

supposed to arrive before September (McCaskie & DeBenedictis. 1966. *Birds of Northern California*. Berkeley). Yet 48 is an unlikely number for summering Arctic Loons, and there are no July records (i.e. definitely summering) for Red-necked Grebes. Migrating Red-throated Loons (31 moving south) were seen as early as Sept. 2 at Pescadero Beach (VR).

S.A.

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Van Remsen and David A. Gaines

This fall will be remembered for the heavy rains in October and November that broke many local records. The severe coastal storms apparently forced many birds inland, producing an abnormally high number of records of primarily coastal waterbirds there (see Table 1). Temperatures, however, were surprisingly mild, and many areas reported no frost at all.



**LOONS, GREBES** — An early **Yellow-billed Loon** was found in Monterey Harbor Nov. 10 (LCB\*). Just how early migrant loons and grebes begin to appear on our coast is unclear owing to the presence of summering birds. For instance, 48 Arctic Loons in one flock were at Pt. Reyes Aug. 5, and breeding-plumaged Red-necked Grebes were also at Pt. Reyes (1) Aug. 5 (VR *et al.*) and Limantour (3) Aug. 14 (JM, WMP). Neither species is

The incredible migratory concentration of Eared Grebes on Mono L. in fall is a sight every birdwatcher must witness to believe; on Sept. 7, using a conservative estimate for average density for the visible portion of the lake's surface area (one bird/2500 sq. ft. — actually closer to one/100 sq. ft. for much of the lake), over 310,000 grebes were estimated to be in sight (VR, DE, JM). If that density were maintained for the remaining surface area (and there was no reason to believe otherwise), the total count would be about 1,115,000. This must comprise a substantial percentage of the population of N. America. What makes this very mysterious is that there are apparently no fish in this very alkaline lake. What is supporting this amazing concentration? Brine shrimp are extremely abundant in Mono L., but it is hard to imagine grebes feeding on minuscule brine shrimp. Also interesting is that not one duck, goose, coot, loon, or other grebe could be found on the lake — definitely a monoculture. S. California is stealing water from the rivers that feed Mono L., lowering the water level. How this will affect the grebes is unknown, but it will spell disaster for the huge California Gull colony; when the island on which they nest becomes connected to the mainland, various mammalian predators will have ready access to the formerly protected breeding grounds.

Eared Grebes were conspicuously scarce along the coast this fall. Nine three-quarter-grown W. Grebe chicks were at Tule L. on the incredibly late date of Nov. 11 (BED); this late breeding has occurred there in other years (*vide* BED).

**TUBENOSES** — A Black-footed Albatross 10 mi. off Pacific Grove Nov. 28 (*vide* AB) was the only report away from the Humboldt Co. coast where numbers were normal. A **Laysan Albatross** was seen from shore off Pt. Pinos Nov. 29 (JMA\*), the most southerly record for the Region to date. Single N. Fulmars were seen on most September and October boat trips, and then good, but not spectacular, numbers (25-75) were reported from shore in the Monterey area beginning about Nov. 18 (AB *et al.*). Normal numbers (25-100) of Pink-footed Shearwaters were found on most boat trips, with 400 off Sonoma Co. Oct. 14 (BDP) the largest number reported. Three Flesh-footed Shearwater reports were received: one off the Farallones Sept. 19 (RS), one 10 mi. off Half Moon Bay Sept. 29 (TC, BGE), and two off Sonoma Co. Oct. 14 (BDP *et al.*). New Zealand Shearwaters were in very low numbers (3-10) on Monterey Bay Sept. 6 - Oct. 24, but 400 were off Sonoma Co. Oct. 14 (BDP). Sooty Shearwaters were much less abundant than usual; they were outnumbered (only 200 seen) by both Pink-footeds and New Zealands off Sonoma Co. Oct. 14 (BDP). This

Table 1. Primarily coastal waterbirds seen inland, Fall 1973.

Species	Dates + Number	Place	Observers
Common Loon	Oct. 14 - Nov. 30 25 birds	12 places	
Arctic Loon	Nov. 23 - 24 (2)	L. Shastina	TM*, BW
	Nov. 12 (1)	Lafayette Res.	NRB
Red-throated Loon	Oct. 27 (1)	L. Almanor	AC
	Nov. 21 (1)	Grizzly Is.	RG
	Nov. 25 (1)	Redding	TS, SS
Red-necked Grebe	Nov. 22 (2)	Clear L., Lake Co.	TS, SS
Horned Grebe	Oct. 20 (1)	Trinity L.	TS, SS
	Nov. 18 (1)	Gray Lodge	JG
	Nov. 23 - 24 (1)	L. Shastina	TM, BW
Black Brant	? (1)	Gray Lodge	BED
	Nov. 16 (1)	Richmond	DE, TS
Greater Scaup	Nov. 18 (1)	Chico	TM, PM
White-winged Scoter	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3 (4)	Chico	TM, PM, BW
Surf Scoter	Nov. 11 (1)	Lower Klamath N.W.R.	BED
	Nov. 12 (1)	Santa Rosa	GLB
Semipalmated Plover	Aug. 11 - Sept. 9 (2-6)	Woodland	PB
	Oct. 30 (3)	Lost L., Fresno	RBH, KH
Am. Golden Plover	Oct. 4 - 14 (1)	Woodland	RS, DAG, B&RL
Ruddy Turnstone	Aug. 18 (1)	Chico	BW
Short-b. Dowitcher	Aug. 5 - Sept. 9 (1-2)	Woodland	B&RL
Marbled Godwit	Aug. 26 (1)	San Luis Res.	PM
	Aug. 29 (1)	Gray Lodge	BED
	Sept. 7 (2)	Chico	PM
Sanderling	Sept. 2 - 3 (1)	Chico	BW* + photo
Red Phalarope	Nov. 11 (1)	Santa Rosa	GLB
	Nov. 15 - 20 (1)	Chico	PM*, TM, BW
	Nov. 18 (1)	Woodland	B&RL
	Nov. 21 - 22 (3-7)	Clear L.	DA*, TS, SS
Mew Gull	Oct. 24 (1)	Lafayette	LF
Least Tern	Sept. 22 (1)	Conn L., Napa Co.	SL*

was a good season for **Short-tailed Shearwaters**, which often go completely unreported. The earliest was one at Pt. Pinos Nov. 19 (AB\*), and then about 20 birds (11 collected by V. Morejohn) were found by several observers through the end of the period on Monterey Bay. Single Manx Shearwaters were on Monterey Bay Oct. 7 (AB, WMP) and at Pt. Pinos Oct. 23 (AB).

Strong NW winds brought 16 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels to Pacific Grove Nov. 19 and another was there Nov. 26 (AB). Strong SE gales brought five white-rumped Leach's Storm-Petrels to the same place Oct. 23 and three more were there Nov. 12 (AB). During strong coastal storms, 15 dead Leach's were picked up along the Marin Co. coast Nov. 3-17 (P.R.B.O.). The usual petrel flock on Monterey Bay off Moss Landing contained 4-5000 Ashy Storm Petrels in late September - early October, dwindling to 10 by Nov. 5 (BGE); two gale-blown birds were at Pacific Grove Nov. 19 (AB). Observers differed greatly this fall on estimates of Black Storm-Petrels in the Moss Landing petrel flock, but almost all agreed that Blacks were more common than ever before. This species seems to have increased steadily the last few

years; estimates from the Moss Landing flock have climbed from 2-3000 in 1966 and 1967 to 600 in 1971 to 1000 in 1972 to somewhere between 2000 and 8000 in 1973. Only six were on Monterey Bay Nov. 5 (BGE), and two were at Pacific Grove Nov. 12 after a gale (AB). A **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** was seen in the Moss Landing petrel flock Sept. 22 (AB\*, JL\*) and Oct. 6 (AB).

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — White and Brown Pelicans were reported in normal numbers. The highest concentrations were 300 Whites near Vallejo Sept. 15 (FKB), 1200 Browns at Bolinas Lagoon Aug. 12 (SFB), and 1019 Browns moving south past Pajaro Dunes in 80 mins. Oct. 8 (J&RW). A Double-crested Cormorant, very scarce in the s. San Joaquin Valley, was at Millerton L. near Fresno Nov. 10 (RBH, KH). A Pelagic Cormorant was again seen 1-2 miles inland on the Klamath R. Sept. 29 (VR, AB *et al.*). The **Magnificent Frigatebird** found at Bodega Bay July 31 remained until at least Aug. 5 (MLR, VH), and another was photographed on Monterey Bay Aug. 2 (R. Copper, *vide* GSS).

A Green Heron was at Redding Nov. 25 (TS, SS), a late date for so far north, and a Great Egret was still at Tule L. Nov. 13 (BED). Cattle Egrets were down from last fall with only four reports received: Gray Lodge Ref. three Aug. 2 and one Sept. 13 (BED); Humboldt Bay one Oct. 28 (SL); and Pt. Joe, Monterey Co., Nov. 29 (JMA). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron, probably the bird summering at San Rafael for many years, was seen at its usual spot several times in mid-October (*vide* ABu). The first Least Bittern reported from the Central Valley (hereafter C.V.) in three years was found at Gray Lodge Sept. 4 & 14 (BED). A White-faced Ibis, unusual on the coast, was at Moss Landing Sept. 25 (AB).

**WATERFOWL** — Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game serial surveys showed that ducks were up and geese up over last year by the end of November, at which time 5,965,835 ducks (including 4,222,335 Pintails and 638,870 Mallards) and 352,740 geese (258,090 white and 94,650 dark) were present in the censused areas alone. Hunters had killed 1.2% of the ducks and 1.3% of the geese by the end of the period. An **Emperor Goose** was at Tule L. Nov. 5 (BED\*). Three blue phase Snow Geese were reported in November from Tule L. - Lower Klamath (BED), two were at Sacramento N.W.R. Nov. 18-23 (TS, SS), and two were at Gray Lodge Nov. 23 (TS, SS). Single ♂ Eur. Wigeons were at Gray Lodge Oct. 25 - Nov. 23 (BED *et al.*), Palo Alto Nov. 10 (TC *et al.*), Sacramento N.W.R. Nov. 23 (TS, SS), and Crystal Springs Reservoir Nov. 25 (PM\*). Many more Oldsquaws than usual were reported: Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes, (1) Oct. 15 (P.R.B.O.); Farallones (2) Oct. 16 (RS); Tomales Bay (5) Oct. 17 (P.R.B.O.); Humboldt Bay (1) Oct. 21-28 (TS, SS *et al.*); Arcata (1) Oct. 25 - Nov. 16 (DE *et al.*); one migrating off-shore off Humboldt Co. Nov. 3 (DE, RLeV, TS, SS); and s. Pt. Reyes (1-3) Nov. 3-14 (KG, AE *et al.*). Never before have we had so many (14) Oldsquaws so early in fall; the Oct. 15 bird was the earliest ever reported from N. Calif. Three **King Eiders** were reported: a female found dying at Bolinas Lagoon Oct. 28 (P.R.B.O.), another female found dead there Nov. 3 (P.R.B.O.), and an imm. male at Monterey Harbor Nov. 24 (W. Anderson, DB) which remained through the end of the period (AB\*, SFB, JM *et al.*). Additionally, single ♀ eiders, best left unidentified as to species, were on Tomales Bay in Oct. (G. Brady, A. Follis) and off Bodega Head Nov. 9 (GLB). All three scoters were more common than usual.



*King Eider, Monterey Harbor, Calif., November, 1973. Photo/Bob Yutzy.*

**RAPTORS** — Unfortunately, hawk migration at Pt. Diablo (see *Am. Birds* 27:111) was not monitored systematically this fall, and the data received was too fragmentary to allow quantitative comparison with last fall; qualitatively, no conspicuous differences were apparent, except a total lack of Broad-winged Hawks — last fall must have been an invasion year. Concentrations of 100+ migrating Turkey Vultures were seen at six C.V. locations from Chico to Fresno Sept. 15 - Oct. 5. White-tailed Kites, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Cooper's Hawks were reported in normal or slightly-below-normal numbers in most areas. Goshawks were seen at one north-coastal and three Sierran localities. Single "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were found in November near Live Oak (BM) and Chico (*vide* TM); the latter bird, unfortunately, was captured by a falconer. An out-of-range Red-shouldered Hawk was at Pt. Pinole, Contra Costa Co., Sept. 8 (JR) and Oct. 20 (NRB). The only acceptable **Broad-winged Hawk** report was one from Scott Cr., Santa Cruz Co., Oct. 3 (BGE\*). A migrating flock of 50 Swainson's Hawks was seen near Fresno Oct. 10 (RBH, KH); singles were at Woodland Aug. 5 (B&RL) and w. San Joaquin Co. Oct. 27 (B&CY).

#### —S.A.—

The most conspicuous ornithological event this fall was a spectacular invasion of Rough-legged Hawks. While apparent throughout N. California, the invasion was most pronounced along the coast, where individuals were first seen in Marin Co. Oct. 12-13 (WMP, MLR). They built up rapidly until by the end of Oct. they outnumbered Red-tailed Hawks in most coastal localities north of Santa Cruz. An amazing 36 birds were counted in one day between Pt. Reyes and Bodega Bay Nov. 3 (KG, VR), many more than are usually reported in an entire year west of the Sierras. In 10 mi. of road at Cape Mendocino, 22 were counted Oct. 22 (DE). Between Ano Nuevo and Half Moon Bay, 19 were tallied Nov. 26 (SFB) where one bird in an entire year would be unusual. Perhaps most incredible of all were 12 on the Farallones, 20 mi. offshore, Oct. 27 (P.R.B.O.). Good numbers were found along the Inner Coast Range, with 17 at Altamont Pass near Livermore Nov. 13 (AE). While numbers were above normal in the C.V., the concentrations so conspicuous along the coast were absent. It is assumed that somewhere in the Arctic. Rough-legged Hawks capitalized on an exceptionally high cyclic peak of some microtine rodent, and we are seeing the product of the resultant high reproductive success which could not be accommodated within the normal wintering range. We know that Snowy Owls have made a spectacular appearance in Washington this fall, and it would be interesting to know if they bred in the same areas as the Rough-legged Hawks.

Nearly identical numbers of reports were received this fall as last fall for Ferruginous Hawks, Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Marsh Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, and Merlins, but more than three times as many Ospreys and twice as many Prairie Falcons were reported. A Prairie Falcon Oct. 14 at the Garcia R. (DE, TS, SS) was only the second Mendocino Co. record.



**GROUSE TO COOTS** — An ad. Sage Grouse with eight young was at the high elevation of 8100 ft. on Monitor Pass Sept. 3 (RS, TM); this actually may be well within the altitudinal range of normal post-breeding, up-mountain movement. A Mountain Quail was at the low elevation of 600 ft. near Chico Oct. 18 (AC). Com. Gallinules were seen coastally at Rodeo Lagoon (1) Sept. 8 and (2) Oct. 1 - Nov. 30 (MLR *et al.*) and at Pescadero Marsh (4) Nov. 3 (AE).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Snowy Plovers appeared down in numbers in most areas. Mountain Plovers were found near Woodland (1) Oct. 6 and 140 in late Nov. (DAG *et al.*), and 280 were near Avenal, Kings Co., Nov. 18 (GB, AE, JR). More Am. Golden Plovers were reported this fall than any previous fall. The earliest was one at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 3-6 (MA), and the highest numbers were found in the Loleta Bottoms, Humboldt Co., with 50 Sept. 29 (VR, SFB *et al.*) and at Pt. Reyes with 50 Nov. 30 (LWG). Others were at Arcata (1-7) Sept. 18 - Oct. 28 (DE, TS, SS); Crescent City (1) Sept. 19 (GB); Alviso (1) Oct. 15 (*fide* TC); Pajaro Dunes (2) Oct. 10 (J&RW); Farallones (5) Oct. 23 (P.R.B.O); Pt. Pinos (1) Oct. 26 (LK); and one was inland at Woodland Oct. 4-14 (RS *et al.*). Four single Solitary Sandpipers were reported: Woodland Aug. 11 (DAG, RS) and Sept. 9 (B&RL). Angwin Aug. 12-14 (*fide* WT), and Carmel R. mouth Aug. 20 - Sept. 10 (MA, BY). Two Wandering Tattlers were inside S.F. Bay at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (hereafter B.B.T.P.) Aug. 13-18 (DE). Lesser Yellowlegs were very common along the coast this fall with at least 52 reported from nine locations Aug. 10 - Nov. 16. Pectoral Sandpipers were reported in normal numbers Aug. 19 - Oct. 22 with 30 at Pescadero Marsh Sept. 23-27 (KG, VR *et al.*) and 40 at Woodland Oct. 8-9 (m. ob.) the biggest coastal and inland concentrations, respectively. One at the Klamath R. Sept. 29 (VR, AB, DE *et al.*) may be the first Del Norte Co. record. Another was seen 10 mi. offshore from Half Moon Bay Oct. 17 (TC, BGE). A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** found at Woodland Oct. 4 (RS) remained until at least Oct. 16 (DAG, KG, DE\*, J&SL\*, VR\*, TS\*, m. ob.) for California's first inland record. Another was well-described from Limantour Oct. 19 (RMS\*). Thirty-seven Baird's Sandpipers were reported from 11 coastal localities Aug. 1 - Sept. 21 and singles were inland at Woodland Aug. 11 and Honey L. Sept. 1 (B&RL). Three Stilt Sandpipers were reported: two at Arcata Aug. 9-12 (R. Webster, BB, *fide* DE) and one at the Yolo Bypass Oct. 12 (DA\*, DW).

A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was found at Bolinas Lagoon Oct. 26 by Lynne Stenzel for California's second record; it remained through the end of the period, during which time it was seen by virtually every active observer in the state. It appeared to be of the Alaskan-Siberian race, *L.l. baueri*. Red Phalaropes were very scarce (1-5 per boat trip) in Sept. and Oct. until Oct. 23, when 2000 were seen at Pacific Grove (AB); then only small flocks (10-25) were found until Nov. 10-13, when thousands "crashed" on the coast from Arcata to Monterey during severe storms. Many remained on the coast through the end of the period. The high count came from Pacific Grove with 7000 seen Nov. 19 (AB). While similar crashes have occurred in past years, never before have they been accompanied by such widespread dispersal inland, perhaps



*Bar-tailed Godwit (right), Second Calif. record. Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. Oct. 26-November. Photo/Joel Hornstein.*

owing to the severity of the coastal storms. They were abundant far inside S.F. Bay at the Dumbarton Bridge (JH, LJ), and small flocks were throughout the Bay through the end of the period. One was even found cruising around a fancy swimming pool in Atherton (*fide* TC). The unparalleled number of records from inland localities are listed in Table 1; there were only three records from the C.V. prior to this fall.

**JAEGERS** — Normal to below normal numbers of Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were reported. The high count for Pomarines was 20 on Oct. 6 on Monterey Bay (VR, RS), but most boat trips had less than five. The ratio of adults to immatures averaged about 3:1 (BGE, VR). No more than two Parasitics were seen on any one boat trip. Single Parasitics were seen away from the coast at Oakland Oct. 2 (RS), Vallejo Oct. 10 (DBS), and San Luis Res., Merced Co., Oct. 3 (LK). Two Skuas were seen off Humboldt Co. Sept. 30 (RLeV, KG, AB *et al.*) and another was on Monterey Bay Oct. 6 (m. ob.).

**GULLS** — An early first-year Glaucous Gull was at Pajaro Dunes Sept. 14 - Oct. 3 (J&RW\*); other reports were one second-year bird at Limantour Nov. 22 (DG), a first-year at Pajaro Dunes Nov. 27 (J&RW), and two first-year birds at San Gregorio Beach, San Mateo Co., Nov. 30 (JMA). Herring Gulls were unusually common (10 times normal) at Arcata following Nov. oceanic storms; this species may be the commonest gull offshore and the storms probably drove them to the coast, where they are usually uncommon (RLeV). Franklin's Gulls were in Arcata Aug. 10 - Oct. 19 with as many as four present at one time on the Arcata oxidation ponds Sept. 29-30 (DA, DE, RLeV, TS). Additional single birds were at Monterey Oct. 17 (AB), L. Merced, San Francisco, Oct. 18 (JM\*), Coyote Hills Oct. 20 (J&SL), and s. Humboldt Bay Oct. 20 (RLeV, BB). Notice the closeness of these dates. All were immatures. An imm. **Laughing Gull** found by Stanley Harris at Arcata Sept. 4 was the third record for N. California. It was seen again on Sept. 5 & 18 (DE\*, RLeV, SS). On Nov. 23-24, 100-150 Bonaparte's Gulls at L. Shastina, Siskiyou Co., (TM) may have been driven inland by storms, since this is a huge number for an inland locality, especially so late in the year. Black-legged Kittiwakes were present in very small numbers from September through the end of the period, increasing slightly after the November storms.

Sabine's Gulls have been very scarce along the coast since at least 1969. It was not unusual to see over 100 on a fall boat trip prior to 1969, but since then, the greatest number seen on any one trip has declined rather steadily: 1968 (104), 1969 (45), 1970 (12), 1971 (4), 1972 (3), and this fall 15 on Oct. 7 on Monterey Bay (SFB, VR). With the vagaries of ocean currents and water temperatures, this is hopefully not indicative of a genuine population decline but of a change in migration route (to farther offshore). In any case the difference between the present and just a few years ago is striking; for instance, on Oct. 1, 1966, over 1000 were seen on a Monterey boat trip, which is about 15 times as many as have been seen in all of N. California 1969-1973.

Single late Sabine's Gulls were at Pt. Pinos Oct. 23 (AB), Monterey Harbor Nov. 8-15 (AB, MA *et al.*), and Arcata Oct. 24 - Nov. 6 (S. Harris, DE, TS, SS). McCaskie & DeBenedictis (*op. cit.*) list no records after late October, but since 1963 we have had eight November and one December records.

**TERNs** — A **Gull-billed Tern** was well-described from Grizzly Is., Solano Co., Nov. 10 by an observer (RG\*) thoroughly familiar with terns and Bonaparte's Gulls. This is the second record for N. California. Good numbers of Com. Terns were reported this fall, Aug. 10 - Oct. 25. The three biggest concentrations were 27 at Pajaro Dunes Sept. 3 (J&RW), 30 on n. Humboldt Bay in late Sept. (DE, TS, SS), and 59 at the B.B.T.P. Oct. 18 (SFB). Only small numbers of Arctic Terns were seen offshore Sept. 6 - Oct. 6, with ten the maximum on Monterey Bay Sept. 6 (AB). Two adults were inside S.F. Bay at the B.B.T.P. Aug. 5-13 (VR\*, SFB, DE, J&SL, JM, DR, ST) for the first record ever from inside S.F. Bay, and another adult was at the same spot Oct. 18-20 (SFB\*) for the latest reliable report ever from N. California. The only Least Terns reported were 1-2 at the B.B.T.P. Aug. 6-13 (DE, AP), and one was well-described from Conn L., Napa Co., Sept. 22 (SL\*); not only was this bird very late, but it was the first inland record for N. California. Two Royal Terns, now extremely rare in N. California, were at Moss Landing Aug. 30 (VA, W. Anderson), and two more were at Belmont on S.F. Bay Oct. 26 (BS). Elegant Terns were in normal numbers, remaining until at least Nov. 20 (RS). The largest concentration reported was 700 at Bolinas Lagoon Aug. 12 (SFB); one lone bird reached as far north as Eureka Sept. 24 (DE, TS, SS).

**ALCIDS** — Com. Murres were found inside S.F. Bay (1) on San Leandro Bay Aug. 12 - Sept. 12 (NS, ER, MLR); Emeryville (1) Aug. 21 (DE); Berkeley (2) Aug. 28 - Sept. 30 (AP, JR, D&JR *et al.*); and Oakland (1) Sept. 1 (ER). A **Thick-billed Murre** was found at Monterey Harbor Sept. 14 (AB\*) and another appeared with it Sept. 18 (KG, RLeV, JM, VR); both birds were seen by most active observers in N. California and were still present Nov. 10 (LCB). These were the eighth and ninth records for California, all of which have come from Monterey Bay. Apparently there are no other records anywhere else on the Pacific Coast south of Alaska, a very curious situation. A Pigeon Guillemot, extremely

rare inside S.F. Bay, was at Berkeley Aug. 28 - Sept. 3 (AP\*). Xantus' Murrelets were found on Monterey Bay as follows: one Sept. 14 (AB), two Sept. 22 (AB *et al.*), one Sept. 24 (TC), and two Oct. 6 (TC, VR, RS *et al.*). An Ancient Murrelet was found at the entrance to Bodega Harbor on the incredible date of Aug. 5 (VR\*, SFB, JM, DR *et al.*). This species is one of the latest birds to arrive (normally late Oct. or later) and one of the earliest to leave (normally no later than late March). However, this late summer appearance seems to be almost regular: we now have six sightings since 1963 of 10 birds from Bodega Bay to Pacific Grove, July 15 - Aug. 6, including four birds seen but not published last year at Santa Cruz July 15 (LWG). It is also very rarely seen inshore in winter, whereas all of these summer records are inshore. What accounts for this mysterious regular appearance at this strange time of year? The winter influx of Rhinoceros Auklets came early this year with 30 seen from Pt. Pinos Oct. 23 (AB). Tufted Puffins were seen with more than normal frequency: singles were at Pt. Pinos Aug. 17 (AB), Monterey Bay Sept. 22 & Oct. 6 (AB, GMCC *et al.*), off Sonoma Co. Oct. 14 (BDP), and three were off Half Moon Bay Sept. 29 (TC, BGE).

**PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — Large flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons were observed from Pt. Diablo during September and October (MLR *et al.*), but total numbers were lower than last fall. Band-taileds were scarce in the inner coast ranges and Sierra foothills, owing, perhaps, to poor live and blue oak acorn crops (DAG, MaA). Roadrunners were encountered at three localities in the coast ranges (BGE, AE, BKI) and at Payne's Creek, Tehama Co. (Charles Slay, *vide PM*). A Long-eared Owl in Fairhaven Oct. 24 was the third Humboldt Co. record (DE, TS). Another was at Maxwell, Colusa Co., Oct. 19 (B&AG). Up to 10 Short-eared Owls were present in the Arcata Bottoms after mid-October (*vide TS*). One near Red Buff Oct. 17 (SL) and seven at Willow Slough, Yolo Co., Nov. 28 (DAG) were the only reports from the C.V.; there were four additional coastal sightings. Migrant or wandering Saw-whet Owls turned up in Benicia Nov. 28 (FKB) and on the Farallones Oct. 13 (RS). A Poor-will at Crane Flat, Yosemite, Sept. 7 had probably wandered up-mountain after the nesting season (VR, DE, JM). One was found 10 mi. east of Chico Oct. 27 (AC) and four were at the s. end of Calaveras Reservoir Oct. 30 (BGE). An additional Poor-will at Fickle Hill, Humboldt Co., Oct. 10 is thought to be the fifth recorded on the northwest coast (TS).

**SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Migrant flocks of Vaux's Swifts were noted all along the coast between Sept. 8 (about 20, Pt. Diablo) and Oct. 9 (fairly common, Pt. Diablo) with a high count of at least 500 on Pt. Diablo Sept. 28 (MLR, SFB). Anna's Hummingbirds at an Oakland Hills feeder peaked at 50-100 between mid-August and mid-September (300-400 last year) and 10-20 were wintering (300 last year — VR). An abundance of natural foods nurtured by last year's rainfall probably accounts for this difference; the fall of 1972, by contrast, followed a drought. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds peaked in August and early September at S.F. Bay area and C.V. feeders and in mountain areas; most had departed by Sept. 15. One in Davis Oct. 15 was late (PB, DAG).



An Acorn Woodpecker reached the Farallones Sept. 26 (P.R.B.O.). A Lewis' Woodpecker appeared there Sept. 27 (RS), the same day five were observed from Pt. Diablo (WMP); they rarely reach the outer coast. Lewis' were scarce in the C.V. (BK, DAG) and the east slopes of Mt. Hamilton (BGE), but were more common than usual in Angwin and Pope Valley (WT); 150 were tallied along a 3-mi. stretch of road South of Lodoga, Colusa Co., Oct. 27 (DA). One was at Tilden Park, Berkeley, Sept. 18 (RD). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker on the n. side of Timber Gap, out of Mineral King, Tulare Co., Aug. 16, was a southernmost record for the species in the Sierra (SJ).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Three E. Kingbirds were observed this fall: an immature on Pt. Pinos Aug. 21-26 (MA, DDeS, JF), an immature near Davis Aug. 24-27 (DAG, PB *et al.*) and one on the Farallones Sept. 15 (P.R.B.O.). One and sometimes two Tropical Kingbirds were on the Monterey Pen. from Sept. 27 (KG, JM, VR) until the end of the period (MA *et al.*). One was at Rockport, Mendocino Co., Oct. 14 (TS, DE) and another was in the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 27 - Nov. 11 (DE, TS *et al.*). There were two reports of W. Kingbird from the n.w. coast: Westhaven Sept. 3 (RLeV) and south spit Humboldt Bay Sept. 29 (AB, KG, VR). One on Pt. Pinos Aug. 14-17 was the only other coastal sighting (SFB, DE). A **Least Flycatcher** was on the Farallones Sept. 26 (RS, P.R.B.O.). Exceptional was a ♂ **Vermilion Flycatcher** photographed at Conn L., Napa Co., Sept. 22 (SL) for the second N. California record.

Large migrating groups of Violet-green and Tree Swallows were encountered along the coast and in the C.V. during late September and early October. At least 3000 Trees, for instance, were at the Woodland Sugar Ponds Aug. 31 (DE, VR, SFB). Violet-green Swallows were passing the Thermolito Afterbay on the Feather R., Butte Co., Oct. 8 at a rate of 150/minute at 8:00 a.m. and 50/minute at noon — in sum, 24,000 birds in four hours (GN). Three Violet-greens lingered in Humboldt Co. until mid-November (DE, TS) and 20 were in Ukiah Nov. 26 (OJK). Ten thousand Barn Swallows "swarmed" above fields near Los Banos Sept. 29 (RBH). One on West Butte Road, Sutter Co., Nov. 4 was very late (BM). An imm. Purple Martin was at Hot Creek Ranch, Mono Co., Sept. 15 (PB).

**CORVIDS THROUGH MIMIDS** — Steller's Jays appeared at low elevations in the Sierra foothills in November (RBH, AC). At least two reached the Sacramento Valley: Red Bluff Oct. 31 and Corning Nov. 7 (SL). A Clark's Nutcracker was observed in the coast range west of Stonyford, Colusa Co., Oct. 27 (DA). A Black-capped Chickadee, rare in Humboldt Co., was at the mouth of the Mad R. Oct. 31 (Al Baman, *vide* DE, TS). Mountain Chickadees were discovered south of Mendocino Pass, Glenn Co., Aug. 4-5 (OJK) and west of Stonyford near the Colusa-Lake Co. line on Oct. 27 (DA). Red-breasted Nuthatches reached C.V. localities (Davis, Sacramento, Fresno), although in smaller numbers than last fall. A Winter Wren on the San Joaquin R. near Fresno was unusual (RBH).

For the third consecutive winter, a **Brown Thrasher** returned to a yard in Fairfax, Marin Co. (Morton

Wilson). A **Bendire's Thrasher** on the Farallones Sept. 2 was the first for N. California (P.R.B.O.). Sage Thrashers were observed at three localities west of the Cascade-Sierra divide: Gray Lodge Oct. 11 (BED), Arcata Oct. 18, the second Humboldt Co. record (DE) and San Jose Nov. 12 (photograph — B & CY).

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — American Robins disappeared from the mid-elevation Sierras, such as Calaveras S.P. and Yosemite Valley, in mid-November (MK, DAG); large influxes were noted in C.V. and coastal areas during this time. A **Veery** was convincingly studied on the Farallones Oct. 29 (RS); there is no official California record. A Mountain Bluebird in Arcata Nov. 2 - Dec. 2 was the third for Humboldt Co. (RLeV, DE, TS). A Townsend's Solitaire was observed two mi. northeast of L. Pillsbury, Lake Co., Oct. 14 (OJK).

At least eight Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, an exceptional number on the outer coast, were present near Pt. Diablo during the first week of Sept.; several were there near the end of September and one on Oct. 17 (MLR, VR). Other coastal sightings were three on Pt. Reyes Oct. 29 (PM) and two at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 3 (TC). October and November saw a major influx of Golden-crowned Kinglets in the C.V. and coastal lowlands; flocks of 5-30 were present in riparian and oak woodlands as well as coniferous habitats. Cedar Waxwings were thought to be less common than usual in C.V. and coastal areas despite an abundance of berries; an influx at the end of November, however, brought large numbers, at least to the Davis area (DAG) and the Monterey Pen. (AB). A Cedar Waxwing at New Pine Creek, Modoc Co., Aug. 12, may have nested locally (LJ). A Phainopepla on the Farallones Sept. 10 was new for the islands (P.R.B.O.). It was another good fall for N. Shrikes with three in the Humboldt Bay region in late Oct. and Nov. (DE, TS), one at Bodega Bay Oct. 27 (BDP, GLB), two in the vicinity of the Sutter Buttes Nov. 18 (BDP, JH), one at Gray Lodge Oct. 23 (BED) and one near Lodoga, Colusa Co., Oct. 27 (DA). Northerns outnumbered Loggerheads 2:1 at Tule Lake in early Nov. (BED). A Loggerhead Shrike, rare on the n.w. coast, was near Arcata Sept. 5-8 (*vide* DE, TS). The eastern "plumbeous" race of the Solitary Vireo was observed at Manila, Humboldt Co., Sept. 3 (RLeV\*).

**WOOD WARBLERS** — Most western warblers, with the exception of Yellow-rumped, passed through our region in August and the first half of Sept. Largest numbers were encountered in the riparian thickets of the C.V. Along an 0.5 mi. stretch of Putah Creek west of Davis, for instance, an average 55 Orange-crowns, 20 Yellows, 12 MacGillivrays, 8 Nashvilles, 7 Wilson's, 7 Yellowthroats, 4 Black-throated Grays, 2 Hermits and 1 Yellow-breasted Chat were observed on each of eight mornings between Aug. 8 and Sept. 9 (DAG, PB, Dave Shuford *et al.*). Along the outer coast, by contrast, there were only 3 Nashvilles, 3 MacGillivray's and no Black-throated Grays reported.

A late Nashville Warbler was at Point Reyes Oct. 29 (PM). A Black-throated Gray Warbler on Vasona Peak, Santa Clara, Nov. 27 may have been wintering (JMA). A Townsend's Warbler at Clear L. in the Warner Mtns. Aug. 13 was our first report from Modoc Co. (DAG). Two Townsend's Aug. 31 along the Sacramento R. near

Table 2. Sightings of vagrant warblers on the outer coast, August - November, 1973.

Species	Monterey Pen.	San Francisco	Farallones	Marin - Sonoma Cos.	Humboldt Co.
Black-and-white	9/29, imm ♂ (DR)	10/23, imm ♂ (DR)		10/6, imm ♂ (KG, DR)	11/26 (TS, RLeV)
<b>Golden-wg. X Blue-wg.</b>					10/1 (DE*, TS <i>et al.</i> )
Tennessee	9/23 (DDeS); 10/14 (BY)		9/6 (P.R.B.O.)	9/29, imm (S&JL)	
Virginia's			9/2 (P.R.B.O.)		
Magnolia	9/29, imm ♂ (DR, DDeS)		9/30; 10/1 (P.R.B.O.); 10/18 (RS)	9/15 (GC*)	
<b>Cape May</b>			9/9; 9/30 (P.R.B.O.)		
Black-throated Blue			9/30; 10/14-17; 10/18 (P.R.B.O.), RS)	10/1-2, ad. (MLR*, WMP; 10/27-29, ad. ♂ (DE*, S&JL* <i>et al.</i> )	
<b>Black-throated Green</b>			11/23 (P.R.B.O.)		
Blackburnian			10/15, 2; 10/18 (RS, P.R.B.O.)		
Chestnut-sided			9/21, imm ♂ (RS)	9/15, imm ♂ (GC*); 10.5 imm ♂ (MLR*, WMP); 10/10, imm (MLR*, WMP)	
Blackpoll	9/21 (AB); 10/5-7, up to 8 (RS, GM, S&JL <i>et al.</i> ); 10/13 (JM); 10/17, 2 (MAY)	10/4 (DDeS); 10/18, 2 (JM)	8/10; 9/3; 9/11, 3 (P.R.B.O.); 9/19-28, 5 (RS); 10/13-20, 1 (RS)	9/29 (S&JL); 9/29-10/11, 2 (WMP, S&JL); 10/10 (MLR, WMP)	9/10 (DE, TS); 9/30-10/1 (DE, TS, RS <i>et al.</i> ); 10/7 (DE, TS); 10/10 (DE, TS)
<b>Pine</b>			9/21 (RS)		
Prairie	10/7 (JL*, B&CY*, RS, TM)				10/18-20 (RLeV*, DE*, TS)
Palm	10/7 (JM, S&JL, RS, TM); 10/17, 2 (MAY); 11/3 (TC)		9/19-28, 7 (RS); 10/4-9 4 (P.R.B.O.) 10/13-20, 6 (RS)	9/18 (HK); 9/28 (LJ); 11/3, 2 (VR)	10/20 (RLeV); 10/21 (DE, TS)
Northern Waterthrush			8/30 (P.R.B.O.)		
<b>Hooded</b>	10/7, ♂ (JL*, B&CY*, RS, TM)				
<b>Canada</b>			8/8 (P.R.B.O.)		
American Redstart**	10/7 (B&CY, RS, JL)		9/2-11/3, 6 (P.R.B.O.)	10/1, 2 (WMP, DR)	8/26; 9/23 (RLeV)

\*\*An additional American Redstart was sighted at Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co., Sept. 29 (PM, DE, TS *et al.*)

Elkhorn, Yolo Co., the only sightings this fall from the C.V., indicate its scarcity there (DE, VR). At least 12 Hermit Warblers on Pt. Reyes Aug. 5 was a large and early concentration (DR, VR *et al.*). One at Inverness Nov. 3 (KG, VR) and Nov. 24 (MLR) was probably wintering.

Nineteen species of vagrant warblers were reported this fall. Sightings from outer coastal localities are summarized in Table 2. Largest aggregations occurred Sept. 28 - Oct. 1 and Oct. 5-7 during which times high pressure east of California resulted in the weakening of our usual westerly winds. On Sept. 28, for instance, easterlies prevailed from Utah to the California coast. Ten species of vagrant warblers were found during the next four days including our ninth fall **Cape May Warbler** on the Farallones Sept. 29 (P.R.B.O.) and a **Blue-winged X Golden-winged** intragregant near Arcata Oct. 1 (TS\*, DE\* *et al.*). There are two previous records for Golden-winged and one for Blue-winged in our region. Other noteworthy coastal vagrants were (see Table 2 for dates and observers): **Cape May Warbler** on the Farallones (8th fall record), **Black-throated Green Warbler** on the Farallones (5th fall record), **Pine Warbler** on the Farallones (2nd Regional record), **Hooded Warbler** at the Carmel Rivermouth (5th fall record) and a **Canada Warbler** on the Farallones (7th fall record). Away from the coast a ♂ **Northern Parula** was present at Arroyo Mocho, Alameda Co., Aug. 12 - Sept. 18 (AE\*, JL\*, MLR, WMP, VR *et al.*). Blackpolls were observed in Santa Rosa Oct. 4, 11 & 21 (GLB). A Palm Warbler was at Olema marsh Nov. 3 (SFB). An ad. ♂ Am. Redstart was in Tilden Park, Berkeley Aug. 25 (MM) and another was in Rock Creek Canyon, Mono Co., Aug. 24 (JD).

#### —S.A.—

We missed an important chance to discover something about the origins of vagrant Eastern warblers when a Black-throated Blue Warbler was discovered this fall with a band, and the observers, fearing that the bird would be collected to read the band, kept the fact to themselves until the bird left. All evidence so far indicates that these vagrant warblers are oriented in a westerly direction and are doomed to die in the ocean. Reading this band could have given us some important insight into this problem, and it could have been done by mist-netting, rather than collecting, the bird. But even collecting may have been preferable to the meaningless and agonizing death this bird may have found far offshore. Hopefully, our observers will show more understanding if this opportunity occurs again.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH LONGSPURS** — The only Bobolinks of the fall were individual birds on the Farallones Sept. 21 & 27 (RS). The Baltimore race of the N. Oriole was seen on the Farallones Sept. 22 (RS). A Summer Tanager found dead in Palo Alto Sept. 24 proved to belong to the eastern *rubra* race (Gayle McDonald, *fide* Ned K. Johnson). Another Summer Tanager, a brilliant male in Springville, Tulare Co., Sept. 25, was the first non-coastal sighting in the Region (MEM).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the Farallones Sept. 28 was the only one of the fall (RS, P.R.B.O.). A very late Black-headed Grosbeak was in Fairhaven, Humboldt

Co., Oct. 24 (DE, TS *et al.*). An Indigo Bunting arrived on the Farallones Aug. 15 (P.R.B.O.). Evening Grosbeaks reached the C.V. (Chico, Davis) and other lowland localities (Napa, Angwin, coastal Humboldt Co.) in October and November, but were not as numerous as last fall. Similarly, numbers of Purple Finch were down from those of 1972, although the species reached many C.V. and coastal localities. Fifty-five passed Pt. Diablo in 2.75 hours Oct. 13 (VR). Pine Siskins were numerous throughout the lowlands by Nov. Along the coast, flocks of Red Crossbills were encountered in Pacific Grove Nov. 5 (Vern Yadon), Inverness Oct. 28 (BDP), Angwin and vicinity throughout the period (WT) and Prairie Creek Aug. 10 and Sept. 1 (PM).

A Green-tailed Towhee wandered to the Farallones Aug. 30 (P.R.B.O.). Three along Putah Creek west of Davis during the last week of August suggests it is a regular C.V. migrant (PB, DAG *et al.*). Four Lark Buntings were reported: Farallones Sept. 26 (RS), Elverta, Sacramento Co., Oct. 30-31 (RS) and two on West Butte Road, Sutter Co., Nov. 18 (RS). A Grasshopper Sparrow was found on Pt. Reyes Nov. 3 (SFB). At least 11 Vesper Sparrows in coastal Humboldt Co. was an unusual number; they are rare but regular there in fall (DE, TS). A Lark Sparrow was in the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 18-21 and two were there Oct. 26; there is one previous record for the Humboldt Bay region (DE, TS). An imm. Black-throated Sparrow near Fresno Sept. 29 was the third Fresno Co. record and the first for the C.V. (RBH\*, KH, JS). A Tree Sparrow reached the Farallones Oct. 12 (P.R.B.O.). Six Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded: Farallon Is., Aug. 26, Sept. 15 & Oct. 19 (RS, P.R.B.O.), Bolinas Lagoon Sept. 16 (DDeS), Bolinas Mesa Sept. 17 (P.R.B.O.) and Arcata Oct. 4 (RLeV\*, DE\*, TS *et al.*). A Brewer's Sparrow was at Fort Barry, Marin Co., Oct. 9 (JM\*).

White-throated Sparrows were reported from one C.V. and 10 coastal localities. A Swamp Sparrow found at the Rodeo Lagoon, Oct. 9 (BY\*) was seen again Oct. 16 (MLR). Lapland Longspurs were present Oct. 10 & 27 on the Farallones (P.R.B.O.), Oct. 11 in Arcata (TS, DE), Oct. 27 near Tomales (RS, VR *et al.*) and as many as 15 on Pt. Reyes Oct. 29 - Nov. 11 (SFB, VR, AE, JL). A Chestnut-collared Longspur in the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 3 was the first Humboldt Co. record (DE\*, TS). Another was on the Farallones Oct. 19 (RS, P.R.B.O.) and three were at Pt. Reyes Nov. 3 (KG, VR). A Snow Bunting was observed at Duncan's Landing near Bodega Bay Nov. 25 (LWG\*, AG).

\*An asterisk after an observer's initials indicates that the full details, in the forms of our lengthy sight record report form or facsimile, are kept on file with the regional editors.

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