

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION /Rich Stallcup, Jon Winter

We've had a different kind of winter this period in Northern California. Through the end of January there had been only eight drier winters on record and several contributors remarked on general concern for a drought to follow. February and March, however, were months of heavy rain and snow which brought the seasonal precipitation totals equal to and in many places, especially the Sierras, to points above normal. Unusually strong winds in late March knocked out nests of many Great Horned Owls, White-tailed Kites and Red-tailed Hawks in the Central Valleys (below C.V.) but follow-up observations revealed promising reconstruction efforts by those species (RS, BED, DG). Probably owing to the dry and rather warm December and January, once again, many of our typical "summer only" species remained late but most had departed or died by mid-February. Several observers noted birds still migrating through mid-December.



The annual winter waterfowl survey conducted by the California Department of Fish and Game (below C.F.G.) in mid-January tallied 5,195,000 ducks, seven per cent less than last year but 25 per cent above the 21-year average. Geese were down about 10 per cent from last year with 595,000, probably owing to available water remaining to the north and a record kill by hunters. On public hunting areas alone the largest number of hunters ever took 278,428 birds which is 68 per cent higher than last year. Hunter success is near totally dependent upon the weather, a dry year which concentrates birds to shooting areas is better than a wet year which spreads birds to inaccessible areas (BED). Last winter ('73-'74) was really wet throughout the shooting season, yielding a very low kill. Fowl cholera struck again this winter and by the end of February over 1100 swans, 4000 coots and lesser numbers of ducks and geese had perished. As mentioned in the fall report, montane and northern invasion species were scarce and the late, stormy periods

did not bring them into the region. Some species of early spring migrants were notably late, possibly owing to the bad weather and those which did appear were concentrated in the lowlands. Three species were new to the Region and five other species supplied the first winter records.

A dagger (†) means that the observer has submitted an acceptable description.

LOONS, GREBES AND TUBENOSES — A Yellow-billed Loon near Monterey Jan. 24-Feb. 16 (m.ob.) and one at King Salmon Feb. 23 (m.ob.) were the only ones reported. Common Loons were in good numbers both coastally and at the usual inland lakes and one at Lewiston L., Jan. 15-23 (DE, DA *et al.*) was the first Trinity Co. record. Red-throated Loons were lightly reported and 46 on the Oakland CBC was far below the 140 last year with equal coverage. All species of grebes were reported in good numbers. Horned Grebes were especially numerous with 29 reported inland and higher-than-usual numbers on the coast. On the Oakland CBC, 656 individuals were 287 more than last year with equal coverage. Many fewer pelagic bird trips were made than last year and thus, many fewer pelagic birds were reported. The only Black-footed Albatrosses reported were five, 22 mi. off Humboldt Bay Feb. 22 (TS, DE) and the high count of a one week cruise was nine on Mar. 1, 36°10.5'N, 125°2.4'W. With these latter Black-footeds, two Laysan Albatrosses were reported (SMP). Northern Fulmars were very scarce this winter with only three reported. Pink-footed Shearwaters, which normally do not winter, but arrive in late March, were reported as two in Monterey Bay Feb. 1 (J&SL, GMc) and 20 there Feb. 22 (JM *et al.*). Usual small numbers of Sooty Shearwaters were reported including 15 from Pt. Pinos Dec. 27 (RS, BW), and two or three Short-tailed Shearwaters were seen on Monterey Bay Feb. 1 & 22 (JM, JL *et al.*) which complement last winter's observations. One or two Manx Shearwaters also on Feb. 22 (JM, RD *et al.*) are additional to our very few records for winter or spring. No Storm-Petrels were noted.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — White Pelicans were down in numbers both on the coast and in the C.V., the most being 150 five mi. n.w. of Winters Jan. 18 (DG). A few Brown Pelicans lingered through December which is normal, and the last reported were five adults and one immature off Pt. Pinos Jan. 12 (SFB). All were gone from Monterey Bay Feb. 15 (JM). On Mar. 3, 100 Double-crested Cormorants were at Gray Lodge but numbers rapidly decreased after that date (BED). One Brandt's Cormorant Feb. 8 at Crescent City was the only one found on the north coast (TS, DE). Green Herons were found in normal numbers but a total of five during the period on the north coast was considered "very high" (DE, TS). Cattle Egrets are only slowly increasing in this region and 41 reported is just slightly higher than the previous best period (fall 1972). A Black-crowned Night Heron roost in the Loleta Bottoms was destroyed by road builders and left 250 birds standing in the open on Jan. 11 (DE, TS *et al.*). Other known roosts were healthy. A Least Bittern was seen at Sacramento N.W.R. Dec. 16 and there were sporadic reports at Gray Lodge in December and

January (BED). American Bitterns are most common in this region in the Los Banos area where 11 were counted along a four mi. stretch of roadway Feb. 9 (BM, RS). Two or three were at Lower Klamath L. in December and January (ODS).

WATERFOWL — See the introductory paragraphs for comment on total populations, the hunting season and a cholera outbreak. Whistling Swans were in good numbers after the February rains and several thousand wintered at flooded rice fields between Oroville and Knight's Landing. Swans were the species hardest hit by the cholera and by the end of February 1100 had died. An ad. **Bewick's Swan** and three imm. swans either Bewick's or Bewick's X Whistling hybrids were on Hog L., 7 mi. n.e. of Red Bluff with about 200 Whistling. Found Jan. 13 by Laymon, they were seen by many, photographed and well described through Jan. 24. An adult (GSK) and an immature (SAL) thought to be different birds from those at Hog L. were seen west of Oroville Feb. 4. These are the first reported from California. Details and speculations should appear elsewhere in the literature. Black Brant peaked at Humboldt Bay with 40,000 on Apr. 1 (Henry, *vide* DE). More Ross' Geese (33) were shot at Mendota than any other species (*vide* RH) and 3000 were grazing in fields near Merced Refuge Feb. 9 (DDeS, JF). These areas are the main wintering grounds for the entire species. Four Fulvous Tree ducks at Mendota Jan. 5 (RLH) were unusual and 16 at Woodland Mar. 2 (RS, DW) were early and were an exceptional number. A ♂ Mallard X Gadwall was banded at Gray Lodge Jan. 28 (BED). Five Eur. Green-winged Teal reported is just average. West of Los Banos Ref., 900 Am. Green-winged Teal early and were an exceptional number. A ♂ Mallard X **Two ♂ Baikal Teal** were taken by hunters, one at Honey L., Dec. 1 (*vide* C.F.G.) and an immature at Gray Lodge Jan. 4 (*vide* BED). The latter bird is to be deposited in the collection of Cal. State University, Humboldt. These are the first records for our region, but recent records from s. California, the Northwest and Alaska seem to be revealing a pattern suggesting that the birds may be getting here on their own. A ♂ Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal was at Los Banos Feb. 20 (BED)-Mar. 29 (PM). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was near L. Shastina Dec. 29 (AC *et al.*), which is unusual. Five near Loleta Jan. 18 (KT) were ten days earlier than ever in Humboldt Co. and 200 there Feb. 11 (KT, DA) was an exceptional number. European Wigeon were well represented with at least 25 different males and two definite hybrids with Am. Wigeon. Redheads were scarce as were Ring-necked Ducks. A male bird, thought to be a **Ring-necked X Tufted Duck** was at Rodeo Lagoon Mar. 26 through the end of the period (RS †LCB *et al.*) Contrasting with other divers, Canvasbacks were definitely up from the last few winters, doubtless the result of a hunting ban. Four Greater Scaup were noted inland. Common and Barrow's Goldeneye were more common than ever both on foothill rivers and coastal lagoons. On the American R. below Nimbus Dam 300 Commons and 30 Barrow's were eating dead salmon through mid-February but were gone shortly after that probably because of high and rushing dirty water (RS, DW). On the Oakland CBC, 1134 Commons (265 in 1974) and 24 Barrow's (11 in 1974) (SFB) were

exceptional increases near the coast. Eighty-one Barrow's reported were by far the most ever. The imm. ♂ White-winged Scoter at Avocado L. was still present Feb. 20 (RH, KH *et al.*). Black Scoters were up noticeably from the norm. Hooded Mergansers were high with 41 total, the most together being 15 at Foster City Feb. 21 (PM). Common Mergansers were also up and 110 at Redding Dec. 30 (RS, DW), 120 near Friant Jan. 19 (RH *et al.*) and 166 at Fremont Jan. 13 (EM) were exceptional flocks. A ♂ Red-breasted Merganser at Redding Dec. 26-Jan. 15 (m.ob.) was the only one reported inland.

RAPTORS — See the opening remarks for information on nest destruction by wind. White-tailed Kites were thought by several observers to be very high in the S.F. Bay region and the C.V. but far down at the Pajaro R. mouth (J&RW) and S. Humboldt Bay (DA). Cooper's Hawks were slightly up and Sharp-shinned Hawks slightly down from the winter average. Six "Harlan's" Hawks were reported. Two Broad-winged Hawks were seen. One was "flying south" in Golden Gate Park Dec. 13 (LCB, VR) and an extremely pale individual was at Monterey from Dec. 26 (Chappel) through the end of the period (m. ob.). Swainson's Hawks returned to the C.V. in mid-March, as usual. Rough-legged Hawks were in good but not great numbers but 35 Ferruginous Hawks reported is more than the normal winter average. Golden Eagles are doing well in the region and 59 were reported. Bald Eagles also were reported in very high numbers and were at more localities and farther south in the region than is usual. Of 109 reported only 60 were in the Great Basin areas. Over 30 Prairie Falcons and 19 Merlins reported were encouraging numbers but only nine Peregrines follow the downhill slide of the species. American Kestrels were up on the Oakland CBC to 136 from 91 in 1974 (SFB).

CHICKENS TO COOTS — A single Ruffed Grouse was again booming at Tish-tang Campground near Willow Creek Mar. 31 (S&JL). No Mountain Quail were found in Butte Canyon (700 ft.) this winter where they were nearly common last year (AC). Three were at Rockwell Gap, Yolo Co. Mar. 28&29 for a first county record (DG). A Sandhill Crane at Mallard Res., Contra Costa Co., Dec. 29 was the first county record (JR *et al.*) Migrant cranes were seen over Balls Ferry Rd., Shasta Co., 250 on Feb. 24 (BED) and over Folsom L., seven on Mar. 9 (RS, DW) and 30 on Mar. 22 (RS *et al.*). A Black Rail was at Benecia S.P. Dec. 22 (JR *et al.*) and one was heard at Kehoe Marsh, Marin Co. Feb. 27 (RS).

SHOREBIRDS — On the Oakland CBC Snowy Plovers made their saddest showing since 1956 and only nine could be found (SFB). Over 200 Mountain Plovers were in the Panoche Valley in February and March. Of 19 Am. Golden Plovers reported 16 wintered on Pt. Reyes, a very low number. Long-billed Curlews winter in large numbers in the C.V. and 3000 in the Thornton area Feb. 9 (BM, RS) are representative. A few Spotted Sandpipers were on the American R. until Feb. 15 when rains swelled the water level (RS, DW). Lesser Yellowlegs were in better numbers than average by about 25 per cent in the C.V. and along the coast. A single Rock Sandpiper was on Ducksbury Reef Feb. 27

(RS). Those at Bodega and Humboldt remained at least through February. Twice as many Dunlins as wintered on Bolinas Lagoon in '73-'74 were present there this winter (P.R.B.O.). Of over 5000 dowitchers at Palo Alto Jan. 11, most were identified as Short-billeds (DDeS). This is the predominant species in S.F. Bay in winter. Marbled Godwits unrecorded in the north C.V. in winter seem to be regular in small numbers near Los Banos. Six were seen separately there Dec. 19 (RS, BM). The Martinez Ruff (AB: 29: 115), was seen until Feb. 23 (m.ob.). Another bird, thought to be a Reeve was seen 3 mi. e. of Benecia Feb. 16-18 (RDeC, RS† *et al.*) and another Ruff was at Los Banos W.S. Mar. 23 (LPM†) and again Mar. 29 (PM). It seems certain that at least four different birds were seen in the region since last fall. Black-necked Stilts are moving northward in the C.V. and into east S.F. Bay. On the Oakland CBC, 22 were counted versus only one in 1974. Red Phalaropes did not come onshore and one at Monterey Feb. 15 & 22 (m.ob.) was the only phalarope reported.

JAEGERS, GULLS, ALCIDS — At least four Pomarine and two Parasitic Jaegers were seen along the Pacific Grove shore Dec. 27 (BW, RS) and a single unidentified jaeger 8 mi. w. of Humboldt Feb. 22 was the first winter county record (DE, TS *et al.*). Seven Glaucous Gulls on the coast was a normal number but two, one second-year Jan. 20 (*fide* BK) and one first-year Feb. 9 (*fide* BK) and Feb. 10 (RS†) were our first inland records. A first-year Glaucous-winged Gull at Tahoe Keys Jan. 17 (WS) and at least four on the American R. near Sacramento Jan. 4-Feb. 15 (DW, RS *et al.*) were good inland records, as were at least five Herring Gulls at Tahoe Keys in January and February. (WS). Herrings are regular and even common in the Sacramento-Davis area in those months. Western Gulls are still increasing at Palo Alto where other gull species are declining (DDeS, JF). Birders' awareness of the Thayer's Gull is producing ever-increasing records and 43 were reported. This is no doubt only a small fraction of the numbers truly present. Heavy rains in early February brought large numbers of Ring-billed Gulls into the C.V. and 2500 were estimated near Thornton Feb. 9 (RS, BM). Mew Gulls were more common inland than is usual and 112 were found there (AE, PM, RS). On the south coast numbers were low possibly owing to lack of early rain (DDeS). The imm. Franklin's Gull near Moss Landing was seen through Dec. 21 (JiM, RM) and an adult was there Jan. 14 (PM, BS). The first regional Little Gull was found at Zumowski S.P. Jan. 19 (BJM†) was seen by many, photographed and well described through Mar. 1 (m.ob.). It was in the first winter plumage. Following the fall invasion of Heermann's Gulls, many remained later than ever in Monterey Bay until at least Jan. 4 (J&RW, m.ob.). Large numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes wintered on the coast (m.ob.) but one adult in Butte Canyon near Chico Jan. 11 (AC *et al.*) was a real surprise. An imm. Sabine's Gull at Bodega Head Mar. 8 (JH †) was one of our very few winter records.

A Thick-billed Murre was present at Monterey harbor from Jan. 19 to at least Feb. 22 (m.ob.). The presence of these birds year after year is undeniable. Their origin, however, remains a mystery. As usual, about 15 Pigeon Guillemots wintered at Monterey (m.ob.), but one at

King Salmon Feb. 23-Mar. 1 (TS, DE *et al.*) was the first Humboldt County winter record. Marbled and Ancient Murrelets were reported in normal small numbers as were Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets. In Monterey Bay, however, both these latter species roost and huge numbers may be seen leaving at dawn. On Dec. 27 1500 Cassin's and 12,000 Rhinos were carefully estimated passing Pt. Pinos. (RS, GM, BW). Another Horned Puffin was found dead at the Pajaro R. mouth (J&RW).

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS — Band-tailed Pigeons were "virtually non-existent" in the Palo Alto area this winter (DDeS). A single bird at 6800 ft. at Pinecrest Camp, El Dorado Co., Feb. 2 was noteworthy (WS). Single Roadrunners were reported at Hog L. near Red Bluff (B&CY *et al.*), near Willits (OJK), calling south of Rockwell Gap, Yolo Co. (DG), and Del Puerto Canyon, Mar. 24 (WMP). Barn Owls were "common over the Oroville residential areas" where up to 75 were noted during the period (GN). A single bird near Fickle Hill, Humboldt Co. Feb. 18 was reported as part of an owl survey conducted there (DE). Ten Screech Owls were found on the same survey over a ten mile stretch of road Feb. 18. (DE). A record 146 Great Horned Owls were reported near Fickle Hill Feb. 18 (DE), two birds were on nests at Los Banos Ref., Mar. 13 (J&SL) and an adult and two young were found at Coyote Hills Park Mar. 24 (J&SL). Single Pygmy Owls were reported from Pinecrest Camp on Feb. 26 (WS) and at Janesville, Lassen Co., Dec. 31 (RS, DW) where their status is unclear. Six birds at each of two locations; Robinson Canyon, Monterey Co., Feb. 15 ((RS, VR, LCB) and Pescadero Jan. 14 (PM) suggest that this species is more common in the coast ranges of the region than in the Sierra Nevada.

Spotted Owls appeared in two locations in Butte Co. A single bird was in the Chico Cemetery Jan. 31-Feb 2 and was seen by many observers. Another was seen in Butte Creek Canyon Mar. 8 (AC). Burrowing Owls were reported as holding their own along the coast (if they can stay ahead of the bulldozer) at Palo Alto (DDeS, BY) and at the Oakland Airport, where 19 birds were seen Dec. 15 on the Oakland CBC (*fide* SFB). Since this owl is rare along the coast north of Marin Co., three reports from Humboldt Co., of one bird on the south spit, Jan. 30, (DA), two birds in the Arcata River Bottoms January - March (DE), and two birds at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Feb. 26 (DE) are particularly noteworthy. Winter reports of Long-eared Owls were conspicuously low. Single birds were reported at Merced N.W.R., Jan. 15 (TC, B&CY), and the Berkeley City Dump Dec. 15 (LCB) while two individuals were found at Gray Lodge Ref., Jan. 19 (LCB). Up to 18 Short-eared Owls wintered on the Palo Alto shore despite the nuisance of dogs and off-road vehicles (B&CY). This species was "very scarce" along the north coast at Humboldt Bay (DE) as well as in the Lower Klamath Basin (ODS) throughout the period. Saw-whet Owls were reported in usual numbers along the coast with the exception of a remarkable 16 birds on the 10 mi. road survey near Fickle Hill, Feb. 18 (DE).

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Poor-will was reported from the Lake Ranch, Pt. Reyes N.S. Dec.8 (BM). With the exception of some 400 birds at Putah Creek Feb. 6 (DD, WP), White-throated Swifts were reported in normal numbers along the coast and in one Sierran foothill location. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird appeared again at a feeder in Hidden Valley Jan. 23 (*fide* BK). The first report of Rufous Hummingbird arrival was Feb. 10 at Arcata (DE). A single male was at Calaveras S.P. in the Sierra foothills, where it is scarce in spring, Mar. 2. Allen's Hummingbirds were first noted near the coast Jan. 25 (Marie Mans) at Lafayette. Three pure "Yellow-shafted" Flickers (2 females & 1 male) were seen in Humboldt Co. at Loleta Jan. 30 & Mar. 22 and the Arcata River Bottoms Feb. 16 (TS, DA). Others were two females all winter at Sacramento (RS, GM *et al.*), one at Bodega Head Dec. 12 (WMP) and one on the Oakland CBC (*fide* SB). This race is only a winter visitant to our region. An encouraging number of Pileated Woodpecker reports were submitted with one Feb. 17 near Boggs Mtn., Lake Co., one 5 mi. w. of Ukiah (OJK), two at the U.C.C. Camp near Cazadero Mar. 2 (m.ob.) and single birds at Calaveras S.P. Jan. 19 (MK), Mirror L., Yosemite N.P. Dec. 27 (GB), and Bothe-Napa S.P. Mar. 30 (JW). Up to 25 Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported Dec. 4-Mar.30 in the Red Bluff area (SAL) and a "large concentration" was noted at the n. end of L. Berryessa Jan. 11 (BP). An out-of-range Williamson's Sapsucker was seen at Los Altos Hills Dec. 25 (*fide* DR). Hairy Woodpeckers have been observed to decline in the past 12-15 years in c. Contra Costa Co. Nuttall's Woodpeckers appear to be continuing their range extension north on the S.F. Peninsula. During the winter period they were found in two locations on Jasper Ridge and on the Stanford Univ. campus (DDeS, JF). A single Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen Dec. 30 at Pinecrest Camp (WS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CHICKADEES — The well-documented Thick-billed Kingbird that appeared last fall at McLaren Park in San Francisco was last reported Dec. 8 (LCB). A Tropical Kingbird remained in San Francisco until Dec. 19 (*fide* DR). A Cassin's Kingbird was seen and photographed near Little Table Mtn., Madera Co., Mar. 7-9 (KH⁺, BW *et al.*). The status of this species in the region is still unclear but the number of records for the San Joaquin Valley is increasing and it may prove to be regular there. Two very cold Black Phoebe were well described on the Mt. Shasta CBC Dec. 29 (AC, RS). Say's Phoebe were noticeably scarce in the S.F. Bay Region during the period (DDeS, JF, WMP). An early W. Flycatcher was noted north of Upper L., Lake Co. Mar. 16 (OJK). Early (or late?) reports of Violet-green Swallows at Sunol Jan. 1 (AE) and at Solano L. Jan. 26 (TL) were noteworthy, with single birds at each location. Tree Swallows were inspecting nest holes at the Oroville Borrow Jan. 25 (GN). A very early or wintering Rough-winged Swallow was at Merced Ref., Feb. 2 (TC, B&CY). A wintering Barn Swallow at Kesterson W.A. Dec. 19-23 was lacking several primaries (RS, BM). Cliff Swallows were beginning to nest Feb. 8 at San Luis Ref. (DDeS).

They arrive in the C. V. a full three weeks before they do on the coast. The only report of Gray Jays was of ten birds at Van Damme S.P. Dec. 26 (OJK). A Yellow-billed Magpie flying over the corner of Columbus and Montgomery streets in S.F. (BE) was certainly out of place. Since no recent records for Plain Titmouse are known from the Honey L. Basin a report of a single bird at Janesville Dec. 31 is of interest (RS, DW).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAXWINGS — Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce throughout the region. Normal numbers of Dippers were reported in the coast ranges. Unusual was the presence of two or three Winter Wrens at Pinecrest until Jan. 1 reflecting mild early winter conditions at high elevations (WS). Mockingbirds continue to increase in Humboldt Co., with at least six birds reported there (*vide* DE). Single Sage Thrashers were reported from Sacramento Dec. 1 (*vide* BK) from Lost Lake CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* RH) and from near Talmage, Mendocino Co. Dec. 24-Jan. 1 (OJK). Robins were generally low compared to most winters and several observers noted very low numbers of Varied Thrushes. The Oakland CBC data indicated that this species was down by 80 per cent from their numbers last winter (*vide* SFB). Mountain Bluebirds staged a significant down slope movement late in the period possibly due the heavy snows in the mountains. At least 250 were noted in C. V. and near the coast (m.ob.). Four Townsend's Solitaires wintered along the coast at Humboldt Co., (*vide* TS) and seven birds were reported from scattered locations in the C.V. (m.ob.). Bluegray Gnatcatchers were seen in coastal locations wintering from Marin Co. to Monterey Co. Only two reports of Bohemian Waxwings were received, both of which were from the Sacramento area, Jan. 22 & Feb. 4 (*vide* BK).

SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS — More-than-normal numbers of N. Shrikes reached the region, with a total of 17 birds reported, all from interior locations. A single Solitary Vireo that most likely wintered was singing at Sweetwater Creek, Folsom Lake Mar. 9 (RS, BM, DW). Last fall's influx of "eastern" warblers and the mild early winter conditions contributed to a large number of wintering warbler reports throughout the region. Black-and-white Warblers were found at Tilden Park, Berkeley Dec. 15-16, (*vide* DR) at Pilarcitos Creek, Half Moon Bay (PM, BS), near Fortuna and in S. Eureka Dec. 29 & Jan. 15 respectively (*vide* TS). The second, third and fourth winter records of Tennessee Warbler were noted on the Farallon Is. Dec. 4, (P.R.B.O.) in Golden Gate Park Jan. 18 (WMP) and at Ferndale Dec. 12-Jan. 19 (DA *et al.*) A total of 11 Nashville Warblers was reported along the coast from Arcata to Monterey which is about eight times the normal number for winter. The Lucy's Warbler reported for the fall period Farallon Is. Dec. 4, (P.R.B.O.) in Golden Gate Park Jan. 18 (WMP) and at Ferndale Dec. 12-Jan. 19 (DA *et al.*) A total of 11 Nashville Warblers was reported along the coast from Arcata to Monterey which is about eight times the normal number for winter. The Lucy's Warbler reported for the fall period (AB: 29.117) is probably the same bird seen Jan. 25 at the Carmel R. mouth (BP, GLB). Another **Lucy's Warbler** was seen at Pacific Grove Dec. 27 and constitutes the

third winter record for the Region (RS†, BW, GM). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** found wintering in Portola Valley, Jan. 1-Mar. 3, represents the first winter record for the Region (m.ob.).

Yellow-rumped Warblers of both races were found on both the Honey Lake and Mount Shasta CBCs, all of which are first count records. Black-throated Gray Warblers were found at two interior and two coastal locations for a total of four birds which is about twice the normal number in winter. A startling 38 Townsend's Warblers were recorded on the Centerville CBC (*vide* TS). A single Hermit Warbler found at Coyote Hills Dec. 14 was the only one reported (J&SL, RS, GM). An unusually high number of Palm Warblers totaling nine birds was found in five coastal locations from San Francisco to Monterey Co. and an additional three birds were present in Humboldt Co. (*vide* TS, DE). A N. Waterthrush seen Jan 19 at Neary's Lagoon appears to be the first winter record for the Region (BE). Five Wilson's Warblers were reported from the coast, about three times the normal number. A single Am. Redstart found at Pebble Beach Dec. 27 was the third winter record for the Region (TC).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — A ♂ Tricolored Blackbird considered "very rare" in the Arcata Bottoms was present Feb. 12-13 (*vide* DE, TS). Four Hooded Orioles reported from the C.V. and one from the Pacific Grove area were about normal for winter. "Bullock's" N. Oriole also appeared in normal numbers along the coast with four birds reported. A well-documented first Regional winter occurrence of a **Rusty Blackbird** was recorded at the Carmel Sewage Ponds Dec. 27-Feb. 16 (VY†, RB, m.ob.). Seventeen Brown-headed Cowbirds, rare in the Great Basin in winter, were found at Buntingville, Lassen Co. Dec. 31 (RS, DW, GM). Seven W. Tanagers were reported this winter, slightly more than normal. An ad. ♂ Summer Tanager appeared at a feeder in Santa Rosa Jan. 23 (m.ob.). Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at the following locations; an imm. male at Eureka, Dec. 12 (*vide* TS), an ad. male at Valencia Lagoon, Santa Cruz Co., Mar. 24 (TS *et al.*), and an imm. male Jan. 4-Mar. 2 in Santa Rosa (JW, GLB *et al.*). Four Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen during the period (m.ob.). The only Evening Grosbeaks reported were two birds at Fremont Dec. 16 (RS, GM).

Purple Finches were apparently scarce all winter along the north coast (*vide* TS, DE). Lawrence's Goldfinches, rare in winter, were found at two locations; one female was near Vacaville Feb. 16 (RS), and five Feb. 24 in Auburn (MA). Contrary to the general lack of invasion species Red Crossbills were reported from the coast in normal numbers. A single Lark Bunting was noted Feb. 9 near Sutter Buttes (JH, SAL). Two out-of-range Black-throated Sparrows were found near Sacramento in January (*vide* BK). Because of mild conditions during the early part of the period an unprecedented number of Spizella sparrows were seen through January. Five species were reported, two of which were first winter records for the region. Single Tree Sparrows were found at Loleta, one Dec. 29 (*vide* DE) and at Standish Dec. 31 (RS *et al.*) and four were at Honey Lake Hq. Jan. 1 (BW, AC *et al.*). Chipping Sparrows, always rare along the coast, were found at three locations and at two

locations inland. Most amazing was the report of 100 at Solano Diversion Dam Jan. 3 (DG). A well documented first winter record for the Region was of a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Hayward Dec. 14-19 (DR, BS, JL, *et al.*). A single Brewer's Sparrow was present at a feeder Jan. 13-29 in Sacramento and represents one of the few winter records for the region (RS, GM *et al.*) A photographed and well-described **Black-chinned Sparrow** remained at a feeder in Ukiah Jan. 21-Mar. 25 (OJK). This occurrence is the ninth winter record for California and the first for our Region.

Ten Harris' Sparrows were found in the Region at Berkeley, Davis, Milford, Lassen Co., Ferndale and Janesville, spanning dates of Dec. 11 through Mar. 1 (m.ob.) Twenty-six White-throated Sparrows were found Dec. 1-Mar. 8 in widely scattered localities over the region. Three Fox Sparrows of the eastern race were seen in two localities; Oakland December-January (J&SL), another there in February and a third individual at Munger L., Sacramento all winter (RS, GM). At least 30 Swamp Sparrows were present at Olema Marsh on the Pt. Reyes CBC (RS *et al.*). Other reports of this species were from Honey L., Alameda, and one bird at Lewiston L., Trinity Co. where it appears to be the first county record (*fide* TS, DA). A total of 150 Lapland Longspurs were noted from the following localities; Foster City, Pt. Reyes, Honey L., Bodega Head, Ferndale and the Arcata Bottoms, Dec. 1-Mar. 9 (m.ob.). A total of 180 Chestnut-collared Longspurs was found at Honey L. Dec. 27-Mar. 8 (AC, BW *et al.*). At least four and perhaps nine Snow Buntings were present at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co. Dec. 13-Feb. 14 (PS, *fide* DE, TS).

CORRIGENDA — In *AB*: 28, 946 the Lark Bunting was at Mercy not Merced Hot Springs. In *AB*: 29, 113-115 all sightings credited to RLH should read RH, KH except on p. 113 regarding White-faced Ibis. On p. 114 the photograph of the Curlew Sandpiper should be credited to Mike Wihler not P.R.B.O. On p. 118 the Jelly's Ferry Bobolinks are from SAL not SA and the Black-throated Sparrow at Belmont was PM not RM. In *AB*: 29, 115 read 6000 not 60,000 Heermann's Gulls. On p.115 the Short-billed Dowitchers were identified by plumage and call, not plumage and all.

CONTRIBUTORS — Carol Anderson, Dave Anderson, Maurine Armour, Steven F. Bailey, Laurence C. Binford, George Bing, Gordon L. Bolander, Ron Branson, Ted Chandik, Howard L. Cogswell, Alan Craig, Richard Dean, Rich DeCoster, Dave De Sante, Bruce E. Deuel (BED), Donna Dittmann, Bob Deyer (BD), Art Edwards, Bruce Elliott, Dick Erickson, Janet Farness, Lynn Farrar, Dave Gaines, Joel Greenberg, Rob Hansen, Keith Hansen, Tom Heindel, Richard L. Hill (RLH), Joel Hornstein, Lenny Kafka, G. Stuart Keith, Margaret Keith, Betty Kimball, Barb Klasson (BKI), Oliver J. Kolkman, Steven A. Laymon (SAL), Tom Love, Ron LeValley, John Luther, Susanne Luther, Eugene Makishima, Anne Manolis, Bill Manolis, Georgianne Manolis, Brian J. McCaffery, Guy McCaske, Peter Metropulos, Randall Morgan, Joe Morlan (JM), Jim Morris (JiM), L.P. Myers, Gary Neilson, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Benjamin Parmeter,

Susan M. Patla, Wayne Paulson, Frank A. Pitelka, William M. Pursell, Van Remsen, Robert Richardson, Jean Richmond, Don Roberson, Elsie Roemer, Barry Sauppe, Tom Schulenberg, John Silvas, Paul Springer, Rich Stallcup, James Stewart, Nick Story, Wally Sumner, Otis D. Swisher, Kris Tyner, John & Ricky Warriner, Bruce Webb, Bruce Williford (BWi), Dave Winkler, Jon Winter, Vern Yadon, Bob Yutzy, Carol Yutzy — **RICH STALLCUP, 4409 44th Ave. Sacramento, CA. 95824 and JON WINTER 1423 Hearn Ave. Santa Rosa, CA. 95401.**