

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION / Theodore Chandik, David DeSante and Eleanor A. Pugh

Typically the first half of the season was warm and dry, causing land birds to flock near any available water source in the Sacramento area (BK). The first storms came in mid-October, but brought only light rain to most areas. Rain really began in earnest about the beginning of November and continued to increase to the end of the month. The result was the wettest November since 1926 in the San Francisco Bay area and since 1922 in the Eureka Area.



Alan Baldrige conveniently summarized the water bird situation in Monterey Bay during the season as follows: "This fall was notable for the poor loon migration, the abundance of shearwaters and storm petrels, and the great lack of terns (except for Elegant), Sabine's Gulls, and Red Phalaropes. An abundance of jaegers and Skuas was attracted to the great flocks of gulls and Elegant Terns inshore, which were in turn attracted by the masses of schooling Pacific Saury (*Cololabis saira*). Some 20–30,000 birds were off Pacific Grove between Sept. 23 and Oct. 1."

GREBES—A very early Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage was found on Aug. 20 in Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. (WMP). Some 20 pairs of W. Grebes were heard calling and seen performing courtship dances on the late date of Sept. 20 on Topaz Lake, Alpine Co. (RS).

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM PETRELS—An impressive 100 Black-footed Albatrosses were estimated on an organized boat trip off Eureka on the late date of Oct. 18 (RS, RLeV & GH). Ten Fulmars on the same trip were the most

reported this season for this primarily winter species (TS & GH). Pink-footed Shearwaters appeared in Monterey Bay in larger numbers than have ever been recorded: maxima of 2812 were counted from a boat on Aug. 26 (AB) and 1200+ were estimated from shore off Point Pinos on Sept. 26 (TS, RS & AW). New Zealand Shearwaters were also extremely numerous in Monterey Bay this fall, apparently more so than any year since 1961: maxima of 700+ were estimated from shore off Point Pinos on Sept. 26 (RS, AW, *et al.*) and 183 were counted from a boat on Aug. 26 (AB). They were even found as far north as Eureka this year with 8 or 10 on the Oct. 18 boat trip (RS, GH, RLeV, TS, *et al.*). The usual great flights of Sooty Shearwaters along the coast appear to have reached their peak this fall during the last half of September with the largest estimate being 100,000 birds in Monterey Bay between Sept. 29 and Oct. 2 (WR). The largest number of Manx Shearwaters reported in Monterey Bay was 5 off Point Pinos on Sept. 26 (RS & AW); elsewhere 3 were reported off Tomales Point, Marin Co. on Nov. 12, one of which was said to have completely white under-tail coverts unlike the typical Pacific coast race *P.p. opisthomelas* (ST & DE). Only 4 Fork-tailed Petrels were seen this fall: 1 in Monterey Bay on Oct. 3 (AB & G.G.A.S.), 1 off Eureka on Oct. 18 (TS, RLeV, & GH), and 2 off Tomales Point on Nov. 12 (DE & ST). As last fall (AFN 24:1), a large concentration of storm petrels was located off Moss Landing over the deep Submarine Canyon on the Oct. 3 G.G.A.S. boat trip. This year it was estimated to comprise 7000 Ashy and 600 Black Petrels (AB). Outstanding among them were no less than 3 *Wilson's Petrels*. This constitutes the first time that more than one has been seen in California waters at a time and the fourth consecutive year the species has been found in Monterey Bay (AB, WR, AW, TC & G.G.A.S.).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS—At the San Luis Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Merced Co. on Oct. 15 a flock of 200 White Pelicans was seen to include 3 birds with green wing tags printed with black number 4 symbols indicating they were marked last summer at Anaho I. in Pyramid Lake, Nevada (GAS). Brown Pelicans appeared along the coast in good numbers this fall with maxima of 1100 (25 percent immatures) estimated in Monterey Bay off the Pajaro River mouth on Nov. 1 (J & RW), 1400 estimated on South Farallon I. on Oct. 12 (DDeS), and as many as 5–600 as far north as Crescent City on Oct. 10 (RLeV). Three immatures seen in Monterey Bay in September were marked with green, indicating they came from Angel de la Guard I. in the mid-Gulf of California (AB). This sighting gives a hint of the origin of young birds seen in our Region in the fall, as Brown Pelicans have been eliminated as a successful nesting species in California and in November was added to the Rare and

Endangered Species List. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this fall counted and aged some 7000 Brown Pelicans along a section of the coast from Monterey south and it is hoped that the results will be published (AB). On Oct. 3, 4 Double-crested Cormorants were found at the Merced Nat'l Wildlife Refuge for the first time; they are uncommon in the Central Valley (GAS).

EGRETS, BITTERNS — At least 3 Snowy Egrets were seen on Sept. 4 at Humboldt Bay; they are considered uncommon at the northern part of their coastal range (RLeV). The increase of Cattle Egrets in this Region continues; the largest number yet reported was 22 in a field near Davenport, Santa Cruz Co. on Nov. 16 (Agnes McCrary, *vide* VA). Elsewhere individuals were found in five locations, all of them during the month of November: 1 found dead near Monterey about Nov. 6 (VLY, *vide* AB); Carmel Mission Ranch, Monterey Co. on Nov. 28 (Lawrence Brown, AB); Bolinas, Marin Co. on Nov. 22 (TM); Fort Dick, Del Norte Co. on Nov. 27 (DDeS, DGa, LCB, J&RG); and Loleta, Humboldt Co. on Nov. 29 (DDeS, DGa, LCB, J&RG). An Am. Bittern was at the unusual location of South Farallon for the first time on Oct. 12 (DDeS).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Whistling Swans were seen flying south over the ocean about a mile from shore at two locations: 3 off Bodega Head, Sonoma Co. on Nov. 14 which landed on the ocean for 30–40 minutes (GB & BDP) and 6 off Mendocino, Mendocino Co. on Nov. 15 (AW & RLeV). The Pacific Flyway Waterfowl Population Survey for Oct. 28 reported 642,920 geese and 4,145,650 ducks in N. California from the Tulare Lake Basin to the Klamath Basin refuges. When compared with the similar survey of a year ago, the numbers of geese were down slightly while ducks showed an increase of 16 percent (Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game). Some 2600 Black Brant were estimated on Nov. 5 in Monterey Bay on their usual early November migration (AB). Four Snow Geese were seen at South Farallon for the first time on Oct. 12 (DDeS). They are even uncommon along the coast. Perhaps as many as 5 Blue Geese were found in the Sacramento Valley: at the Sacramento Refuge — 1 immature on Nov. 19 (TM), 1 adult, and a possible Snow Goose x Blue Goose hybrid on Nov. 27 (AW & GH); and 3 (1 adult and 2 immatures) at the Gray Lodge W.M.A. on Nov. 21 (J&RG). The only Fulvous Tree Duck report this fall was of 1 at the Merced Refuge on Oct. 3 (GAS). A male *Com. Teal* was found on Nov. 29 at Eureka in the same marsh where at least one wintered last year (LCB, DGa, DDeS & J&RG). Nine male Blue-winged Teal were counted on Oct. 31 at Palo Alto's Baylands (TC & G.G.A.S.). Single European Widgeon drakes were reported from four locations: Limantour Estero, Point Reyes on Oct. 24 (BMcL & GB); Los Banos on Nov. 3 (DH, *vide* ROW); Oroville, Butte Co. on

Nov. 3 (TM); and the Sacramento Refuge on Oct. 22 (TM), Nov. 22 (BMcL), and Nov. 27 (GH & AW). Harlequin Ducks were reported from 6 coastal locations with the highest number coming from the Sea Ranch, Sonoma Co. with 5 on Nov. 14 (RRZ).

HAWKS, EAGLES — White-tailed Kites still seem to be increasing in number with a maximum of 76 counted on Tubbs Island, Sonoma Co. on Sept. 26 (LF). A roost of 17 in the Loleta bottomlands of Humboldt Bay on Oct. 18 is interesting, as they are considered rare along the coast north of San Francisco Bay (RLeV). Perhaps as many as 7 different Goshawks including adults and immatures were seen during 7 weeks of hiking in the Central Sierras between July 30 and Sept. 1 (AS). On Sept. 27, 4 Sharp-shinned and 18 Cooper's Hawks were counted flying by Point Pinos, indicating at least a small accipiter migration (RS & AW). An excellent drawing was submitted of a probable light phase *Harlan's Hawk* studied at the San Luis Wasteway W.M.A. near Los Banos on Oct. 7 (ROW). Although there are only about 4 previous reports of this hawk in our Region, there are a number of others for n. California east of the Sierras. Three Red-shouldered Hawks were seen Nov. 27–29 at the northern limits of their range in the Humboldt Bay area (LCB, DDeS, DGa, J&RG). A convincing verbal description was given of an immature *Broad-winged Hawk* seen at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. on Oct. 10 (VDaC). There have been only 4 previously reported in this Region. Swainson's Hawks are rarely found migrating near the coast, which makes a report of 7 on Sept. 5 at Coyote Hills along San Francisco Bay noteworthy (WA). Quite a few Rough-legged Hawks were seen this fall with at least 6 reported in the Central Valley (VDaC, WMP, TM, *et al.*) and 3 together at the Travis A.F.B., Solano Co. on Nov. 25 (BR). Ferruginous Hawks were likewise reported more commonly than usual with an impressive 5 in one field near Coalinga on Nov. 21 (VDaC & WMP) and at least 4 in the Sacramento Valley between Nov. 7 and 15 (TM). In coastal Marin Co. 3 were seen between Sept. 13 and Nov. 22 (WMP, GH, VDaC, T&ZC, LCB). The only Bald Eagles reported were 2 at Los Banos: 1 immature on Nov. 19 (ROW) and 1 adult on Nov. 23 (DH, *vide* ROW). An out-of-place Marsh Hawk was on South Farallon on Oct. 7 (DDeS). Ospreys were reported from 8 coastal areas with a maximum of 5 in view at once at Jenner on Sept. 6 (BDP). A total of 6 Prairie Falcons were reported in October east of Sacramento (*vide* BK). Elsewhere 1 was seen soaring at the elevation of 10,734 feet in the Central Sierras on Sept. 4 (AS) and, at the opposite extreme, 1 was seen at the north end of Humboldt Bay on Sept. 15 (RLeV) and Nov. 28 (DGa, DDeS, LCB, J&RG). They are rare anywhere along the coast. Reports were received of perhaps as many as 14 different Peregrine Falcons, all from coastal locations. At least

8 different Pigeon Hawks were reported, mostly from coastal areas which is more than usual.

CRANES, RAILS, COOTS—Sandhill Cranes apparently arrived early in the Central Valley this year as 26 were seen on Sept. 13 at the San Luis Refuge, but did not reach their peak there until mid-October when 4000 were estimated (GAS). A most outstanding find was that of a *Yellow Rail* at Crespi Pond on Point Pinos, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. on Oct. 2 (WR). It was subsequently seen on Oct. 8 (RS) and on Nov. 1 (AW) and well described by all observers.

SHOREBIRDS—A Mountain Plover was well described from the Salinas River mouth, Monterey Co. on Sept. 28 (RRZ) and 70 were estimated on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley on Nov. 21 (WMP). They are considered vagrant along the coast. Am. Golden Plovers were reported from 16 locations, mostly coastal, with maxima of 50–60 at the Loleta bottomlands of Humboldt Bay on Oct. 18 (RLeV, GH, RS) and 15 on Point Reyes on Oct. 4 (J & RG). A Ruddy Turnstone was seen at the Davis Sewage Treatment Ponds, Yolo Co. on Oct. 12 for one of the few inland records (RL & TM). A Solitary Sandpiper was found in the Arcata bottomlands at the north end of Humboldt Bay on Sept. 15 and well described (RLeV). The large total of 29 Lesser Yellowlegs was reported from 9 locations with a maximum of 10 at Woodland, Yolo Co. on Sept. 19 (TM & SS). An impressive 300 Knots, mostly in breeding plumage, were estimated at Hayward on San Francisco Bay through most of August (BR). A total of 41 Pectoral Sandpipers was reported from 14 locations. However the maximum was only 9 at the Arcata bottomlands on Sept. 20 (RLeV). Thirty Baird's Sandpipers were found in 12 locations with the maximum of 7, interestingly enough, at South Farallon during the first half of September (DDeS). A count of 228 Am. Avocets on Humboldt Bay on Nov. 29 was very high considering that they are assumed to be very rare along the coast north of San Francisco Bay (J&RG, LCB, DG, & DDeS). After last fall's spectacular flight of Red Phalaropes the largest number that could be found was 100+ off Eureka on Oct. 18 (RS, TS, *et al.*). Numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes built up to "thousands" at the San Luis Wasteway on Aug. 30, the next day there were none (ROW).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—Jaegers appeared in larger numbers than usual along the coast this fall, particularly in Monterey Bay where 30–50 could be seen in a half hour from shore during the last half of September (WR). Maximum counts of each species were: 41 Pomarine on Sept. 30 (AB), 10–15 Parasitic on Oct. 1 (AB), and 1 *Long-tailed* seen from shore off Point Pinos on Sept. 25 (RS & EAP). Even more exciting were the numbers of Skuas in Monterey Bay, which were seen on at least 7 occasions, twice from shore at Point Pinos—1 on Sept. 17 (EAP) and 1 on Oct. 1 (WR)—with a maximum of 9

by boat on Sept. 30 (AB). An immature Franklin's Gull was carefully studied and well described from Point Pinos on two occasions: Oct. 11 (GH) and Oct. 21 (AB). There are only about 10 previous records for this Region. Very few Sabine's Gulls were seen this fall with the maximum being only 12 in Monterey Bay on Sept. 30 (AB). The largest number of Com. Terns reported were only 5–12 on Humboldt Bay through most of September and October (RLeV). Most unusual was the absence of Arctic Terns on Monterey Bay; interestingly, 1 in summer plumage was identified with 5 Com. Terns in Eureka Harbor on Oct. 18 (RS & GH). They are rarely seen inshore. Elegant Terns, on the other hand, exhibited a very heavy flight year, perhaps due to protection of their island breeding colonies by the Mexican Government and curtailed commercial egg collecting (AB). Maximum estimates of numbers, all in Monterey Bay, were 1000 off the Pajaro River mouth on Aug. 30 (RW) and 1000 at Moss Landing on Sept. 7 (WA&VA).

ALCIDS—Owing to the scarcity of boat trips off the north coast of the Region this season Alcid reports are few, and the following Alcid counts from the Oct. 18 trip off Eureka seem interesting: 1 Ancient Murrelet; 100–200 Cassin's Auklets; 30–40 Rhinoceros Auklets; and 5–8 Tufted Puffins (GH, RLeV, TS & RS).

DOVE, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS—A White-winged Dove, the seventh fall record for the Region, was banded on South Farallon Island, Oct. 4, and twice recovered (DDeS). Burrowing Owls are increasingly mentioned as harder to find in the usual places, due to field cultivation and land use, but 1 near Crescent City, Del Norte Co., Oct. 10, is very far north (ODS). Pygmy Owls were reported from their usual wooded foothill habitat but one calling in suburban Tilden Park, Oakland, Oct. 18 was considered unusual (ST). A dead Great Gray Owl nestling, now in Yosemite Museum, found at the entrance to Bridalveil Campground, indicated a nesting failure there as the adults had departed. However, 1–2 were seen, Aug. 17, at nearby McGurl's Meadow (GSS). Another was noted as the "usual single bird" at Crane Flat, all in Yosemite Nat'l Park (AB). With a total of 24 Short-eared Owls this fall, 14 on Nov. 1 at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor (WMP, ABu, *et al.*) and several seen regularly at the San Luis Wasteway (ROW), it seems to be a better season than usual. A Long-eared Owl was seen at the Carmel River mouth Sept. 25 (RS, WR); this species is probably more common than the few reports indicate. Late Poor-wills were: 1, Oct. 29, Santa Rosa (ST), and 1, Nov. 6, Point Reyes (RG). Two Com. Night-hawks, noted flying high above the American River near Sacramento, Sept. 9, were carefully distinguished from the more common Lesser Nighthawk (DF). One Black Swift, with swallows, was noted Sept. 26 at Point Reyes (RG).

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS — Allen's Hummingbirds were considerably later than usual: 1 was still at feeders in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Humboldt Co., on Sept. 11 (MK); the last noted in the Sacramento area was on Oct. 2 (BK); and 8 were seen in San Francisco's Fuchsia Gardens on Oct. 14 (ABU). A good example of up-mountain movement of Rufous Hummingbirds, especially when very dry conditions prevail, was the scarcity of them at Roger's Camp at 6600 feet, near Springville, Tulare Co. (MM), but several at Muir Pass, at 12,000 feet, Sept. 2, and another noted at 13,200 feet, Aug. 31 (AS) in the Sierra. At Springville, many more hummers than normal were reported, including an unusual incident of a Praying Mantis catching and eating a Black-chinned and an Anna's Hummingbird along with several butterflies (MM). An immature male Black-chinned, Sept. 25, at Point Pinos, Monterey Co. (RS & AW), and a Calliope Hummingbird, Sept. 19 in Sacramento (Gunder-son, *vide* BK) were ranging widely. Two "pure" and at least 10 hybrid Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported, all from between Marin and Sacramento Counties. Lewis' Woodpeckers were scarce in normal locations, and one bird was briefly noted at Pacific Grove, Oct. 8 (EAP).

FLYCATCHER, CORVIDS, THRUSHES — Five Tropical Kingbirds were noted: the earliest, Sept. 27 at Point Pinos, had no tail; 1 seen on Point Reyes, Oct. 18 (TM *et al.*) was probably the same bird seen at the same place a week earlier. A W. Kingbird at Point Pinos, Oct. 28 (EAP), was the latest one reported. A *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* was photographed in color at Colusa Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Oct. 18 (WG), one of the few and scattered Regional records. Other unusual flycatchers identified on S. Farallon were: 2 *Great Crested Flycatchers*, banded on October 4; the other seen, Oct. 13 (DDeS) were the third and fourth for the Region; 3 *Least Flycatchers*, collected on Oct. 5 (DDeS) bring the Regional total to 7. A Traill's Flycatcher, Oct. 25, at Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove (AW), and another *Empidonax* Nov. 1, at Carmel River Mouth (AW) were very late. Horned Larks were found at very high Sierran elevations at Humphries Basin, 10,900–11,400 feet; 50 at one place, Aug. 24, and 3 near Pine Creek Pass, ecologically similar, on Aug. 6 (AS). Gray Jays were more conspicuous than usual at Prairie Creek Redwoods all fall (MK). Two Com. Ravens, rarely seen on the Monterey Peninsula were at the mouth of the Carmel River, Nov. 15 (WR). A Black-billed Magpie, Aug. 26, at Quincy, Plumas Co., was thought to have arrived "via a chain of islands of Great Basin habitat in the sea of surrounding forest" (TM). A Mockingbird, the farthest north yet, was at Fort Dick, Del Norte Co., Nov. 27–28 (DDeS, LCB, J&RG, & DGa). A Sage Thrasher on S. Farallon, Sept. 21–22 (DDeS) was unusually displaced. Bluebirds, on two occasions at least, were considered to be declining in

numbers: favorite hillsides near Inverness, Marin Co., had only 24, where 10 times that number is usual; casual Marin County observations supported this apparent dearth (ABU) as did comments from others. This decline might be attributable to the widespread success of Starlings. Two *Gray-cheeked Thrushes* (1 specimen) were found, Oct. 3, on S. Farallon (DDeS) for the first authenticated state record. Another probable record was one well-described from Tilden Park on October 18 (ST).

GNATCATCHERS, SHRIKES, VIREOS — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were more conspicuous as lowland migrants than usual: widespread reports totaled 16 birds (LF, BK, WMP). A minor influx of N. Shrikes again reached the n.w. California coast: 1 in the Elk Prairie of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Oct. 27 (MK); 1 in Arcata, Nov. 27–28 (J&RG); 3 near Crescent City, Nov. 27–28 (J&RG); perhaps the most remarkable was an adult, Nov. 27–28, in the Central Valley lowland area of Butte City (AW, LY & GH). Several straggling Warbling Vireos were quite late: 1, Oct. 13 in Sonoma County (BMcL); 1 at the Carmel River Mouth, Nov. 1 (AW) and another in the same vicinity, Nov. 14 (AW). A *Philadelphia Vireo* on Point Reyes Sept. 26–Oct. 5 was well-described (J&RG).

WARBLERS — The data from this fall's Operation Transect indicate that the heaviest fall warbler migration passes through the Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada and took place this year during middle and late August. In the Central Valley, Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers were the commonest migrants followed by MacGillivray's, Yellows and Nashvilles. Forty MacGillivray's Warblers along a short stretch of riparian habitat at the Yolo Bypass on August 16 were indicative of their abundance (RLeV). Orange-crowned Warblers were the commonest species captured on the west slope of the Sierra at 6500 feet above any known breeding station for the species. Hermits, Wilson's MacGillivray's and Nashvilles comprised the rest of the migrant species. Even in the Sierra, migrant warblers are not uniformly distributed. Most individuals are concentrated in wet montane meadows at the 6000–6500 foot level. An example of such a concentration was a count of *at least 2000 warblers* observed moving along the west side of Crane Flat Meadow, Yosemite, in the illuminated treetops at dawn on Aug. 30: 40 percent Nashville, 30 percent Hermit, 20 percent Orange-crowned and 10 percent Black-throated Gray, MacGillivray's, Wilson's and Townsend's (DDeS). Individual warblers totalling 552 were counted moving through a single Lodgepole Pine on the edge of the meadow in a timed 5 minutes. A search down the rest of the west slope of Sierra at intervals of 500 feet turned up only two Black-throated Gray Warblers—probably still on their breeding grounds! Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers with fewer numbers of Wilson's

TABLE 1
Reports of Six Uncommon Western Migrant Warblers Along the Coast

Species	South Farallon Records		Other Coastal Records	
Nashville Warbler	1,	Oct. 3	2,	Sept. 6–Nov. 14
Black-throated Gray Warbler	3,	Sept. 22–Oct. 13	10,	Sept. 19–Nov. 1
Hermit Warbler	about 15,	Aug. 16–Oct. 13	8,	Sept. 1–Nov.
MacGillivray's Warbler	21,	Aug. 17–Oct. 5	2,	Oct. 3–Nov. 8
Yellowthroat	9,	Aug. 26–Oct. 8	0	
Yellow-breasted Chat	0		1,	Sept. 16

and MacGillivray's were the commonest species captured on the east side of the Sierra at Mono Lake. These captures were probably augmented by numbers of the same species from Alaska and Canada that move down the east side of the Sierran range. In the Inner Coast Range, Wilson's, Yellows and Orange-crowns made up the bulk of the few migrating warblers. Along the coast, these three species were augmented by Townsend's Warblers. Heaviest coastal migration occurred during late August and early September—a time characterized by light easterly winds. During most of September, when clear skies and strong NW winds predominated, South Farallon was virtually devoid of migrant warblers (DDeS); these winds probably caused birds to be pushed from the immediate coast to localities several miles inland. During the end of September and early October the west winds diminished and overcast skies were the rule. This period brought a few more warblers to the coast along with good numbers of eastern species (see below). A Townsend's Warbler present in Elk Grove, Sacramento Co., from Nov. 11 to the end of the period (TM) represents only the second winter record for this species in

the Central Valley. Table 1 summarizes the records of six uncommon western migrants along the coast. Numbers of these species seem down compared to last year's data (*AFN* 24:93). Orientation data indicate that most, if not all of these species are represented on South Farallon by misoriented "vagrant" individuals (DDeS). It seems that there may be no difference between "eastern vagrant" and "western vagrant" warblers on South Farallon except that the "eastern vagrants" originate from farther east and thus arrive later on the island. Other noteworthy records for these species include 2 Black-throated Gray Warblers and 1 MacGillivray's Warbler in Chico on the late date of Nov. 22 (TS, BMcL), 1 MacGillivray's at Santa Rosa, Nov. 23 (Evelyn Bowen, *fide* BMcL) and "the best flight of Yellowthroats in the Central Valley in years" (BK).

Table 2 presents a summary of the fall "vagrant" warbler records for the last four years for mainland California and South Farallon. Only 14 "vagrant" species were recorded this year as compared to 18 in 1968 and 17 in 1969. However, a glance at the totals line on Table 2 indicates that the fall of 1970 was indeed an average

TABLE 2
Summary of Individual Fall "Vagrant" Warbler Records for the Region

Species*	1967 +		1968		1969		1970	
	Main	S. Far.	Main	S. Far.	Main	S. Far.	Main	S. Far.
Common Species	39	21	34	64	46	51	45	24
Uncommon Species	4	3	5	12	7	9	7	10
Rare Species	5	3	3	10	4	2	4	1
Totals	48	27	42	86	57	62	56	35

* Common Species:—Those with over 30 fall and winter records for the Region: Palm Warbler (174), Blackpoll Warbler (128), Am. Redstart (128), Tennessee Warbler (65), Black-and-white Warbler (50), and Northern Waterthrush (38).

Uncommon Species:—Those with 10 to 30 fall and winter records for the Region. Black-throated Blue Warbler (23), Chestnut-sided Warbler (20), Magnolia Warbler (17), Ovenbird (14), and Blackburnian Warbler (11).

Rare Species:—Those remaining species with under 10 fall and winter records for the Region.
+ Coverage in 1967 consisted of only one week.

year for "vagrants" on the mainland but very poor on South Farallon. The reason for this was owing to the very strong NW winds (often reaching 40 knots) and clear skies that prevailed during most of September. During this entire month only four individual "vagrant" warblers were seen on the island and these during the last part of the month. In a previous issue (*AFN* 24:9-13) Aaron M. Bagg has postulated that "eastern" species may reach the California coast by flying downwind from the Gulf Coast to interior points in the Far West and then being drifted to the coast by easterly winds. While there is no doubt that winds and local weather conditions play a major role in concentrating birds on the coast or on South Farallon, it seems very doubtful that all vagrants to this coast can be accounted for by wind drift. Orientation studies on South Farallon on these species indicate that they are indeed well-oriented and that the directions that they are following lead directly away from the breeding range (DDeS). Apparently, these birds should be classified as misoriented migrants (that is, flying in the wrong direction) rather than simply as drifted migrants. A summary of the records, species by species follows: 3 Black-and-white warblers: Pacific Grove, 1 on Sept. 27 (WR), South Farallon, 1 on Oct. 3 (DDeS), Point Reyes, 1 on Oct. 17 (Anne Manolis, *vide* TM); 8 Tennessee Warblers: Piedmont, 1, Sept. 23-26 (ST, DE), Pacific Grove, 4 individuals between Sept. 25 and Oct. 3 (RS, AW, WR, TS), Point Reyes, 1 on Oct. 5 (RG) and 1 on Oct. 14 (DG), Carmel River Mouth, 1 on Oct. 10 (AW); 2 *Lucy's Warblers*: Point Reyes, 1 on Sept. 18 (TM *et al.*), Pacific Grove, 1, Nov. 9-11 (EAP, AB, WR). These constitute the second and third records for the Region. Two Magnolia Warblers: an immature ♀ on South Farallon on Sept. 29 and an immature ♂ there on Oct. 12 (DDeS); Black-throated Blue: a total of 7 which is unprecedented for the Region: Point Reyes, 4 individuals, 1 immature ♀ at the RCA Station, Oct. 11-18 (R&JG, TC, GH, *et al.*), an immature ♂ and ♀ together at the Mendoza Ranch on Oct. 14 (DG), another immature ♂ at the abandoned ranch on Oct. 17-18 (TM, J&RG *et al.*), South Farallon, 3 singles, an immature ♀ Oct. 12-13, an immature ♂ Oct. 13, and another immature ♀ Oct. 15 (DDeS, P.R.B.O.); 2 *Black-throated Green Warblers*: South Farallon, an immature ♂ on Oct. 12 (DDeS), Carmel River Mouth, another immature ♂, Oct. 31 (RLeV, AW, TM, GH). These constitute only the second and third fall records for the Region. Four *Blackburnian Warblers* — only 7 previous fall records — Pacific Grove, an immature ♂ on Sept. 25 (RS, EAP); South Farallon, 2 immature ♀♀, 1 on Oct. 3, the other on Oct. 4 (DDeS), Point Reyes, an immature ♀ on Oct. 14 (DG); Chestnut-sided Warbler: an adult (by skull) ♀ on Oct. 4 (DDeS); 20 Blackpoll Warblers: (10 on S. Farallon), between Sept. 15 and Oct. 20; *Pine Warbler*:

an immature ♂ carefully observed at Point Reyes on Oct. 5 constitutes the first Regional record (J & RG); 15 Palm Warblers: (5 on S. Farallon), between Sept. 15 and Nov. 30; 3 Ovenbirds: South Farallon, 1 on Oct. 8, another there on Oct. 15 (DDeS), Palomarin, 1 on Oct. 10 (P.R.B.O.); 4 Northern Waterthrushes: South Farallon, 1 on Aug. 31 (P.R.B.O.), Carmel River Mouth, 1, Sept. 5-11 (RS, AW) and 2 more on Sept. 25 (RS); Am. Redstart: 19 scattered individuals (1 on S. Farallon) between Aug. 16 and 31.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS, GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS — From 1 to 5 Bobolinks were seen in the tules of Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, Sept. 26-28, but were gone by the next day (WR, AB, RS *et al.*); 3 were noted on S. Farallon between Sept. 27 and Oct. 12 (DDeS); and a remarkable observation of 16, on Oct. 1, flying in from the ocean to land briefly on Trinidad Head, Humboldt Co., then proceeding southward along the coast (RS). Two Baltimore Orioles were reported: 1 on South Farallon, Oct. 5 (DDeS) and 1 on Point Pinos, Nov. 1 (AW, RLeV & DG). A good photograph of a *Rusty Blackbird*, the third substantiated record for the Region, was taken on Point Reyes, Oct. 11 (TC, ZC, JW). A peak movement of W. Tanagers through Pacific Grove, Sept. 13 included an immature Summer Tanager ♂ (WR). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported: 1 in San Mateo on Aug. 23 (FR) and an adult ♀ photographed and banded at Mono Lake, Sept. 5 (P.R.B.O.). An adult ♂ Indigo Bunting, banded and photographed, created much excitement at Operation Transect, near Yolo Bypass, Sacramento Co., as it was seen Aug. 14 to Sept. 4, almost daily (TM, BK, *et al.*). A ♀ was seen with a Lazuli Bunting at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, Aug. 30 (AW & LY); another at nearby Point Pinos, Sept. 5 (RS, AW); another ♀ at Point Reyes, Sept. 13 (J&RG). Small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were noted at Santa Rosa, Nov. 8 (BMcL). Red Crossbills were noted on Point Reyes, Nov. 6 (J&RG), in Sonoma County in October (BMcL), and small bands were noted on the Monterey Peninsula by the last week of November (AB). Six Green-tailed Towhees were reported throughout the season from the coastal lowlands of central California. A remarkable number of *Lark Buntings* were reported: 1 on South Farallon, Sept. 9 (DDeS), 2 on Point Reyes, Sept. 11, a third, Sept. 14 (RS), a fourth there Oct. 31 (GH), as well as 1 at Point Pinos, Oct. 8 (RS). Prior to this year, there were only 6 fall records for the Region.

SPARROWS, LONGSPURS — More scattered reports of Vesper Sparrows than usual, including 6 coastal birds, seem to indicate wider dispersal. The first Lark Sparrow noted in 2-3 years at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park points out the scarcity of these birds along the humid coast (MK). A Black-throated Sparrow, Sept. 24-26,

on South Farallon was notable (DDeS), as was a large and pale interior race of Sage Sparrow studied on Point Pinos, Sept. 29 (WR). At least 11 Slate-colored Juncos were found in scattered but probably normal locations. A Tree Sparrow was found near Lake Earl, Del Norte Co., Nov. 28–29 (LCB, J&RG); another was noted on the exceptionally early date of Oct. 3 on South Farallon (DDeS). The first state specimen of a *Le Conte's Sparrow* was taken Oct. 13 on South Farallon (DDeS). Sharp-eyed observers are turning up Clay-colored Sparrows regularly in the fall: 5 on the Farallons, Sept. 29–Oct. 26 (DDeS, ST, BS), 1 on Point Pinos, Oct. 12 (AB). Four Brewer's Sparrows on South Farallon between Sept. 3 and Oct. 2 (DDeS), 1, Sept. 13 (LCB) and 1 on Point Pinos, Sept. 27–28 (RS, AW, WR) were more than normal for the Region. Normal numbers of White-throated Sparrows were reported from about 11 scattered locations. The only Harris' Sparrow was an immature at Santa Rosa coming to a feeder from Oct. 22 to Dec. 2 (BMcL). Many more Lapland Longspurs than normal were located: a ♀ with Savannah Sparrows was found at the mouth of the Salinas River, Sept. 26 to Oct. 1 (VA, WA & FN); 5 were on South Farallon between Sept. 24 and Oct. 15 (DDeS); 5 at Crescent City on Oct. 10 (RLeV); 1 on Point Reyes, Oct. 12 (J&RG); and 1 at Drake's Bay on Point Reyes on Oct. 26 (WMP) make a total of 16. The rarer Chestnut-collared Longspur was also seen on Point Reyes: a single bird with 30–40 Horned Larks, Oct. 12 (TC, JW, TM *et al.*).

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