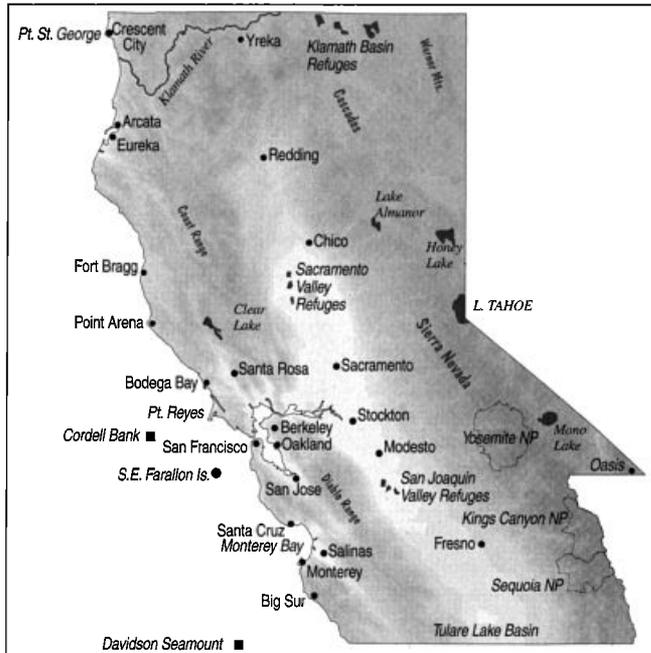


Middle Pacific Coast



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Fall 2001 was worth writing home about. Two birds drew observers from across the continent: the first Common Greenshank south of Alaska on the northwest coast and a Demoiselle Crane of uncertain provenance in the San Joaquin Valley. In a year that saw neither El Niño nor La Niña, seabirds continued to make things

interesting with the appearance of both Streaked and Greater Shearwaters in Monterey Bay just two days apart. From opposite directions came a Sooty Tern offshore (the farthest northeastern Pacific record) and several Long-billed Murrelets inshore (including the 2 farthest south on the eastern side of the Pacific). For coastal landbird enthusiasts, a very solid September with fine "vagrant" weather (high overcast and not much wind) dissipated into a rather ordinary October-November with quite a bit of rain late in the period. Interior migrant hunters were rewarded with a better-than-usual wealth of rarities.

Abbreviations: C.A.S. (California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco); C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*), N.S. (National Seashore); R.P. (Regional Park); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.B. (State Beach); S.F. (San Francisco); S.R. (State Reserve); W.A. (Wildlife Area).

Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. Observers wishing C.B.R.C. review should also send their documentation to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, San Diego CA 91933. Banded birds on F.I. should also be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory, those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to Big Sur Ornithology Lab of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

Mendocino's 2nd Dark-rumped Petrel was 13 km offshore of Noyo Harbor 18 Aug (†SNGH, DLSh, †SBT, †DR et al.). A **Streaked Shearwater** was 19 km w. of Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 6 Oct (TMcG, DLSh et al.) This species remains quite rare on the e. side of the Pacific, with the vast majority of records from Monterey Bay Following last winter's observation of the species in Monterey Bay, a **Greater Shearwater** was off *Santa Cruz* 8 Oct (JiD, TMcG, DLSh, CKf et al) Annual in small numbers, single Manx Shearwaters were seen from shore in *Santa Cruz* 25 Aug (†SBT) and 24 Sep (†DLSu); from F.I. 17 Oct (Adam Brown); from Pigeon Pt. *San Mateo* 21, 23 & 27 Oct (JiD, AdeM, RSTh); and offshore *Monterey* 25 Nov (RT). Twelve Wilson's Storm-Petrels were over Cordell Bank, *Marin* 16 Sep (RS, SBT et al.). This location consistently produces the largest concentrations of these typically Atlantic storm-petrels off the w. coast Formerly quite rare n. of *Monterey*, Black Storm-Petrels are increasing off *Marin*, with 46 on 29 Sep; accompanying them were 6 Least Storm-Petrels (SBT, DLSh et al.). This species is quite scarce n. of Monterey Bay, but fall records off *Marin* have been increasing with better coverage Almost annual in the Region in recent years, a Brown Booby was documented off *Santa Cruz* 20 Oct (DLSh, v.t. LLu, ph. EP, †CLu et al.)

HERONS THROUGH CRANES

An imm. Snowy Egret at Trinity L. 18 Aug-2 Sep was the 2nd for *Trinity*; a Cattle Egret there 12 Sep was a county first (both SAG, m. ob.). A late



This juvenile Common Greenshank spent almost three weeks associating with both yellowlegs species at the mouth of the Mad River in Humboldt County, thrilling visitors from across the country 27 August-15 September 2001. *Photograph by Ron LeValley.*

ad. Little Blue Heron e. of Skaggs Island Rd., *Solano* 2 Oct (JMR) was the only report; for the first fall in 10 years, none were reported from Alviso, *Santa Clara*. Coastal White-faced Ibis 10 Sep-14 Oct included five flocks in *Monterey*, one in *Marin*, and single birds from *Santa Cruz*, *Humboldt*, and *Santa Clara*. A count of 1400 from n. of Los Banos, *Merced* 18 Aug was exceptional (PJM, FrT).

The 3 Tufted Ducks reported were all from s. S.F. Bay, in *Santa Clara* and *San Mateo*, 11 Oct-30 Nov (Blake Matheson, †MJM, RSTh). An ad. male Harlequin Duck at Coyote Pt. 26 Nov (RSTh) was only the 2nd for the bayside of *San Mateo*. Inland White-winged Scoters included the first documented in *Lake* on 4 Nov (Mike Stevenson) and the 2nd since the 1920s in *Placer* on 3 Nov (TEa).

Seven Broad-winged Hawks away from the *Marin* headlands included *Shasta's* first, an early imm. at Lassen Volcanic N.P. 23 Aug-1 Sep (†DPM). Five coastal Swainson's Hawks were reported 14 Aug-22 Sep. A Clapper Rail at Crissy Field 17 Oct was the first for S.F. in over 20 years (DPM, *C.A.S.).

SA The discovery of an ad. Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) at Isenberg Sandhill Crane Reserve and nearby Staten I., *San Joaquin* attracted the attention of birders from across the continent. Found by a pick-up Big Day team (Celeste Pryor, JHG, RbF) on 30 Sep and present through at least 28 Nov, it would, if of natural origin, be the first New World record. Some suggested that a spring overshoot might have reached Siberia, joined Sandhills for the summer, and then followed them to California. However, the International Species Information System lists 103 Demoiselles in public holdings across North America, and perhaps twice that many are in private hands. None is required to be banded, and captive birds can have the muscle mass to be active flyers. Although we will likely never know the true origin of this crane, it added dramatically to the spectacle of Sandhill Crane migration. Coincidentally, privately owned Staten Island was purchased by the Nature Conservancy during the crane's visit and will hereafter be managed as a crane reserve.

SHOREBIRDS

Two ad. Snowy Plovers at Clear Lake S.P. 4 Sep were the first for *Lake* (DvW, m. ob.), as was an ad. Ruddy Turnstone at the same location 12 Aug (SAG). A wayward Mountain Plover made it to Cock Robin I., lower Eel R. 24 Oct for the 10th *Humboldt* record (†SMcA). Black

Oystercatchers and Surfbirds penetrated unusually far s. into S.F. Bay. Up to 2 Black Oystercatchers were at the Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 23 Sep-30 Nov+, with up to 10 Surfbirds there 19 Aug-7 Oct (all RJR).

The shorebird highlight of the season was a juv. **Common Greenshank** at the Mad R. estuary, *Humboldt* 27 Aug-15 Sep (KI, ph. SMcA, m. ob.). This obliging bird—a first for California and the Pacific coast s. of Alaska—was seen by hundreds of observers and well photographed. An **Upland Sandpiper** on F.I. 23-28 Aug (JTz) was the 3rd there and the 5th for the Region. A Whimbrel at Clear Lake S.P. 5 Aug (DvW, JRW) was the 2nd for *Lake*. A white-rumped Whimbrel—presumed to be *N. p. variegatus*—at MacKerricher S.P. 23 Nov (†CEV) was in the same vicinity as *Mendocino's* first, seen five years ago on 22 Aug 1996 (†DT). These add to records discussed by Heindel (1999, *N. A. B.* 53: 232). On 15 Sep, a single acre s. of Chowchilla, *Madera* held **3100** Long-billed Curlews (KVV), comprising 15% of the estimated world population of this species.

Ten coastal Semipalmated Sandpipers 4 Aug-24 Sep made for a poor showing, but this contrasted with a whopping 13 juv. birds inland 5 Aug-10 Sep, including *Tehama's* apparent first at Black Butte Res. 14 Aug (†DR, RC), *Trinity's* 2nd at Trinity L. 20 Aug (JSL), and *Lake's* 3rd at Clear Lake S.P. 24-31 Aug (JRW, m. ob.). An ad. White-rumped Sandpiper near Stratford, *Kings* 12-14 Oct (†JSy) was a county first, only the 3rd fall record for the Region, and the latest this species has been recorded in California. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers arrived early and in above-average numbers. A briefly described bird from the Mad R. estuary, *Humboldt* 4-8 Sep (Fred Lessor, †Jesse Conklin) was followed by juvs. at F.I. 9-11 Sep (†JTz, 7th island record) and at Manchester S.B. 10 Sep (†DT, *Mendocino's* 2nd). Later birds included singles at Eel River W.M.A., *Humboldt* 29 Sep (KI) and at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 23 Sep-7 Oct (†LCh, CCb). A total of 3 Stilt Sandpipers 15 Aug-14 Oct was far fewer than reported in recent falls. Buff-breasted Sandpipers made a good showing, with 11 birds reported from six counties, including the 3rd for *Siskiyou* 1 Sep (RE), at least 2 from *Humboldt* 25 Aug-2 Sep (†MiF, SMcA), the 3rd and 4th records for *Mendocino* 1-4 Sep (CEV, ph. MMtt, GEC, †JRW), one in *Marin* 31 Aug-5 Sep (PtW, m. ob.), the 8th for F.I. 6 Sep (†JTz, KNN), and 4 from *Monterey* 9 Sep-1 Oct (RC, †DR, ph. JSo, Carleton Eyster, BHG, m.ob.). Ruffs appeared in typical numbers, with 13 reported from both coastal and inland counties. Females found at New



A long way from home, this adult Demoiselle Crane at Staten Island, San Joaquin County, sparked extensive debate about whether this Eurasian species could occur as a natural vagrant in North America. Photograph by Kevin McKereghan.

Chicago Marsh, *Santa Clara* 19 Aug (MJM) and Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 9 Sep (BDP, AWgh) attempted to overwinter, remaining into Dec

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

Record numbers of Long-tailed Jaegers occurred offshore, e.g., 55 on 5 Aug off Cordell Bank, *Marin* (RS); 96 w. of Noyo Harbor, *Mendocino* 5 Sep (TMcG et al.); and 55 on 11 Sep offshore *Sonoma* (DN). About 70% of the 150+ tallied 12 Aug off Cordell Bank (SNGH, PP, SBT et al) were second-year birds, suggesting that Long-tailed Jaegers had high productivity the previous summer.

Very scarce in the Region, a Laughing Gull was at Palo Alto Baylands, *Santa Clara* 23 Oct (†Jennifer Rycenga). A second-year Little Gull was in Mountain View, *Santa Clara* 17 Nov (JLx). Very rare away from the immediate coast, a Heermann's Gull was at Mono L., *Mono* 4-5 Oct (DLSu). Also quite rare far inland, a Mew Gull was at Corcoran Res. 20 Nov (†ADeM), perhaps a 3rd *Kings* record. Thayer's Gulls occurred at several unusual inland locations, including a juv. at Crowley L., a first for *Mono*, 2-3 Nov (†JLD, †J&DP et al.). Unusually large numbers of Sabine's Gulls inland included up to 17 at N. Lake Tahoe, *Placer* 18-28 Sep (TEa et al.), 6 at Bridgeport Res., *Mono* (GjH), and 4 at Crowley L., *Mono* 26 Sep (JLD). Single individuals were widely reported from inland locations throughout the Region.

An Arctic Tern at N. Lake Tahoe 18-28 Sep was a first for *Placer* (TEa et al.). A post-breeding congregation of 156 Least Terns at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* on 19 Aug was larger than usual (RJR). Numbers of Least Terns peaked at 98 at Salt Pond A2E *Santa Clara* 1 Aug (MMR), and 3 were observed flying above a forested area at Skyline Ridge between S.F. Bay and the *Santa Cruz* coast 1 Aug (DLSu). A **Sooty Tern**, a first



This Long-billed Murrelet off Santa Cruz 23 August 2001 represents the southernmost record of this Asian species on the eastern Pacific Coast. Detections of Long-billed Murrelet are increasing in the Region, a pattern likely related to observers' increased awareness of characters separating this species from the closely related Marbled Murrelet. Photograph by Josh Adams.

for the Region and the farthest n. in the coastal eastern Pacific, was 17.6 km sw. of Bodega Head, *Marin* 26 Aug (ph. RS, †CLu, vt. LLu). The wintering flock of Black Skimmers at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara* increased to a high of 22 on 25 Nov (Grant & Karen Hoyt, m. ob.), the highest concentration yet in San Francisco Bay of this species, which has been rapidly expanding in the state over the past three decades.

A Long-billed Murrelet off Aptos 23 Aug, a first for *Santa Cruz* and the southernmost coastal e. Pacific record (†LHe, ph. Josh Adams, Hannah Nevins), was followed closely by a first for *San Mateo* just n. of *Santa Cruz* off Año Nuevo Pt. (†LHe, ph. Josh Adams). Two others were observed in *Humboldt*: Eel R. mouth 11 Sep and Little R. mouth 21 Sep (both †EE). This Asian species is turning up more regularly now that observers have become familiar with characters distinguishing it from Marbled Murrelet.

NIGHTJARS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

An unidentified nighthawk was at Wilder Ranch S.P., *Santa Cruz* 25 Aug (Carlton Eyster); wandering Commons were at Lake Red Bluff, *Tehama* 1 Aug (4; BED) and Ida Clayton Rd., *Sonoma* 25 Aug (DgSh). What certainly must have been an awesome sight was a flock of White-throated Swifts estimated at 2000-4000 birds 27 Sep at Monticello Dam, *Solano/Napa/Yolo* (RLCL, ABtt, Roger Muskat, Uzelle Williams). Our Regional notebooks contain no mention of a flock even approaching this size. A Calliope Hummingbird at Marysville, *Yuba* 16 Sep (†BDW) provided a rare fall record for the C.V.; an imm. at Pt. Pinos 25 Sep (†DR) was the first for autumn in *Monterey*.

Small numbers of Lewis's Woodpeckers reached the coast at *Humboldt* to *Santa Cruz*,

and at least 13 birds were noted heading e. over Tilden Park, *Contra Costa* 12-26 Oct (more than the total seen in the county in the past decade; SAG). Inland they were more widespread and numerous than is typical, particularly in *Humboldt* and *Shasta*. One at Avenal Canyon 21 Sep was quite unusual in *Kings* (JWtg). Out-of-place Acorn Woodpeckers were at Fairhaven, *Humboldt* 15-17 Sep (GSL, MWa) and S.F. city (at least 13 between 27 Aug-30 Nov; m. ob.). Another at Lundy Canyon 11 Sep (PJM) was a *Mono* rarity. Five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers beginning 10 Oct included a juv. at San Luis Res. 16 Oct, a first for *Merced* (JSy). A female Hairy Woodpecker 23 Aug-15 Oct, felt to belong to the local dark-winged population, was the first ever found on outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* (RS); one in Avenal Canyon 20-21 Sep was a rarity for forest-strapped *Kings* (LkC, JWtg). At least 4 Black-backed Woodpeckers 1 Oct-7 Nov s. of Mono L. (Maya Decker, JLD) and 2 near Mammoth Lakes 8 Oct (Kaaren Perry) were noteworthy finds in *Mono*.

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, just the Region's 6th and the latest by 6 days, was on F.I. 4 Oct (†JTz, PP et al.). Other interesting *Empidonax* included 11 Leasts, all coastal or near-coastal 4 Sep-15 Oct, and single Grays at Antonelli Pond, *Santa Cruz* 12 Sep (TEa) and Pt. Reyes 13 Sep (RS). Eastern Phoebes had an uninspiring showing with 4 birds: 7 Oct at Willow Creek, *Humboldt* (†TWL); 12 Oct at Henry Cowell Redwoods S.P. (*Santa Cruz's* first for fall; JND); and singles at F.I. 26 Oct and 2-4 Nov (P.R.B.O.). The season's only Dusky-capped Flycatcher was at Bodega Head, *Sonoma* 17 Nov (†Eric Lichtwardt, ph. RS et al.). A Great Crested Flycatcher at Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay 5 Oct was *Sonoma's* eagerly-awaited first (ph. †DN, †Eric Lichtwardt, †BDP et al.). A meager 22 Tropical Kingbirds after 23 Sep was well below the recent average. A Cassin's Kingbird at Oasis 10 Sep was the first for *Mono* in a decade (PJM). Five Eastern Kingbirds 27 Aug-20 Sep included two county firsts: San Felipe L., *San Benito* 27 Aug (Mark Paxton) and Yosemite Valley, *Mariposa* 19-20 Sep (†DLSu). *Santa Cruz's* summering Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was last noted 16 Sep; a migrant was near Pt. Sur, *Monterey* 4 Nov (ph. Bernardo Alps).

VIREOS THROUGH THRASHERS

Six Blue-headed Vireos were found: 21 Sep (KNN) and 6 Oct (Ryan Burnett) on F.I.; 22 Sep at Bayview Hill, S.F. (†ASH); 23 & 30 Sep at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* (RS); and 3 Oct at Arcata, *Humboldt* (†DFx, GSL, LPL, SMcA). The sole vagrant Plumbeous Vireo was at Merk Pond, *Santa Cruz* 9 Nov (DLSu). Though a whopping 12 Philadelphia Vireos were reported 11 Sep-13

Oct, only 3 were documented: 23-24 Sep at Sutro Heights Park, S.F. (†Rich Ferrick, †JM, m. ob.); Pajaro R., *Monterey/Santa Cruz* 29 Sep (†DLSu); and Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 6 Oct (banded; ph. DR). Thirteen Red-eyed Vireos was a fine showing, among them an ad. at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* 12 Aug (RSTh) and one inland 16 Sep near Lincoln, *Placer's* first (†TEa)

Observers have just begun reporting fall concentrations of roving imm. Western Scrub-Jays, likely an annual post-breeding dispersal phenomenon in this sedentary species (cf. Grinnell & Linsdale, 1936, *Vertebrate Animals of Pt. Lobos Reserve*). Flocks at unusual locations included 13 at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 16 Sep (previous high there of just 2; RJR) and 26 at Point Pinole R.S., *Contra Costa* 22 Sep (SAG). Several large *Monterey* flocks at river mouths also contained many young Steller's Jays, including 100+ at Carmel R. mouth 13 Oct (R. Wolfe, RbF) and 29 in a single tree 20 Oct at Big Sur R. mouth (DR). High numbers of Pinyon Jays in *Mono* included an estimated 480 flying over Mono L. County Park 3 Oct, an estimated 1950 around Sagehen Peak 3 Oct, and 375 near Mono Craters 5 Oct (all DLSu). A Black-billed Magpie, extremely rare away from Great Basin haunts, was in Redding, *Shasta* 21 Oct-15 Nov (Ray Bruun, Larry Siemens). Each season we expect large concentrations of Common Ravens to become routine, and each season there is an even larger flock. This time it was an estimated 250 at San Pedro Valley Co. Park, *San Mateo* 7 Oct (Alan Ridley). A Barn Swallow at DeChambeau Ponds 19 Nov was the latest ever for *Mono* (RHw, TMcK). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee 14-15 Sep was the first for outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* (RS, CLu, LLu). Very odd were 17 widely scattered birds in *Santa Cruz* exhibiting varying degrees of leucism and/or albinism (DLSu). A Mountain Bluebird at Sutro Heights Park 1 Nov was the first for S.F. city (†Myra Ulvang). The sole Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Nunes Ranch, *Marin* 30 Sep (RS); most Regional records are from F.I.

A Gray Catbird at Lewiston L. 16-17 Aug (†DR, RC), a first for *Trinity*, may have summered locally. More traditional migrants were banded at Coyote Creek Field Center 26 Sep (Sherry Hudson; *Santa Clara's* 2nd) and F.I. 5 Oct, and seen at Mono L. Park, *Mono* 23 Oct (ph. Bartshe Miller). The only Brown Thrasher was at Princeton, *San Mateo* 5 Oct (RSTh), and the only Red-throated Pipits were on F.I. 16 Oct & 7 Nov (PP). An imm. Phainopepla in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 23 Sep (RbF, ph. DR, RC) was the first for the Monterey Peninsula.

WARBLERS

For many observers, the whole point of fall migration is the search for misoriented e. war-

blers For them, this was a solid autumn, with numbers of eastern warblers up 10-40% from average and approaching highs set in 1999 or some of the "glory years" in past decades. Mid-Sep was particularly fine, with up to 4-5 Chestnut-sided Warblers on outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* (BDP, LLu, CLu, m. ob.) on a day that saw another land on a boat three hours offshore (Jeff Gilligan et al.). Incomplete returns for the coast (no report submitted from *Del Norte*) show 592 vagrant warblers, 91% of generally northeastern origin with the others from the Southeast (6%) or Southwest (7 Virginia's, 5 Lucy's = 2%). As usual, nearly 20% of the total were Palm Warblers, but in a surprising turn there were as many Chestnut-sideds (82) as there were Blackpolls (82; 14% of total). Our scarcer w. migrants were also in good numbers. Nashvilles were widely found *Humboldt* to *Monterey* and offshore on F.I.; careful compiling in *Santa Cruz* found that they had more than doubled the prior autumn's high count (DLSu).

A **Grace's Warbler** at Natural Bridges S.P., *Santa Cruz* 27-29 Sep (†Michelle Scott, †TN, †SGe, †CDL et al.) was the Region's first for fall migration; alas, attempts to videotape it showed a Blackburnian also present at the spot and caused much confusion before all was sorted out. One of 2 Cape May Warblers on F.I. 19-27 Sep (PP) reoriented to the mainland and was seen with a shiny band at Pt. Reyes 23 Sep (RS, LLu, CLu). The other coastal warbler highlights were a Blue-winged in Shay Park, Arcata, *Humboldt* 6 Oct (GSL, LPL, †DFx, JCP), an *albilora* Yellow-throated at Pt. Reyes 28-29 Sep (Jim Holmes, RS, m. ob.), a **Pine** on F.I. 7 Oct (PP, Ryan Burnett) where it was the 5th for the island but only the 9th for our Region, 7 Bay-breasteds, including birds in S.F. 22-25 Sep (†JWth, m. ob.) and *Humboldt* 1 Oct (TMcK), 5 Prothonotaries on the coast and another at Crowley L., *Mono* 27 Sep (†KLG), a Worm-eating banded at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 19-20 Sep (ph. JsSc), 8 Ovenbirds, single Connecticut at Pt Reyes 22 Sep (†JLD, m. ob.) and F.I. 23 Sep-4 Oct (KNN et al.), 2 Mourning on F.I. 4-7 Oct (KNN, PP) and another in Arcata 5 Oct (†DFx), and a Canada at Pescadero, *San Mateo* 20 Sep (RSTh). Remarkably, 2 more Canada Warblers were inland: 31 Aug at Jewel L., Tilden Park, *Contra Costa* (†William Gilbert) and 26 Sep at San Luis Res., a first for *Merced* (SBT).

Perhaps the most remarkable attribute of the warbler showing were the 32 records of 15 species found inland, a bonanza attributable to a lot more effort inland during a strong migration. Given our limited space, we can only summarize here while wrapping up the more regularly occurring vagrants. Thirty-nine Tennessees were along the coast but one struck a window in

Clayton, *Contra Costa* 12 Sep (*vide* Lindsay Museum), and other vagrants were at Davis, *Yolo* 21 Sep (SCH) and Hopland, *Mendocino* 28 Sep (CEV). A dozen Northern Parulas were coast-side, but 5 were in C.V. in *Butte* and *Sacramento* plus *Merced's* first at San Luis Res. 6 Oct (†KVV). A Chestnut-sided was at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* 25 Sep (JTr). Among the 30 Magnolias was one inland at San Luis Res. 30 Aug, another *Merced* first (SBT). A Black-throated Blue visited Cosumnes R. Preserve 16 Oct (JTr); another 16 were on the coast. Only 5 Black-throated Greens were on the coast, but one at San Luis Res. 6 Oct (†PJM) was yet another *Merced* first. A Blackburnian Warbler well up the Pajaro R. on the *Santa Clara/San Benito* border 2 Oct (†DLSu) made for a 3rd and first record simultaneously; another 15 were more expected along the coast. Palm Warblers are even more coast-hugging than most vagrants, so birds at San Luis Res. 6 Oct (†PJM; a *Merced* first) and Richmond (CDL; fewer than 5 *Contra Costa* records) were unusual. On top of 82 coastal Blackpolls were 4 in C.V.: *Placer's* 2nd near Lincoln 23 Sep-3 Oct (JCS), plus one in *Yolo* and 2 in *Sacramento*. Thirty-two Black-and-whites were on the coast and 2 inland, including possibly *Tulare's* first at Camp Nelson 2 Oct (1800 m elev.; †Melanie Ingalls). Some 60 American Redstarts brightened the coast; a returning male arrived at Reichmuth Park, *Sacramento* 5 Oct (*vide* TDM) and another provided *Placer's* 2nd record near Lincoln 14 Sep (†Cliff Hawley). A Northern Waterthrush in *Mono* and 34 on the coast were expected, but one at Weaverville 5 Oct was a *Trinity* first (GjH, JEH), and others were at Rodman Slough 26 Aug (†JRW; 2nd for *Lake*), near Lincoln 16 Sep (†TEa, 2nd in *Placer*), and along Latrobe Road, *El Dorado* 27 Sep (a county first? Tim Steuer). Six Hoodeds were coastal, but another was at Cosumnes R. Preserve 1 Sep (Jonathan Glazier).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A baker's dozen (13) Summer Tanagers reached the coast, but more exciting was *Monterey's* 2nd Scarlet Tanager at Laguna Grande, Seaside 13-18 Oct (†Alex Cruz, ph. Bill Hill, m. ob.). There are over 100 records for California but just 15 prior reports for our Region.

A juv. Rufous-crowned Sparrow on F.I. 7-10 Sep (†JTz) was actually more exciting there than many e. vagrants, as this species is so sedentary in its habits. Three American Tree Sparrows reached the coast within days of each other: at a Santa Cruz feeder 9-11 Nov (DLSu), Big Sur R. mouth 17 Nov (B.S.O.L. banded), and Halfmoon Bay, *San Mateo* 17 Nov (RSTh). Among more expected coastal *Spizella* vagrants were 73 Clay-colored and 9 Brewer's; inland

were *Lake's* 3rd Clay-colored at Kelsey Cr mouth 7 Sep (DvW, †JRW) and Brewer's at San Luis Res, *Merced* 7 Sep (Jeff Seay) and S. Wilbur Flood Area, *Kings* 21 Sep (†LkC, JWth). Other sparrows rare to the coast were 21 Vespers, 4 Black-throateds, and 10 Lark Buntings, including at Westport, *Mendocino* 7 Sep (DT). What may be only the 2nd Regional record of a **Large-billed Savannah Sparrow** was at Seal Pt on S F Bay, *San Mateo* 29 Oct-1 Nov (†ADEM, TAC, AB). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at L Merced 7-9 Oct (Karen Noble, DSg, m. ob.) is the only known S.F. City record.

A bright ad. Harris's Sparrow at Little River 19-20 Nov was *Mendocino's* 2nd (Ron Levalley, DT, CEV, m. ob.). *Monterey's* 2nd McCown's Longspur e. of Gonzales 18 Nov (†RFT, †Blake Matheson) was in the same field as the first for the county last Dec. About 32 Rose-breasted and 7 Blue Grosbeaks on the coast were reasonable numbers, but only 6 Indigo Buntings were a very low total; a Blue Grosbeak at Navarro R mouth 22 Sep (†JRW) was just *Mendocino's* 2nd. The only Painted Bunting was banded at Big Sur R mouth 5 Sep (ph. JsSc); the only Dickcissel was on F.I. 22-23 Sep (PP).

Among 29 coastal Bobolinks were two very late individuals at Moss Landing, *Monterey* 3-17 Nov (BHG, RF) and Laguna Creek, *Santa Cruz* 16 Nov (DLSu). Two n. C.V. Rusty Blackbirds were unexpected: Pleasant Grove Rd., *Sutter* 29-30 Nov (†TEa et al.) and Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* 6 Nov (Andy Engliss). The only other icterids of note were 7 each Orchard and Baltimore Orioles on the coast, including 4 Baltimores together in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 8-9 Oct (RbF, DR). Single male Lawrence's Goldfinches were nifty yard birds in Ferndale, *Humboldt* 7 Oct (TMcK) and Santa Cruz 22-23 Nov (ph. Cindy Cummings); 4 on Mt. Davidson 11 Aug (PSa) were the first in S.F. since 1996.

CORRIGENDA

A White-eyed Vireo at Pescadero listing in our Spring report as a first for *San Mateo* (*N A B* 55: 353) was actually the 2nd county record. The first was at Butano Creek 18 Jun 1998 (DLSu).

Cited observers (county coordinators bold-faced): Alan Baldrige, Anthony Battiste, **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), **Penelope K. Bowen** (*Alpine & Calaveras*), **Kenneth J. Brunges** (*Tuolumne*), Rita Carratello, Ted A. Chandik, George E. Chanot, Les Chibana, **Luke Cole** (*Kings*), Chris Corben, **Hugh Cotter** (*S F city*), James Danzenbaker, Jeff N. Davis, Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel** (*n. C.V. counties*), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton, **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Mike Feighner, **David Fix** (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier (RF), Rob

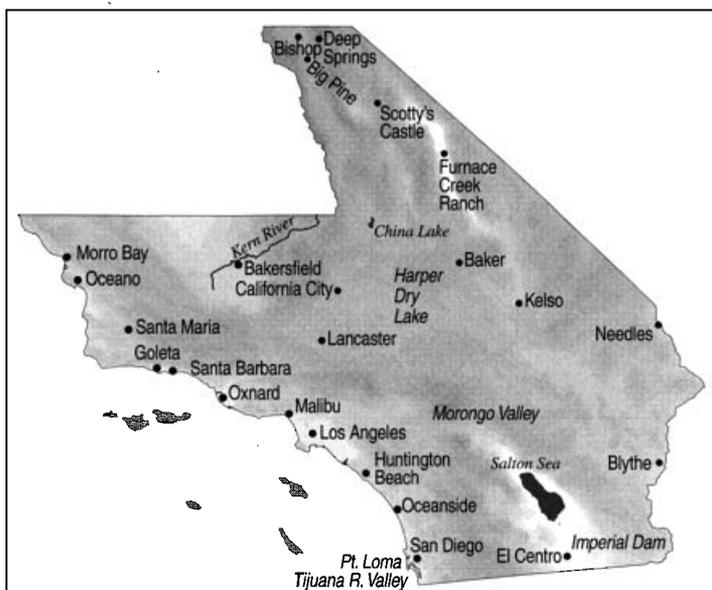
Fowler (RbF), James H. Gain, Kimball L. Garrett, Bruce H. Gerow, Steve Gerow, **Steven A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Steve C. Hampton, Gjon Hazard, Laird Henkel, Rob Hewitt, Alan S. Hopkins, Steven N.G. Howell, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), Clay Kempf, **Robin L.C. Leong** (*Napa & Solano*), Tom W. Leskiw, Gary S. Lester, Lauren P. Lester, Cindy Lieurance, Les Lieurance, Jim Lomax, Calvin D. Lou, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, **Timothy D. Manolis** (*Sacramento & Yolo*), Matthew A. Matthiessen, Sean McAllister, **Peter J.**

Metropulos (*San Mateo & Mono*), **Mac McCormick** (*Sierra & Plumas*), Todd McGrath, Tristan McKee, Joseph Morlan, Dan P. Murphy, Dan Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson, Todd Newberry, **Ed Pandolfino** (*Placer*), Jim & Debbie Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, **Jude C. Power** (*Humboldt*), Eric Preston, **Peter Pyle** (*F.I.*), Jean M. Richmond, **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), Michael M. Rogers, **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Paul Saraceni, Jason Scott (JsSc), Jeff Seay, Doug Shaw (DgSh), Debra L. Shearwater (DLSh), Dan Singer (DSg), John

Sorensen, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, **David L. Suddjian** (DLSu; *Santa Cruz*), Richard Ternullo, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, Francis Toldi, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced & San Benito*), Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), **Brian D Williams** (*Nevada*), Peter White, Alan Wight, Jay Withgott, Dave Woodward, **Bob & Carol Yutzy** (*Shasta*). Many more observers were not specifically cited; all are appreciated.



Southern Pacific Coast



Angeles); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, *Ventura*); S.D.N.H.M. (San Diego Natural History Museum in San Diego); S.E.S S (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.F.K.R.P (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, *Kern*); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, *Ventura*) 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.

LOONS THROUGH HAWKS

A Red-throated Loon on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo* 9 Nov (T&JH), along with 7 Pacific Loons in the Owens Valley, *Inyo* between 26 Oct and Nov 24 (T&JH, JLD) and one near Seeley, *Imperial* 26 Oct (GMcC) were inland. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel, rare in S. California waters, was off China Pt. on San Clemente I. 6 Sep (BLS).

Red-billed Tropicbirds continued off China Pt. on San Clemente I. through 24 Sep (BLS), 9 were encountered during an organized birding trip to the waters off San Nicolas I. 18 Aug (DMH), one was near Prisoner's Harbor on Santa Cruz I. 13 Sep (DMC), another was off Laguna Beach, *Orange* 25 Aug (JWi), and one was found on the beach San Onofre, *San Diego* 7 Oct (S.D.N.H.M.), indicating more than normal numbers were in S. California waters. A Brown Pelican at C.L. 8-9 Nov (SSt) was only the 4th to be found in *Kern*.

A Little Blue Heron at Laguna Dam, *Imperial* 1 Aug (RMcK) was the only one reported away

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This fall saw higher than average totals of eastern passerine vagrants, with numbers of most species far exceeding those of last fall; however, many observers remarked that western

migrants seemed fewer in number than normal. The only Asian landbird vagrants were two pipit taxa and the Region's second Northern Wheatear. Most irruptive species (such as Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins) were in relatively low numbers, although a movement of interior scrub-jays occurred for the second year in a row.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. *Kern*); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, se. *Kern*); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, *Inyo*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. *Kern*); N.H.M.L.A.C. (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in Los