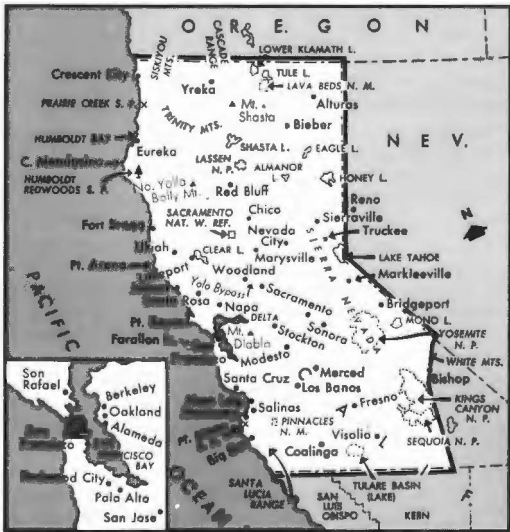


**MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION**  
**/Jon Winter and Dick Erickson**

This fall witnessed a continuation of the drought that has plagued the region for the past year. A very strong, stable high pressure system remained over the northern Pacific, preventing the normal autumn storms from forming in the Gulf of Alaska. However, the temperate weather provided ideal birding conditions on the coast, much to the delight of boat trip participants. In the Sierras all of the major passes were open until Christmas. Birds remained longer at high elevations, with abundance of food and open water. Many ponds were still ice-free in late November. In the Central Valley geese arrived later than normally.



With more birders in the field than ever before the fall period provided a number of surprises. Areas such as Point Reyes were particularly well covered. The best finds of the period were Scaled Petrel, Blue-footed Booby, Tufted Duck, Mississippi Kite, Upland Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Great Crested

Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler and Hepatic Tanager. An asterisk means that documentation is on file with the editors. C.V.=Central Valley, F.I.=Farallon Islands.

**LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSSES** — The Yellow-billed Loon apparently present on San Francisco Bay (hereafter S.F. Bay) since January, was last seen at Emeryville Aug. 2 (BGE). A Red-necked Grebe at Clear L., Sept. 6 (*vide* DR) provided our earliest inland record. A Horned Grebe at Mono L., Aug. 14 (M.B.R.G.) was probably summering. Repeated careful censusing of Mono L. revealed a peak of 730,000 Eared Grebes there Aug. 30. The birds remained longer this year; 500,000 were still present Nov. 20 (M.B.R.G.). Two newly-fledged Pied-billed Grebes at L. Temescal, Oakland Nov. 21 represented our latest nesting record (RS). Four Black-footed Albatrosses off Humboldt Bay Oct. 2 (*vide* DRu) were the only ones reported after August. A Laysan Albatross was seen 25 mi. off Cape Mendocino Sept. 10 (*vide* DRu). Northern Fulmars were seen in small numbers except for 100+ seen from Pt. Reyes Nov. 28 (JE). Amazing was the presence of one on a brackish lagoon at the mouth of San Gregorio Creek, San Mateo Co., Nov. 7 (PM). Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found on Monterey Bay Sept. 2 (RS *et al.*), Sept. 18 (JL, DR *et al.*), Oct. 2 (SS), and off Humboldt Bay Nov. 21 (*vide* DRu). A Short-tailed Shearwater was found dead on the Samoa Spit Nov. 12 (*vide* DRu) and one was seen off Monterey Nov. 14 (RD, M.A.S.). Manx Shearwaters were seen on Monterey Bay Sept. 13 - Oct. 11 with three Oct. 3 (S.C.R.C.) the maximum. The region's second **Scaled Petrel** was found recently dead near the Mad R. mouth Aug. 11 (*vide* S. Harris, DRu). This species was unrecorded in California prior to 1976, yet four were found dead on beaches this year.

Six species of storm-petrels were found off Moss Landing. Ashies and Blacks were present at least Sept. 25 - Nov. 14 with 6000 Ashies Oct. 9 (G.G.A.S.) and 2000 Blacks Oct. 9-11 (G.G.A.S., A.B.A.) the most seen. Single Fork-taileds were seen occasionally in October and November but a Leach's Oct. 3 (W. Reese, DeR, S.C.B.C.) was the most unusual. Two Leasts were there Oct. 11 (RS, A.B.A.) and single Wilson's were seen Oct. 9 (SFB, G.G.A.S.), Oct. 11 (RS, A.B.A.), and Oct. 17 (JL). Elsewhere 12 Fork-taileds, 37 Ashies and 27 Blacks were reported. In addition 25 Blacks off Sonoma County, Oct. 17 (BDP *et al.*) were impressive.

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — Late White Pelican reports were at Tule L. (6) Nov. 22 (MT) and Grant L., Mono Co. (1) Nov. 28 (TH). Brown Pelican numbers were down from last year with 417 the high count at Pajaro Dunes Aug. 22, only 21% of these immature (J&RW). They ranged far into S. F. Bay where 22 were counted at Benicia Sept. 21 (FKB). Most exciting, however, were two inland; one photographed at L. Siskiyou Aug. 29-30 (Ken Beatty\*, *vide* MT) and another well described at Sacramento Nov. 3-10 (S.G.Hibma\*, *vide* BK); both immatures. There is only one previous inland record in the region. Even more unusual was the imm. **Blue-footed Booby** found at New Hogan Res., Calaveras Co., Sept. 15 (D.Zeiner, A. Petrovich, *vide* BK) and seen by many until it died Oct. 18 (*vide* BGE). This is the second regional record. Details will be published elsewhere.

One or two Green Herons were at Mono L., Aug. 8-18 (M.B.R.G.) and another was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Sept. 7 (*vide* MT). They are rare in the Great Basin. Forty-seven Cattle Egrets were reported from the coast and six from the C.V. Twenty-five Great Egrets at Tule L., Nov. 22 (MT) was a very high number for this late date. Eight migrant White-faced Ibis

were at Mono L., Aug. 8 (M.B.R.G.) and 30 were on their wintering grounds near Los Banos Aug. 22 (JM *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL** — No less than 75 Whistling Swans were found at nine locations on the coast between Bodega Bay and Santa Cruz in late November. Two at Lower Klamath N.W.R. Aug. 1 were probably cripples (MT). Many birds arrived early this year, but then mild weather kept the later arrivals farther north, especially the geese. (*vide* BED). Aleutian Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*) were present at Castle Rock, Crescent City Oct. 25 - Nov. 17 with a peak of 365 on Nov. 3. By Nov. 7 the first arrivals were found near Colusa and a total of 1250 was there Nov. 12, a new record count for the subspecies. Apparently the establishment of three areas in California closed to all Canada Goose hunting is helping to save these birds (PS *et al.*). A Snow Goose at Tehama Aug. 31 was early (SAL). Single "Blue" Geese were at Tule L., Nov. 15 (*vide* BED) and Nov. 22 (MT), at Honey L., Nov. 26 (JM), and at Los Banos Nov. 28 (AE).

Gadwall numbers were up at inland localities and one at Eleanor Res. (4600 ft.) Sept. 24 was a first record for Yosemite N.P. (DAG). There were six coastal reports of Eur. Wigeon and four from the interior, including one in the Sierra Nevada at L. Christopher, El Dorado Co., Oct. 15 (WS\*). At Sacramento N.W.R. an amazing 2000 Ring-necked Ducks were seen Oct. 25 (*vide* SAL). Twenty-one Greater Scaup carefully identified among Lessers at S. Lake Tahoe Nov. 26 (WS\*) was our largest inland concentration ever. Twelve on Lewiston L. Oct. 24 and an early individual at the Chico sewage ponds Oct. 8 (SAL *et al.*) were the only others reported inland. The ♂ Ringed-necked X Tufted Duck hybrid had returned to Rodeo Lagoon by Oct. 16 for its third winter (BJM\* *et al.*). At L. Merritt in Oakland the ♂ **Tufted Duck** found Oct. 31 (Harold Connin) was joined by a female on Nov. 7 (Eric Caine, JM); both remained through Nov. 30 (m.ob.). There are only four previous regional records. Three Buffleheads at Tule L., Aug. 8 (MT) and one at S. Lake Tahoe Aug. 19-20 (WS) were either very early or summering. Only three Oldsquaws were reported along the coast in November, yet one was shot inland at Delevan N.W.R., Nov. 7 (*vide* BK). A Harlequin Duck at Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co., Aug. 28 (SS) had probably summered there. A male on S. F. Bay s. of Candlestick Park, San Mateo Co., Nov. 20 (*vide* DR) was unusual away from the ocean surf. Two ♀ White-winged Scoters at S. Lake Tahoe Nov. 24 followed a ♀ Surf Scoter there Oct. 7-9 (WS). Other inland Surf Scoters were two females at Indian Creek Res., Alpine Co., Oct. 31 (WS) and a male at Shadow Cliffs Park, Alameda Co., Nov. 14 (AE). The only inland Red-breasted Merganser was a female at Redding Nov. 19 (PD).

**RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS** — Hawk migration at Pt. Diablo was watched carefully early in the season as shown in Table 1. Impressive Osprey numbers suggest an early migration through our area. The Sept. 7 Swainson's Hawk with a red wing tag had been marked as a juvenile near Richland, Wash., in 1975 or 1976. These and further observations by Binford *et al.* seem to indicate a "normal" fall migration. Much is left to be learned, however, and observers are encouraged to report full details (especially time of observation and numbers of all species) of their visits to this exciting area. The rarest bird to be found in Pt. Diablo's short history was the ad. **Mississippi Kite** there Sept. 13 (WMP, A. Mericourt), only the second regional record. Nine Broad-winged Hawks were seen Sept. 16 - Oct. 23 (LCB *et al.*) with four on Sept. 25 (BGE *et al.*) the maximum.

At the n.e. limit of their range, two or three California Condors were in the Tulare County foothills Aug. 26 - Sept. 26 (RAB, JLi). Continuing their phenomenal success, White-tailed Kites were reported north and east of their normal range this fall. One at Honey L., Sept. 10 was the first Lassen County

Table 1.

Raptors seen from Pt. Diablo and Twin Peaks Aug. 15 - Sept. 21. Data courtesy of Brian J. McCaffery.

| Species<br>Date Span                   | no. days<br>seen | total<br>no. birds | most seen<br>single day |
|--|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Turkey Vulture<br>Aug. 21-Sept. 21     | 11               | 98                 | 26 - Sept. 7            |
| White-tailed Kite<br>Aug. 27-Sept. 21  | 3                | 9                  | 5 - Sept. 21            |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk<br>Aug. 31-Sept. 21 | 16               | 427                | 161 - Sept. 21          |
| Cooper's Hawk<br>Aug. 26-Sept. 21      | 14               | 158                | 49 - Sept. 21           |
| Red-tailed Hawk<br>Aug. 26-Sept. 21    | 14               | 350                | 129 - Sept. 7           |
| Red-shouldered Hawk<br>Sept. 7-21      | 7                | 14                 | 5 - Sept. 21            |
| Swainson's Hawk                        | 1                | 1                  | 1 - Sept. 7             |
| Marsh Hawk<br>Aug. 26-Sept. 21         | 7                | 12                 | 3 - Sept. 7             |
| Osprey<br>Aug. 26-Sept. 17             | 11               | 29                 | 12 - Sept. 12           |
| American Kestrel<br>Aug. 31-Sept. 21   | 11               | 65                 | 24 - Sept. 14           |
| <i>Accipiter</i> sp.                   |                  | 76                 |                         |
| <i>Buteo</i> sp.                       |                  | 7                  |                         |
| "hawk" sp.                             |                  | 2                  |                         |
| Total Number                           |                  | 1247               |                         |

Coverage: 101 hours on 26 partial days  
All single day high counts from Pt. Diablo

record (SAL) but three were there Nov. 26 (JM, CH). For its eighth year the albino Red-tailed Hawk, "High Voltage", returned to the Rodeo Lagoon area by Aug. 28 (BJM). "Harlan's" Hawks were seen at Gray Lodge Nov. 1 (BD, SAL) and Lava Beds Nat'l Mon., Nov. 7 (SAL, SS). Red-shouldered Hawks were seen at unusual locations: two immatures at S. L. Tahoe Sept. 8; one to at least Sept. 27 (WS\* *et al.*), one immature at Honey L., Sept. 10 (SAL), one at Modoc N.W.R., Sept. 11 (SAL), an adult near Grenada, Siskiyou Co., Oct. 30 - mid Nov. (*fide* MT) and an ad. road-kill found near Alvarado, Alameda Co., Nov. 11 (SM). The species is virtually unknown away from the coast and C. V. and all but the last are believed to be first county records (Wilbur, S.R. 1973. *Western Birds* 4:15-22). The first San Mateo County Swainson's Hawks was an immature at Año Nuevo Pt., Aug. 22 (PM). Seven were reported from inland locations. Ferruginous Hawks at Cape Mendocino Sept. 20 - Oct. 31 (BC, DRu *et al.*) and Quincy Nov. 25 (JM, CH) were in unusual locations. An imm. Bald Eagle at the F.I., Oct. 1 was the first confirmed record there.

A ♂ Blue Grouse found "booming" at 7500 ft. near S. Lake Tahoe Nov. 13 was behaving abnormally (WS). Unexpected

coastal sightings of Sandhill Cranes were one in the Arcata Bottoms Nov. 17 (*fide* DRu) and 23 over Fremont Nov. 23 (EM *et al.*). Clapper Rails eating Salt Marsh Harvest Mice (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*) at Palo Alto Oct. 24 (JW) and Virginia Rails eating dragonflies at Bodega Bay Aug. 7 (FBe) were utilizing unusual food resources.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Over 200 Am. Avocets at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Nov. 22 (*fide* MT) were late. At Mono L. 105 Semipalmated Plovers Aug. 20 (M.B.R.G.) was a very impressive number for an inland locality. Eighteen Am. Golden Plovers were reported from the coast with three near Petaluma Sept. 9 (CP) and two at Coyote Hills Park, Alameda Co., Sept. 18 (*fide* DR) in more interesting locations.

An **Upland Sandpiper** at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Sept. 13 (Bill Marshall\* *fide* SH, DRu) represents only the fourth regional record. There were five coastal reports of Solitary Sandpipers, four in the C. V. and five in the Great Basin, all in August and September. One at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite N. P. (8600 ft.) Oct. 1 (DAG) was less expected. The region's second inland Wandering Tattler was seen at Mono L., Sept. 14 (DW, M.B.R.G.). Ruddy Turnstones were reported inland as follows: one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Aug. 1 (*fide* MT), one at Mono L., Aug. 7 and another there Aug. 23 (M.B.R.G.), two at Gray Lodge Aug. 18 (BED), and one at the Visalia sewer ponds Aug. 9-10 (JL, RAB\*). Far more Red Knots were reported from the interior than usual: one at Honey L., Aug. 22 (SAL), two at Topaz L., Aug. 12 (RS), a total of 10 at Mono L., Aug. 3-30 (M.B.R.G.) and one at Black Butte Res., Glenn Co., Oct. 4 (SAL). Inland Sanderlings were one at Clear L., Aug. 28 (DRo), three at Mono L., Aug. 16-17 and another there Sept. 14 (M.B.R.G.). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was carefully studied at Mono L., Aug. 5 (DW\*, M.B.R.G.). There are now more than ten fall records for the region. Incredible was the total of at least 450 Pectoral Sandpipers seen Aug. 1 - Nov. 14. The largest concentrations were 95 near L. Talawa Sept. 18 (SS) and 75+ at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 8 (*fide* MT). Single Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were detected at the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 1-9 (S.H., DRu\* *et al.*) and near Visalia Oct. 11 (JLi, RAB\*). There are some 13 previous records, only two of those from the interior. The only Stilt Sandpiper reported was one at Rodeo Lagoon Sept. 4 (VR, SFB). New for the region were the two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** at the Salinas R. mouth Aug. 27 - Sept. 6 (RS *et al.*), the seventh occurrence for California. A ♀ Ruff was in the Fernale Bottoms Sept. 16-17 (BC, DRu\* *et al.*) and a male was present at Pacific Grove from Oct. 28 on (R.Branson, RS, m.ob.).

An incredible exodus of Wilson's Phalaropes occurred at Mono L. in early August. After 20,000 were there on Aug. 4, only 1000 could be found the next day. Northern Phalaropes peaked later with 21,600 on Aug. 30 (M.B.R.G.). Late N. Phalaropes were singles at the Salinas R. mouth Nov. 13 (RS). Redwing Nov. 17 (Bill Oliver, *fide* SAL) and Estero Americano on the Sonoma - Marin County line Nov. 21 (JE, DS). Red Phalaropes were present in moderate numbers along the coast from Aug. 27 until late November when thousands arrived; 10,000 were estimated on Tomales Bay Nov. 21 (JE, DS).

**JAEGERs THROUGH ALCIDS** — Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were in normal numbers on Monterey Bay but 50+ of each over the Eel R. Canyon off Humboldt Co., Oct. 2 (*fide* DRu) were high counts. Five Parasitic Jaegers were seen within S.F. Bay Aug. 25 - Nov. 14. Two-to-four Long-tailed Jaegers were on Monterey Bay Sept. 2 (RS *et al.*) with one there Sept. 18 (DRo, JLi *et al.*) and two were at the Eel R. Canyon Oct. 2 (SH, *fide* DRu). At least ten South Polar Skuas were seen on Monterey Bay Sept. 2 - Oct. 17. One or two were in the vicinity of the F. I., Sept. 11-20 and two or three were at the Eel R. Canyon Oct. 1 (*fide* DRu).

Single Glaucous Gulls at the Berkeley dump Nov. 18 (*vide* DRo) and the Redwood City dump Nov. 25 (PM) were the only ones seen. In the Sierra Nevada a first-year Thayer's Gull was well described at S. Lake Tahoe Oct. 24-30 (WS\*). Franklin's Gull were in good numbers as follows: one near Petaluma Sept. 11 (BBu\* *et al.*), one at Fresno Sept. 14 (RH\*), one at Sacramento N.W.R., Sept. 18-26 (SAL\*), 2-4 at Arcata Oct. 3-30 (DRu *et al.*), one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 15 (BED), one off Monterey Oct. 17 (JL, JM, G.G.A.S.), one at Palo Alto Oct. 23 (JW), and one at Bodega Bay Nov. 7-12 (CP\* *et al.*). Heermann's Gulls ranged far into S. F. Bay this fall. One was at Benicia Aug. 7-16 and three were there Oct. 9 (FKB). Good numbers of Sabine's Gulls were reported offshore but 200 at the Eel R. Canyon Oct. 2 (*vide* DRu) were exceptional. Two immatures were found inland at S. Lake Tahoe Sept. 25 - Oct. 1 (WS\*) where they are very rare.

Offshore boat trips s. of the Golden Gate found numbers of Arctic Terns Aug. 13 - Oct. 3; and 12+ were seen Aug. 29 - Sept. 15 on Monterey Bay beaches. More out of place were six at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Sept. 4 and two there Oct. 17 (SFB). As usual a few Elegant Terns remained on the coast into November with the last at Inverness Nov. 23 (WMP, JR *et al.*). Single Black Terns at Drake's Beach Sept. 3 (DS\*) and off Monterey Oct. 11 (*vide* DRo) were the only coastal reports.

Most species of alcids were seen in "typical" numbers this fall. A **Guadalupe Xantus' Murrelet** (*Endomychura h. hypoleuca*) was the highlight of the C.F.O. boat trip on Monterey Bay Oct. 2 (RS, GMcC *et al.*). This is the northernmost state record (first regional) of a race that is rare even off S. California, although this was a good fall for them there. Northern Xantus' Murrelets (*E. h. scrippsii*) were seen regularly on Monterey Bay with eight Sept. 11 (SFB *et al.*) the most seen. Elsewhere five were seen offshore between Pescadero and Santa Cruz Aug. 14-15 (BL) and another was the Eel R. Canyon Oct. 2 (SH, *vide* DRu). Very encouraging were the 37 Ancient Murrelets seen inshore from Pt. Reyes to Monterey in November. And finally, yet another Horned Puffin (a healthy adult) was seen about five mi. off Pt. Sur, Monterey Co., Aug. 17 (BSO\*).

**PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — A single White-winged Dove on the F.I. Sept. 24 was the only one reported (P.R.B.O., RLeV). A Mourning Dove appeared at a rather high 11,200 ft. near Forester Pass, Inyo Co., Sept. 9 (G. Beebe). A Long-eared Owl found in Willows at Princeton Harbor Oct. 27, provided San Mateo County with its first record (PM). Another was found at Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., Sept. 18-20 (*vide* DRu). This species is rare along the n. coast. A Poorwill that had been banded there Apr. 24 this year was recovered on Oct. 23 at Palomar, Marin Co. (P.R.B.O., BSo).

**SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A flock of 150 Black Swifts was foraging after a rainstorm at Springville, Tulare Co., Sept. 11 (*vide* RAB). At least 43 birds were seen migrating past Pt. Diablo Aug. 15 - Sept. 21. Their numbers peaked at 21 on Sept. 21 (BSM). Vaux's Swift numbers peaked there with 61 on Sept. 7 (BJM). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird seen Sept. 15-18 was the first ever for the F.I. (P.R.B.O., RLeV). This species, although it breeds a short distance inland, is rare anywhere along the coast. Most interesting was an apparent Costa's X Anna's Hummingbird hybrid that appeared at a feeder in Oakland in July and remained through Nov. 30 (DE\*, DRo *et al.*), the first documented occurrence for our region. A concentration of 30 Rufous Hummingbirds was seen Aug. 21 at Fall River Mills, Shasta Co., (SAL). This species moves through the mountains in the fall feeding on late wildflowers at higher elevations, but a few appear on the coast in fall. At least 26 were banded at P.R.B.O.-Palomar for the period

(BSO). Always rare along the coast, a ♀ Calliope Hummingbird was banded at P.R.B.O.-Palomar Aug. 31 (*vide* BSo). Lewis' Woodpeckers were observed in large concentrations along the n.w. edge of the C. V. throughout the period (SAL) while two appeared on the coast, where they are rare, at Bolinas Sept. 14 (BSO) and at Pt. Reyes Sept. 9 (BJM).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Tropical Kingbirds made an impressive showing this fall with 15 seen Sept. 21 - Nov. 28 from Humboldt County to Año Nuevo. The sole E. Kingbird was at Redding Sept. 14 (PD\*). A convincing description of a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was submitted for a bird seen just w. of Bolinas, Marin Co., Oct. 3 (DS\*, SFB\*, BC). This bird may have been present since Sept. 24 (BSO). A single E. Phoebe was found in Lafayette Aug. 29 (LF\*). This species is rarely found at this season.

#### S.A.

Many observers have asked the editors about the occurrence of certain Tyrannids on the F.I. that have yet to be published. Because of the difficulties involved in the identifications the editors have waited for other opinions. On June 15, 1975 an *Empidonax* was collected on the F.I., which was sent to Allan Phillips, who stated that it was a Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii brewsteri*). The specimen is now Cal. Acad. of Sci. #69274. On June 15, 1975 a bird was banded, measured, and photographed that was thought to be an E. Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*). This fall yet another bird thought to be a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (*E. flaviventris*) was banded, photographed, measured, and released Sept. 16 on the F.I. The identification of both are still in question. These two records will be submitted to the C.F.O. Records Committee. The editors will accept the committee's decision.

A compact little wave of 12 Willow Flycatchers was seen on Dog Island, Tehama Co., Aug. 15 (SAL). Five Least Flycatchers were reported for the fall period. Three were banded on the F.I.; two on Sept. 17 and a single bird Sept. 9 (P.R.B.O., RLeV). Another calling bird was carefully described a mile n.e. of Cape Mendocino Sept. 23 (BC\*) and yet another was found dead in Golden Gate Park Sept. 15 (LCB). A total of 211 W. Flycatchers was banded at P.R.B.O.-Palomar with a peak movement between Aug. 21-28 (P.R.B.O., BSo). A significant wave of 21 W. Wood Pewees was seen on Pt. Reyes Sept. 14 (LCB). A major flight of Violet-green Swallows passed over Pt. Diablo, where 1894 birds were seen in 4-1/2 hours Oct. 5 (LCB). A single Bank Swallow Sept. 5 and a single Barn Swallow Sept. 4 at Humboldt Bay are of interest: there are few county records (DE, SH). Purple Martins appeared along the coast in larger-than-normal numbers. At least 19 were seen from Bodega Head to Año Nuevo Aug. 3 - Sept. 25 (m.ob.).

**CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — A flock of 265 Piñon Jays was seen at the Lava Beds N.M. Nov. 6 (SAL, SS). A Winter Wren at Dog I. Oct. 18 was very early for the C.V. (SAL). The Bendire's Thrasher reported last winter in Courtland returned Aug. 8 and remained through Nov. 30 (A. Parker). Two Brown Thrashers appeared this fall; one Oct. 10 at Sunol Park, Alameda Co., (AE\* *et al.*) and another banded and photographed at P.R.B.O.-Palomar Oct. 20 (P.R.B.O., BSo\*). Four Sage Thrashers appeared along the coast, the earliest on the F.I. Sept. 5 and the latest at Santa Cruz Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, a first county record (TB\*, RM *et al.*). One was inland at Delevan N.W.R. Aug. 5 (*vide* SAL). The presence of a ♀ Mountain Blue-

bird with two young at Crazy Park, Del Norte Co., Aug. 8 is most interesting (SS). The species is not known to breed in this county and its status in n.w. California is poorly known. A most unusual concentration of 100+ Townsend's Solitaires was seen at Lava Beds N.M., Nov. 6 (SAL).

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — Diligent watching at selected coastal locations has revealed a magnitude of migration larger than suspected. Some 90 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen on 11 days between Aug. 27 - Sept. 21 with a peak of 35 on Sept. 7 at Pt. Diablo (BJM). A peak movement of Ruby-crowned Kinglets was noted on Oct. 18 at Dog I., where 38 were seen (SAL). Water Pipits were seen at 13,200 ft. near Forester Pass, Inyo Co., Sept. 7 — probably a new state altitude record (G. Beebe). Twelve N. Shrikes, a normal number, were reported, ten inland and two on the coast, with the first Oct. 30 at King Salmon, Humboldt Co. (*vide* DRu). A lone Loggerhead Shrike appeared Oct. 24 at Humboldt Bay (SS). Generally considered resident, Hutton's Vireos appeared at Bidwell Park, Butte Co. Nov. 15 (SAL) and (one bird) on the outer coast at Rodeo Lagoon Nov. 7 (JW *et al.*). Are some populations of this species migratory? A Solitary Vireo that appeared to be of the eastern race (*V.s. solitarius*) was seen on the F.I. Sept. 24 (P.R.B.O., RS, RLeV). Although brighter green on the back with a rather striking blue-gray head, this race closely resembles its western counterpart (*V.s. cassinii*) so caution in identification must be exercised. Single Red-eyed Vireos were seen at Fairhaven Sept. 12 (SS, SH), on the F.I., Sept. 30 (P.R.B.O., RLeV), and on Pt. Reyes Sept. 19 (JW *et al.*). **Philadelphia Vireos** staged a "mini-invasion" this fall. Three were recorded; two were banded on the F.I., Sept. 12 & 25 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) and another appeared on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 22 (DE\*, JM\* *et al.*). Between Aug. 21 - Sept. 19 some 436 Warbling Vireos were banded at P.R.B.O.-Palomarin of which 95% were immatures. They peaked on Aug. 28 with 41 banded; the last passed through Oct. 18 (P.R.B.O.-BSO).

**WOOD WARBLERS** — In numbers and diversity this fall failed to rival 1974 and 1975. But as always a few exciting species turned up. Inland two major waves were observed in the C.V. on Aug. 1-4 and Sept. 22-23 consisting of Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Wilson's, and Hermit Warblers. Coastally, three major waves brought an array of "eastern" warblers to the region. The first was noted Sept. 20-22 followed by another Sept. 24-27. A smaller wave Oct. 24-25 closed the major movements of "eastern" warblers.

Black-and-white Warblers were reported in larger numbers than ever before. A total of 29 were seen between Aug. 7 - Nov. 11, all, with one exception, were coastal from Humboldt County to Pacific Grove. One seen Sept. 30 - Nov. 11 at Dog I., was the only inland report (SAL *et al.*). Tennessee Warblers did not lag far behind with 25 reported (five on F.I.) between Sept. 5 - Nov. 21, twenty-four of which were on the coast from Fairhaven to Pt. Pinos. One was at Dog I., Oct. 26 providing Tehama County with its first record (SAL). At least four Virginia's Warblers, all coastal, were found; singles at Pacific Grove Sept. 12-17 (RS *et al.*), the F.I., Oct. 15 (P.R.B.O., RLeV), Pt. Reyes Oct. 24 (Wesley, Weathers\* *et al.*), and Moss Beach Sept. 21-22 that proved to be the first San Mateo County record (PM, BSA *et al.*). Northern Parulas were seen at Carmel R., Oct. 9-11 (RS *et al.*), Pt. Reyes Sept. 25-26 (m.ob.), and at Inverness, Marin Co., Sept. 9 (BL\*). Thirteen Magnolia Warblers were reported. Since 1967, including the banner fall numbers of 1974 and 1975, Magnolia Warblers averaged about 9 records/year. This year all were coastal from Fairhaven to Pacific Grove Sept. 5 - Oct. 31. Five Cape May Warblers were reported; two on the F.I. Sept. 26 and another there Sept. 24 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) and single birds at Pt.

Reyes Sept. 25-29 (DE, RS, JW, JM, WMP, m.ob.) and another apparently different bird was there Oct. 3 (SFB). A total of four Black-throated Blue Warblers was seen; a female at Pt. Reyes Sept. 25 (JW, m.ob.), another at Asilomar Oct. 28 (RS *et al.*), a male on the F.I. Oct. 18 (P.R.B.O., RLeV), and another at Golden Gate Park, Oct. 28 (*vide* LCB). The Black-throated Green Warbler is something of an enigma in our region. There are only ten regional fall records, half of which have been on the F.I. All of the mainland records are coastal. Two were recorded on Pt. Reyes for the first time this fall on Oct. 19 (DE\* *et al.*), one apparently an ad. male. The vast majority of "vagrant" warblers in California have been immature birds.

The temperate fall weather probably influenced a Hermit Warbler to remain at Moss Beach, San Mateo Co., until Nov. 10 (PM). The best landbird find of the fall was a **Cerulean Warbler** at Fairhaven Sept. 2-4 (BC\*, DE\*, SH m.ob.). This marked the first regional and fourth state record. Blackburnian Warblers made a good showing with a total of eight found Sept. 22 - Oct. 30 (two on F.I.) all coastal from Pt. Reyes to Montara, San Mateo Co. The region's fifth **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen on Pt. Reyes Sept. 2-7 (WMP, m.ob.) A total of 15 Chestnut-sided Warblers was seen, all coastal Sept. 19 - Nov. 29 from Fairhaven to the Carmel R. Two were reported in November, a month for which there were only two previous records. More Bay-breasted Warblers (seven) were found this fall than normally: two on the F.I., Sept. 24 and Oct. 2-3 (P.R.B.O., RLeV), two at Fairhaven Sept. 19-21 and Sept. 22-23 (*vide* DRu), one at the Samoa Coast Guard Station, Humboldt Co., Sept. 5, one at Sunnybrae, Humboldt Co., (*vide* DRu) and one on Pt. Reyes Oct. 23 (AE\*). A total of 58 Blackpoll Warblers was seen Sept. 4 - Oct. 28 from Mad River County Park, Humboldt Co., to Pt. Pinos and all but one Sept. 10 at Honey Lake N.W.R. (SAL *et al.*) were coastal. Three Prairie Warblers, which is about average, were found; singles at Samoa Sept. 22 and at Mad River County Park. (*vide* DRu) and the third was at Sharp Park, San Mateo Co., Sept. 24 - Nov. 28 (PM, m.ob.). Nine Ovenbirds were found which is half the regional high of 18 for the fall of 1975. All were coastal (five on the F.I.) Sept. 6 - Oct. 14 in the greater S. F. Bay area. Northern Waterthrushes were reported in good numbers with ten seen Sept. 5 - Oct. 3 along the coast from Crescent City to the Carmel R., and one was found inland at the Modoc N.W.R., Aug. 22 (SAL). Three Hooded Warblers were reported; single females at the Carmel R., Sept. 15 (RS), and at Pt. Diablo, Marin Co., Sept. 7 (BJM\*). An imm. male was found in Petaluma Aug. 26, providing the second record for the region (Don Yasuda). A late Wilson's Warbler was seen in Golden Gate Park Nov. 28 (EM *et al.*). Always rare in fall, single Canada Warblers were seen at Pt. Reyes Oct. 8 (RS, Will Russell), Drake's Beach Sept. 11 (JL, SLu, WMP, m.ob.), Fairhaven Oct. 23 (DRu\*, SS\*, *et al.*), and Pacific Grove Oct. 3 (BH\* *et al.*). American Redstarts were found in more than twice their normal numbers (mean about 25/fall) with 57 reported Aug. 14 - Nov. 26 all coastal except for one at Dog I., Aug. 27 a first county record (SAL).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — This fall seven Bobolinks were seen; two at Neary's Lagoon, Santa Cruz, Oct. 17-23 (TB\* *et al.*), and single birds on the F.I. Sept. 11, 22, 30 (P.R.B.O., RLeV), and two were at Crespi Pond, Pt. Pinos Sept. 18 - Oct. 2 (*vide* DRo). Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds made their way to the coast, three from the Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt Co., to Pt. Reyes Sept. 18 - Oct. 21 and two on the F.I. Sept. 18, 30 (P.R.B.O., RLeV). Three Orchard Orioles were on the F.I., two Sept. 24 and another Oct. 1 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) with singles at Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., Nov. 1 (BC *et al.*), Bear Valley, Marin

Co., Sept. 30 (WMP *et al.*), and on Pt. Reyes Sept. 19 (LCB, BDP, GLB *et al.*). A movement of 30 "Bullock's" Orioles was seen passing Dog. I. Aug. 1 (SAL). A single "Baltimore" Oriole was seen on the F.I. Oct. 13 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) and with perhaps another at Bear Valley, Marin Co., [no details]. Two more coastal Rusty Blackbirds were found, at Cape Mendocino Oct. 21 (BC), and at the Arcata Oxidation Ponds, Humboldt Co., Nov. 10-13 (*fide* DRu). Two of California's rarest tanagers put in an appearance this fall. An ad. ♂ **Hepatic Tanager** was seen at Solano County Park Sept. 2 (DAG\* m.ob.) creating the region's third and California's northernmost record. The fifth regional Scarlet Tanager was recorded Oct. 22 on the F.I. (P.R.B.O., RLeV). Western Tanagers were seen on eight days Aug. 27 - Sept. 17 with a total of 37 birds (peak Sept. 8 with 20) on Twin Peaks, S.F., (BJM).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported with six along the coast and one inland Aug. 17 - Oct. 24. Quite scarce on the coast, a ♀ Blue Grosbeak was seen at Neary's Lagoon Sept. 14 - Oct. 3 (TB\*, DP, RM *et al.*) while inland a flock of eight was seen at the Chico Oxidation Ponds Aug. 13 (SAL). Only two Indigo Buntings were reported: one on the F.I., Sept. 5 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) and one on Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 (JW *et al.*). The region's fifth fall Dickcissel was seen at Princeton, San Mateo Co., Aug. 24 (PM\*, JM). An Am. Goldfinch at L. Tahoe Nov. 22 was above its normal vertical range (WS). At least 231 Lesser Goldfinches streamed by Pt. Diablo Aug. 26 - Sept. 20 (peak 55 on Aug. 27) (BJM). Two Red Crossbills in Golden Gate Park Oct. 29 had apparently summered and may have bred (LCB). An out-of range Green-tailed Towhee was seen at Battery Wallace, Marin Co., Oct. 24 (BBU\* *et al.*). Upslope drift undoubtedly accounted for a Rufous-sided Towhee at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite N.P., Oct. 31 at 8900 ft. (JL, SLu). Four Lark Buntings were seen: singles at Pt. Reyes Oct. 25 (WMP *et al.*) and Sept. 19 (CH, GZ, GLB, LCB *et al.*), another at Bodega Bay Sept. 18 (JW *et al.*) and an ad. male at Belmont Oct. 15 (FN\* *et al.*). Nine Vesper Sparrows appeared on or near the coast (four on the F.I.) Sept. 2 - Oct. 16 from Pt. Reyes to Santa Cruz. Another out-of range Black-throated Sparrow was seen on the F.I. Sept. 18-26 (P.R.B.O., RLeV). The F.I. recorded two Tree Sparrows, one each on Oct. 12 and 28 while another was banded at Palomarin Oct. 26 (P.R.B.O., RLeV, BSo). Nine Clay-colored Sparrows were reported (six on the F.I. Sept. 12 - Nov. 14). Single birds at Pigeon Pt., Oct. 16 and at Neary's Lagoon Oct. 10 were respectively the first San Mateo and Santa Cruz County records (PM\* *et al.*). Seven Swamp Sparrows were seen along the coast from Cape Mendocino to the Carmel R. Oct. 10 - Nov. 28. Two were found inland: one at the Brannon I. State Recreation Area, Sacramento Co., Nov. 22 (JM) and the other at L. Tahoe Nov. 5 — the first record for the Tahoe Basin (WS *et al.*). Two Lapland Longspurs were seen at Honey Lake N.W.R. Nov. 26 (CH *et al.*), a surprisingly low count for this area in late fall. Nineteen Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found along the coast from the Arcata Bottoms to Halfmoon Bay Sept. 25 - Nov. 6. Only six were found inland at Honey Lake N.W.R. Nov. 26 (JM). A Snow Bunting was found at Bodega Bay Nov. 13 but disappeared the same day (AE\*, GB).

**ADDENDA** — Single Mountain Plovers seen at Fairhaven Oct. 15 (DE) and the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 20-23, 1974 (TS, DRu *et al.*) were omitted from AB 29:(1). The following 1975 light-bellied Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*) sightings, all singles on S. Humboldt Bay, should be added to AB 29: (3) and (4): adults Feb. 27 and Mar. 7, immature Mar. 21, and adults Apr. 10, 22 and May 5 (all Bill Henry, *fide* DE, TS). In AB 30: (1) a Bay-breasted Warbler at Tomales Pt., Oct. 2 (JM) was omitted. The discovery of a dead Chimney Swift (specimen to Calif. Acad. of

Sciences) at Mono County Park, July 11, 1976 and the presence of five more birds here July 12, 1976 (RS *et al.*) should be added to AB 30: (5).

**CORRIGENDA** — The Ground Dove noted at Pigeon Pt. in AB 30:762 should be credited to Tony Bledsoe. The Costa's Hummingbird reported at Weaverville in AB 29:904 should be deleted. In AB 30:764 the birds in Olema Marsh were Swamp Sparrows, not Harris' Sparrows. Credit the Violet-green Swallow in AB 30:763 to PM not RM. The Townsend's Solitaire at Santa Cruz AB 30:763 should be credited to Jim Morris and not Joe Morlan.

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