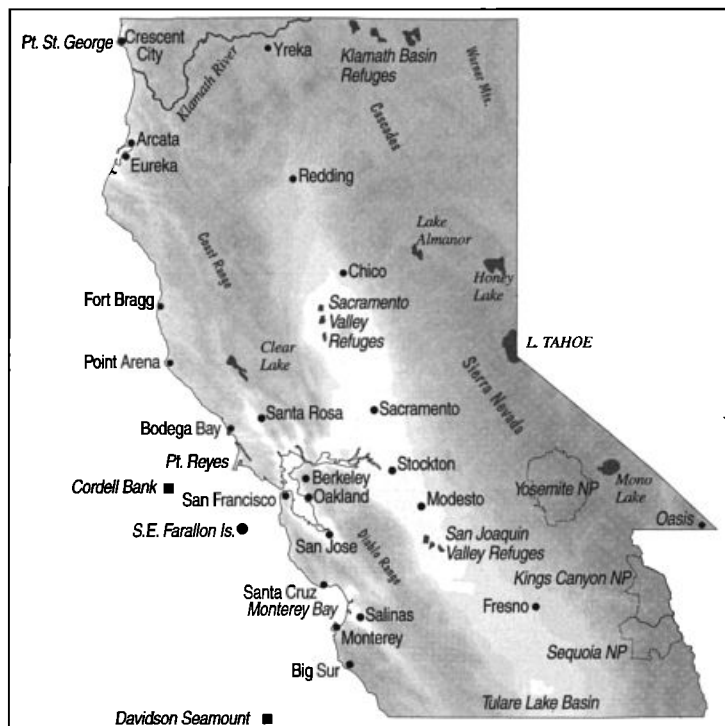


Middle Pacific Coast

SA Redpolls irrupted in a fashion not seen in over a decade. More than 7100 Commons were reported Regionwide, including 800+ in w. Washington and over 350 in Oregon. On the eastside, greater than 90% were n. of 47° 00' N, and on the westside, over 95% were from Seattle north, with virtually none w. of the Puget Sound. Western Oregon records included 6 at Portland throughout the winter (TS), while in e. Oregon, the most southerly records involved a single bird at Chiloquin, Klamath 1 Dec (W. Stone) and 15 at Malheur 14 Jan—Feb (CM, MM). Numbers peaked in late Dec and were sustained into mid-Feb on the westside and through Feb in the east. Maxima included 2000, near Blue L., Grant in mid-Feb (D. Kuehn) and 1300 near Usk, Pend Oreille 24 Feb (M. Moskwik).

Hoary Redpolls were also widely reported, with 6 convincingly documented: Cle Elum, Kittitas in early Jan (ph. C. Thoreen), Ellensburg, Kittitas 3 Jan (†S. Downes), Electric City, Grant 5-20 Jan (ph RS, †PtS), Wenatchee, Chelan 19 Jan (†DB); Davenport, Lincoln 27 Jan (†AS, DG), and Elk, Spokane 26-27 Jan (†M. Moskwik). There are only approximately 13 prior Washington records.



Grosbeak from Sammamish, King 8-9 Jun 2001 was inadvertently left off of last summer's tally (ph. M Dossett).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Eric Anderson, Tom Aversa, Phil Bartley, David Beaudette, Trent Bray, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Michael Donahue (MDo), Dennis Duffy, **Joe Engler** (Clark), Duncan Evered, Ruth Fischer, Bob Flores, Dan Friesz, Roy Gerig, **Denny Granstrand** (Yakima), Hendrik Herlyn, Randy Hill, Eugene Hunn, David Irons, Kraig Kemper, **Bill LaFramboise** (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, **Tom Mickel** (Lane), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Pen.), Kimdel Owen, Michael Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Ted Peterson, Phil Pickering, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Ryan T Shaw (RTS), Tim Shelmerdine, **Dan Stephens** (Chelan), Andy Stepniewski, Ellen Stepniewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Paul Sullivan (PaS), Ruth Sullivan, Sam Terry, Todd Thornton, Greg Toffic, David Tracy, Bill Tweit (BTw), D. van den Broek (DVB), Terry J. Wahl, Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright.



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The winter season started out wet, with substantial rainfall over much of the Region in December. The next two months were drier, however, and late February was described as “balmy” in some areas. Multiple wintering Emperor Geese were unusual but part of a phenomenon that spanned the west coast from Oregon to Santa Rosa Island in southern California. A large movement of Common Redpolls into regions to the north eventually led to California’s first record in twenty years, remarkably this bird did not show up in the extreme northeast of the state, but at a backyard feeder in the northern Central Valley! Another widespread phenomenon was an unprecedented number of Barn Swallows in December and early January. Where these birds came from and where they were going remains a mystery. As in 1999, large numbers of piscivorous species including grebes, pelicans, cormorants, and gulls were inland at Clear Lake in Lake County during the period. Over 50,000 birds were feeding on unusual concentrations of introduced fish, resulting in a notable display of opportunistic foraging.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.V. (Central Valley); FCB (Flood Control Basin); 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); S.R.A. (State Recreation Area); 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 CORMORANTS

A Red-throated Loon found on Camanche Res. 29 Dec was noted as the first for *Calaveras* (JRow, ElW). Annual in recent winters in Monterey Bay, *Monterey*, an ad. Yellow-billed Loon was seen 27 Nov—24 Mar+ (Evelyn Meyers, JMD, m. ob.). High counts of Western (24,425) and Clark's (2100) grebes at Clear L., *Lake* 15 & 18 Dec, respectively, were feeding on concentrations of introduced Threadfin Shad and Silverside (JRW, et al.). Rare away from the immediate coast, 2 Red-necked Grebes were at Whiskeytown L., *Shasta* 4-7 Jan (WOv, BED, JSL, JCS et al., ph.), with one continuing through 17 Feb (LkC); one was at L. Mendocino, *Mendocino* 20 Jan (MAM, Gary & Judy Maddox); and one found 25 Nov at Shoreline L., *Santa Clara* remained through 6 Jan (JAC).

"Al," the Laysan Albatross, returned to Pt. Arena, *Mendocino* for the 7th consecutive winter. As pointed out by RJK, this is probably the best location in North America to view this species from land. A Manx Shearwater was on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 19 Jan (DLSH, LkC et al.) The concentrations of introduced fish at Clear L., *Lake* attracted large numbers of American White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants, with 468 and 749 (a record for *Lake*), respectively, 15 Dec (JRW et al.).

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS

Among few coastal Cattle Egret reports, 64 birds along Ludwig Road, *Sonoma* 15 Dec was a high count for recent winters (DN, Rhio Reigh). The only coastal White-faced Ibis reported was at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 20 Feb, the first Feb record for that location (RJR).

Three Emperor Geese overwintered in the Region. one in Arcata, *Humboldt* 7 Jan—28

Mar+ (KGR, DFX, JCP, m. ob.), a cooperative ad. at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 23 Dec—19 Mar+ (Dave DeSante, ph. LkC, ph. RS, m. ob.), and an ad. at F.I. 25 Dec—1 Mar+ (Bob Wilkerson, m. ob.). Additional reports from Oregon and s. California indicate our birds were part of a broader incursion. (No details were received for up to 3 more birds reported to the Arcata Bird Box from *Del Norte* 29 Dec—2 Jan.) A remarkable 5000 Aleutian Canada Geese were reported flying to an evening roost at the sw. corner of Staten I., *San Joaquin* 9 Dec (†LLU, CLU); this may be one third of the world population of this subspecies. Two ad. Trumpeter Swans were reported from the Aloha Duck Club n. of Marysville, *Yuba* 18 Dec (†AEn), another ad. was found at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 30 Dec (†MDD, Jesse Conklin), and one was reported without details from the Cosumnes River Preserve, *Sacramento* 10 Jan (JTr). A new *Shasta* high count of 2500 Tundra Swans was tallied near McArthur 4 Jan (BY, CY); also notable were 18 at Middletown, *Lake* 11 Jan (Darlene Hecomovich). An ad. **Bewick's Swan** observed among hundreds of Tundra Swans at Humboldt Bay N.W.R. 15 Jan—3 Feb was a first for *Humboldt* (†DFX, m. ob.). Cross-country ski coverage of remote portions of L. Almanor, *Plumas* during a C.B.C. 19 Dec turned up an ad. **Whooper Swan** at the mouth of Bailey Cr. (†Colin Dillingham), a county first.

Brewer's Ducks, or Gadwall x Mallard hybrids, were reported from Freshwater Corners, *Humboldt* 14 Feb (SPa) and at the Palo Alto F.C.B., *Santa Clara* 1 Dec—7 Jan (†MMR, MJM). Eurasian Wigeon were widely reported, often in larger than normal numbers, as evidenced by 14 males on South Humboldt Bay 4 Jan (KGR, MWa), a record high count for *Humboldt*, and 9 on a single salt pond in Mountain View, *Santa Clara* 27 Jan (MMR). Of 7 Common Teal reported, 2 were in *Humboldt*, 4 were along the edge of S.F. Bay in *Contra Costa*, *Alameda*, and *Santa Clara*, and a single bird was inland at the Vic Fazio Yolo W. A., *Yolo* 3 Feb (LLU, CLU). Redheads were also found in larger than normal numbers, with 300 on South Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 4 Jan (KGR, MWa) and 213 on Salt Pond A10 in Alviso 16 Dec (MMR et al.) being notable high counts, the latter eclipsing *Santa Clara's* previous high of 150 from 16 years ago. Eleven of the 13 reported Tufted Ducks were coastal, including *Santa Cruz's* 2nd at Westlake Pond 15 Dec—15 Mar+ (Kumaran Arul, m. ob.); the 2 inland birds were *Yolo's* 2nd at the Vic Fazio Yolo W.A. 20 Jan (MP, JCS) and a likely returning ad. male at Lucerne, *Lake* 11 Jan—19 Feb (DvW). Record numbers of Harlequin Ducks graced

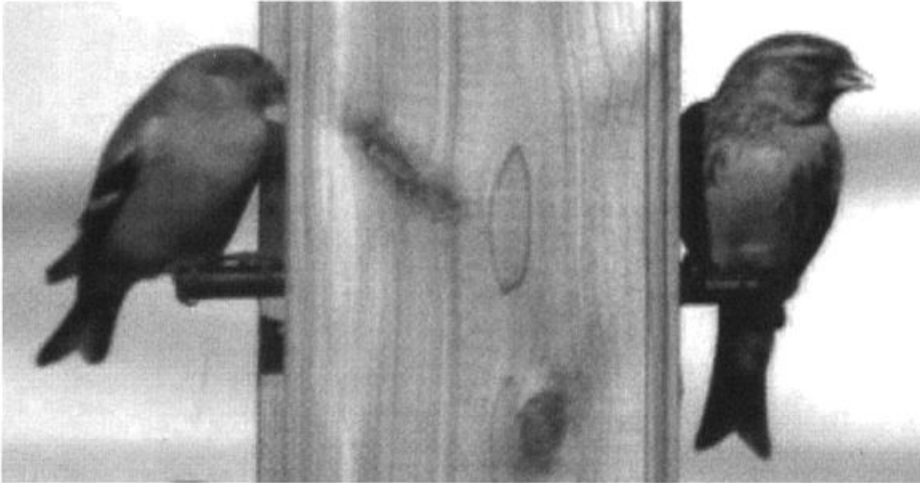
the *Mendocino* coast, with a high count of 25 at Glass Beach 1 Jan (Debbie Gallagher, DT, m. ob.). Also of note was a single male flying n. off Coyote Pt. 27 Jan (Steve Shunk), providing the 3rd bayside record for *San Mateo*, on the heels of last season's report from the same location. Notable Barrow's Goldeneyes included 3 birds at the Loyalton Sewage Ponds 22 Feb (the first record for *Sierra*; MMC), an ad. male at the Hollister Sewage Ponds (*San Benito's* 3rd, EP), and an ad. male at the Mad R. estuary 11-15 Dec (the first record for *Humboldt* in eight years; DFX, JCP, m. ob.).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

An imm. Broad-winged Hawk heading se over Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 13 Jan was rare in winter (RSTh). Three Swainson's Hawks near Byron, *Contra Costa* 27 Dec (SAG) included a light-morph individual, unusual for birds wintering in the San Joaquin—Sacramento R. Delta. An imm. gray-morph Gyrfalcon photographed along Flannery Road w. of Hwy 113, *Solano* 1 Dec (Stefanie Arthur, ph. Siobhan Ruck) was reported by others until 15 Dec (HCo), although we have received no documentation for these later sightings, at least some of which may pertain to the many Prairie Falcons in the area.

At least 2 **Yellow Rails** captured and photographed during nocturnal trapping of Ring-necked Pheasants in a closed area of Grizzly I 10 Jan—12 Feb (†Conrad Jones, Chad Fien, †RLCL, ph. ABtt) were the first for *Solano* since 1915. Up to 5 Common Moorhens apparently wintered 1.5 mi ne. of Grenada, *Siskiyou* 20 Dec—11 Feb, despite their lake being frozen for several days (RE). Second-hand reports of last season's **Demoiselle Crane** were received from *San Joaquin* for 17-20 Jan and 18 Feb. A count of 300 Sandhill Cranes at the Holland Tract near Knightsen 2 Dec was a record high for *Contra Costa* (SAG).

Good numbers of Black Oystercatchers and Surf-birds continued throughout the period on South S.F. Bay. Up to 7 of each were at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* in Feb (RJR), and 10 Black Oystercatchers were found at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 16 Dec (RSTh), the highest count ever for that location. The San Jose C.B.C. produced a late juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 16 Dec (†MJM). It was seen by a lucky few through 27 Dec but not thereafter. This bird was within a half km of where the only other "winter" record for the Region was found, 17 Nov 1985—5 Jan 1986. Stilt Sandpipers apparently wintered again at the Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 2-24 Feb (†FGB et al.), with 2 birds seen together 21 Feb. Ruffs overwintered in *Sonoma* and *Santa Clara*. Less



A remarkable backyard bird was this Common Redpoll (right) that kept company with American Goldfinches in the northern Central Valley near Redding, Shasta County, California 3-17 February 2002. Part of a broader redpoll invasion continent-wide, this individual was the first in California in 20 years. Photograph by Leslie Lieurance.

expected was another wintering bird inland at the Vic Fazio Yolo W.A., *Yolo* 1-26 Feb (KNN, m. ob.). Reports of one or 2 in *Humboldt* 11-15 Feb (MWa, KGR, m. ob.) and one in *San Mateo* 2 Feb (RSTh) are harder to characterize given their brief stays.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Winter brought few unusual larids and alcids to the Region. Clear L. hosted record numbers for *Lake* of wintering Glaucous-winged (12) and Herring (4000) Gulls, as well as high numbers of California (24,000), Bonaparte's (411), and Thayer's (4) Gulls (JRW). A second-winter Laughing Gull at Redding's Kutras L. 21-24 Dec was the first for *Shasta* (Joelle Buffa, Clyde Morris, †BY, m. ob., ph.). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull returned for a 5th winter to L. Cunningham, *Santa Clara* 16 Dec—22 Mar (MJM, Mary Murphy, ph. MMR, m. ob.). Three pairs of Heermann's Gulls were on territory at Seaside, *Monterey*, as early as 13 Feb (DR). This is the 4th year for this colony, the only one in California (for more details see Roberson et al. 2001. *N.A.B.* 55: 375). Unusual inland Mew Gulls included two *Shasta* reports of perhaps the same bird 3 Jan at Kutras L. (CY, BY, m. ob.) and 4 Jan at Whiskeytown L. (JSL, JCS), and *Yuba's* first at Ellis L. in Marysville 16-18 Dec+ (TDM, BWb). A *Shasta* high count of 7 Thayer's Gulls was found 4 Jan at Whiskeytown L. and Kutras L. (JSL, JCS). Another remained at the Lewiston Fish Hatchery, *Trinity* 2 Nov—13 Jan (JSL et al.). Up to 3 Elegant Terns between Seacliff S. B. and Capitola, *Santa Cruz* 15-30 Dec were unusually late (CKf, DLSu). Black Skimmers wintered again on S. F. Bay at Charleston

Slough, *Santa Clara*; a high of 22 on 6 Dec (MMR) declined to 14 by late Feb (WGB).

A record-high 55 Marbled Murrelets were between Santa Cruz and Capitola, *Santa Cruz* 15 Dec (DLSu). Rare in winter, Pigeon Guillemots were at Laguna Pt., *Mendocino* 4 Jan (DT) and Burlingame, *San Mateo* 10 Dec (disabled imm.; Judy Spittler); the latter was also unusual inside S.F. Bay. A regionally rare Horned Puffin was off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 13 Jan (SFB, RT).

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

A White-winged Dove at Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz* 2 Feb—12 Mar provided a rare winter record for the Region (†AME, ph. William T. Park et al.). Obviously far from suitable habitat, a Northern Saw-whet Owl wintered on F.I. for the first time (PP). A Costa's Hummingbird at a feeder at Big Springs 10 Feb (Joey Russell) was *Siskiyou's* earliest by a month. A somewhat controversial hummingbird at *Santa Cruz* 18 Dec—16 Jan was likely an ad. male Costa's, though the possibility of hybridization was difficult to rule out (†DR, RC, Madeline Spencer et al.). A Belted Kingfisher near Eureka, *Humboldt* 10 Dec would probably not elicit comment except that it was captured by a Great Blue Heron (GSL)! Of 8 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, all were coastal except one at El Macero Country Club, *Yolo* 23 Dec—13 Jan (Glen and Dylan Holstein et al.). Four Red-naped Sapsuckers were found away from the Great Basin after 15 Dec, 3 of them coastal and the other at Weaver Cr. 28 Dec—4 Jan (*Trinity's* 6th; BAP; JSL, JCS). Though White-headed Woodpeckers are resident farther n. in the Coast Ranges of *Colusa*, *Glenn*,

and *Lake*, one at L. Solano 15 Dec was the first for *Solano* (Jack Young).

Unusual wintering flycatchers were notably scarce this winter. *Empidonax* flycatchers were represented by single Hammond's Flycatchers at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* 19 Jan (JTr) and Pt. Reyes Station, *Marin* 31 Jan—2 Feb (JGE, ph. RS); and by single "Western" Flycatchers were at Foster City, *San Mateo* to 15 Dec (SEM), Inverness, *Marin* 19-23 Dec (RS), and Cosumnes R. Preserve 10 Jan (JTr). Eastern Phoebes were near Ferndale 30 Dec (*Humboldt's* 7th; GAB, EE, Gretchen Ziegler) and at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 20-31 Jan+ (†Alex Cruz, Jr. et al.). A male Vermilion Flycatcher found by golf course employees at Tulare, *Tulare* in early Feb was last seen 22 Feb (Jeff and Jeannie Wheaton, KiK), and last year's pair at Lemoore Gun Club, *Kings* was present 14-17 Feb (JSy, Mark Stacy).

A Dusky-capped Flycatcher at L. Merritt 16 Dec—20 Jan (LJP, Neil Whitehouse, m. ob.) was a first for *Alameda* and the first ever found in the Region away from the immediate coast. A Tropical Kingbird at Golden Gate Park, *S F*, the only one reported this winter, was still present 20 Mar (m. ob.). *San Mateo's* Thick-billed Kingbird did not reappear for its 4th winter. The only Northern Shrike recorded away from the Great Basin was at Fay Slough W.A., *Humboldt* 16 Jan (DFx). The only unusual vireos were single Cassin's at Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 16 Dec (†JWtg, Dennis Paulson) and Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* in "early Jan" (RLeb) and a "Solitary" at Eureka, *Humboldt* 9 Jan (RHw).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Violet-green Swallows are found annually in winter south of S.F. Bay, but they are much rarer to the north, as illustrated by 7 in *Napa* 1 Jan (BDP, Mary Scheidt), the first for the Angwin C.B.C. since 1978. Northern Rough-winged Swallows are very rare in winter, so a total of three sightings was a surprise: 2 at Carmel Valley Ranch, *Monterey* 29 Dec (KiK), one at Zmudowski S.B., *Monterey* 2 Jan (LHg), and 2 at Sunset S.B., *Santa Cruz* 2 Jan (DLSu). Not to be outdone, a Cliff Swallow at Lewiston L., *Trinity* 13 Jan (HG, DCR) was one of the few ever detected in the Region in winter and was quite far north.

A Black-capped Chickadee at Hoopa, *Humboldt* 22 Dec (JTz) was the first for the Willow Creek C.B.C. and apparently for the Trinity R. corridor. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee put in a rare appearance on the C V floor at Davis, *Yolo* 28 Feb (CIH). Normally sedentary Oak Titmice were out of range at Candlestick S.R.A., *San Francisco* 10 Dec—6

SA The passerine event of the season was an invasion of **Barn Swallows**, stretching primarily from mid-Dec into Jan, the likes of which is unprecedented in the 48-year history of our notebooks. Though it is impossible to gauge the number of birds involved accurately, a conservative estimate would suggest that at least 200 birds were detected. It is clear that this was predominantly a coastal phenomenon, as we have received reports from 10 of 11 coastal counties (*Del Norte* not reporting), as well as four of the counties around S.F. Bay, while there were only two reports of 3 birds from the C.V. There were no reports from the mountain or Great Basin areas.

The first reports came from the n. coast, where 3 birds were found 11 Dec and 11 birds were present 15 Dec at the Arcata Marsh Project, *Humboldt* (JTz). Similar numbers were there through at least 5 Jan but numbers quickly dwindled thereafter. Several S.F. Bay/Monterey Bay counties recorded birds in mid-Dec, but numbers were modest, with just one to 5 birds at any given location. At the s. edge of the Region, 13 birds were found on *Monterey's* Monterey Peninsula C.B.C. 29 Dec, and 86+ birds in several groups were near Moss Landing, *Monterey/Santa Cruz* 1 Jan. As with *Humboldt*, numbers declined quickly and none were noted after 8 Jan. On 20 Jan there were 44 at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* (Sheila Junge, Peter Dramer), the largest winter flock ever recorded in the Region. The last birds reported prior to the arrival of the usual spring migrants were 2 birds at Eureka, *Humboldt* 2 Feb (EE).

Opinions differ sharply on the origin of these birds. Three obvious possibilities are that these were lingering southbound migrants, wintering birds, or very early northbound migrants. Since the Oregon/Washington influx didn't occur until Jan (Steve Mlodinow, pers. comm.) and the B.C. influx not until Feb (Don Cecile, pers. comm.), it seems almost certain that those birds came through California on their way north. Could it be that the earlier, modest numbers of mid-Dec were composed of wintering and/or southbound birds, while the later, larger flocks, which dispersed quickly, pushed into the Pacific Northwest? If these birds were truly northbound, why would so many birds be heading north so early? And why were only Barn Swallows involved rather than other swallows or passerines?

Feb (ADeM) and Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 14 Feb (RJR). A Northern Mockingbird feasting on fermented apples in Loyalton, *Sierra* 29 Jan (MMC) was out of place in winter. First winter records of Sage Thrasher were located in *Shasta* 15 Dec (near McArthur; Dave Dahnke), S.F. 22 Jan (Mt. Davidson; †PSa), and *San Mateo* 16 Dec—29 Mar (Montara; AJ, m. ob.); another was rare in *Yuba* 18 Dec (Loma Rica Rd, †BWb). The only Bohemian Waxwings were along Dechambeau Cr., *Mono* 1-3 Jan (Joel Ellis, KNN).

WARBLERS

This season, in a rather "average" winter for lingering insectivores, we received reports of 31 Nashville Warblers, 22 Palms, 11 Tennessees, 9 Yellows, 11 Black-and-whites, 5 Wilson's, 3 Northern Waterthrush, and 2 American Redstarts (incomplete, with not all C.B.C. data included). Among the Yellow Warblers was one wintering in the interior n. to Clear L., *Lake* 15 Dec (JRW). There were single reports of Virginia's (29 Dec in Pacific Grove, *Monterey*; KNN), Lucy's (16-29 Dec in Pacific Grove; †JWtg), and MacGillivray's (8 Dec along Matadero Cr., *Santa Clara*; Dick Stovel). More unexpected were male Black-throated Blue Warblers at Ferndale, *Humboldt* 30 Dec—4 Jan (GSL, m. ob.), at Halfmoon Bay,

San Mateo 8 Dec (RSTh), and in a Santa Cruz backyard 28 Nov—15 Mar (Madeline Spencer, m. ob.); details of another rumored male in *Tulare* were not sent to us. A Northern Parula in Burlingame 24 Feb was the first winter record for *San Mateo* (DLSh), but it was eclipsed by C.V. winterers at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* 23 Dec—22 Jan (Karl Mize, JTr, m. ob.) and near Lodi, *San Joaquin* 29 Dec—20 Feb+ (DGY et al.).

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS

It was a good winter for tanagers, with 10+ Westerns (including 2 in Ukiah, *Mendocino* 15 Dec; CEV) and 8 Summers scattered from *Marin* to *Monterey*, often in flowering *Eucalyptus* (RS, RSTh, DLSu, m. ob.) (A claim of Scarlet Tanager in *Santa Cruz* in Dec could not be confirmed; our Region's latest fall record is 28 Nov 1999 in *Marin*.)

A Green-tailed Towhee wintering along Coyote Cr., *San Jose* 21 Dec—10 Mar (Sherry Hudson, Gina Barton, m. ob.) was likely the same as one present at this locale Jan—Mar 2000 and perhaps the same as one that wintered here in 1994 and 1995. An American Tree Sparrow in Shasta Valley, *Siskiyou* 31 Jan (RE) was just the 3rd ever there; the species winters more regularly in the Great Basin of our extreme northeast. Any *Spizella* is rare here in

winter; this year produced two reports of Chipping Sparrows in Dec (*Contra Costa* and *Monterey*; do these ever remain the entire winter?) and 2 Clay-colored, including one in Lafayette, *Contra Costa* 6 Jan—Feb (Alice Holmes, †SAG). Vesper Sparrows winter annually in the C.V. and locally in drier w. valleys, but one on the coast at Port Sonoma, *Sonoma* 20 Jan—11 Feb was a surprise (LHg, ph. RS, m. ob.). Sage Sparrows have likely been overlooked in winter in *Mono*; 8 were found around Mono L. 1 Jan (PJM et al.). It is apparent that some Grasshopper Sparrows winter in the open bleak grasslands where the species also nests; further confirmation came this year from *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Clara*, and *Placer* (Tonya Haff, Roger Wolfe, BDW et al.). Could these sparrows be resident?

Two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows on Elkhorn Slough 1-26 Jan (Michelle Scott, Bill Davis, ph. DR, m. ob.) were wintering in tidal pickleweed, the first time this species has done so in *Monterey*. Nelson's Sharp-taileds at more traditional wintering sites were at Palo Alto, *Santa Clara* 1 Jan (Chris Conard, Kimya Lambert) and Arcata, *Humboldt* 15 Dec (†DFx, JCP). Harris's Sparrows winter annually in the Great Basin of ne. California, but 7 others in seven counties westward were a good showing, including *Mendocino's* 3rd at Talmage 24 Dec—16 Feb (Cheryl & Geoff Heineken, GEC), *Sierra's* 4th in Sierra Valley 31 Dec (Martin Myers), and a C.V. rarity at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* 15 Dec+ (JTr, EDG, m. ob.). Near the coast were a returning bird in Millbrae, *San Mateo* 19 Nov+ (Joe Macho) and one at Ft. Ord, *Monterey* 16-25 Jan (David Styer). Some 40 Lapland Longspurs on the Fall River Mills C.B.C. 15 Dec (WOv) made for the largest flock ever in *Shasta*; one in Sierra Valley 15 Dec (Paul Hardy et al.) was quite a find in *Plumas*. Another 20 Laplands wintered at Mad R. Slough W.A. (MWA, JTz). A wandering Snow Bunting visited Shasta Valley N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 8 Jan (†Bob Smith).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

Six Rose-breasted and 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks were a typical winter complement. A Common Grackle frequented a Safeway parking lot in Guerneville 23 Dec—25 Feb (†PP, ph. RS, †MWE, m. ob.), the 2nd ever in *Sonoma*. A compilation of wintering (=resident) Great-tailed Grackles (by JHG) tallied about 170 in five C.V. counties and about 20 in coastal counties from *Marin* to *Monterey*. A male Orchard Oriole wintered at Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz* 22 Jan+ (Michelle Scott, Steve Gerow, m. ob.). Single Hooded Orioles appeared as far n. as Ft. Bragg,

Mendocino 23 Jan (Dave Jensen, DT) and Redding, *Shasta* 22 Jan (Bea & Bob Currie). Among the 14 wintering Bullock's reported was a young male that arrived on F.I. 4 Feb and started an unprecedented pre-alternate molt there (PP). A Scott's Oriole in Golden Gate Park 22 Dec—20 Mar (†ASH, †JWtg, m. ob.) was only the 2nd S.F. City record.

Perhaps the landbird of the winter was a **Common Redpoll** at a feeder in Anderson, *Shasta* 3-17 Feb (Barbara Peck, BED, ph. LkC, †Mike San Miguel, m. ob.). Except for a controversial late May specimen in coastal *Humboldt*, all prior redpolls in California had been in the Great Basin region of the extreme northeast. This C.V. occurrence was unprecedented and at about the same latitude as the previous southernmost record at Eagle L., *Lassen*, a flock in Nov—Dec 1899. Goldfinches lingering farther n. than usual were 4 Lessers at Mono City, *Mono* 15 Feb (KNN) and a smattering of Lawrence's, including at Pillar Pt. Harbor, *San Mateo* 15 Dec (Al DeMartini) and males at backyard feeders in San Ramon, *Contra Costa* 10-19 Jan (Lauri English) and Loomis, *Placer* 15 Jan (EP).

Corrigenda

Short-eared Owls occasionally breed along the *San Mateo* shore of S.F. Bay; thus a road-killed owl at Año Nuevo 18 Jul 2000 (*N.A.B.* 55: 479) was unusual in summer for the coastal locale, not for the county. A Costa's Hummingbird in *Mono* 29 May 2001 was mistakenly published as a Calliope Hummingbird (*N.A.B.* 55: 353). We thank PJM for these corrections.

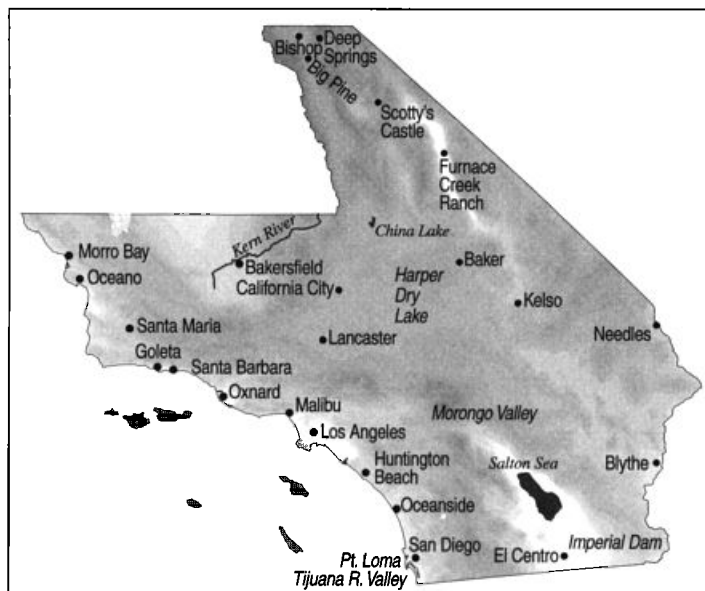
Cited observers (county coordinators in bold-face): Stephen F. Bailey, Anthony Battiste, Florence G. Bennett, Gary A. Bloomfield, **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), **Penelope K Bowen** (*Alpine & Calaveras*), Joelle Buffa, Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, John A. Cole, **Luke Cole** (*Kings*), Harold Conner, **Hugh Cotter** (*S.F. city*), Steven Davies, Jeff N. Davis, Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel** (*n. C.V. counties*), Matthew Dodder, Mark W. Eaton, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Andrew Engilis, Jr., Jules G. Evens, **David Fix** (*Humboldt*), James H. Gain, **Steven A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Edward D. Greaves, Helen Green, Cliff Hawley, Alan S. Hopkins, Lisa Hug, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Alvaro Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), Clay Kempf, Kim Kuska, **Robin L.C. Leong** (*Napa & Solano*), Gary S. Lester, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Calvin Lou, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, **Timothy D. Manolis** (*Sacramento & Yolo*), Matthew A. Matthiessen, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo & Mono*), **Mac**

McCormick (*Sierra & Plumas*), Steve E. Miller, Clyde Morris, Dan Nelson, David W. Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson, William Oliver, Steve Pagliughi, **Ed Pandolfino** (*Placer*), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Barbara A. Peck, Michael Perrone, **Jude C. Power** (*Humboldt*), Lina Jane Prairie, **Peter Pyle** (*F.I.*), David C. Rice, **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, James Rowth, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Paul Saraceni, Jeff Seay, Debra L. Shearwater, Rich Stallcup, **John C. Sterling** (*Modoc*), **David**

L. Suddjian (*DLSu; Santa Cruz*), Richard Ternullo, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced & San Benito*), Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Bruce Webb, Elizabeth West, **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), **Brian D. Williams** (*Nevada*), Jay Withgott, Dave Woodward, **Bob & Carol Yutzy** (*Shasta*), m. ob.= many observers. Many more observers were not specifically cited and all are appreciated.



Southern Pacific Coast



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Although some precipitation fell in the early part of the season, it turned out to be one of the driest winters on record in southern California. Since most winter birding activities

in the Region (and, hence, records of significance) are concentrated in landscaped urban and suburban areas or agricultural regions with a great deal of imported water, such drought conditions do not have clear effects on our wintering avifauna; they are likely, however, to be felt in upcoming spring migration and nesting seasons. This winter saw some significant seabird and waterbird records, including a Short-tailed Albatross, at least two Masked Boobies, an Emperor Goose, and a probable Band-tailed Gull. There were no major incursions of landbirds, and it was a fairly standard winter for over-wintering flycatchers, warblers, vireos, and the like. Of note among landbirds was California's first winter season Smith's Longspur.