Herrera, Rob Hewitt, Bill Hill, Steve N.G. Howell, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Lisa Hug, Alvaro Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), Clay Kempf, Jon King, **Robin L.C. Leong** (*Napa & Solano*), Tom W. Leskiw, Gary S. Lester, Cindy Lieurance, Les Lieurance, Michael J. Mammoser, Ann Manolis, **Timothy D. Manolis** (*Sacramento & Yolo*), Matthew Matthiessen, J. Mac McCormick, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo & Mono*), Joseph Morlan, **Ed Pandolfino** (*Placer*), Jim & Debby Parker, **Jude C. Power** (*Humboldt*), **Peter Pyle** (*F.I.*), Jean C. Richmond, **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), Michael F. Robbins, **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), John C. Robinson, Michael M. Rogers, Steve Rovell, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Ken Salzman, Mike San Miguel, Debra L. Shearwater, Dan Singer, Larry Spear, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, **David L. Suddjian** (*DLSu; Santa Cruz*), Richard Ternullo, Scott B. Tereill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, John Trochet, Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced & San Benito*), **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), Brian D. Williams, Denise S. Wight, **Bob & Carol Yutzky** (*Shasta*), m.ob.= many observers. Many more observers were not specifically cited and all are appreciated.



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The Region experienced a cooler winter than normal, and although precipitation equaled or exceeded average in most of the area, virtually all the measurable participation occurred in February.

Some indications remained of the fall's invasion of corvids and certain other montane or Great Basin species. Highlights included the Region's first Eurasian Dotterel, found with Mountain Plovers in the Imperial Valley, the Nutting's Flycatcher in Irvine continuing from November, and the Region's second White-winged Junco in the Owens Valley.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National

Park, Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); S.E.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern); S.M.R.E. (Santa Maria River Estuary near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg Air Force Base near Lompoc, Santa Barbara). Because 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.

Albatrosses Through Ducks

A Laysan Albatross at the Santa Lucia Escarpment wsw. of Pt. Buchon, *San Luis Obispo* 13 Jan (BKS) and 2 there 20 Jan (BKS) were in an area where expected in small numbers. At least 75 Northern Fulmars seen during a pelagic bird trip off *San Luis Obispo* 13 Jan (TME) and a count of 55 from La Jolla, *San Diego* 10 Mar (SW) suggest that greater-than-normal numbers were off s. California this winter. Unexpected was a Flesh-footed Shearwater seen from shore at La Jolla 13 Feb