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The winter season continued the dry weather of the late autumn. Even fewer Christmas Bird Count results were available to us than has been the case in recent winters.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; W.A. = Wildlife Area; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized* place names refer to counties. All records from Palomarin and Southeast Farallon Island (hereafter F.I.) should be credited to Point 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 Green. Most such birds were originally reported to Joseph Morlan for the Northern California Rare Bird Alert. Additional help in gathering and organizing records was provided by Kurt F. Campbell.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Seven loons of three species occurred from Lexington Res., Santa Clara, to Redwood City, San Mateo, in December (DLSu, m.ob.). Any loon is rare in this area. Five Red-throated Loons away from the coast in Santa Cruz (B. Hargis, DLSu et al.) and one in Sacramento were unexpected. Northbound migrant loons were first noted at Santa Cruz Feb. 17 (DLSu). The inland high count of Horned Grebes was of 72 on Camanche Res., San Joaquin, Jan. 3 (DGY, RA). Red-necked Grebe numbers were very small, with 30 at Tomales Bay, Marin, Feb. 28 (JGE) and five at Monterey Dec. 30 (SFB) representing the only sites with more than two. Only seven individuals were noted at 5 other coastal sites, and two were inside S.F. Bay.

#### S.A.

The winter distribution of Clark's Grebe is becoming clearer, but contributors should continue to report their counts. As expected, the major concentration is on S.F. Bay. Inland counts are usually small, but this species is so widespread on C.V. and foothill waters that aggregate numbers must be substantial. Up to 20 were identified at Moss Landing this season (DLSu). Elsewhere along the central California coast north to Bodega Harbor, Clark's Grebe is regular in smaller numbers inside bays and harbors, but less so on exposed waters. On the north coast the species remains rare; this season only two reports came from Arcata, and one bird was at Navarro R. estuary, Mendocino, Dec. 29 (RAE). One Clark's Grebe at Tule Lake N.W.R., Feb. 21 was considered an early return (RAE, RE).

At Cordell Bank, Marin, one Laysan Albatross Dec. 2 preceded an astounding 10–15 Dec. 7 (eight in view simultaneously—DLSh), and three were reported Feb. 1 (all *fide* Gull). Another Laysan Albatross was 44 mi s.w. of S.F., Jan. 28 (ph. S.E. Smith). After 350 N. Fulmars were estimated offshore Monterey Dec. 7 (DLSh, *fide* HG), only up to 10 fulmars per day were reported. Only two Pink-footed Shearwaters were reported, fewer than normal. Single Flesh-footed Shearwater sightings were offshore Monterey Dec. 6 (DLSh, *fide* Gull) and Dec. 30 (SFB). Small numbers of Short-tailed Shearwaters slightly outnumbered Sooty Shearwaters from Monterey to Marin. However, from Pt. Saint George, Del Norte, 312 of 515



dark shearwaters Dec. 21 were identified as Short-tailed versus only three as Sooty, and most of those not identified were believed to be Short-tailed (ADB, GSL, NEC). Of 300 dark shearwaters seen there Jan. 10, 100 were called Short-tailed versus no Sooties (ADB). Up to 15 Black-vented Shearwaters were in Monterey Bay during December, and three were there Feb. 1 (DLSh, m.ob.).

As has happened many times in past years, a late winter NW gale blew many Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels into Monterey Bay. February 23 estimates along the Monterey shoreline ranged up to 400 (BW, AB), making this one of the largest such concentrations on record. Simultaneously three were at Santa Cruz (DLSu). After the gale abated the next day, only two remained at Monterey (AB). Four Ashy Storm-Petrels were also blown in to Monterey Feb. 23 (AB).

American White Pelicans have been rare in coastal Monterey in recent years, so 47 flying over the Salinas R. mouth Jan. 21 (DEG) was like times past. Although 550 (75% imm.) Brown Pelicans remained on Ano Nuevo I., San Mateo, Dec. 14 (GJS), this species departed the Region by the month's end. Thereafter only three individuals were reported, Jan. 3–11, Sonoma to Santa Cruz (DLSu, NTC). The 236 Double-crested Cormorants on the Sacramento CBC Dec. 27 more than doubled last year's all-time high (*fide* TDM), and 400 on Modesto Res., Stanislaus, Dec. 6 contrasted with typical counts of 25 (HMR, SLR). The peak of about 600 in the Badger Cr. roost, Sacramento, Feb. 7 (HK, BK) was not exceptional. Single Pelagic Cormorants at Hayward Shoreline Dec. 28 (RJR) and Menlo Park Dec. 30 (DLSu) were rare that far inside S.F. Bay.

**HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Monterey's first recorded Little Blue Heron fed among the kelp beds at Pt. Lobos State Reserve Jan. 3–4 (B. & G. Francis, †DR et al.). Cattle Egrets are experiencing a lull in their conquest of the Region. For the 2nd consecutive year they were present in low numbers along the coast, in the Sacramento Valley, and in at least the n. portion of the San Joaquin Valley. White-faced Ibises again wintered in the Sacramento Valley, with flocks of 50–60 each at



Delevan N.W.R. and Colusa N.W.R. Three at Gray Lodge W.A., Dec. 20 (DES) were in Butte where there are still few records (all *fide* BED).

A flock of 27 Tundra Swans over Coyote Pt., Jan. 16 was reported as the largest group ever in San Mateo (PJM). A "Be-wick's Swan" was at Terminus, San Joaquin, Jan. 20 (GW). Trumpeter Swans were found in exceptional numbers with three on W. Butte Rd., Sutter, Dec. 30 (†RLR), two at Tule Lake N.W.R., Jan. 18 (†PhR), and two at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Feb. 2 (NEC, RE, MR). One of the latter birds was a female banded and fitted with a numbered green collar as a cygnet at Turnbull N.W.R., Washington, in 1981.

Birders have generated few reports of the large dark form of Greater White-fronted Goose known as "Tule Goose" (race *elgas*). This season, five at Colusa N.W.R., Jan. 25 (RJR), seven at Sacramento N.W.R., and six at Delevan N.W.R. (both Feb. 22—MJJ) were all at expected locations in the Sacramento Valley. Another in Carmel Valley, Monterey, Dec. 29—Jan. 25 (ph. MJL *et al.*) was on the coast where almost no previous records exist. Wege (1984). Distribution and abundance of Tule Geese in California and southern Oregon. *Wildfowl* 35:14–20.) recently summarized the bird's status in our area, and a popular article on "Tule Geese" by Elgas and Dingle appeared in the Am. Federation for Aviculture *Watchbird* (1986). The Tule Goose . . . solving the mystery. vol. 8, no. 3, pp. 36–41.). Comparative photographs in the latter publication should help give birders the needed confidence to identify this bird.

An albino Snow Goose with all-white wings was seen at Honey Lake W.A., Lassen, Feb. 6 and a partial albino was at Tule Lake N.W.R. the following day (both MJL). An imm. blue morph Snow Goose wintering in Santa Cruz (Dec. 12+; T. Kirk, BLab, ph. JM, ph. DLSu *et al.*) was only the 2nd to be found on the coast of our Region. Ross' Geese had another strong season on the coast with 20+ reported. One at F.I., Dec. 11 was the island's first. A blue morph Ross' Goose on Empire Tract Feb. 12 (†DGY) provided San Joaquin's first record of this form. Two were at Tule Lake N.W.R., Feb. 2+ (RE, MR, †RAE, †KLH, †GMcC) with two blue morph Snow/Ross' intermediates there as well Feb. 21 (RE, †RAE). There were persistent rumors of an Emperor Goose at Tule Lake N.W.R. this winter but some suspect the dark-necked blue morph Ross' and Ross'/Snow intermediates were actually responsible for the sightings. We received no direct reports of any kind. A Brant was also at Tule Lake N.W.R., Feb. 21 (RAE, RE).

Almost the entire population (ca. 5000) of endangered "Aleutian Canada Geese" (race *leucopareia*) wintered in Stanislaus this year. An outbreak of avian cholera at their favored night roost, the Modesto sewage ponds, was killing up to 100 ducks a day by the end of January and causing considerable concern. A hazing program set up at the ponds kept the geese and other waterfowl away through the remainder of the season (*fide* HMR). The only other report of "Aleutians" was of three at Pt. Reyes Jan. 25 (RS). An nearly complete albino "honker" (race *moffetti*) was at the Modesto ponds for several weeks in late December (†HMR). In lowland Santa Clara, an increase in the number of wintering Canada Geese may be owing to the expanding introduced population centered in Alameda (WGB). The only "Cackler" (race *minima*) reported from the coast was at Nicasio Res., Marin, Jan. 15 (RJR).

A ♂ "Common Teal" on Brack Tract Feb. 14 (†DGY, MJL, JML) was the first of this Eurasian form of Green-winged Teal to be found in San Joaquin. Five others on the coast were more expected. A bird believed to be a **Garganey** was present in Arcata Jan. 30–Feb. 10 (†M. Peters, †RE, †SWH, †THK, †GSL *et al.*). The bird was reported as a female but the descriptions seemed to best fit an imm. male (*fide* JLD). The bird accompanied migrant Cinnamon Teal but nevertheless occurred a month and a half earlier than any other record of Garganey in North America. The record is somewhat controversial and should be considered tentative until a decision by the C.B.R.C. has been made. Two ♂ Blue-winged Teal at Hollister Jan. 9 were the first ever for San Benito (KVV) and one at the Wood-

land sugar ponds Feb. 27+ provided the first February record for Yolo (BM). The following were all reported as record high counts for these counties: 400+ Cinnamon Teal, 135 Gadwalls, 65 Ring-necked Ducks, and 600 Lesser Scaup at College L., Santa Cruz, Feb. 24 (DLSu), and 650 Ring-necked Ducks at San Felipe L., San Benito, Feb. 8 (KVV). High numbers of ducks concentrated on Tomales Bay, Marin, during herring spawning included 8000+ Greater Scaup Jan. 18, 11,000 Surf Scoters Feb. 28, 4000+ Buffleheads Jan. 18, and 3380 Ruddy Ducks Feb. 28 (JGE).

It was the best winter ever for Tufted Ducks, with eight found. Males were at Inverness Feb. 15 (N. Brinkley, *fide* HG) and Tiburon Jan. 19 (†DAH, †GC), at Mallard Res., Dec. 27–Jan. 10 (Contra Costa's first—†RJR, †JM *et al.*), and San Leandro Bay, Alameda, Jan. 11–12 (D. Leo, †ph. JM). Females were s. of Petaluma Feb. 28 (†J. Anderson), at Larkspur, Marin, Feb. 16 (JCo, *fide* HG), and a returning bird at Golden Gate Park/S.F. Zoo Dec. 19–Feb. 23 (MW, †GMcC, †PG, ph. RS, †DLSu). The only bird away from the immediate S.F. Bay area was a returning male near Grenada, Siskiyou, Feb. 15+ (RE *et al.*). A ♂ hybrid Tufted Duck × scaup sp. near Clements, San Joaquin, Jan. 8 (†DGY) was probably the same bird as present there in January 1984. Greater Scaup were again found inland in exceptional numbers at O'Neill Forebay, Merced, with up to 250 there Feb. 1–15 (MJL, JML).

The ♀ King Eider found at Crescent City Harbor in November was present to at least Dec. 21 (ADB, ph. WEH, †GMcC *et al.*). Harlequin Ducks are casual inside S.F. Bay; a male was s. of Candlestick Pt. in San Mateo Dec. 29 (ASH, *fide* HG). A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye at Eureka Feb. 14–Mar. 23 (M. Morrison, †RAE *et al.*) was only the 2nd found in Humboldt in 14 years. Like the Com. Goldeneye, this species is surprisingly scarce on the n. coast as compared to the rest of the Region. In contrast, 60 Barrow's were again present at the L. Merritt outflow, Alameda, Feb. 7 (JM). A ♂ Red-breasted Merganser on L. Shastina Feb. 27 (RE, MR, SDS) furnished the only inland report.

**RAPTORS** — This was considered the worst winter ever for most hawk species in Marin (DDeS, P.R.B.O.). However, an imm. N. Goshawk on Pt. Reyes Jan. 14 (†RS) was an exceptional find in that county. Red-shouldered Hawks continue to pioneer new sites in Alameda, Contra Costa, and the Sacramento Valley. Single-day sightings of imm. Broad-winged Hawks were from near Scott's Valley, Santa Cruz, Dec. 21 (BH, DM) and Pacific Grove Jan. 8 (AB, DLSu). A light morph Swainson's Hawk at N. Midway Rd., Alameda, Dec. 7 (†ALE, A.A. Edwards) was the 4th to straggle into December in this Region. Two dark morph Swainson's Hawks at Empire Tract, San Joaquin, Feb. 16 (†DGY, †RAE) beat last year's earliest-ever return by 3 days, but many have returned during late February and early March. "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were reported without details from Nicasio, an adult Jan. 4 (RS), and e. of Sacramento N.W.R., Feb. 22 (MJL). The previous 8-year average was 2.6 per year. Average numbers of Ferruginous Hawks appeared, but Rough-legged Hawks were relatively uncommon.

Record numbers of Merlins were found in Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. The ever-increasing number of sightings of hacked Peregrine Falcons included a pair copulating on a S.F. highrise Feb. 5 (LL, *fide* HG). Ten Prairie Falcons was a very high total for Santa Clara (*fide* WGB).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — **Yellow Rail** was recorded for the 2nd consecutive winter. In Humboldt, one found dead near Ferndale Jan. 2 (\*Humboldt State Univ., *fide* GSL) was followed by reports of another at a small pond near Fairhaven Feb. 7 & 17 (D. Leal, *fide* GSL). In Marin, one was seen at Pt. Reyes Dec. 3 (†JGE).

Two Black-bellied Plovers at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Feb.



14 were the earliest ever for Siskiyou (RE, MR). About 40 Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported from the coast, with six wintering at the Modesto sewage ponds (HMR) and one wintering at the Lodi sewage ponds (DGY et al.) being inland. The San Joaquin Valley produced another interior winter Snowy Plover record when a male was found at the Los Banos sewage ponds Dec. 26–27 (KFC et al.). There are only 3 other such records for the Region. Five Snowies at Pt. Pinole Jan. 31 (RMcN, fide HG) were in Contra Costa where the species is equally scarce. Up to five Mountain Plovers straddling the Alameda/San Joaquin line s. of Byron Jan. 8–17 (RJR, †DGY et al.) were more significant than might be expected. Vague reference to this species from the last century by Grinnell et al. (1918. *Game Birds of California*. Univ. Calif. Press) is the only indication of prior occurrence in the former county, and there are apparently no records for over 20 years in the latter county (fide DGY).

Evidence continues to accumulate for the increase of Black-necked Stilts in the Region. Up to six at Gray Lodge W.A., Dec. 6–30 provided the first December records for Butte (BED), one was at the Woodland sewer ponds Dec. 28 (fide TDM), and 75 at the Yolo Bypass Jan. 13 were the first ever in January for Yolo (BM). Another stilt at the Bolinas sewage ponds Jan. 24 (DDeS) was very unusual for w. Marin, especially in winter. Two Am. Avocets at Tule Lake N.W.R., Feb 14+ were very early migrants (RE, MR). A Greater Yellowlegs that wintered in Fall R. Valley, Shasta (BY, CY), was unexpected e. of the Cascade/Sierran crest. Two Marbled Godwits at Sacramento N.W.R., Dec. 7 were significant since they are "still rare in the Sacramento Valley in winter, though these were possibly migrants" (BED).

A count of 58 Red Knots on Humboldt Bay at Arcata Feb. 16 (DAH) was high for that n. locale. Two Sanderlings at the Modesto sewage ponds Jan. 6–19 (HMR) were probably the same two as seen there last winter. Another at San Antonio Res., Dec. 12–Jan. 11 (RLR) was considered to furnish the "first truly inland record" for Monterey (fide DR). Western Sandpipers are now widely acknowledged as generally rare inland in winter. This season's total of none along the heavily worked coast of Santa Cruz (DLSu et al.) showed how rare the species can be away from specific wintering areas even on the coast. Least Sandpipers are considered casual in winter in the mountain and Great Basin portions of our Region, so 25 at L. Almanor, Plumas, Dec. 28 (HG) and four all season in the Fall R. Valley (BY, CY) were noteworthy. A Rock Sandpiper with other shorebirds on a tidal mudflat at Walker Cr. estuary on Tomales Bay Dec. 20 (†LJP) was conspicuously out of habitat. A Ruff on Brack Tract Feb. 7–17 (†DGY, DC et al.) was a first for San Joaquin, and one in the Loleta Bottoms, Humboldt, Jan. 4 (RE et al.) provided the first winter record for the n. coast. An albino dowitcher sp. at Alameda Feb. 10 (†AlH) was possibly one of two birds seen on south S.F. Bay the previous May and July. Like W. Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher was unrecorded in Santa Cruz this winter (DLSu et al.). Large numbers of Red Phalaropes were present on Monterey Bay at least through January (AB et al.).

**GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS** — The ad. Little Gull inhabited the Stockton sewage ponds throughout the period (DGY, †GMcC), and the other adult at the Lodi sewage ponds remained at least through mid-February (DGY). Heermann's Gull was unusually abundant in Monterey Bay. High CBC counts were obtained: 350 at Santa Cruz Dec. 21 (highest since 1974—DLSu) and 850 at Monterey Bay Dec. 30 (AS). Beach censuses Jan. 16–19 found 93 in Santa Cruz (DLSu, m.ob.) and 414 in Monterey n. of Pt. Joe (BW, m.ob.). Farther n. only five in San Mateo and two in Marin were noted. Mew Gull was well reported as more widespread and numerous inland, especially in the central C.V. Fifty at Clear Lake S.P., Lake, Feb. 16 were considered exceptional (JRW). California Gull also produced record CBC counts in Monterey Bay: 6678 at Santa Cruz and 4237 at Mon-

terey Bay (AS). The largest coastal concentration of Thayer's Gulls, 120+ at Moss Landing Dec. 1, probably was a record high for Monterey (DR, R.E. Abbey). Conversely, in the S.F. Bay area, maxima were of only 35–70 (DAH, RJR). At Bethany Res., Alameda, 25 Thayer's Jan. 8 was the largest number ever reported s. of the Delta (RJR). The Thayer's Gulls farthest inland were singles at Redding Dec. 27 (KVV) and Modesto sewage ponds Jan. 11 (HMR).

#### S.A.

A bird believed to be an ad. **Iceland Gull** of the race *kumlieni* frequented the Arcata sewage oxidation ponds Feb. 6–23 (DaS, †THK, †SFB, †GMcC, †LPL, †RAE, m.ob.). Although some questioned this identification based on the medium gray-brown eye and mantle color nearly the same as a Ring-billed Gull's, comparison of all ad. Iceland Gull specimens in the American Museum of Natural History suggests that this bird was entirely typical of *kumlieni* (SFB). This race normally has a mantle color closer to Ring-billed Gull than to nominate *glaucoides*. There are no accepted records of this species in California, as the C.B.R.C. has just begun reviewing the controversial 1985 Sonoma adult and 1986 San Diego immature.

Examination of about 22,500 W. Gulls (mostly adults) in Santa Cruz during the period revealed 212 showing hybrid characters of Glaucous-winged Gull (DLSu). At least 11 Glaucous-winged Gulls were found in the C.V. from Shasta to Stanislaus. This gull's apparent increase inland probably reflects observer effort. Interesting descriptions were received of two gulls believed to be Glaucous × Herring Gull hybrids: a first-winter bird at Palo Alto Dec. 26 (†WGB) and a 3rd-winter bird at Nimbus Fish Hatchery, Sacramento, Jan. 25 (†TDM, AM). Observers should be very cautious in identifying such birds, and should be aware that hybrids of large gulls occur in various combinations. One that is seldom identified in our Region is Glaucous-winged × Herring from s. Alaska. Of about 13 credible Glaucous Gulls, none was farther inland than the periphery of S.F. and San Pablo Bays. Both ad. and imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were present the length of our coast and throughout the period. Peaks of 100 were noted offshore Monterey Jan. 17 (PG, L.K. Aldrich) and along the Monterey shoreline during the gale of Feb. 23 (AB).

Late Caspian Terns were detected at Foster City Dec. 18–27 (PJM, DLSu) and at Pajaro R. mouth Jan. 5 (†DLSu). Also unseasonal was one at Arcata Feb. 14–19 (GMcC, GSL). Two Elegant Terns at Seacliff State Beach Dec. 15 (DLSu) were late, but one at Pescadero Beach Feb. 15 (MW, fide Gull) was the latest ever for the Region. Wintering Forster's Terns continue to increase on Humboldt Bay, with a high of 21 counted at Arcata Jan. 18 (RAE).

Six sightings of Xantus' Murrelet inshore and offshore Monterey Dec. 6 to Jan. 24 included two on the latter date (MJL, AB, DLSh, D. Lemon). Another was at F.I., Jan. 18. One to two Tufted Puffins in Monterey Bay Dec. 6–7 (RST, DLSh, fide HG) and three offshore Pillar Pt., San Mateo, Jan. 18 (BGH, fide Gull) constituted the most ever reported during the Winter Season.

**OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A Spotted Owl heard calling at Bonnymede, Santa Cruz, Dec. 21–Jan. 4 (†DLSu et al.) was undoubtedly the same bird first found there last season. The status of this species in the Santa Cruz Mts. remains unclear, as there are very few confirmed records. The Barred Owl first found Nov. 28 at Tule Lake N.W.R. was seen daily through mid-January and sporadically through Feb. 21 (MR, †RAE, ph. J.R. Silliman et al.). Another Barred Owl at Howland Hill, Del Norte, Dec. 21 (ADB et al.) was undoubtedly the bird first found in March 1982 which has been present continuously





Barred Owl on a daytime roost at Tule Lake N.W.R., Cal., Jan. 31, 1987. Photo/John Silliman.

ever since. A pair of Long-eared Owls copulating at a nest at the Monte Bello O.S.P., Santa Clara, Feb. 19+ (†PLN) was encouraging, as this species has seriously declined as a breeding bird, and is seldom reported nesting in the Region.

A Com. Poorwill at Palo Alto Dec. 30 (DLSu) was calling during a spell of warm weather with high insect populations (PLN). Warm weather may also have induced a Vaux's Swift to linger at Moss Landing Jan. 1 (†PJM). Costa's Hummingbirds appeared as follows: an imm. male in Moraga Aug. 15–Feb. 6 (†K. Prill) was voice-recorded by L.F. Baptista; an immature in Concord was found injured Feb. 1 (†K. Prill) and later died (\*Cal. Academy of Sciences); an ad. male found injured in Redwood City Feb. 10 later died (\*Cal. Academy of Sciences); and an imm. male was in Sacramento Jan. 2–Mar. 5 (†HK, †BK). This species is now considered annual in winter. A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at Tiburon Jan. 1 (†DAH) was probably wintering, but another at Los Altos Feb. 6 (PLN) was believed to be an early migrant. Male Allen's Hummingbirds first arrived in Santa Cruz Jan. 15, a week ahead of average for the last 14 years (DLSu). Single unidentified *Selasphorus* were at Santa Cruz Dec. 14–18 (BLaB, †DLSu) and at Hayward Jan. 8–9 (HLC). The identity of most wintering *Selasphorus* in the Region remains problematical.

Single imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were at Nicasio Jan. 4–Feb. 21 (RS, †GMCC et al.) and Three Rivers, Tulare, Dec. 7 (†LLN); and single adults were at Ferndale, Humboldt, Jan. 4–23 (MR et al.) and Palo Alto Feb. 20–22 (†A. Jasberg). Either this species is increasing in the Region or the taxonomic decision to split this form from Red-naped Sapsucker has resulted in greater observer awareness. A total of nine Red-naped Sapsuckers was found in the Region, and an apparent hybrid Red-naped × Red-breasted Sapsucker was studied Dec. 21–28 at Wilder Cr. Ranch, Santa Cruz (R. Morgan, †DLSu).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS** — An Eastern Wood-Pewee at the Carmel R. mouth, Monterey, Dec. 11–14 (†DEG, †ph. DR et al.) was voice recorded and sonograms were prepared of its call, "a distinct upslurred 'pwee'". If accepted by the C.B.R.C., this would constitute the 3rd Regional record, and the first confirmed winter record of any wood-pewee identified to species n. of Costa Rica. Six W. Flycatchers were found along the coast this winter, an exceptionally high seasonal total. An E. Phoebe at Pacific Grove Jan. 8–10 (JB, DR et al.) was the only one seen. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Rohnert Park, Sonoma, Feb. 9 (†KFC) provided this year's only winter record. Santa Cruz had two Tropical Kingbirds, one at Monterey Bay Academy Jan. 1–Feb. 22 (†S. Walters, †SFB, †ph. DLSu et al.), and another at Wilder Cr. mouth Dec. 21–23 (†E. Lebow, †DLSu). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at outer Pt. Reyes Feb. 6–21 (B. Allen, ph. EDG, m.ob.) represented the first Regional winter record.

A Bank Swallow at the Salinas sewage ponds Jan. 18 (†CT), and single Barn Swallows at the Stockton sewage ponds Dec. 16 (†DGY), Glenburn, Shasta, Dec. 16 (BVDm, fide BY), and two Barn Swallows at Moss Landing Jan. 1 (†PJM) were all unseasonal.

The fall invasion of Clark's Nutcrackers faded rapidly, with only three seen along the coast from Del Norte to Monterey. Mountain Chickadees staged a minor invasion to coastal Del Norte and Humboldt (ADB, BED), but one at Sacramento N.W.R., Jan. 25 (†RJR, PEG, DES) was at a most unusual locality.

**THRUSHES THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS** — Two Townsend's Solitaires reached the coast with one at Portola S.P., Jan. 3 (DLSu) and one at Castro Valley, Alameda, Nov. 29–Dec. 8 (PEG, RAE). Only one coastal Sage Thrasher was found, on Mt. San Bruno Feb. 7 (ph. J. McCormick).

Bohemian Waxwings made a good showing in the extreme n.e. parts of the Region, beginning with 14 at Susanville Dec. 15 (†RNJ) and reaching a maximum of 78 at Yreka Feb. 24, with fewer lingering through the end of the period (MR, m.ob.). High counts of 60 and 52 Bohemian Waxwings were recorded in n. Modoc Feb. 6–17 (MJL, MR et al.).

#### S.A.

California's 2nd **Brown Shrike** was found near Olema Marsh, Marin, Nov. 28+ (†ph. M. Denny, †KGH, m.ob.). The first was at F.I., Sept. 20, 1984 (AB 39:99). There are only four other North American records, all from Alaska. Unsuspecting birders on the Pt. Reyes CBC Dec. 20, unaware of Denny's startling discovery 3 weeks earlier, misidentified it as a N. Shrike. The identification did not become clear until Hintsia correctly identified it as a Brown Shrike Jan. 14. It remained cooperative for most of its stay, generating national interest and even appearing on television.

The only North American specimen of Brown Shrike, an immature collected at Shemya Oct. 10, 1978, was attributed to the race *lucionensis* by Gibson (Condor 83:65–77, 1981). That is the most southerly of the four races and would appear to be the least likely race to reach North America. According to Medway (*Ibis* 112: 184–198, 1970), imm. Brown Shrikes are not identifiable to race even in the hand. Further confirmation of the racial identity of the Shemya specimen is warranted. This season's bird eventually molted into adult plumage exhibiting a bright rufous crown and relatively indistinct supercilium characteristic of the *cristatus/confusus* subspecies group (Dean, Brit. Birds 75:395–406, 1982). This group is far more likely to reach North America than *lucionensis* on geographic grounds, as it includes the most northerly populations.



Northern Shrikes penetrated S to San Joaquin (DGY, RAE) and Merced (JCL, SEF) in the C.V. but apparently were scarce elsewhere. Three wintering Solitary Vireos were attributed to the race *plumbeus*: one at Bodega Bay Dec. 29 (RS et al.), one near Los Banos Dec. 26 (†KH et al.), and one at Modesto Jan. 10 (†HMR). Two other Solitary Vireos were attributed to the race *cassini*: one at Olema Marsh Dec. 21 (RS) and one at Lodi L., San Joaquin, through Feb. 16 (DGY, RAE).

Six wintering Tennessee Warblers were more than average. Two were in Humboldt, one at King Salmon Dec. 8–Jan. 4 (DGY, KH) and one in Ferndale Jan. 4 (GSL). Four were concentrated in Santa Cruz, two at Freedom Dec. 31–Jan. 30 (†S. Getty, †DLSu et al.), one in Santa Cruz Dec. 6–21 (†DLSu), and one at the U.C.S.C. Arboretum Jan. 25–Feb. 17 (†DLSu). Eleven Nashville Warblers concentrated between San Francisco and Monterey were far fewer than we have come to expect, but this could have been an artifact of incomplete reporting from Humboldt/Del Norte.

Twelve Yellow Warblers were reported along the coast from Humboldt to Monterey, with five concentrated in Santa Cruz. This was about average for recent winters. A ♂ Cape May Warbler at Ferndale Jan. 4–5 (GSL, †LPL et al.) provided the first documented Humboldt winter record and one of only a handful of Regional winter reports. A ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler at Ferndale Jan. 4–5 (GSL, †LPL) was even more unusual. Thirty-one Black-throated Gray Warblers in the C.V. and along the coast was a higher total than expected and may represent a real increase in recent winters. Seven Hermit Warblers were reported along the coast n. of Monterey, where the species is regarded as fairly common in winter. A Blackburnian Warbler in Pacific Grove Dec. 29+ (†DR, m.ob.) was apparently the first to winter in the state. A Prairie Warbler at Princeton, San Mateo, Dec. 6+ (D. Keller, †PJM, †PEL, m.ob.) provided the 4th Regional winter record. Two others were reported near Arcata, Dec. 20 and Dec. 20–23 (SWH, fide GSL). Twenty-one Palm Warblers made a good showing and included one well inland in Sacramento (†JTr, †TDM et al.).

Fifteen Black-and-white Warblers was 3 times last year's total and included 2 records in the C.V., where this species is seldom found: one in Sacramento Dec. 3 (SFB) and one in Lodi Dec. 17+ (†DGY). An Am. Redstart returning to the Pajaro R. mouth, Monterey, Feb. 14 (DEG) for the 2nd consecutive year was the only one seen. Four of the five N. Waterthrushes found during the period were in Santa Cruz, and the other was just over the county line at Año Nuevo, San Mateo. This is an excellent showing, the highest on record, but only one bird was believed to be actually wintering. The others were probably late migrants. Single MacGillivray's Warblers were described from Pt. Arena Jan. 4 (†OJK) and from Montara, San Mateo, Dec. 26–27 (†PJM). This species is seldom recorded in the Region in winter. Fifteen Wilson's Warblers were all along the coast between Del Norte and Santa Cruz, but one was in the C.V. at Tuolumne R. Regional Park Dec. 28 (†HMR).

**TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS** — A ♂ Summer Tanager returning to Corralitos Cr., Freedom, Santa Cruz for the 2nd consecutive winter Dec. 24+ was the only one seen. Three W. Tanagers were below recent seasonal expectations. Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks from San Mateo to Monterey made an excellent showing. This species usually outnumbers Black-headed Grosbeak during the winter. This season, no Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported at all.

Up to six Am. Tree Sparrows wintered at a traditional locality, Tule Lake N.W.R., Dec. 26+ (MR, †GMCC, m.ob.), but one at Arcata Feb. 3 (THK) was away from normal wintering areas. Up to five Chipping Sparrows near Fairfield, Solano, Dec. 25–Jan. 28 (SFB et al.) made a good winter concentration in a typical locality. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Dry Cr. Regional Park, Alameda, Feb. 19–20 (†RJR) was probably wintering locally. Winter records are almost unknown in the Region. Four Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Limantour Natural Area, Marin, Jan.

31–Feb. 14 (J. McConnell et al.) were in an area where the species has seldom been reported. Another Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Arcata remained from the fall through Jan. 27 (†DR et al.) and three others were seen during high tides at traditional sites at Palo Alto Dec. 2–Jan. 29 (†WGB, †DLSu, m.ob.). A Fox Sparrow showing characteristics of the *iliaca/zaboria* group was banded and photographed in Sacramento Dec. 27–Feb. 8 (†TDM). Most "eastern" Fox Sparrows reported in our Region are actually of the reddish western race *altivagans*.

Twenty-eight Swamp Sparrows mostly along the coast from Del Norte to Santa Cruz were about average, but 52 White-throated Sparrows made an exceptionally high total, possibly a consequence of more extensive reporting from feeders than usual. Single Harris' Sparrows were reported from Ft. Dick, Del Norte, Dec. 21 (NEC), Chico Jan. 4 (BED), Glenburn Dec. 21 (BY), Tule Lake N.W.R., Jan. 18 (PhR), McKinleyville Jan. 5+ (fide GSL), and Lodi Dec. 20 (†DGY). The only significant concentration of Lapland Longspurs was of 25–30 at the S. Spit of Humboldt Bay Jan. 4 (ADB et al.). A Snow Bunting at Bodega Bay Nov. 29 (ph. JCo) and another at Eureka Dec. 6–8 (JCS, †ph. DR, †LPL et al.) were the only ones reported. Another was rumored to be at Arcata through Dec. 2 but no details have been received.

**ICTERINES THROUGH FINCHES** — A Rusty Blackbird at Pescadero, San Mateo, Jan. 3+ (†RST, †PEL, †DLSu, †SEF, m.ob.) was possibly one of two that wintered nearby last year. Another Rusty Blackbird put in a brief appearance at Pacific Grove Jan. 3–4 (BW, ph. DR et al.). A pair of Great-tailed Grackles in S.F., Jan. 17 (CRC) was believed to be the same pair found in 1978–1979 and present continuously ever since. An imm. ♂ Orchard Oriole in Union City Jan. 14–24 (F. Kelly, †RAE) was a first for Alameda. Another was reportedly photographed at Big Sur Jan. 22–31 (fide DR); but the identification was controversial and the photographs were not submitted, so we cannot judge. Three Hooded Orioles wintering in the Region was exceptional. One at Rio Dell Jan. 11–Apr. 4 (I. Sippola, †RAE et al.) furnished the first confirmed winter record for Humboldt. Others were at Pacific Grove Dec. 29 (†DR, S. Hennessey) and Stockton Dec. 20–21 (RA, †DGY et al.). The only "Baltimore" N. Oriole was at Rio Dell Dec. 11–mid-March (I. Sippola, ADB et al.). Four other wintering N. Orioles were reported as "Bullock's".

A ♂ Purple Finch at Crescent City Feb. 12 (ADB) was thought to be of the race *purpureus*, but no description was received. There are no published reports of this race for California, but it breeds as far west as n. British Columbia and should be looked for. [Although presumably, hopefully, a sight record of this race will never be accepted without in-hand photos and measurements—K.K.] A ♂ Cassin's Finch was well described at Lafayette, Contra Costa, Dec. 24–25 (†H. Adamson).

#### S.A.

Two possible Eurasian Siskins were reported from Arcata, and one was banded and photographed. However, the measurements did not quite fit, and the characters by which bright ♂ Pine Siskins with yellow rumps and green backs can be distinguished from true Eur. Siskins have never been adequately addressed (cf. Blake, AB 30:770, 1976). The two species differ slightly in measurements and bill shape, but the best field-character for separating xanthochroistic Pine Siskins from ♀ Eur. Siskins is the color of the undertail-coverts, bright yellow in Pine and whitish or pale yellow in Eurasian. Both Arcata siskins had bright yellow undertail-coverts, providing a positive identification of both birds as Pine Siskins. Details are expected to be published elsewhere (JM, SFB). There appear to be no unassailable North American records of Eur. Siskin.



An **Oriental Greenfinch** in Arcata Dec. 5+ (JCS, †JLD, †DR, †SFB, †JML, †GMcC, †JM, m.ob.) was a first for the contiguous United States. It generated national interest, as this species had previously been recorded only in the outer Aleutians, where there are about 10 records of migrants. Its relatively large size, combined with a broad facial stripe, broad posterior supercilium, and bold white edges to the tertials were characteristic of the northernmost race, *kawarahiba*. All Aleutian specimens have been attributed to that race as well. The literature is somewhat contradictory, but most sources indicate that *kawarahiba* migrates S to Japan and occasionally to Taiwan, so a vagrant in North America might be expected to winter as far s. as Arcata. Apparently the species is rare in captivity in California and Japan (fide L.F. Baptista, fide JLD), but we have heard rumors that cage-bred individuals of this species were released in the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia (fide R. Odear). Preliminary investigations suggest that captive Oriental Greenfinches are not *kawarahiba*, but more research is needed in view of the lack of records between the outer Aleutians and California. However, this was an unusually good season for Siberian strays along the West Coast, and the Oriental Greenfinch might have been part of a general pattern which brought Brown Shrike and Rustic Bunting (in Washington) to the West Coast.

**CORRIGENDUM** — Vaux's Swifts were over Santa Cruz Jan. 21, not Feb. 21 (AB 40:326).

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