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## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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**T**he first one-half of the period was dominated by coastal fog, which depressed the counts of migrating raptors at Pt. Diablo. October and November were dry.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory continues to provide extremely valuable reports from Palomarin and especially Southeast Farallon Island, without which our seasonal summaries would be quite incomplete. The authors thank Kurt F. Campbell for extensive data handling and editorial contributions.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized* names refer to counties. All of the many records from Palomarin and S.E. Farallon I. (hereafter F.I.) should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter P.R.B.O.). References to the Gull refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is currently written by Helen A. Green. Most such birds were originally reported to Joseph Morlan.

**LOONS THROUGH PELICANS** — Migrant loons were detected early, with three Commons passing Pt. Pinos, Monterey, Sept. 6, and two Red-throats, six Pacifics, and three Commons migrating at Santa Cruz Sept. 10 (all DLSu). The flight was very intense at Santa Cruz Nov. 26, as 800 Red-throats and 5100 Pacifics passed in one hour (DLSu). Again an early Pacific Loon visited L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Aug. 19–31 (RE), and another at Bridgeport Res., Mono, Oct. 31 (DS, SJ) was also far inland. Crescent City Harbor attracted Del Norte's first Yellow-billed Loon Oct. 28–30 (L. Jonsson, †ADB, †GSL, †LPL et al.). Sixty Horned Grebes in Lake Oct. 24 (JRW) was a large inland concentration. As in 1983, Eared Grebes nested at Moffett Field, Santa Clara, producing at least 15 young (m.ob.). Both Western and Clark's grebes were "still widespread and abundant in the Great Basin/Modoc Plateau region" Oct. 31–Nov. 4, with "many adults still feeding ½ to ¾ adult-sized young" (SJ, DS). Repeated surveys of S.F. Bay in Marin, Alameda, and Contra Costa found 8.2% Clark's Grebes among *Aechmophorus* identified this fall (DDK).

Unseasonal single Black-footed Albatross sightings were offshore Monterey Oct. 11 to Nov. 6 (SFB, DLSh). One Laysan Albatross was off Monterey Nov. 30 (PhR). Up to 25 N. Fulmars per day were offshore from Monterey to Humboldt August to

October before numbers jumped to 100 beyond Cordell Bank Nov. 1 (SFB) and 130 offshore Monterey Nov. 6 (DLSh). Flesh-footed Shearwaters produced an unprecedented number of sightings. One was offshore Humboldt Bay Sept. 14 (NEC), one to three were offshore Monterey on 9 boat trips Sept. 20 to Nov. 21 (GMCC, DLSh, m.ob.), and one to four were at and beyond Cordell Bank Oct. 19 to Nov. 2 (KFC, SFB, m.ob.). A light-morph **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** (*Puffinus pacificus*) following a boat 5 mi w. of Pt. Pinos Aug. 31 established the first record north of Mexico (ph. RS et al.). This tropical bird would have been less surprising had it occurred during an "El Niño" year. Buller's Shearwaters were exceptionally abundant, exemplified by the peak 2000 offshore Monterey Oct. 2 (PJM, DLSh). Unprecedented numbers could be seen from shore around Monterey Bay, including 200 in 30 minutes passing Pt. Pinos Sept. 21 (DR, GMCC). At Cordell Bank, 670 on Nov. 2 (DLSh) marked the highest count. The last Buller's was seen Nov. 21 offshore Monterey (DLSh). Short-tailed Shearwaters appeared mostly as singles beginning in mid-September, but 30 were estimated offshore Monterey Oct. 23 and 44 were counted there Nov. 6 (both DLSh). Small numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters appeared from Monterey to San Mateo beginning Sept. 12 (DLSh, DLSu et al.).

One Wilson's Storm-Petrel was in Monterey Bay, Monterey & Santa Cruz Aug. 31–Oct. 26 (RS, DLSh, †RAE), with two seen there Oct. 12 (†JML, †DLSu). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was a surprise in the Monterey Bay storm-petrel flock Sept. 25 & 27 (DLSh), and one was by itself there Oct. 12 (DLSu). Single Fork-taileds in the Cordell Bank/F.I. area Oct. 12 to Nov. 2 (DLSh, T. Johnson) were topped by 16 seen passing Pt. Pinos during high winds Nov. 7 (DR). Two Least Storm-Petrels were detected in the Monterey Bay storm-petrel flock Oct. 5–12 (RS, DLSh, T. H. Koundakjian).

An imm. Brown Pelican on L. Kaweah Sept. 30 to Oct. 9 represented the first record for Tulare (ph. LLN). Brown Pelican flocks in Santa Cruz averaged 75–79% immatures (DLSu), presumably reflecting consecutive years of good reproduction south of the Region. Maximum Brown Pelican counts on Ano Nuevo I., San Mateo, were 3000 Oct. 30 and 2400 Nov. 29 (GJS).

**HERONS THROUGH DUCKS** — A good inland concentrations of 212 Great Egrets was at Patterson sewage ponds, Stanislaus, Nov. 15 (HMR). Four Little Blue Heron records were all from Santa Clara, including an unseasonal bird Nov. 26 in



Mountain View (M. Moyer) as well as a calico bird at Palo Alto Baylands Sept. 17 to end of period (TAC, fide PMB). An imm. Green-backed Heron was at 7000 ft elevation at June L., Mono Oct. 30 (SJ, DS). White-faced Ibis were reported in average numbers at the Region's breeding areas but a single immature in the Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt, Sept. 27 (†FJB) furnished the only coastal report.

An early Tundra Swan was at L. Almanor, Plumas, Aug. 17 (PDG). A Greater White-fronted Goose at F.I., Sept. 25 provided a 2nd island record. Snow Geese are uncommon on the coast, and continue to be outnumbered by Ross' Geese there in fall, but 10 Snows, mostly singles, were reported from Monterey to Del Norte. Sixteen Ross' Geese found coastally included 11 birds 5 mi n.w. of Tomales Pt., Marin, Nov. 1 (SFB, m.ob.). A



Establishing the first record north of Mexico, this light-morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater was observed five miles west of Point Pinos, California, on August 31, 1986. Photo/Rich Stallcup.



dark morph Ross' Goose was well described at Gray Lodge W.M.A., Sutter, Nov. 23 (†DDK). The only Emperor Goose recorded was an immature at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 19 to early November (†MR, m.ob.). This species is almost annual in the Klamath Basin. An ad. Barnacle Goose near Colusa Nov. 22 through the period (DES) was "probably the same bird I saw with Cacklers in s.w. Alaska in October" (BED) and may well be the same individual tracked through at least Oregon and California from November 1984 to April 1985 (AB 39:345). The bird is likely an escapee, but the record is currently in circulation through the C.B.R.C.

A Gadwall at F.I., Aug. 17–21 furnished the 3rd island record, the first since 1969. All but 2 of about 20 Eur. Wigeon reports were coastal. A ♂ Ring-necked x Tufted Duck at Stockton sewage ponds, San Joaquin, Nov. 12 (†DGY) was an interesting find. A ♀ Tufted Duck was at the Smith R. mouth, Nov. 16 (†ADB, †GSL et al.) for a first Del Norte record. A ♀ King Eider at Crescent City Harbor, Nov. 21 through the period (BMu, †ADB, †GSL, †LPL, ph. JAR, m.ob.) was Del Norte's 2nd. A total of up to 15 Harlequin Ducks was reported coastally south to Monterey, while at the more regular Pt. Saint George, Del Norte, locality, a state high of 33 was seen Oct. 26 (ADB). At least six Oldsquaws were reported coastally, which is about average. A White-winged Scoter at the Lodi sewage ponds Nov. 16 (TR) furnished "a first San Joaquin record" (DGY). A Barrow's Goldeneye at Paicines Res., San Benito, Oct. 10 (†KVV) was a first for that county. Forty Hooded Mergansers were at L. Earl, Del Norte, Nov. 15 (GSL, RLeV, PFS, LD), while a single Hooded was at the Tracy sewage ponds, San Joaquin, Nov. 28 & 29 (TR, DGY) for a rare C.V. floor record. An interesting description of a ♂ Hooded Merganser hybrid at L. Merritt, Alameda, Nov. 28 (ALE, GFB, L.A. Rhodes) suggested a Com. Goldeneye was the other parent. This combination has been reported in the literature.

**RAPTORS** — Despite prevalent fog, increased coverage of the raptor migration at Pt. Diablo, Marin, recorded new high counts of six species (Table 1). Single Bald Eagles were early at Camanche Res., San Joaquin, Aug. 16 (DGY) and at Sequoia L., Fresno, Sept. 14 (RHG). Three Red-shouldered Hawks were n. to Siskiyou Sept. 9 to Nov. 5 (RE, MR), while singles were

e. to Mono L., Oct. 29 and Janesville, Lassen, Nov. 1–27 (both DS, SJ). The 26 Broad-winged Hawks that passed Pt. Diablo did so Sept. 24 to Oct. 20 (CLF, m.ob.). Other Broad-winged Hawks visited Santa Cruz Sept. 29 (DLSu) and Palo Alto Oct. 31 (†DLSu), the latter a first for Santa Clara. A flock of 25 Swainson's Hawks in San Joaquin Aug. 10 was a welcome sight (PLN, P. Gottschling). Eight Ferruginous Hawks Oct. 4 to Nov. 11 made a high total for Humboldt, where they are rare (JCS et al.). The flight of Rough-legged Hawks into central California was light, but one was early for the coast Oct. 19 at Half Moon Bay, San Mateo (GJS). On F.I., Merlins tied last year's record total of 11, while the 51 that passed Pt. Diablo were astounding considering the species' former rarity at this lookout. The period's first Merlin landed at Oakland Airport, Alameda, Sept. 3 (LRF, fide HAG).

**RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — An imm. **Purple Gallinule** braved passing joggers, dogs, and hordes of gawking birders at L. Elizabeth in Fremont's Central Park, Alameda, Oct. 17–27 (†AIH, †m.ob.). Although this species is a well-known wanderer, the nearest previous records come from Utah, s. Nevada, Arizona, and San Diego (an immature in October 1961—California's only other record).

The races of Lesser Golden-Plover were again reported in about equal numbers from the interior: *dominica* at L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Sept. 11–17 (RE, MR); returning ad. *fulva* at Lodi sewage ponds Oct. 11+ and a *dominica* there Oct. 11–Nov. 16 (both JML, DGY); up to five of each race at the Modesto sewage ponds after Aug. 17 (ERC, HMR); and a bird of unknown race in the Tulare L. basin, Kings, Oct. 24 (RHG, GWG). Approximately 100 birds reported along the coast were about equally divided between *dominica*, *fulva*, and unknown. Some birds appear to have been reported differently by different observers, especially later in the season when molting *fulva* may not appear quite as bright as observers had come to expect from fresh juveniles. Coastal Mountain Plovers were at the Salinas R. mouth Oct. 3 (PJM) and Pt. Reyes Nov. 11 (fide HAG). National attention centered around a juv. **Eurasian Dotterel** at Pt. Reyes Sept. 6–9 (†DAH, †DDK, ph. †m.ob.). Two early September records from Washington and one at F.I., Sept. 12–20, 1974, were the only previous North American records outside of Alaska.

Santa Clara's 2nd Black Oystercatcher was at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin Aug. 20 (DLSu). A Lesser Yellowlegs at Mt. Meadow Res., Lassen, Aug. 25 (DCR) provided one of few reports from the mountains of the Region. Twelve Solitary Sandpipers along the coast was a good showing. The most significant of eight additional inland birds were one at Big L., Shasta, Sept. 14 (RE), and the first Stanislaus records, both at the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 10 and Oct. 5 (ph. ERC, HMR). Another county first was the Wandering Tattler at the Modesto ponds Sept. 7–22 (ph. †ERC, †HMR).

Significant Red Knot reports were of two adults at the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 12 with another there Aug. 15 (Stanislaus's first—ph. ERC, HMR), a juvenile at Mono L., Aug. 29–30 (DS, GMCC), and a record high Monterey count of 80 juveniles at the Salinas R. mouth Sept. 6 (DR). Approximately 40 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, all juveniles and nearly all along the coast. Inland birds were one at Mono L., Aug. 29–31 (DS, HAG), up to three at the Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo, Aug. 8–12 (†MJL, JML), two at the Lodi sewage ponds in the period Aug. 7–21 (DGY), and one at the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 6 (ph. †ERC). One at Martinez Oct. 2 (RJR) was Contra Costa's first, and eight at the Salinas R. mouth Aug. 13 (†DLSu) furnished the high count. A Pectoral Sandpiper in Fremont Dec. 1 (†AIH) was very late. Five Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were found: Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 11–14 (BHG, †m.ob.); Moss Landing Sept. 21–27 (†GMCC, ph. DR, m.ob.); Sunnyvale sewage ponds Sept. 30 (†PLN); and up to two at Limantour Estero, Marin, Oct. 3–5 (ALE et al.). The summering Dunlin remained in Arcata to Aug. 31 (FJB). Only one Stilt Sandpiper was found, a juvenile at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin,

**Table 1. Five year comparison of fall migration raptor counts at Pt. Diablo**

(Carter L. Faust, m.ob.)  
(— = not recorded or not reported)

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
count days	50	65	94	99	120
count hours	225	285	400	403	536
Turkey Vulture	—	590	900	303	385
Osprey	15	16	45	51	66
Black-shouldered Kite	1	9	51	28	15
Bald Eagle	2	0	0	2	0
Northern Harrier	—	137	273	171	158
Sharp-shinned Hawk	—	883	3245	2890	1879
Cooper's Hawk	—	781	2477	2298	1068
Northern Goshawk	1	2	1	2	2
Accipiter sp.	—	—	—	589	459
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	67	110	104	122
Broad-winged Hawk	16	26	9	45	26
Swainson's Hawk	1	0	0	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	—	1004	2500	2683	3263
Ferruginous Hawk	2	6	7	10	13
Rough-legged Hawk	12	1	17	14	6
Golden Eagle	3	7	13	11	18
American Kestrel	—	282	336	244	291
Merlin	5	3	11	16	51
Peregrine Falcon	4	4	18	13	10
Prairie Falcon	1	4	6	4	3
total (incl. unident.)	—	4150	10823	9516	8063





Two more views of the Eurasian Dotterel on Point Reyes, Sept. 6–9, 1986. Note the small head and bill, prominent pale supercilium,

Sept. 24–27 (†DDK, RS et al.). The season's four Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at L. Talawa, Del Norte, Aug. 17 (JAR, ADB), the Salinas sewage ponds Aug. 28–Sept. 2 (two—†PJM, †m.ob.), and Asilomar Beach, Monterey, Sept. 6–8 (SHa, †DR et al.). It was the best fall on record for Ruffs, with at least 13 found along the coast Aug. 30–Nov. 11 (†m.ob.). There were six in Humboldt, one to two in Marin, one in Santa Cruz, and five in Monterey. At Mono L., 30+ juv. Short-billed Dowitchers Aug. 29 were apparently not unexpected as "in fall this species is as common (perhaps more common) as the Long-billed Dowitcher" there (DS). Impressive high counts of Red Phalaropes at Cordell Bank, Marin, were of 6000 Oct. 12 and 5650 Nov. 2 (DLSH, RS).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Long-tailed Jaegers were found on 8 trips well offshore Monterey Aug. 31 to Oct. 5 (DLSH, m.ob.), with a high of 12 Sept. 12 (DR et al.). Meanwhile, two were at Cordell Bank Sept. 14 (DLSH) and three were offshore Humboldt Bay Sept. 20 (SWH et al.). South Polar Skuas produced an excellent flight. Offshore Monterey, this species appeared on 15 trips Aug. 17–Oct. 18, with a high of six Sept. 7 (DLSH, m.ob.). Five Cordell Bank trips Sept. 14–Nov. 1 included the peak of nine Oct. 17 (KFC, fide HAG). Singles were near F.I., Sept. 14 and Oct. 26 (T. Johnson, fide HAG), and two were offshore Humboldt Bay Sept. 20 (SWH).

Five Franklin's Gulls were all immatures at sewage ponds: Salinas Aug. 18–28 (BGM et al.), Hollister Oct. 10 (first for San Benito—†KVV, BHG), Modesto Oct. 26–Nov. 11 (first for Stanislaus—ph. ERC, HMR), and Stockton Oct. 28–Nov. 19 plus another Nov. 7 (both DGY). Our Little Gulls were also all at sewage ponds, beginning with a bird molting from first-summer to 2nd-winter plumage at Arcata, July 31 to Sept. 14 (PFS, †RAE, †LPL, m.ob.). The returning ad. Little Gull at Stockton Oct. 14+ was expected, but a 2nd adult there Nov. 5+ (KGH fide Gull; DGY) provided the first multiple sighting during fall. An adult at Lodi Nov. 16–28 (DGY, †MJL) was considered one of the same birds, as only one was at Stockton between those dates. The adult Com. Black-headed Gull that spent 8 consecutive winters at the Stockton sewage ponds failed to return this fall; "It will be missed." (DGY). Regular surveys of Heermann's Gulls in Santa Cruz found the percentage of immatures to decrease steadily from 17% on Aug. 7 to 0.8% on Oct. 4 (DLSu). A Thayer's Gull molting from 2nd-summer to 3rd-winter plumage at Bolinas Aug. 5–11 (SNGH, SWW) was a rare summer find. Modesto sewage ponds added two more gulls to the Stanislaus list. One Thayer's and two Glaucous-winged gulls were identified Nov. 9 (ph. †ERC), and by Nov. 30 the numbers were reversed (ERC, †HMR, DGY, RAE). The period's only Glaucous Gull was an immature at American R., Sacramento, Nov. 29 (MJL). Counts of one to five Black-legged Kit-



and a narrow pale band across the chest. Photos/Rick Hallowell.

tiwakes were obtained Nov. 1+ over the length of the Region and included at least three adults. Sabine's Gulls were seen on most pelagic trips Aug. 2 to Nov. 1, with a peak of 430 over Bodega Canyon, Sonoma, Oct. 12 (RS, DLSH). Two strayed inland to sewage ponds, an adult at Davis Sept. 12 (fide Gull) and a juvenile at Stockton Sept. 19 (DGY). Very late Sabine's Gulls were a juvenile at Pt. Pinos Nov. 9–10 (L. Jonsson), and adults at Monterey Nov. 10 and Pacific Grove Nov. 21 (both BW).

A juv. Com. Tern brought yet another first Stanislaus record to Modesto sewage ponds Sept. 22–23 (ph. ERC, HMR). Of 700 Arctic Terns offshore Sonoma & Marin Sept. 14, 500 were in one flock only 2 mi s.w. of Bodega Head (DLSH). The levees e. of Crittenden Marsh, Mountain View, hosted the only known major post-breeding concentration of Least Terns, at least Aug. 20–Sept. 7 (m.ob.). The only coastal migrant that was seen foraged at Santa Cruz Sept. 3 (DLSu). Three or four coastward Black Terns included one of the latest Regional records, Oct. 30 at Scott Cr. mouth, Santa Cruz (GJS, RAE). The pair of ad. Black Skimmers was last seen, with one immature, on Oct. 12 at the Tulare L. basin, Kings (RHG, GWG).

A starving juv. Com. Murre arrived at the mouth of Artesian Slough, Santa Clara, Aug. 24 (K. Hobson). Pigeon Guillemots produced no young this year in Santa Cruz (DLSu), like the failure at F.I. but unlike the success in Monterey. A pair of ad. Xantus' Murrelets guarding a fledgling 4 mi w. of Pt. Joe, Monterey, Aug. 8 (DLSH, †DLSu) provided strong evidence of the Regional nesting hypothesized last season. Many Xantus'/Craveri's murrelets went unidentified, but up to four Xantus' and 10 Craveri's were listed in Monterey waters Aug. 9 to Sept. 27 (DLSH, m.ob.). At Cordell Bank, four Xantus' Sept. 14 (DLSH) preceded eight Xantus' and Marin's first Craveri's Oct. 12 (RS, DLSH). Far north were four Xantus' Murrelets offshore Humboldt Bay Sept. 20 (SWH et al.). Finally, one Xantus' and two Craveri's flew past Pt. Pinos during high winds Nov. 7 (†DR). An Ancient Murrelet in breeding plumage s.w. of Bodega Head Sept. 14 was early (JLD, DLSH). Santa Clara's "bird of the year" was a Cassin's Auklet on Shoreline L., Sept. 9 (†DLSu, †PLN, †DCu). Unexpectedly, Tufted Puffins were widely scattered from Humboldt to Monterey.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Unprecedented in one fall were two Black-billed Cuckoos, the Region's 6th (and first inland) at Mono Co. Park Aug. 29 (†DS), and another at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey, Oct. 2–4 (†DGe, †DR, †MJL et al.). A Barred Owl roosting in trees at Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 28–Dec. 6, furnished a Regional first away from the n. coastal ranges, indicating a possible new direction for the species' expansion into California (Lynn McCullough, ph. RE, m.ob.).



A Com. Nighthawk at Santa Cruz Oct. 14 (†DLSu) set one of the latest records for the Region. A Com. Poorwill found dying at Gasquet Sept. 21 (MM, *fide* ADB; \*Humboldt State Univ.) provided Del Norte's 3rd record. Most astounding was California's first **Chuck-will's-widow**, found "disabled" in a Half Moon Bay, San Mateo, road Oct. 16. Efforts to recuperate the sick bird, a female, failed Oct. 20. There appear to be no previous reports w. of central Texas (W. Levett, *fide* SFB, \*C.A.S.).

An amazing report of two **Broad-billed Hummingbirds** at a Santa Cruz feeder Aug. 18 (†DLSu) was but the tip of the iceberg in a rather bizarre tale. A female, unreported to us, was first noticed Oct. 5–Nov. 8, 1985, returning June 15–August 1986 (I. Britton). Another bird had been suspected, but was only identified (judged an imm. male, †DLSu) Aug. 18. This report raises some questions as to the origins of these birds that C.B.R.C. review will have to try to sort out. Then, a 3rd Broad-billed Hummingbird was found, an ad. male briefly noted at Ano Nuevo S.P., Oct. 19 (†MCM). Following close on last fall's island first, an imm. ♀ **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited F.I., Sept. 12 (†PP) for a 3rd state and Regional record. Two tail feathers (\*C.A.S.) and "double-checked" measurements were taken. Another 2nd F.I. record was provided by a Black-chinned Hummingbird Sept. 2–4. Notable among the late-lin-gering hummingbirds reported were a ♂ *Selasphorus* in Stock-ton Nov. 24 to the end of the period (DGY *et al.*) and F.I.'s 6th Calliope Hummingbird Oct. 5–9.

Lewis' Woodpeckers were widely reported. A total of 200+ flew past Pt. Diablo September to November (CLF), and reports of one to two were scattered along the coast from Humboldt to San Mateo. Single Red-naped Sapsuckers at Jasper Ridge, Santa Clara, Oct. 5 (*fide* Gull) and Mines Rd., Alameda, Nov. 2–22 (JMD, *fide* †ALE) were apparently returning winterers from last year.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS** — A 3rd F.I. and state report of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was of a bird mis-netted and watched Sept. 3–5 (†PP, details to C.B.R.C.). Reports of seven Least Flycatchers (four from Pt. Reyes, three from F.I.) Sept. 12–Oct. 23, followed the recent pattern. Eight Ham-mond's Flycatchers noted Sept. 18–Oct. 28 were regarded as "considerably above average" for F.I. (*fide* PH); four additional reports west of the Sierras (three coastal, one from the C.V.) were about twice the recent average. Nesting of W. Flycatcher in San Joaquin has never been confirmed, but was suggested by a pair feeding a fledged cowbird at Comanche Res., Aug. 16 (DGY).

The only E. Phoebe reports were the F.I. 6th and 7th, Oct. 19 and Nov. 20. Of 13–14 coastal Tropical Kingbird reports Sept. 28–Nov. 20, one in Richmond, Contra Costa, Nov. 11–20 (T. Koundakjian, *fide* Gull) would be a county first if docu-mented. Unusual along the coast, a Cassin's Kingbird was near Butano S.P., Nov. 18–21 (*fide* Gull). Four E. Kingbirds, at Zmu-dowski State Beach, Monterey, Aug. 15–18 (†MDa, †DLSu, ph. RFT), Mono Co. Park Aug. 30 (†GMcC, †MjL), Laguna Cr. marsh, Santa Cruz, Sept. 2 (DGe), and Pt. Reyes Sept. 7 (†JML *et al.*), were a bit above the recent average.

Clark's Nutcrackers moved W in numbers unrivaled since 1972–1973. At least six were seen at various spots between 5000–6000 ft elevation in the Sierra N.F., Fresno, Sept. 2 to mid-September (JCL), described as "widespread early down-slope movement." A 6th Butte record came from Summit L., Sept. 11 (JHS), and by October birds had reached the coast, with 5 reports from Marin Oct. 4–Nov. 3. The incursion ex-tended as far west as F.I., with a 4th island record logged Oct. 8–12, and one was south to Jack's Peak, Monterey, from before Nov. 1 to the end of the period (J. Taylor, †DR). Common Ravens continued to increase in San Mateo as evidenced by a flock of 117+ along Upper Pescadero Rd., Oct. 31 (DLSu).

A good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was noted along the central coast (135+ reported from Marin to Monterey) and in the C.V. (33+ from Butte to Stanislaus). The F.I. had one as early as Aug. 4, but first arrival dates at most other locations



Sedge Wren at Fort Funston, San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 24, 1986. Photo/Stephen F. Bailey.

fell in the period Aug. 22–29. Brown Creepers joined the downslope movement. Twenty-two between Oct. 4 and Nov. 1 were "significantly above average" for F.I. (*fide* PH), at least three were found in Sacramento Oct. 11–Nov. 27 (TDM *et al.*), and it was "a better than normal fall for them" in San Joa-quin (DGY).

The 3rd state and Regional record of **Sedge Wren** was fur-nished by a bird found skulking in ice plants and bush lupines at Ft. Funston, San Francisco Oct. 23–24 (†DDK, ph. †SFB, †JLD, †DAH, †JM *et al.*).

**KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS** — Unlike other montane species on the move this fall, Golden-crowned Kinglets drew comment only from the C.V., where in "good numbers" in San Joaquin (DGY) and frequently encountered in Sacramento and Yolo (TDM). Mountain Bluebirds also made down-mountain news. Impressive were 184 in Del Puerto Canyon, Stanislaus, Nov. 15 (HMR, SLR) and 50–70 near Patterson Pass, Alameda Nov. 15–22 (*fide* Gull). Seven birds found coastally included an "above average" four on F.I., Oct. 12–Nov. 15, three on the latter date, and one on Cape Mendocino, Humboldt, Nov. 1 (SDF). Two Townsend's Solitaires were at F.I., Oct. 4, but no other extralimitals were reported. A 9th F.I. Gray-cheeked Thrush was observed briefly Sept. 26 (†PP, †SNGH). This was the Region's first since 1979, but at a spot where 7 of 9 prior fall records have been logged, Sept. 12–Oct. 10. A Sage Thrasher at Crescent City Nov. 1 (MR, ADB *et al.*) was late that far north along the coast.

Motacillids made quite a splash coastally. A **Yellow Wagtail** was reported at Crescent City Sept. 12 (†ADB, details to C.B.R.C.) for Del Norte's first and the Region's 5th, all on the outer coast Sept. 12–19. **Red-throated Pipits** were more widely reported than ever in one fall. The F.I. had its 3rd Sept. 24–27 (†PP), one to two were on Pt. Reyes Oct. 6–11 (†DDK, †RAE, †DAH, m.ob.), and Monterey's 2nd was at Moss Landing Oct. 13–18 (JMD, †DR *et al.*). The 2nd F.I. and Regional **Sprague's Pipit** was a surprise birthday gift for the finder Oct. 10–11 (†KH). The bird was "photographed, sketched, and enjoyed from as close as 6 ft."

A Bohemian Waxwing was reported from El Granada, San Mateo, Oct. 22 (*fide* Gull). Solitary Vireos reported as eastern types were on Pt. Reyes Sept. 12–13 (†JML, †MjL, †PEL) and Oct. 5 (DLSu), and at the Little Sur R. mouth, Monterey, Oct. 11 (†DR). Individuals reported as plumbeus types were at Inverness Sept. 25 (RS) and near Nicasio Nov. 13 (JSL), both Marin. Ap-parently wintering cassini types were at Olema, Marin, Nov. 21 (RS) and near Lodi Nov. 11–30+ (DGY *et al.*). Four Phila-delphia Vireos were reported, as follows: one at Fairhaven, Humboldt, Sept. 13–14 (JCB, †GSL, †LPL); two mist-netted at F.I., Sept. 12–15 (†PP) and Sept. 19–22 (†PP, \*C.A.S.); and one



on Pt. Reyes Sept. 27 (†ALE et al.). Seven Red-eyed Vireos along the coast Aug. 31–Sept. 23 were a bit above the recent fall average. A Monterey first “Yellow-green Vireo” at the Little Sur R. mouth Oct. 3 (†JML, †EDG) was only the 5th or 6th for the Region, all since 1978 in the period Oct. 3–30, but there have been single annual occurrences since 1984.

**WOOD WARBLERS** — Migration seemed early or on time for most species, including the “eastern” ones, of which inland observers found more than their usual share. A modest 14–17 Tennessee Warblers Sept. 7–Nov. 10 were mostly early, only two being found after Sept. 28, which is usually around the median date for fall records. Single Virginia’s Warblers were at the Carmel R. mouth, Monterey Sept. 21–22 (†GMCC, †JML, †DR et al.) and on F.I., Nov. 2. Among three N. Parulas Aug. 28–Sept. 14 was Sacramento’s 2nd, Aug. 28–Sept. 6 (†JML, †TDM, †JTr).

Of 13–14 coastal Chestnut-sided Warblers, a sparse turnout Sept. 3–Oct. 17, all but three were in September. Magnolia Warblers were also early, with half of 17–18 birds, Aug. 28–Oct. 28, reported by Sept. 7, prior to all “first fall arrival” dates since 1980. One inland at Modesto Sept. 13 (†HMR, ph. ERC) was Stanislaus’ 2nd. For the 3rd fall in a row there was only one Cape May Warbler, at F.I., Oct. 11. Eight Black-throated Blue Warblers coastally Sept. 21–Nov. 9 was a typical showing. Black-throated Gray Warblers were quite numerous in the C.V., Aug. 15 through the end of the period. Sacramento observers reported 20+ (†TDM et al.), and a peak of 18 was noted in Stanislaus Sept. 14 (HMR). At least 10 lingering to the end of the period Regionwide were noteworthy. Eight Townsend’s Warbler reports in Sacramento Aug. 18–Oct. 9 (†TDM et al.) were above average, but nine Nov. 23 and at least six through the end of November in Stanislaus were remarkable (HMR). All Blackburnian Warbler reports came from Inverness, with two to three Sept. 27–Oct. 10 (RS), and F.I., with three Sept. 4–Oct. 10, save one from Fairhaven Oct. 22 (JCS). Exciting but brief views were had of F.I.’s 5th Yellow-throated Warbler Oct. 21 (†SNGH). Eight to ten coastal Prairie Warblers Sept. 3–Oct. 25 included Sonoma’s 2nd at Bodega Bay on the latter date (RS, m.ob.). An estimated 96+ Palm Warblers along the coast Sept. 3 through the period’s end was the best turnout since 1983. A Bay-breasted Warbler was reported at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin, Sept. 28 (RS et al.). About 60 Blackpoll Warblers on the coast Sept. 4–Oct. 23 was a moderate total.

Of 14–16 coastal Black-and-white Warblers Aug. 11–Nov. 10, one on the former date set an early fall arrival record for F.I. A sparse 23+ Am. Redstarts Aug. 20–Oct. 23 included only one inland, at Sacramento Sept. 3–4 (BWb, †TDM). Three Prothonotary Warblers, at McKinleyville, Humboldt, Sept. 11–14 (J. Houck, †LPL, m.ob.), Pacific Grove Sept. 13–20 (D. Thomas, †DR, m.ob.), and Pt. Reyes Sept. 18–21 (ScC, RS, m.ob.), made a good showing. Observers tallied seven to eight coastal Ovenbirds Sept. 7–Oct. 12. The 15–16 N. Waterthrushes found included two earliest-ever fall arrivals on F.I., Aug. 12 & 14, a 3rd Butte record near Chico Aug. 28–29 (JHS), and one found dead at Davis Sept. 12 (ECB). Not surprisingly, the only Connecticut Warblers were two netted at F.I., Sept. 12 (one \*C.A.S.). Six Mourning Warblers made the Region’s best fall total ever. Predictably, five were at F.I., Sept. 3, 10, & 12 (two birds), and Oct. 20 (†PP), and one was at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 4 (†DR). A Hooded Warbler was at Carmel Sept. 18 (RS, m.ob.). Four Canada Warblers Aug. 23–Oct. 5 was an average number, but one in Sacramento was Sacramento’s first, Aug. 23–Sept. 8 (GEw, †JML, †MJL, †TDM, m.ob.). As rarely seen in fall on the coast and the C.V. floor as are many “eastern” warblers, single Yellow-breasted Chats at Sacramento Aug. 30 (L. Brown) and Sept. 9 (TDM), near Lodi Sept. 1 (DGY), at Muir Beach, Marin, Aug. 24 (fide Gull), and on Pt. Reyes Sept. 8–12 (DLSu et al.) were worth noting. A single chat in the Yuba foothills Aug. 29 (PBS) and the “last of the season” at Summit City, Shasta, Sept. 10 (BVdM) were within the species’ breeding range.

**TANAGERS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — Male Summer Tanagers were reported at Carmel Sept. 13 (JB, PhR, R. Doudiet) and Capitola, Santa Cruz, Sept. 23 (†DLSu). Of one dozen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Aug. 19–Oct. 26, only one was inland, near Lodi Sept. 25 (†DGY). Two Blue Grosbeaks were reported coastally, on Pt. Reyes Sept. 7–8 (fide Gull; JM, RAE, m.ob.) and F.I., Sept. 10. An “above average” nine Indigo Buntings were tallied at F.I., Aug. 13–Nov. 2, but there were only 3–4 other coastal reports. The 5th F.I. Painted Bunting was netted Sept. 23 (†PP). A Dickcissel at Moss Beach Aug. 16 (†PJM), San Mateo’s 2nd and the earliest ever in fall, was followed by one at F.I., Aug. 28. A Green-tailed Towhee at Salinas Nov. 4–Dec. 1 (BHG) was late. A Cassin’s Sparrow, F.I.’s 10th, was reported Sept. 22. Reports of single Am. Tree Sparrows came from Pt. Reyes Sept. 7–11 (remarkably early—JML et al.) and Oct. 5 (DLSu, fide Gull), as well as F.I., Oct. 28, and Albany Nov. 9 (Alameda’s first—†DDK). A Chipping Sparrow at Janesville, Lassen, Nov. 1 (SJ, DS) was very tardy and far north. Clay-colored Sparrow reports numbered 18, all coastal Aug. 24–Nov. 1. The only Black-throated Sparrow reported, San Joaquin’s first, was at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Nov. 16–28 (S. Schaeffer, †DGY, MJL). A well-described juv. Le Conte’s Sparrow netted Sept. 11–12 (†PP), and another banded Oct. 11 (details not yet seen), furnished the 2nd and 3rd F.I. records, pending C.B.R.C. review. There are but a handful of records for the Region. Single Sharp-tailed Sparrows were noted at Palo Alto Baylands, Santa Clara, Nov. 4–30 (†SEF, †JM), Bolinas Lagoon Nov. 28 (†BDP), and overwintering at Arcata Oct. 22+ (Humboldt’s first—fide RLeV). A good-sized, early influx of Fox Sparrows was commented on by a number of observers (DLSu, BVdM, BY, DGY, TDM). Also noted in good numbers were 19+ Swamp Sparrows Oct. 4–Nov. 23, all coastal but one at Mono L., Oct. 29 (SJ, fide DS), and 62+ White-throated Sparrows, all but a few on the coast. Five coastal Harris’ Sparrows Nov. 2–26 was also slightly above average. Five possible “Pink-sided” Dark-eyed Juncos were reported Sept. 21–Nov. 30. Although some of these reports seem quite reasonable, caution is called for until the complexities of junco identification can be more thoroughly unraveled. A “Gray-headed Junco” was on Pt. Reyes Oct. 20 (†DAH, DDK).

Longspurs attracted a bit of attention this fall, most notably Alameda’s first (and the Region’s coastal 2nd) McCown’s Longspur at Hayward Oct. 17–24 (JSL, †RAE, †JM, †GMCC, m.ob.). Twelve+ Chestnut-collared Longspurs Oct. 5–Oct. 28, including a “very unusual” six on F.I., three at Hayward Oct. 14–17 (RJR, RAE, JSL) for Alameda’s 2nd record, and one over the Cordell Bank Oct. 12 (fide DLSu), were interesting, as well. A Snow Bunting visited F.I., Nov. 10 (†PP).

Bobolinks had an exceptional fall, with 30+ reports Aug. 10–Oct. 23. One of these was Alameda’s first, at Fremont Oct. 18–19 (B. Chilson, EHa, m.ob.). Two Rusty Blackbirds were encountered, Mendocino’s first at the Garcia R. mouth Oct. 13 (†K. Wilson, DT), and one on F.I., Oct. 28. An Orchard Oriole on F.I., Aug. 14–15 provided the Region’s earliest fall record, with 3 more reports coming from Pt. Reyes Sept. 21–Nov. 1.

Purple Finches were in “above average numbers” in Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Francisco, and on F.I., but not commented on elsewhere. Two ♂ Cassin’s Finches at Jack’s Peak Nov. 23 (†DR) were considered Monterey’s “first acceptable records.” There were scattered reports of Red Crossbills to the coast. One to two Lawrence’s Goldfinches at Crescent City Sept. 9 (ADB) were the farthest northwest the species has been recorded (no Oregon records). Evening Grosbeaks made news throughout the Region, but reviews were mixed. “Huge numbers” were noted throughout Siskiyou in late September (MR, RE et al.), staying through the period’s end, and “100 per day” through September were at Westhaven, Humboldt (GSL). September 27 saw the first of a season total 100+ pass Pt. Diablo (CLF), and Sept. 26 was the first date for one near Lodi (DGY). But 170+ for the season in Santa Cruz was considered “not exceptional” (DLSu), and numbers in San Joaquin “sputtered out, as none was seen in November” (DGY). None was reported



from Stanislaus (HMR), but 10–60 were “seen daily” in the Madera foothills to the south, Nov. 25+ (JCL)! Then again, Evening Grosbeaks (and birds in general) wouldn’t be as enjoyable if they were too predictable, would they?

**ADDENDA** — Editorial trimming of the belated Autumn 1985 season report (AB 40:329–333) unfortunately removed all mention of the 2nd-largest irruption of Black-vented Shearwaters in recent Regional history. The Heermann’s Gull at Stockton and the Thick-billed Murre should have been boldfaced. A Black-billed Cuckoo at F.I., Oct. 18, 1985 (†PP—P.R.B.O.), was the island’s first and the Region’s 5th.

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