

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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More or less typical fall weather was experienced this year. September and October had a few minor fronts and November brought our first "winter" storms. Ocean temperatures remained above average throughout the period but a significant cooling occurred after strong northwest winds in mid-October. Prior to the cooling period, ocean temperatures reached as high as 18°C, 2° above the 20-year average. The overall rate of ocean cooling was fairly normal, so by the end of the period water temperatures had cooled to 14-16°, still slightly above average.

Pelagic birding was particularly interesting owing to the continuation of the *El Niño* event. Unprecedented numbers of some species were conspicuous in inshore waters, providing a rare opportunity for close and prolonged study. However, the list of southern oceanic rarities visiting our Region fell short of some observers' expectations.

On land, shorebirds provided most of the entertainment. However, a major wave of vagrant landbirds occurred on Pt. Reyes September 26 when a remarkable 19 species of wood warblers were discovered (RS, LCB). Montane bird species, such as Golden-crowned Kinglet, that were considered decimated after the cold, wet winter of 1981-1982 had recovered to average or even above average numbers. These birds must be well adapted to such adverse conditions and in the long term may not be as susceptible to short-term fluctuations in the weather as some observers have feared.

It should be noted that very few reports reach the Regional editors with supporting details or descriptions. Therefore only sightings preceded by a † have been reviewed by us.

Last dates: Vaux's Swift Oct. 15 Requa, *Del Norte*; Rufous Hummingbird Sept. 10 Sequoia N.P.; Olive-sided Flycatcher Sept. 18 Bolinas; W. Wood-Pewee Sept. 27 Palo Alto; W. Flycatcher Oct. 14 Putah Creek, *Solano*; Purple Martin Sept. 18 Bolinas; Barn Swallow Nov. 20 Creighton Ranch; House Wren Nov. 18 Palomarin; Swainson's Thrush Oct. 16, F.I.; Warbling Vireo Oct. 23 Carmel R., *Monterey*; Yellow Warbler Oct. 7 *Marin*; Black-throated Gray Warbler Nov. 16 Stockton; MacGillivray's Warbler Oct. 28 Tule Lake N.W.R.; Com. Yellow-throat Oct. 20 Crescent City.

First dates: Rock Sandpiper Nov. 11 Bodega Head; Red-breasted Sapsucker Sept. 24 Palomarin; Water Pipit Sept. 11 Point St. George, *Del Norte*; Cedar Waxwing Aug. 7 Lee Vining; N. Shrike Oct. 22 L. Talawa, *Del Norte*; Nashville Warbler Aug. 22 Gold Bluff Beach, *Humboldt*; Yellow Warbler Aug. 6, F.I.; "Audubon's" Warbler Aug. 30 Pacific Grove; Black-throated Gray Warbler Aug. 8 Palomarin; Townsend's Warbler Aug. 10 Palomarin; Hermit Warbler Aug. 13 Palomarin; MacGillivray's Warbler Aug. 6 Point St. George; Wilson's Warbler Aug. 13, F.I.



LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSES — An Arctic Loon on Frick L., Nov. 26, the first record for e. *Alameda*, was joined by a Red-throated Nov. 28 (AE, KHi). Normally Frick L., is not deep enough to attract loons. Four thousand Arctic Loons near F.I., were present during a "bloom" of pelagic red crabs Nov. 15, a phenomenon normally occurring only in more s. waters. A Com. Loon at the Thermolito Afterbay, *Butte* Oct. 16 (BED) was the only report from away from coastal areas. Up to 20 Horned Grebes at Mono L., near Sneaker Flat Oct. 16 (JLo) were notable as this species is scarce e. of the Sierran crest. Red-necked Grebes apparently arrived late this fall as ten in Drakes Bay, *Marin* Sept. 28 was the first concentration found despite much earlier searching (JE). A single Red-necked Grebe reported without details from Bitterwater L., *San Benito* in early November would have been an unusual inland sighting (*fide* KH).

Northern Fulmars arrived early with up to eight recorded on Monterey Bay pelagic trips during August (DR, SFB, AB *et al.*). Their numbers increased to 250-300 during October and November when an onshore movement was detected and many were found dead on beaches (AB *et al.*). All 3 of the common fall-occurring shearwater species (Pink-footed, Buller's and Sooty) were found in much below average numbers in Monterey Bay. Off Humboldt Bay, 300 Pink-footed Shearwaters Sept. 22 (RLeV *et al.*) were more like normal numbers. More enigmatic was "the best year ever" (AB) for Short-tailed Shearwaters as this

species is generally associated with cooler waters. The first arrivals were a single bird on Monterey Bay Sept. 18 (JM, JML) and ten offshore from Humboldt Bay Sept. 22 (RLeV *et al.*). On Oct. 3, two were seen inside Humboldt Bay (RLeV, LD) and one was seen from shore at Pescadero, *San Mateo* Nov. 11 (BS), illustrating an established tendency for this species to approach close to shore. Up to 35 counted in Monterey Bay, many within easy sight of shore Nov. 11-30 (AB, DR, B & CY, JML *et al.*) and six seen from F.I., Nov. 15 were the respective peak numbers from those localities. Warmer waters were correlated with a notable invasion of Black-vented Shearwaters. Small numbers arrived in Monterey Bay Aug. 14 (AB) and they were present continuously through mid-October with peak numbers reported Oct. 9 when 300 were present (RS). North of there the first *Humboldt* record was of two birds discovered off Humboldt Bay Sept. 2 (JSt, KVR, LD *et al.*) and the 3rd through 5th F.I. records were established Sept. 22, 25 & Oct. 21 respectively.

The Monterey Bay storm-petrel concentrations again caused great excitement this fall. October 15 brought the only confirmed Wilson's Storm-Petrel sighting (SFB *et al.*).

The most notable storm-petrel news may have been the massive invasion of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels along the entire coast. The first sightings were from *Del Norte* Aug. 14 when 12 were seen off Point St. George and five were in Crescent City Harbor (RAE *et al.*). On the same day five were found in Trinidad Harbor, *Humboldt* (RLeV, LD, RAE, JSt). Peak numbers in the n. counties were Aug. 16 when 30 were in Trinidad Harbor (GS) and Aug. 21 when 35 were in Crescent City Harbor (MR). Farther s. there was a large influx onshore Aug. 24 which brought three near F.I., for the 2nd fall record and up to 100 along the Monterey Bay shoreline for one of the most spectacular concentrations in memory (DR, AB, SFB). Most remarkably, this invasion had nothing to do with the strong NW winds that typically characterize this species' occurrences onshore, in fact winds were notably calm during the period of the incursion. Most likely, lack of food in their normal waters farther offshore induced them to search for food closer to shore. On two separate occasions, W. Gulls were seen to capture and eat these storm-petrels while they fed in Trinidad Harbor (PS, KI). Perhaps predation is a factor preventing inshore feeding as a normal event in this species. A Leach's Storm-Petrel seen from shore in a massive feeding frenzy off Montara, *San Mateo* Sept. 10 (BS) was notable as this species is rarely seen in inshore waters. A single **Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel** found 8 km n.w. of Pt. Pinos Oct. 2 (†RS, †JE) and again Oct. 9 (†JML, †MOC) established only the 5th California record for this tropical e. Pacific species. Probably associated with the warmer waters were n. records for Black Storm-Petrel. Two were found off Humboldt Bay Sept. 2 for only the 2nd county record (JSt, KVR, LD) and 25 were present there Sept. 22 (RLeV *et al.*) for what were probably the northernmost occurrences ever. Elsewhere, the first F.I. record was established Aug. 22 followed by five more sightings there through Oct. 5. The Least Storm-Petrel, another warm-water species, was present in unprecedented numbers when boat trips in early October reported 500-1000! in Monterey Bay (m.ob.). Normally only one to three are sighted in warm water years but the previous high count for the Region was of 200 Sept. 21, 1981. A Least Storm-Petrel off Pt. Pinos Nov. 21 (DR) established our latest Regional record.

BOOBIES THROUGH IBISES — A sub-ad. **Brown Booby** on F.I., Sept. 24-28 (†KH, P.R.B.O.) furnished the first Regional record. One might assume that this occurrence would be *El Niño* related, but no other boobies reached California this fall and this species is well known as a hitchhiker on ships. An imm. Brown Pelican seen at the El Rico Ranch, *Kings* Aug. 5 (RH, DY) provided one of very few inland records for the Region. Presumably the same bird was sighted at the junction of Cross Cr. and the Tule R., *Kings* later in August (*fide* RH). Sightings of an immature at the Hacienda Unit, *Kings* Oct. 9 (GG) and s. of Stratford, *Kings* Oct. 12 (BrS) may have been of a different individual. Lack of food in the warm waters of Monterey Bay drove Brown Pelicans to following fishing boats in above average numbers where many were intentionally mutilated. At least 2 prosecutions, but as yet no convictions, have resulted from those senseless acts (*fide* AB). Single Magnificent Frigatebirds, always unusual this far n. were reported from Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* July 30 (*fide* GL); Palomarin Aug. 1 (*fide* JE) and Montara Aug. 4 (BS).

A Least Bittern at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara* Sept. 27 was followed by two the next day (*fide* WB). The s. San Joaquin Valley continues to host good numbers of Cattle Egrets; a peak of 260 was counted at Creighton Ranch Oct. 13 (RH). Farther n., 50 near the Sutter Buttes, *Butte* Nov. 2 (WA) and 60 at Delevan N.W.R., *Colusa* Nov. 10 (BED) were impressive numbers for the Sacramento Valley. White-faced Ibises staged a minor invasion to the coast as follows: one passed Pt. Pinos Sept. 21 (RS); two immatures at L. Talawa, *Del Norte* Sept. 24 confirmed the 2nd county record (GL, JR); one was at Moss Landing Oct. 4 (FB); one immature was at Salmon Cr., *Sonoma* Oct. 5 (JE); and singles at Pescadero Oct. 15 (CB) and one mi. s. of Half Moon Bay Oct. 16 (BS) provided the first *San Mateo* records.

WATERFOWL — The fall movement of Brant generally passes by our Region undetected, so 14,400 calculated to have passed by F.I., during daylight hours Nov. 4 were notable. Peak fall numbers of "Aleutian" Canada Geese occurred Nov. 13-18 when 3800 were counted in *Del Norte* and *Colusa* (PS). Good concentrations of Wood Ducks were reported from the following localities: 45 at Espa Lagoon, Gold Bluffs Beach, *Humboldt* Sept. 15-Nov. 10 (GS), 35 at L. Solano, *Solano* Oct. 21 (JML), 39 at the Auburn sewer ponds Oct. 26 (BBa) and 49 at Hanggi Pond, Springville, *Tulare* Nov. 20 (LN). Fourteen Blue-winged Teal in the Smith R. estuary, *Del Norte* Aug. 16 (JH) were possibly lingering individuals of a local breeding population. Two eclipse-plumaged birds at Eureka Aug. 26 (ph., KVR) were the only other sightings from the n. coast area. After mid-September, Blue-winged Teal were reported in small numbers from 9 traditional localities in the s. half of the Region. Eurasian Wigeon were reported from 8 traditional locations after mid-October as usual, with 10+ present at Sacramento N.W.R., Nov. 30+ (MR-H) the best concentration.

A ♀ **Steller's Eider**, California's 2nd (AB 37:333), was shot by a duck hunter in s. Humboldt Bay in mid-November (*fide* S. Harris). The bird is now a mounted specimen in a private collection. Two Harlequin Ducks at Andrew Molera S.P., *Monterey* Sept. 17 (JML *et al.*) & Sept. 25 (BLaB) were s. of their normal range. A ♀ Oldsquaw at Trinidad Harbor Aug. 22 (RLeV) was likely a lingering summer individual. The only one reported away from the n. coastal counties was a female at Frick L., *Alameda* Nov. 30 (AE, JR). Inland Surf Scoters were at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 28-Nov. 2 (BED) and at L. Shastina, *Siskiyou* Nov. 11-13 (RE). A ♀ Com. Goldeneye on L. Shastina Aug. 23-Sept. 18 (RE, MR) and a female at Arcata Sept. 3 (RLeV, KVR) were likely lingering summer birds. Interior sightings of Red-breasted Mergansers are unusual, so single females at the Woodland sewage ponds, *Yolo* Sept. 3 (JML) and at Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 1 (BED) were of interest. Six ♀-type Hooded Mergansers near the Little R. mouth, *Humboldt* Sept. 4 (KVR) could have been the result of local breeding; there are very few confirmed nesting records from the n. coast.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — A Turkey Vulture near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* Nov. 27 (GL) was in an area where they do not normally winter. A roost of 120 Black-shouldered Kites near Livermore, *Alameda* Sept. 2-Oct. 27 (AE) was one of the largest reported recently. Elsewhere their populations seem to be increasing slowly or remaining stable at low numbers. Northern Goshawks were reported from an impressive 14 locations, mostly in the Sierran and Cascade ranges. One along Alder Springs Ridge, *Glen* Nov. 17-18 (JLo) was in the Coast Range at an expected elevation but another report from n. of Rockport, *Mendocino* Sept. 21 (BE) was early for a migrant and at a low elevation for a breeder. Broad-winged Hawks were scarce this fall except Sept. 28 when 10-12 passed over Pt. Diablo, *Marin* in one hour (JE)! The only other reports were of single immatures at Point Reyes Oct. 1 (HG) and Bodega Bay Oct. 4 (BDP) and two immatures at Pt. Diablo Oct. 15 (RS). Ferruginous Hawks were reported in better than average numbers in the interior of the Region but Rough-legged Hawks were present in low "non-invasion" numbers. Peregrine Falcons were again present in encouraging numbers throughout the Region, with more sightings coming from the C. V. than in recent years. While the increasing sightings may be due in part to reintroduction programs, there seems to be a genuine increase in wild populations as well. A **Gyr Falcon** († to C.B.R.C.) was described from Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 31 (†BED) as it stooped on Greater White-fronted and (Cackling) Canada Geese! The first record from California was of a specimen taken near the same location Oct. 23, 1948.

It is always surprising to find rails away from their normal habitats but migrants that show up in odd places can give us information about migration periods. A Virginia Rail was hiding behind a shrub on a front porch in San Ramon, *Contra Costa* Aug. 7 (KHi), while another on F.I., Aug. 27 furnished the 4th island record. Meanwhile a Sora reached F.I., Sept. 7. A Sandhill Crane in a field near the s. end of Tomales Bay Sept. 16-Nov. 22 (JE *et al.*) provided the 3rd *Marin* record. Another unusual coastal record was provided by four adults and one immature at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey*, Nov. 4 (BW). In more normal haunts, 12,000 were at Merced N.W.R., Nov. 7 (RJB) and 3000 were in the Gray Lodge-Butte Sink area during the fall (*vide* BED).

SHOREBIRDS — Lesser Golden-Plovers were found in small numbers at many coastal locations with the largest concentration being 23 in the Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* Nov. 3 (JSt). The earliest *dominica* was spotted Aug. 9 at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* (BS) while the first *fulva* was identified Sept. 18 on Pt. Reyes (JW). Although *fulva* regularly winters in the Region, the latest *dominica* were two identified Nov. 25 at Half Moon Bay (BS). Observers who are learning to identify these races have helped to elucidate the relative patterns of the two forms but much more information is needed. Few of our inland records have been identified to race but it appears that most inland records pertain to *dominica*. This year inland birds were reported as follows: four at the Davis sewage ponds Oct. 14 (TBe), 18 there Oct. 16 (BY) and five Oct. 22 (JML); one at the Woodland Trestle Ponds Oct. 21 (JML), one at the Lodi sewage ponds Sept. 8 (JML) and another there Oct. 29 (AE). This last bird was thought to be *fulva*. A Semipalmated Plover at Hammonds L., *Siskiyou* Oct. 29 (RE, MR) was very late for an inland locality. Mountain Plovers found in odd locations were three at Pt. Reyes Oct. 2 (*vide Gull*) 21 there Oct. 9 (KH), one there Oct. 14 (RS) and one on Samoa Beach, *Humboldt* Nov. 22 (JSt).

A Black-necked Stilt at Mad River P., *Humboldt* Oct. 8 (RLeV, LD) and at Eureka Oct. 10 (RLeV) was one of few n. coast records. Seven Solitary Sandpipers were reported this fall, the first at Creighton Ranch Aug. 14 (RH) and the last Sept. 21 at the Auburn sewer ponds (BBa) being the only ones away from the coast. Wandering Tattlers were found inside S. F. Bay at Albany, *Alameda* Aug. 19 (HG) and at Mountain View Forebay, *Santa Clara* Sept. 10 (*vide* WB). Also remarkable was one 0.5 mi upstream from the ocean at Andrew Molera S.P., Sept. 17 (JML). Few Wandering Tattlers are ever found away from rocky ocean shores. An **Upland Sandpiper**, for only the 5th Regional record, was s. of Davenport, *Santa Cruz* Sept. 3-4 (†DSi, †CF, †BLaB, †SA). Peak numbers of Long-billed Curlews were 1200 at the Corcoran Irrigation District ponds, *Kings* Sept. 10 (GG), 720 at Creighton Ranch Sept. 14 (RH), 2500 in the S. Wilbur Flood Area, *Kings* Oct. 15 (*vide* KH) and 500 at Davis Oct. 24 (B & HK), illustrating how common this species can be in the C. V. A **Hudsonian Godwit**, only the 3rd certain Regional record and the first from the interior, was photographed Aug. 30-31 near Merced N.W.R. (†RJB). A Black Turnstone at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Aug. 20 (MR) furnished a first *Siskiyou* record and only the 2nd fall record from the interior. Sanderlings were reported away from the coast at Mono L., Sept. 3 (DP) and in the Hacienda Unit, *Kings* Sept. 17 (GG). A minimum of 27 Semipalmated Sandpipers was detected Aug. 1-Oct. 1. Notable among those were an adult at Lawson's Landing, *Marin* Aug. 1 (JE), another adult at Arcata Aug. 13 (ph., KVR, JSt) and the 2nd *Siskiyou* record at Tule Lake N.W.R., Aug. 20 (MR, RE).

Possibly the most controversial shorebird of the fall was a peep first identified as a Rufous-necked Stint but now generally thought to be a **Little Stint** at the Bolinas sewage ponds Sept. 14-22. The bird was first found by D. Edwards and subsequently seen by many and thoroughly documented (†JM, †JE, †RS *et al.*, ph., A. Ghiorso). Identification as Little Stint is based largely on analysis of descriptions and photographs by Peter Grant and Lars Jonsson, European authorities familiar with both species. If accepted by the C.B.R.C., this would be the first record for w. North America s. of Alaska. Another exciting peep seen for only a short period at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey* Aug. 6 was identified as a **Temminck's Stint** (†DR *et al.*). If accepted by the C.B.R.C. this would establish the first record for California and the first in the contiguous United States. This sighting is consistent in pattern with the only documented record s. of Alaska, that from British Columbia (AB 37:347).

Baird's Sandpipers passed through Aug. 5-Oct. 2 in smaller than average numbers, at least in the n. counties. Pectoral Sandpipers were also slightly below average numbers but an adult at Wilder Beach, *Santa Cruz* July 16 (CF), two on the Hacienda Ranch, *Kings* Aug. 14 (MOC), a juvenile near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* Aug. 14 (RAE) and one at Frick L., *Alameda* Aug. 20 (AE) were all early. Two juveniles near Ft. Dick Nov. 15-16 were at the late end of the spectrum (RAE, GL). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were again well represented with a minimum of six individuals as follows: Moss Landing Sept. 12-27 (BLaB *et al.*), Pescadero Marsh Sept. 21-Oct. 3 (RS *et al.*), Bodega Bay Sept. 22 (DHE), Eureka Sept. 28 (RF, JSt), Pt. Reyes Oct. 7-9 (BR, JR, KHi *et al.*), and Pt. Reyes Oct. 15-18 (JE, AE *et al.*). Five Stilt Sandpipers was a good showing as follows: one in the Arcata Bottoms and Eureka Aug. 20 was thought to be the same bird (ph., KVR, JSt, ph., RLeV, LD), while one at Eureka Aug. 26 was different (ph., KVR); one at the Woodland sugar ponds Sept. 4-5 (T & AM, B & HK), one or two at the Bolinas sewage ponds Sept. 6-15 (DDeS, KH, DHE, JM), and the first *San Mateo* record at Pescadero Marsh Sept. 15-21 (PJM, BS *et al.*). Two Buff-breasted Sandpiper records were received, both from Petaluma, *Sonoma* Aug. 22 (*vide Gull*) & 27 (KHa). Six Ruffs, now considered regular in the Region in fall, were discovered: one banded at Creighton Ranch Aug. 10-14 (RH), one in Fremont, *Alameda* Aug. 19-23 (*vide Gull*) one at the Hacienda Unit, *Kings* Aug. 27 (†RG), a juvenile at Pescadero Marsh, *San Mateo* Sept. 7-16 (†DHE *et al.*), a juv. female at Eureka Sept. 8-19 (RF, RAE *et al.*), and one in the Loletta Bottoms, *Humboldt* Sept. 20-24 (Kl *et al.*). Short-billed Dowitchers, uncommon at best inland, were identified as follows: one near Corcoran, *Kings* Aug. 5 (RH), two at Irongate Res., *Siskiyou* Aug. 14 (MR), five at Tule Lake N.W.R., Aug. 20 (MR), nine at Mono L., Sept. 4 with one there the next day (REW), and two at Tule Lake N.W.R., Sept. 11 (SS).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The only inland jaeger identified to species was a Parasitic at Mono L., Sept. 4 (REW) but jaegers thought to be of this species were sighted at Mono L., Sept. 5 (HG) and at Courtright Res., *Fresno* Sept. 10 (JW). In general both Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers were considered present in lower than average numbers along the coast, but Parasitics may have been more conspicuous because of the large number of Elegant Terns. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger off Montara, *San Mateo* Aug. 17 (BS) and four-five off Humboldt Bay Sept. 2 (KVR, LD, JSt) were the only ones reported. At least ten different S. Polar Skuas were reported offshore Aug. 14-Nov. 7.

A minimum of seven Franklin's Gulls passed through Aug. 28-Nov. 22 with three at the Arcata Oxidation Ponds Sept. 22 (JSt) a notable gathering. "It will be news when the rare gulls *don't* return to the Stockton sewage ponds" (SFB, *Gull*); an ad. Little Gull returned Oct. 18 and an ad. Com. Black-headed Gull returned Oct. 11 (DY *et al.*). If these are in fact the same individuals returning annually, as seems likely, this would be their 6th year! An ad. Mew Gull e. of Buntingville, *Lassen* Nov. 5-6 appeared to provide the 2nd county record (†T & AM). Ring-billed Gulls are extremely rare offshore so individuals on F.I., Sept. 21, Oct. 14 and Nov. 5 were notable. A first-year Thayer's Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 22 (†SS, RE, MR, BED) furnished a first *Siskiyou* record. An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull, unusual inland, was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 22 (†SS). A wandering Sabine's Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R., established the first *Modoc* record Oct. 1 (†SS) and the first *Siskiyou* record Oct. 3 (SJ).

This summer's invasion of Elegant Terns developed into the most massive on record. They were found in the hundreds at many coastal localities and really made big news n. of our Region. Black Terns are quite rare on the coast so of interest were single immatures at L. Earl, *Del Norte* Sept. 29-30 (GL, JR), Monterey Bay Oct. 2 (RS, JE), Bodega Bay Oct. 14-15 (JL, JW, NTC) and two at Arcata Nov. 2-5 (JSt).

Both Xantus' and Craveri's murrelets were present in greater than average numbers with the latter staging an unprecedented Regional invasion. Both species were present on Monterey Bay Aug. 13-Oct. 16 with high counts of Xantus' being six Aug. 13 (DR). Peak Craveri's numbers were 30-35 on Oct. 2 (RS, JE) with 10-20 being reported from many trips. Of 49 individuals seen Aug. 24 and originally thought to be Xantus', many if not most turned out to be Craveri's after inspection of photographs (SFB) illustrating the caution that is necessary when dealing with these small pelagic birds. Unexpected among these warm water species was a **Parakeet Auklet** washed ashore alive in Humboldt Bay at

Samoa Nov. 20 (*fide* S. Harris). The bird died after a week of rehabilitation efforts (*to Humboldt State Univ.) and furnished only the 2nd record in California since 1945. Tufted Puffins lingered at F.I. breeding sites until Sept. 30, about 2 weeks later than usual.

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS — Notable movements of Band-tailed Pigeons included 2000 flying S past Moss Landing in a 45 min period Aug. 7 (AB) and 345+ migrating past Pt. Diablo Sept. 24 (SFB). White-winged Doves made their best fall showing yet with seven to 12 individuals accounted for on the immediate coast. One found dead at Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes Oct. 4 (*fide* Gull). It may have been responsible for up to five different sightings near there, beginning Aug. 14. At the same location, a flock of four (all imm.) remained Oct. 8-16 (RS, LCB *et al.*). Elsewhere, one or two were in the Pacific Grove area of *Monterey* Aug. 12-15 (S. Harrison, *fide* AB) and one at Pescadero Marsh Aug. 24 established a first *San Mateo* record (*BS, PJM).

A wayward Yellow-billed Cuckoo Sept. 25 was the 6th to land on F.I. Current research on Spotted Owls in n. California is focusing on juvenile dispersal; preliminary results this fall have documented previously unsuspected long-distance movements as well as high mortality (*fide* R. Gutierrez). Meanwhile, at least two of California's newly found **Barred Owls** remain resident near Crescent City and Salyer, *Trinity* (*fide* RAE, KVR). As for this Region's small population of Great Gray Owls, there was no evidence of nesting anywhere in 1983 (JW). Seven Long-eared Owls were reported from *Marin*, *Solano*, and *Siskiyou*. Short-eared Owls continue their near-absence from most coastal and C.V. locations.

An injured Lesser Nighthawk at Seaside, *Monterey* was the only one reported away from the breeding range (AB, *to Pacific Grove Nat. His. Mus.). The third F.I. Com. Poorwill arrived Oct. 15 and liked it well enough to remain for at least a month, possibly hibernating. Another at Santa Clara Oct. 25+ was thought to be wintering (CB). A late report of a **Whip-poor-will** heard five times on the evening of June 21 at Blue Ridge, *Tulare* would represent the first for this Region (*TAB, RN).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Of the few migrant Black Swifts noted, 15 over Stockton Sept. 25 were the most unusual (DY). A lone **Chimney Swift** was in direct comparison with Vaux's on F.I., Sept. 25 (*KH, P.R.B.O.) for only the 2nd Regional fall report. At Prairie Creek S.P., 2000 Vaux's Swifts entering a huge redwood at dusk Sept. 27 & 30 must have been an awesome sight (GS).

Four extralimital Costa's Hummingbirds were found including an imm. male at F.I., Aug. 14. Others were at Kilgore Hills, *Siskiyou* Aug. 4 (*RE), a male at Del Puerto Canyon, *Stanislaus* Oct. 26 (N. Kerr) and another male throughout the period at Dinuba, *Tulare* (ph., K. Strassberg). Two Calliope Hummingbirds were rare migrants at Mono L., Sept. 4 (HG) and an immature was at Pt. Reyes Sept. 7 (RS).

A 3rd F.I. record of Lewis' Woodpecker was of a single bird Sept. 20. A flock of 28 flying past Pt. Diablo was a very rare coastal sight (*fide* Gull). "Red-naped" Sapsuckers visited F.I., Sept. 28. Three Rivers, *Tulare* Nov. 13 (*fide* KH), and S. F., Nov. 12-26 (JM, AE). A ♀ Nuttall's Woodpecker that wandered to Mono L., was "discovered" independently by 3 observers Sept. 9, Oct. 16 & 22 (PJM, JLo, *SFB). At the n.e. edge of their range, three others were found in *Lassen* and *Shasta* in August (T & AM).

FLYCATCHERS — An amazing 22 species occurred in the Region this fall, roughly two-thirds of all the regular occurring North American tyrannids. Heading the list was the singing **Eastern Wood-Pewee** discovered Aug. 18 near Manteca, *San Joaquin* but not pinned down until Sept. 7 (*DY). It then obligingly sang to most of the active California birders until Sept. 16 (*JM, *DR, *KH, *TM). This presumably summering individual was believed by many to be California's only undisputed record.

Equally exciting, but obliging only a few researchers was the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** that landed on F.I., Sept. 27 and then died Sept. 28, to become California's 2nd record and first specimen (*to Calif. Academy of Sciences). About 40 Willow Flycatchers were reported Aug. 13-Oct. 8 migrating through both coastal and inland localities. An unprecedented *nine* Least Flycatchers were banded at F.I., Sept. 17-Oct. 18. Three other individuals were reported (without details) from Pt. Reyes Sept. 24-27. Although the status of this species in the Region is not in

question, the diagnostic marks for certain identification are still hotly debated among the experts. As such, it becomes useless to enumerate records on these pages with no documentation other than an observer's reputation to judge them by.

The other F.I. empids included a Hammond's Sept. 26 (rare in fall) and two Grays Sept. 7 & 25. An E. Phoebe was very unusual inland at L. Yosemite, *Merced* Oct. 24 (*RJB).

All four North American *Myiarchus* appeared; the only expected species, Ash-throated, lingered until Nov. 1 in coastal *Humboldt* after 3 other migrant reports there (JSt *et al.*). The Region's 3rd **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** stayed only briefly at Palomar Nov. 12-14 (*DDeS, RS). Highlighted in almost any other year, a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was banded on F.I., Oct. 2. But not to be outdone by its congeners, a **Brown-crested Flycatcher** stopped on F.I., Sept. 17 to be banded and photographed (*KH, P.R.B.O.) establishing a first Regional, and first coastal California record.

The season's only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was an immature at Pt. Reyes Aug. 6 (*fide* Gull). Twenty-eight Tropical Kingbird reports Aug. 31-Nov. 28 were the most ever in a season. Although it is not hard to imagine this conspicuous species being "over-counted" as individuals hop up our coast from one birding hot spot to another, there is no doubting the magnitude with which these birds emanate from the subtropics each fall. A Cassin's Kingbird provided a first F.I. record Aug. 25; this is actually our rarest kingbird in fall. Only four coastal W. Kingbirds were reported. Besides being very late, one at Stone Lagoon, *Humboldt* Oct. 10 (GS) sported a shiny silver band. An even more unseasonal bird at Palo Alto, *Santa Clara* Nov. 12-19 was apparently well studied by an observer familiar with such problems (D. Stovel, *fide* WB), but we have not seen any details. To round out our list, a juv. E. Kingbird visited Pt. Reyes Station Sept. 13 (ph., JE).

SKYLARK TO NUTHATCHES — We are running out of superlatives with which to applaud the return of the **Eurasian Skylark** to Pt. Reyes; it was right on schedule Nov. 3 for its 6th year, although it could not be located after Nov. 8 (*DHE *et al.*). Details of this record were recently published (*West. Birds* 14:113-126). This year's array of late-lingering swallows included five Trees at L. Earl, *Del Norte* Nov. 28 (GS), five Violet-greens at Arcata, Nov. 24 & Dec. 10 (KVR), 15 N. Rough-wingeds at Palomar Nov. 14 and a Cliff at Arcata to Nov. 11 (JSt *et al.*). Bank Swallows were last noted at their newly found *Del Norte* colony Aug. 14 (RAE).

There were no large-scale movements of corvids but single individuals caused a few local reactions. Heading the list was a **Blue Jay** seen one day only at a feeder in Willow Creek, *Humboldt* Oct. 6 (R. Genelli). Scattered Scrub Jays appeared on the immediate n. coast where rare, and a Steller's wandered to the isolated cottonwoods at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 21 (BED). *Butte* attracted its first wayward Pinyon Jay at Mountain House Oct. 16 (BED, *TM). Farallon Island's third ever Clark's Nutcracker checked out the researchers there and flew off towards the mainland Sept. 28. Another far-ranging nutcracker was on the valley floor at Colusa N.W.R., Oct. 31 (BED, TM, MR-H).

A few adventuresome parids also made local news as usual, highlighted by *Del Norte*'s first Plain Titmouse at Klamath Oct. 28-Nov. 20 (RAE, GL *et al.*). Lowland Mountain Chickadees visited the immediate n. coast in larger than usual numbers (15+ reports) beginning Oct. 14 (RAE *et al.*) and established first records in *Sutter* and *San Mateo* in late October (PBS, WA, *BS). Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared early and in large numbers in both inland and coastal reporting areas, as well as on F.I., where influxes have been noted in alternate years since 1978 (P.R.B.O.). Stray White-breasted Nuthatches reached the coast in 4 locations from *Humboldt* to S.F., as is normal in fall.

WRENS TO VIREOS — Single Rock Wrens at Creighton Ranch Aug. 13 and Nov. 26 (RH) and Pacific Grove Nov. 12 (AB) were local rarities. A singing Canyon Wren at 12,200 ft at Iridescent L. Basin, *Tulare* July 19-21 (HG, MG) was apparently a Regional elevation record. Winter Wrens at Lost L., *Fresno* Aug. 11 (KH) and Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, near Danville, *Contra Costa* Aug. 24 (KH) were close to the record early date away from breeding grounds: Aug. 6, 1980 at F.I. Single Marsh Wrens arrived at F.I., Sept. 10 & 26; surprisingly there were only 7 previous island records.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported in good numbers away from

breeding areas; high counts included 12 at Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Oct. 19, 20+ at nearby Briones Regional P., Nov. 26 (both KHi), and 25 in Stockton Dec. 1 (DY). Eighty-eight "sightings" of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Palomar during the period was an *exceptional* number.

Rare on the coast was a Mountain Bluebird at F.I., Nov. 26 and single Townsend's Solitaires at Golden Gate P., S.F., Sept. 10 (†HG, DM), Fairhaven Sept. 19 (RF), Martinez Nov. 5 (*fide Gull*), and Gazos Cr. Road, *San Mateo* Nov. 11 (†BS). At Requa, 313 Am. Robins and 88 Varied Thrushes were counted flying S in one hour Oct. 15 and 421 Am. Robins and 131 Varied Thrushes were counted in one-half hour Oct. 16 (RAE). Large numbers of Varied Thrushes were noted flying over L. Oroville *Butte*, also on the early morning of Oct. 16 (BED, T & AM). Elsewhere, the first Varied Thrush was at Pt. Reyes Sept. 25 (KHa) and a major increase was noted in the S.F. Bay Area in November (JE, KHi, RS, P.R.B.O.).

As usual, N. Mockingbirds were found slightly out of range and/or habitat at various points along the coast from S.F. to the Oregon border Aug. 11-Nov. 27. Four vagrant Sage Thrashers were found along the coast: Arcata Sept. 3 (ph., RLeV, KVR); Arcata Bottoms Sept. 18-19 (JSt *et al.*); and F.I. arrivals Sept. 29 & Oct. 5. For the first time since 1972, Brown Thrasher was unrecorded in the fall period.

An imm. **Yellow Wagtail** at Santa Cruz Sept. 4-6 (†DSi, †CF, †BLaB *et al.*) was well seen by many, contrasting with the 4 previous state records (Sept. 17, 1978 Pt. Reyes; Sept. 16, 1979 Bodega Bay; Sept. 7, 1981 Cayucos; Sept. 19, 1982 Pacific Grove) — all rather briefly seen but all now accepted by the C.B.R.C. A late report from Iridescent L. Basin, *Tulare* was of ten Water Pipit nests found and 3-5 more undetected until fledging in summer 1983 (MG, J. Miller).

Mono L. hosted a vagrant Phainopepla Sept. 11 (PJM). Locally rare migrant Loggerhead Shrikes were one mile w. of the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite Nat'l P., *Tuolumne* Aug. 18 (JML) and n. of Orick *Humboldt* Sept. 16 (GS).

Quite unexpected was a *plumbeus* Solitary Vireo in San Jose Oct. 25-Nov. 26 (P. LaTourrette, P. Judges, *fide WB*). Following 2 slow falls, an impressive five Philadelphia Vireos were found: two at Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 with one present the next day (LCB, RS, †AE, BBa *et al.*); F.I., Sept. 26 (†KH, P.R.B.O.); Pt. Reyes Oct. 3 (†BDP); and Golden Gate P., S.F., Oct. 4 (J.M. Spoelman, *fide Gull*). Single Red-eyed Vireos near Fort Dick Aug. 17 (†JH) and at F.I., Sept. 17 were the only ones reported.

WOOD WARBLERS — The vagrant warbler season was mediocre, but certainly up from last year's poor showing. With all that we have learned over the last 20 years it seems incredible that no Chestnut-sided Warblers were found on F.I., and that for the 2nd fall in a row Blackburnian Warbler was unrecorded on Pt. Reyes or F.I. A detailed account of annual variability in migrant numbers at F.I. (both common migrants and vagrants) by DeSante recently appeared in *The Auk* (100:826-852).

On the coast, 32 Tennessee Warblers spanned Sept. 6-Nov. 30. One at Willow Cr., Sept. 22 (JB) and another at Lafayette Nov. 11-25 (LF) were slightly inland. In contrast to the last 2 years, very few Nashville Warblers were reported on the coast. A report of 55+ near The Cedars, *Placer* Aug. 15 (TBe) indicates how common they can be in post breeding/migrant flocks in the mountains. One at Avocado L., *Fresno* Nov. 27 (JSi, KH) was very late and five along the coast in late November were possibly wintering. Interior Virginia's Warblers were at Ackerson Meadow, *Tuolumne* Aug. 6 (JW), Mono L., Sept. 9 (PJM), and Avocado L., Nov. 27 (JSi, †KH) for *Fresno*'s first. Coastal birds were at F.I., Oct. 5-7, Pt. Reyes Oct. 6-8 (RS, †KHi *et al.*) and near Ft. Dick Nov. 22-26 (R. Tryon, †GL *et al.*) for *Del Norte*'s first. The November birds were nearly 3 weeks later than the previous late date of an obvious migrant for the Region. The only Lucy's Warbler arrived at F.I., Sept. 5, the island's 4th. Three N. Parulas were found: Requa Sept. 17 (RAE); near Crystal Springs Res., *San Mateo* Sept. 21 (*fide Gull*); and Pt. Reyes Sept. 25-29 (JM, KHa *et al.*).

Only six coastal Chestnut-sided Warblers were found: one at Golden Gate P., S.F., Sept. 25 (*fide Gull*) and five at Pt. Reyes Sept. 25-Oct. 8. More significant was *Tulare*'s first at Creighton Ranch on the late dates of Nov. 5-12 (KH, †MOC *et al.*). Nine Magnolia Warblers were found along the coast from Fairhaven to S.F., Sept. 3-Oct. 9 with an additional eight arriving on F.I., between the unusually early and late dates of Aug.

22 & Nov. 3. The only two Cape May Warblers were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 17-19 (AE *et al.*) and Sept. 27-30 (BBa, AE *et al.*). Six Black-throated Blue Warblers were found Sept. 29-Nov. 1 from Humboldt Bay to F.I. Black-throated Green Warblers at Battery Wallace, *Marin* Oct. 9. (A. Eisner, *fide Gull*) and F.I., Nov. 3 were the only ones seen. Three Blackburnian Warblers were found at Lincoln P., S.F., Oct. 1-7 and one near Ft. Dick Nov. 18-20 (RAE, GS, GL *et al.*) established both the northernmost and latest record for California. Nine Prairie Warblers on the coast between Humboldt Bay and Moss Beach Sept. 5-Oct. 31 was a good showing. Another at Bolinas Lagoon Dec. 3 (RS) was late. Over 100 Palm Warblers were seen along the coast Sept. 24-Nov. 30; one near Salinas Oct. 14-25 (BG) was slightly inland. A Bay-breasted Warbler was at Lincoln P., S.F., Sept. 25 (A. Hopkins, *fide Gull*). About 62 Blackpoll Warblers were found along the coast Sept. 7-Oct. 14. One was found dead in S.F., on the late date of Nov. 1 (*fide Gull*).

Fifteen Black-and-white Warblers were found along the coast from Ft. Dick to Santa Cruz Sept. 9-Nov. 30. The ad. female found at Pt. Saint George July 30 remained to Sept. 28 (GL) and the ad. ♂ Am. Redstart found at Mad R. mouth, *Humboldt* July 17 remained at least to Aug. 20 (JB, †KVR). An additional 30 redstarts were along the coast Aug. 28-Oct. 27. Inland, one at Mono L., Aug. 22 (*fide JE*) was normal, but two very late birds were highly atypical: Redding Nov. 24 (KVV, KC) and Yreka Nov. 25 (RE, †MR). A Prothonotary Warbler was banded at Lanphere Dunes, w. of Arcata Sept. 21 (JSt).



Ovenbird, Pt. Reyes, Calif., Sept. 14-Oct. 9, 1983. Photo/P. LaTourrette.

Ovenbirds continued to be almost unknown away from F.I., and Pt. Reyes. One was at Moss Beach *San Mateo* Oct. 12 (†BS) while ten were at the two aforementioned sites Sept. 14-Oct. 9. Seven N. Waterthrushes were on the immediate coast from Fairhaven to Half Moon Bay Aug. 28-Oct. 10 with another on S.F. Bay at Alviso banded Sept. 24 (*fide WB*). Five Connecticut Warblers matched the record set in 1974. Three arrived at F.I., Sept. 15, 25 & Oct. 11 and two were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 (LCB, †RS) & Oct. 7 (†RS, †JE, GS). Hooded Warblers were found at Montara Aug. 25 (†BS) and Pt. Reyes Sept. 26-27 (LCB *et al.*), only the 5th record for the outer point. Wilson's Warblers at Ferndale *Humboldt* Nov. 19 (KVR, JSt) and Half Moon Bay (BS) Nov. 30 were the last ones seen. Single Canada Warblers were at Golden Gate P., S.F., Sept. 24 (E. & A. Makishima) and Pt. Reyes Sept. 25 (JM, KHa). Seven Yellow-breasted Chats on the coast Aug. 30-Oct. 15 was well above average.

TANAGERS THROUGH TOWHEES — An ad. ♂ Summer Tanager was seen slightly inland at Spreckles, *Monterey* Aug. 28 (BG). Thirteen coastal Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Aug. 27-Nov. 4 was about average with seven of these from S.F. Blue Grosbeak had an excellent showing with *Del Norte*'s second at Requa Sept. 2 (RAE), and singles at Pt. Reyes Sept. 9 (LCB), Pt. Pinos Sept. 20 (RS *et al.*) and Pt. Reyes Oct. 8 (BDP).

Single Indigo Buntings were seen at Pt. Pinos Sept. 28 (BW), Pt. Reyes Oct. 7-8 (RS *et al.*), and very late on F.I., Nov. 29. Exceptional was a Dickcissel Nov. 17-18 at Crescent City for *Del Norte*'s first record (GL, RAE *et al.*). A Green-tailed Towhee turned up at Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 (RS, LCB, JM) and three were on F.I., Sept. 7-Nov. 11.

SPARROWS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — American Tree Sparrows invaded the coast in unprecedented numbers with ten on F.I., Oct.

4-27 and ten from Santa Cruz to Klamath Sept. 23-Nov. 6 with another at Walnut Cr., Oct. 8 (†RHu *et al.*) for the first East Bay record. Fifteen Clay-colored Sparrows along the coast Sept. 23-Nov. 27 was average. Brewer's Sparrows were seen at Palomarin Aug. 23, Gold Bluff Beach, *Humboldt* Oct. 9 (GS, RAE), Spreckles Oct. 12 (BG) and six on F.I., Aug. 24-Oct. 11 for a typical showing.

A very rare Black-throated Sparrow was on F.I., Sept. 25-Oct. 2. An amazing 18 Lark Buntings were reported with seven on F.I., Sept. 7-Oct. 7, one each at Mono L., Sept. 4 (REW), *Tulare* Sept. 5 (RG), *Del Norte*'s second at Requa Aug. 9 (RF), Orick Sept. 7-8 (GS, RAE, JSt), Arcata Bottoms Oct. 9 (JSt *et al.*), Angel I., S.F. Bay Oct. 9 (*fide Gull*) and three on Pt. Reyes Sept. 3-Oct. 2. This number far exceeds fall 1981's high of 11. An interesting locality for Grasshopper Sparrow was Palomarin Aug. 3.

The Region's 4th **Le Conte's Sparrow** at Neary's Lagoon, Santa Cruz was well described and delighted many observers Oct. 29-30 (†DG, †KH, †KHa *et al.*). Thirty Swamp Sparrows showed up at traditional winter coastal localities, and one at Merced N.W.R., Oct. 31-Nov. 11 (†RJB) was inland. White-throated Sparrows were well reported with 61 on the coast and ten inland Sept. 21+. Five Harris' Sparrows were reported: Palomarin Oct. 30, Janesville Nov. 5 (T & AM), Pt. Reyes Nov. 6 (*fide Gull*), Pebble Beach *Monterey* Nov. 24 (DR *et al.*) and Fresno Nov. 30 (KH). Six "Slate-colored" Juncos were found coastally Oct. 6-Nov. 22.

Many Lapland Longspurs were seen at 12 localities with a high of 20+ in the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 29-Nov. 3 (JSt *et al.*). The rarer Chestnut-collared Longspur was at Pt. Reyes Oct. 14-Nov. 5 (RS *et al.*), Arcata Oct. 29 (JSt) and F.I., Nov. 5 & 15. And the exceptionally rare McCown's Longspur was seen on Pt. Reyes Nov. 1-4 (RS *et al.*) for only the 2nd coastal record!

Bobolinks staged an invasion with 35 in *Humboldt* (including 27 in one flock at Arcata Oct. 10—JSt). A lingering individual in an Arcata salt marsh until Nov. 18 was the Region's latest record by 13 days (JSt, KVR ph. *et al.*). The occurrence of the large flock has only one precedent in the Region: 16 in Trinidad, *Humboldt*, Oct. 1, 1970. Eight arrivals on F.I., was also above average; however, only four others appeared elsewhere along the coast Sept. 9-Nov. 3.

Vagrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Klamath Aug. 27 (RAE) and a first for Palomarin Oct. 29. It was a good fall for Rusty Blackbird with one each at Klamath Oct. 15-16 (RAE, GS, GL), Orick Oct. 29 (JSt, RF), and Pt. Reyes Nov. 3 (†DHE, J.G. Hall *et al.*). Very few Orchard Orioles were reported with one from F.I., and three on Pt. Reyes Sept. 16-26. A Hooded Oriole Aug. 31 was the F.I.'s 4th, and a late N. "Bullock's" Oriole was at Klamath Nov. 17 (RAE). One Great-tailed

Grackle continues to be seen in San Francisco with a sighting Oct. 28 (*fide Gull*).

ABBREVIATIONS: C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; Creighton Ranch = Creighton Ranch Nature Preserve, *Tulare*; F.I. = S.E. Farallon Island; P.R.B.O. = Point Reyes Bird Observatory; S.F. = San Francisco; † = description on file. All observations at Palomarin (near Bolinas) and F.I. should be credited to P.R.B.O. References to the *Gull* refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is written by S.F. Bailey. *Italicized* names refer to counties.

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