

establishing itself as a regular wintering location. This year, one was there 30 Dec (RH), and by mid-Feb, at least 13 were present (RH, BF, vt. SM). Two were also at the only known Washington breeding location, Wilson Creek, *Grant* 31 Jan (†N. Wendt). A tally of 100 Western Meadowlarks on Fir I., *Skagit* 1 Jan was exceptional for w. Washington (R. Merrill). Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds, rare during winter on the westside, were on the Lummi Flats, *Whatcom* 7 Feb (CCx, JB, RTS, SM). Only one Rusty Blackbird was detected this winter, a single near Walla Walla 14–15 Dec (MD, MLD). A grackle at Liberty L., *Spokane* 12–13 Jan was initially reported as a Common; photographs appear to suggest a Great-tailed. Now nearly annual during winter, single Bullock's Orioles were at Eugene 20 Dec (T. Harrell) and Astoria, *Clatsop* 18 Jan+ (M. Yowell, L. Campbell, MP).

Two Cassin's Finches, extremely rare in Washington w. of the Cascade high country, were near Concrete, *Skagit* 5 Jan (ph. P. Vannoy). For the first winter in four years, no White-winged Crossbills were reported. Small numbers of Common Redpolls were widespread in e. Washington and ne. Oregon, with maxima of 60 near Bridgeport, *Douglas* 28 Dec (G. Fredricks) and 40 at Tumalo Mtn., *Deschutes* 30 Dec (D. Tracey); rather surprising, however, were sightings on Oregon's coast of 25 at Astoria, *Clatsop* 21 Dec (L. Cain) and 4 at Alsea Bay, *Lincoln* 4 Jan (J. Fontaine).

Addenda: Two sightings were not included in the fall report due to delays in receiving documentation: a Red-shouldered Hawk was near Cathlamet, *Wahkiakum* 21 Sep 2003 (†DR), and e. Washington's 8th Ancient Murrelet was on the Columbia R. below Wanapum Dam 14 Sep 2003 (†M. Monda).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, **Tom Aversa** (WA), Jessie Barry, **Range Bayer** (*Lincoln*), David Beaudette, Wilson Cady, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Cameron Cox (CCx), Ricky Davis, Merry Lynn Denny, **Mike Denny** (ne. Oregon), Don DeWitt (DDW), Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (*Clark*), Dan Farrar, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates, Joel Geier, Greg Gillson, **Denny Granstrand** (*Yakima*), Hendrik Herlyn, Randy Hill, Stuart Johnston, Bruce LaBar (BLB), **Hill LaFramboise** (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, Larry McQueen, **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), Randall P. Moore, Don Munson, Harry Nehls (OR), Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), **Michael Patterson** (*Clatsop*), Jason Paulios, Diane Pettey, Dennis Rockwell, **Tim Rodenkirk** (*Coos*), Doug Schonewald (DSc), Ryan T. Shaw (RTS), Kevin Spencer, Dan Stephens (*Chelan*), Andy and Ellen Stepniewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Ruth Sullivan, Terry R. Wahl, Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright. ☺

Middle Pacific Coast



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The Region had a relatively mild winter, with a fair amount of rain. There were very few reports of outstanding rarities. Intriguing was a reported Least Tern—a first for the Region in winter—that may have been something even more exciting. Other birds unusual in the Region, or for the season, included our third winter Solitary Sandpiper, a King Eider, and a Le Conte's Sparrow.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California Bird Records Committee); C.R.P. (Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*); C.V. (Central Valley); P.R.B.O. (Point Reyes Bird Observatory); R.P. (Regional Park); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.F. (San Francisco); W.P.C.P. (Water Pollution Control Plant). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation for C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933.

LOONS THROUGH IBIS
A well-described Pacific Loon at Camanche Res. 24 Jan (†TEa) represented an overdue first for *Calaveras*. Another inland bird was at L. Shastina, *Siskiyou* 17 Dec and 4 Feb (RE). Also rare inland in the Region, a Red-necked Grebe was at North L. Tahoe, *Placer* 4 Dec (WRi), and another was on Clear L., *Lake* 31 Dec–6 Jan (JLx, GJH).

"Al" the Laysan Albatross returned to Pt. Arena, *Mendocino* 27 Dec (RJK), where hun-

dreds of birders have seen him, from land, over the past 10 winters. The only other Laysan report was of one 9 km w. of Eureka, *Humboldt* 19 Jan (John Mahan). Scarce in Jan, 3 Flesh-footed Shearwaters were on Monterey Bay, *Monterey/Santa Cruz* 24 Jan (Shj). The only Black-vented Shearwaters reported were 1–7 at Shelter Cove, *Humboldt* 21 Dec+ (RBS). This report, from the far n. of the Region, is fairly remarkable, as this species is typically associated with warm-water incursions into the s. portions of the Region, where it was evidently completely absent. Very high counts, however, came from s. California this season.

Pelagic Cormorants are virtually unknown away from the oceanic coastal zone. Thus, the recent pattern of foraging over a mile upstream in *Santa Cruz* rivers (*vide* DLSu) is quite interesting. In addition, one was far up the San Francisco Estuary, where quite rare, at the Napa R. mouth, *Solano* 7 Jan (RMu). A frigatebird photographed near Santa Rosa, *Sonoma* 22 Dec (ph. Sandy Etchell, Paula Peretty) was too distant to identify to species.

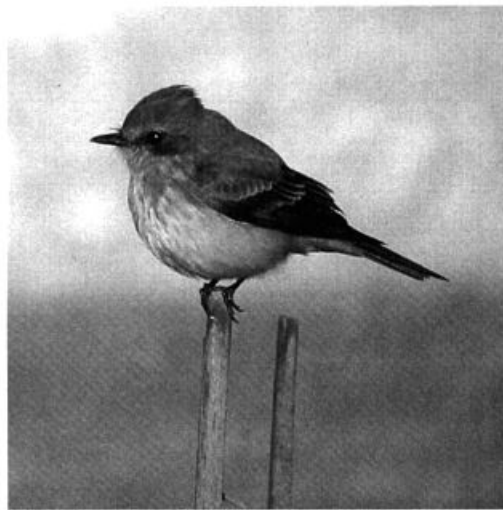
Great Blue Herons began nesting early at Vasona Res., *Santa Clara*, with apparent incubation underway by 11 Jan and first hatching in early Mar (Linda Sullivan). Several nests in this small colony were destroyed by winds and storms in late Feb. Seven Cattle Egret reports from five C.V. counties 14 Jan–4 Feb involved groups of up to 55 birds; 130 e. of Knightsen 20 Dec (SAG, DEQ) constituted one of the largest flocks ever recorded in *Contra Costa*. The only other report was of a single lingering bird at Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 29 Oct–30 Dec (RbF, JTz, m.ob.). It was a good winter for coastal White-faced Ibis, with reports of up to 5 birds at various locations in *Santa Cruz* 4 Dec–17 Feb (Matthew Coale, DLSu, RgW et al.) marking the first time that ibis have been present throughout the season in that county. Ibis were also found in adjacent *Monterey*, with 4 at McCluskey Slough 17 Dec (RF), a wintering bird at “Totino” in the Moro Cojo drainage 4 Jan into Mar (RF), and 7 in Moro Cojo Slough 7 Feb (RC, ph. DR). Two ibis at the Oakland Airport, *Alameda* 14 Dec, the first ever for the Oakland C.B.C., had apparently been present for the previous three weeks (Eric Covington et al.).

GEESE THROUGH SANDPIPERS

A surprise among coastal Snow Goose reports was one of 3 blue morph ads. with Canada Geese at the Carmody Road ponds, *Sonoma* 7 Jan (RS, Heather Cameron). A flock of 1500 Ross's Geese at the Holland Tract 24 Feb (SAG) was likely the largest number ever recorded in *Contra Costa*, although distant large flocks of white geese are

often not identifiable to species. Most surprising among a smattering of coastal Tundra Swans were 2 imms. at Searsville L., *San Mateo* through 13 Dec (PLaT, ph. Phil Leighton, m.ob.) and what were probably the same 2 birds near Felt L. (John Kriewell) and over Palo Alto 13 Dec (Marty Sidor; both *Santa Clara*)—and possibly the same birds farther n. at Crystal Springs Res., *San Mateo* 9 Jan–14 Feb (RSTh, m.ob.).

It was another good winter for Eurasian Wigeon, with reports of over 100 birds from 13 counties, including high counts of 41 on the Peace Valley C.B.C. at Gray Lodge W.A., *Butte* 30 Dec (BED), and 14 (plus 2 Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrids) on two salt ponds in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 1 Feb (MMR, MJM). Blue-winged Teal were similarly well reported, with at least 128 found in 12 counties. Eight Eurasian Green-



Now annual in winter in California's Central Valley, this male Vermilion Flycatcher (here 25 December 2003) wintered near Lodi, San Joaquin County. Photograph by Steve Abbott.

winged Teal from five counties were typical of recent winters; indeed, many of these may be returning birds, as locations were similar to those of past winters. A count of 278 Red-heads on an Alviso salt pond 9 Jan (MMR, MJM) nearly doubled the previous high count for *Santa Clara*. Sixteen Tufted Ducks and a Tufted Duck hybrid were reported from 11 counties; over half were seen for only a single day, so this total may include some double-counting of wide-ranging birds. A male found at the Butte Sink 30 Dec was the first for the Peace Valley C.B.C. and only the 2nd for *Sutter* (3 Greater Scaup at the same location were also a C.B.C. first; all †BWb). A female King Eider off Lincoln Park 13 Dec (HuC, ph. †MWE, ASH) was S.F.'s first. Harlequin Ducks inside S.F. Bay included the resident male at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 9 Dec–17 Jan (RSTh, AME) and a first for the Oakland C.B.C. near Treasure I., *Alameda* 14 Dec (*vide* RJR). White-winged Scoters continue to be scarce; for the first

time since 1966, none were found on the Santa Cruz C.B.C. (*vide* DLSu). Thirteen Long-tailed Ducks included inland females at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou* (Mike & Dewey Robbins) and at the Winters W.T.P. 14–15 Dec (3rd *Yolo* record; Mary Schiedt, JMHu, m.ob.). Another first for the Peace Valley C.B.C. was a male Barrow's Goldeneye at the Butte Sink, *Sutter* 30 Dec (†BWb).

Among numerous Bald Eagle reports was a bird building a nest at L. Hennessey, *Napa* 19 Feb (Murray Berner), where the species has bred since 2000. In addition to the now somewhat expected wintering Swainson's Hawks in *Solano* and *Sacramento* 10 Jan–11 Feb, coastal birds included one at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 20 Dec (Ted Eliot, DASH) and a dark-morph ad. at China Camp S.P., *Marin* 27 Feb (DN). A cooperative Yellow Rail was seen at Tomales Bay, *Marin* 23 Dec (RS et al.), and another was found on Grizzly I., *Solano* 17 Feb (Pat Graham, *vide* Chad Fein).

American Avocets continue to increase in *Humboldt*, with a count record 218 found on the Centerville Beach to King Salmon C.B.C. 4 Jan (*vide* SWH). A Solitary Sandpiper e. of Woodlake, *Tulare* 15 Feb (†AWgh) is apparently only the 3rd winter record for the Region. A Wandering Tattler at the San Leandro Marina, *Alameda* 27 Jan–1 Feb (KGH, MMR, RJR, m.ob.) was unexpected. For the 3rd consecutive winter, no tattlers were found in *Santa Cruz* (*vide* DLSu). Surfbirds continued to roost at the Hayward R.S., *Alameda* during high tides 21 Dec–8 Feb, with a high count of 37 there 25 Jan; 27 were seen farther n. at the San Leandro Marina 1 Feb (both *Alameda*; both RJR). Inland winter Sanderlings were found near Kettleman City, *Kings* 3 Dec (EP) and at the Modesto W.T.P., *Stanislaus* 19–22 Dec (ph. JHG, JSL). Southerly Rock Sandpipers included singles at Bodega Head, *Sonoma* 20 Dec–8 Feb (John E. Parmeter, DASH, LHG, m.ob.), at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 20 Dec and 19 Jan (GDg, DSG), and along a 9-km section of coastline at *Santa Cruz* 17 Jan–11 Mar (*Santa Cruz's* 4th; Brian Fitch, m.ob.). Winter Ruffs included an ad. male at the Thermalito Afterbay, *Butte* 30 Dec (†Sandy Koonce) and 2 imm. males at New Chicago Marsh, *Santa Clara* 26 Dec–Mar (RWR, †MMR, ph. Peggy Don); at least one of the latter birds was present throughout Dec. An unseasonal Wilson's Phalarope was at the *Yolo* Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 26 Dec (Mary Schiedt).

GULLS THROUGH TERNS

Inland Mew Gull reports included singles at Marysville, *Yuba* 16 Dec (TDM); L. Shastina, *Siskiyou* 8 Jan (RE); Fresno, *Fresno* 14 Jan (JND); and a high count of up to 8 throughout the period at the inland gull hotspot, the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, *Sacramento* (CCo).

Five Thayer's Gulls 15 Dec–15 Jan (†JND et al.) were at various locations in Fresno, where there was only one previous record. Increased attention to gulls in the C.V. should lead to a continued increase in reports of this species there. Other inland reports included 3 at the Modesto W.T.P., Stanislaus 19 Dec (JHG); one at L. Shastina, Siskiyou 8 Jan (RE); several at Camanche Res., Calaveras 9 Jan (TEa) and one there 12 Jan (JCS, JSL); and one at Lincoln W.T.P., Placer 30 Dec (EP, TEa et al.).

The Lesser Black-backed Gull discovered at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, Sacramento in Nov was last observed 12 Dec (*fide* CCo); another was seen briefly in Sunnyvale, Santa Clara 14 Jan (WGB). An ad. Western Gull was at L. Almanor 17–30 Jan (†CPD et al.); although inland occurrences of this species are increasing, this was a first for Plumas. There were also 4 Western Gulls in Yolo dur-



This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Pacifica, San Mateo County (here on 26 December 2003) was one of two found this winter in northern California. Photograph by Joseph Morlan.

ing the period (*fide* CCo). Uncommon inland, approximately 15 Glaucous-winged Gulls were reported from the Sacramento Valley, where the majority of inland reports originate. The highest local concentration of Glaucous Gulls was in Santa Cruz, with 10 reported at 10 different locations during the period (some duplication possible).

A tern identified as a Least Tern was videotaped 26 Feb on a Capitola, Santa Cruz beach after a windy Pacific storm (vt., †Paul Donahue). Although this species reaches its n. Pacific breeding limit in the Region, there are no previous winter records for the Region (nor are there any Jan–Mar records for the entire state, *fide* GMCC). It is probably not possible to rule out other small terns such as Little and Saunders's. The former has reached the Hawaiian Islands on multiple occasions (it has bred on Midway) and should be considered a possible candidate for reaching California, especially considering an extreme outlier such as this one. Unfortunately, it may not be possible to distinguish these closely related species in

plumages other than alternate adult.

DOVES THROUGH NUTHATCHES

Single White-winged Doves reached Ft. Bragg, Mendocino 1 Dec–22 Feb (DT, m.ob.) and Oak Hills, Monterey 23 Feb (BGE). A count of up to 24 Short-eared Owls at Mad R. Slough W.A., Humboldt 20 Dec was one of the Region's highest in a decade (JTz). Eight Vaux's Swifts over Almaden Res., Santa Clara 28 Dec provided a rare winter record for the Region (Greg Meissner). Three wintering Costa's Hummingbirds were detected: a male first found 3 Sep at Fortuna, Humboldt was present to 4 Jan (Beverly Neal); a female was at Bayside, Humboldt 15–20 Dec (DFx, JCP); and a female was at Stinson Beach, Marin through 27 Dec (present since fall; RS). A male at Little Panoche Detention Res., Fresno 10 Feb may have been an early migrant (Ed Case, BBR, GWPo, m.ob.). Four Lewis's

Ronneberg, m.ob.) and another male at Los Banos N.W.R., Merced 27–31 Dec (Greg Gerstenber, ph. KVV). Tropical Kingbirds at Pacifica, San Mateo 8–28 Dec (B. Nerricio et al.) and Elk, Mendocino 27 Dec (Dave Jensen, AGM) were the only ones reported. Just one Scissor-tailed Flycatcher had ever been found wintering in the Region, so 2 birds this season was extremely surprising. The first record for Yolo (and only the 4th for the entire C.V.) was found at Davis 14 Dec (ph. Sylvia Wright) but not seen again until 16 Jan; it remained cooperative at that site until 14 Feb (m.ob.). The bird was later detected at an alternate afternoon site just to the s., where it remained to at least 6 Mar, furnishing a first for Solano. The 2nd Scissor-tailed was at Pacifica, San Mateo 16–26 Dec (Judy Spitler, ph. JM, m.ob.).

Very rare in winter in the Region, a Warbling Vireo in South S.F. 21 Dec provided just the 2nd winter record for San Mateo (RSTh). Records of wintering Northern Rough-winged Swallows have increased in recent years, and this winter brought a hefty six records of at least 8 individuals 13 Dec–24 Jan, all coastal or near coastal except for one in the C.V. at the Yolo Bypass W.A., Yolo 26 Dec (Mary Schiedt). Barn Swallows once again staged an impressive mid-winter invasion into the Region. The first bird detected, one of 5 found in the C.V. 12 Dec–19 Jan, was at the C.R.P. 12 Dec (CCo). As in the past, the majority of records were from coastal Monterey and Santa Cruz, including a whopping 75 at College L., Santa Cruz 31 Dec (DLSu). Except for small numbers in Humboldt into early Feb, it appeared that the vast majority had apparently continued n. past the Region by mid-Jan, a flock of 28 at Hayward R.S., Alameda 24 Jan (RJR) being a notable exception.

A vagrant Yellow-billed Magpie flew over Menlo Park, San Mateo 7 Feb (WGB). Single American Crows, Mono rarities, were on the Mono Lake C.B.C. 3 Jan (Greg Reis) and at Mammoth Lakes 29 Jan (KNN). Large flocks of Horned Larks are routinely recorded in the s. C.V., but a flock estimated to contain 50,000 birds near Mendota, Fresno 4 Feb appears to far exceed anything in the 50 years of our notebooks (JND). A White-breasted Nuthatch at Manchester 27 Dec was a coastal rarity for Mendocino (RJK).

THRASHERS THROUGH TANAGERS

A Sage Thrasher 12–16 Dec at the Sunnyvale W.P.C.P. (MMR, MJM, ph. Rob Pavey, m.ob.) furnished Santa Clara's 9th record. A skulky Brown Thrasher first mist-netted 31 Oct (Andy Pfeffer, P.R.B.O.) at Woodbridge R.P., San Joaquin, was seen intermittently through 23 Feb (m.ob.).

It was an average season for wintering warblers, except in Santa Cruz, which had

Woodpeckers at Snow Camp Mt., Humboldt 16 Dec (Ken Jarvela), one at Mail Ridge, s. Humboldt 23 Feb (John Gaffin), and up to 6 at Alpine Pond, San Mateo through 31 Mar (m.ob.) were all in areas where rare. Their almost complete absence in traditional foothill wintering locations first noted last fall continued throughout the period. An Acorn Woodpecker on the Arcata C.B.C. 20 Dec was a first for that Humboldt count (MMo). Seven Yellow-bellied and 5 Red-naped Sapsuckers were detected, all from the lowlands, including Amador's first Red-naped near Lone 4–19 Jan (KvG, KKw, Roger Marlowe, Julie Blumenthal, ph. JM).

A strong winter for Empidonax flycatchers featured 5 coastal and 2 C.V. Hammond's, one Pacific-slope at Clear Lake S.P. 27 Dec–19 Jan (Lake's 3rd in winter; JLx, JRW), one Pacific-slope/Cordilleran at the C.R.P. 5 Jan (WEH), and 2 C.V. birds that were left unidentified. This winter brought 2 more Vermilion Flycatchers to the C.V. portion of the Region: an obliging imm. male near Lodi 20 Dec–12 Feb (San Joaquin's 2nd; Terry

an embarrassment of riches. Reported were 2 Tennessees, 23 Nashvilles (8 in *Santa Cruz*), 13 Black-throated Grays (including one in e. *Contra Costa*, one in *Lake*, and one or 2 in *Sacramento*), 29 Hermits (20 in *Santa Cruz* alone!), 27 Palms (11 in *Santa Cruz*), 14 Black-and-whites, and one American Redstart, all coastal unless otherwise noted. Notable was a Palm Warbler at Al lensworth S.P. 28 Feb (ph. Susan Steele), a first for *Tulare* and one of few records for the C.V. A male Northern Parula 26 Dec at L. San Antonio (ph. Julian Donahue) was the first winter record for *Monterey*. A Black-throated Blue Warbler 7–9 Dec at Henry Cowell Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* (Mark Rollins, DLSu) may have been a late migrant, while a male in Martinez 12 Jan (ph. Anne & Nikhi Kumaranayagam) was only *Contra Costa*'s 3rd, the first in winter. A well-described Townsend's Warbler x Hermit Warbler hybrid was in Mountain View, *Santa Clara* 15–21 Dec (Bill Carver, †MMR). A Northern Waterthrush was at the Charleston Road marsh, *Santa Clara* throughout the period (RGJ, m.ob.). Among 8 Common Yellowthroats reported, 3 at the Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* in Feb were exceptional (RbF, M. Millman), while one at L. Hennessey, *Napa* 1 Jan was a new species for the Angwin C.B.C. (BDP, Mary Schiedt). Inland Wilson's Warblers included singles at C.R.P. 25 Dec (JTr) and Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 17 Jan (KVV).

A Summer Tanager at a Fortuna feeder 6–17 Jan was the first in *Humboldt* since 1990 (Dee Meyers, m.ob.); 4 others were scattered along the coast from *Sonoma* to *Monterey* (AB, R.J. Adams, Myra Ulvang, S. Blauman, Jack & Deyea Harper). Twenty-one Western Tanagers, including 2 in *Sacramento* and 4 in *Yolo*, were more than expected; *Santa Clara*'s 8 were "double or triple" normal numbers (fide WGB).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A single American Tree Sparrow was near Dechambeau ponds, *Mono* 3 Jan (Deanna Doolan). Better than average were the 7 found on the Tule Lake C.B.C. in *Siskiyou* 3 Jan (Mike & Dewey Robbins, RE). Four Clay-colored Sparrows in *Humboldt* were a good showing; one w. of Winters 14 Dec (JMHu, Doug O'Bannon) was just the 4th record for *Yolo*. Another was at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 20 Dec (PJM). Unusually, we received no Lark Bunting reports this winter.

A cooperative Le Conte's Sparrow 2–31 Dec at Mad R. Slough W.A. was the first confirmed record for *Humboldt* (Rebecca Green, JTz, m.ob.) and the first in our Region since 1997. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at South S.F., *San Mateo* 7 Dec–21 Jan (CLO, AME), 2 were together at Inverness, *Marin* 23 Dec (RS), and one was at Arrowhead Marsh, *Alameda* 21 Jan–21 Feb (Travis Hails, Courte-

nay Peddle, ES, m.ob.). Forty-five Swamp Sparrow reports included 6 at the Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 20 Dec (JTz, EE, Rebecca Green, BCa, PLO), up to 2 at C.R.P. 2 Dec–5 Jan (JTr, AEn), and 2 in inland *Contra Costa*: 14 Dec at Lafayette Res. (John C. Robinson) and 20 Dec at the Holland Tract e. of Knighten (SAG, DEQ). Of the 101 White-throated Sparrows reported, 51 were from *Santa Cruz*, a record high for the county in winter and about 50 percent higher than the average over the past 10 years (fide DLSu). Harris's Sparrows included singles 23 Nov–29 Feb in St. Helena, *Napa* (Bob Frescura, RLCL), 4 Jan in Quincy, *Plumas* (Bob Battagin), and early Jan at Mt. Hebron, *Siskiyou* (ph. Elizabeth Frost). Good numbers of Lapland Longspurs winter annually in the Tule L. area of *Siskiyou* and *Modoc* (fide RE) and appear along the coast as well: 14–20 were in *Humboldt* this winter (DFx, JCP, JCS, JSL, JLx, JTz), and 4 were at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 11 Jan (RJR). Single Chestnut-collared Longspurs were at the Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou* 2 Jan (male; RE) and the C.R.P. 5–20 Jan (Rob Melcer, JTr); up to 10 were at and near their regular wintering location along Road 16 in e. *Yolo* 22 Dec–6 Jan (SCH, JKn, m.ob.). A Snow Bunting at San Leandro Marina 25–26 Jan (RJR, ph. Kathy Robertson, ph. JM) was just the 2nd for *Alameda*; a cooperative male at Clifton Court Forebay 27 Feb+ (ph. Akira So, vt. LLu, m.ob.) was *Contra Costa*'s first solid record and just the 2nd for the entire C.V. (the first being in *Glenn* in 1961).

Three Rose-breasted Grosbeak reports were below average. A male Black-headed Grosbeak coming to a feeder in Fort Bragg throughout the period (ph. Helen Mace) provided the first winter record for *Mendocino*. An Indigo Bunting was at Soquel, *Santa Cruz* 22–26 Dec (DLSu, Chris G. Emmons); another was at the Charleston Road marsh 22 Jan (Dave Weber), the first winter record for *Santa Clara*. The only Dickcissel reported was a male attending a feeder in Arcata, *Humboldt* 1–10 Jan (Bill & Pearl Kelson, SWH). A Common Grackle was at Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* 28 Nov–14 Jan (KGR, RLeV, COG); singles were reported without details from Monte Rio, *Sonoma* and the Alexander Dairy, *Del Norte*. Female Orchard Orioles were reported 29 Dec–27 Feb at Pacific Grove, *Monterey* (SBT, RyT) and 15 Jan–22 Feb at Eureka, *Humboldt* (Louise Bacon-Ogden, BS), but the hub of Orchard Oriole activity was S.F., where an ad. male was in Cole Valley 5 Sep–4 Feb (†PSa), and 3 birds—2 imm. males and a female-type, all originally identified as Hooded Orioles—were together in Golden Gate Park 27 Dec+ (PJM, m.ob.). Our only Baltimore Oriole report was a female visiting a feeder in Eureka, *Humboldt* 19 Jan+ (BS). Seventeen Bullock's Orioles were widely scattered along the

coast, with 9 in *Santa Cruz*.

There was no discernable appearance of winter finches or crossbills in the Region; for example, the number of Pine Siskins on the *Santa Cruz* C.B.C. was two percent of its 10-year average (fide DLSu). A single male Common Redpoll at Sierra Valley 3 Jan (†CPD, Angela Dillingham, Henry Dillingham) will provide the first record for *Plumas* if accepted by the C.B.R.C.; the provenance of a specimen reportedly taken in *Plumas* in 1899 has been controversial. A tiny Lesser Goldfinch flock wintering in Lee Vining, *Mono* has grown to 15–20 birds from just 1–2 pioneers in recent years, perhaps with the help of local feeders (Santiago Escrueria). The only Evening Grosbeak reported was 1 Dec at Arcata, *Humboldt* (Scott Carey).

Observers: Dick Ashford, Alan Baldrige, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Beverly Brock, Bryon Cariss, Rita Carratello, Luke W. Cole (*Kings*), Chris Conard (*Sacramento & Yolo*), Hugh Cotter, Jeff N. Davis, Gary Deghi, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Colin P. Dillingham, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (S.F. City), Alan M. Eisner, Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Bruce G. Elliot, Andrew Engilis, David Fix (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier, Rob Fowler (RbF), James H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Steven A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Kevin Guse, Steve C. Hampton, W. Edward Harper, Stanley W. Harris, Gjon Hazard, Kevin G. Hints, Alan S. Hopkins, Lisa Hug, Joan M. Humphrey, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Richard G. Jeffers, Robert J. Keifer (*Mendocino*), Jon King, Keith Kwan, Peter LaTourrette, Robin L.C. Leong (*Napa & Solano*), Ron LeValley, Les Lieurance, Paul Lohse, Jim Lomax, Calvin Lou, John S. Luther, Mac McCormick (*Plumas & Sierra*), Michael J. Mammoser, Guy McCaskie, Timothy D. Manolis, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Joseph Morlan, Art G. Morley, Mark Morrisette, Roger Muskat, Dan Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Chet Ogan, Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Gary W. Potter (*Fresno*), Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), David E. Quady, Robert W. Reiling, Will Richardson, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Paul Saraceni, Barry Sauppe, Shearwater Journeys, Daniel Singer, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Alpine, Calaveras & Modoc*), Emilie Strauss, David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Robert B. Sutherland (RBS), Ryan Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Kent Van Vuren (*San Benito*), Bruce Webb, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Alan Wight, Roger Wolfe, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. 🐦