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Someone flipped the rain switch in November, as the Region passed from a very dry spell into an unusually wet winter. A mild El Niño seemed correlated with the occurrence of various warm-water birds from the south, including Black-vented Shearwater, Red-billed Tropicbird, Red-footed Booby, and Xantus' and Craveri's murrelets, but strangely not Black Storm-Petrel. The shorebird season was fairly tame, at least for extreme rarities, while landbird vagrants as a whole gave us their best show since at least 1979. Amazingly, despite some 28 "boldfaced" records, only one was nominally new for the Region (and California): Crested Caracara, pending California Bird Records Committee review. Great Basin areas (especially the little-birded Crowley Lake) were especially productive of noteworthy records this season.

Observers for Golden Gate Raptor Observatory have initiated landbird counts in their daily censuses (compiled by CLF), to our great benefit. Also of future benefit, computerization has begun for the Regional files; interested parties are invited to contact us about this (write to KFC).

As this article is being finished, word comes to us of the tragic death of David Gaines. Dave, a past Regional editor, has been a guiding light (and warmth) in the fight to save Mono Lake, and a splendid birder and inspiration to hundreds for many years. We will miss his company, his bird finds (see this article for many), and his unfailing wisdom and joy.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.C.R.S. = Coyote Cr. Riparian Station (banding station in Santa Clara Co.); C.V. = Central Valley; Cyn. = Canyon; F.I. = S.E. Farallon I.; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized place names* refer to counties. Use of "Period" and "Region" (capitalized) refers to these terms as defined for *American Birds*. All records from Palomarin and S.E. Farallon I. should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.).

**LOONS THROUGH PELICANS** — Four Red-throated and four Pacific loons inland were more than usual in fall. One alternate-plumaged Pacific was at L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Aug. 2 (RE), continuing the recent pattern there. A flight of 107,000 Pacific Loons passing Pigeon Pt., San Mateo, Nov. 15 (BS) was aptly termed a "major migration". Of 13 inland reports of Com. Loons (19 birds), most intriguing was one heard only, Aug. 14–15 at Snag L., Lassen N.P. (DCR et al.), potential breeding habitat.

A molting Horned Grebe on Eagle L., Sept. 5 (SFB) was early if it did not summer locally. A W. Grebe on 9700 ft Tioga L., Mono, Nov. 3 (DAG) probably equalled our Region's previous elevation record, set on the same lake Oct. 25, 1959. The Clark's Grebe seen flying NE 10.2 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos Sept. 19 (SFB) was startling not only for its location but also because *Aechmophorus* grebes are so seldom seen in flight. Despite their substantial migrations, of a cumulative 24,941 *Aechmophorus* surveyed in Santa Cruz this fall, only one was seen flying (DLSu).

Monterey recorded its first early fall Laysan Albatross Sept. 12 (DLSh) and its first from shore at Cypress Pt. Nov. 12 (SHa). Three Laysans were photographed together 17 mi w.s.w. of Pt. Pinos Nov. 15 (JM, AB, DLSh), and a single was at Cordell Bank Nov. 3 (D. Woodbury). Northern Fulmars remained scarce but widespread throughout the fall.

Flesh-footed Shearwater put in a strong appearance, with one to three seen on at least 11 Monterey boat trips Sept. 10–



Nov. 23 (DLSh, m.ob.), 4 sightings (five birds) in F.I. and Marin waters Sept. 19–Nov. 8 (P.R.B.O., DWm, ToJ), and singles offshore Humboldt Sept. 12 (GSL, fide S. Perry) and at Bodega Canyon Oct. 11 (RS). Incredible numbers of Buller's Shearwaters rafted just off the tip of Pt. Reyes. An estimated 700 there Sept. 18 (GEw) was unprecedented, but later numbers culminated with an astounding Regional record 7200 Oct. 27 (RS). Elsewhere high numbers were 500 at Pioneer Canyon, San Mateo, Sept. 6 (JM), 950 offshore Monterey Sept. 16 (RS), 1200 at F.I., Oct. 10, and 550 near Cordell Bank Marin/Sonoma Oct. 11 (RS). Short-tailed Shearwaters were more frequent than usual during early fall beginning Sept. 12 offshore Monterey (DLSh), but the maximum reported was of only 15 there Nov. 23 (DLSh). All three of these species visit us from Australasian breeding ranges. By comparison, the South American breeding Pink-footed Shearwater appeared in average numbers, and Sooty Shearwater numbers were normal to low. Sooty Shearwater breeds in both regions, but most of our birds may be of American origin. From n.w. Mexico, Black-vented Shearwaters irrupted in numbers second only to 1984 among recent years. Early single sightings in Monterey Bay Aug. 13 & 20 (DLSh) preceded normal arrival beginning Sept. 22 (DLSu). Monterey Bay boat maxima were 1350 Oct. 18 (SFB, DLSh) and 1400 Nov. 23 (DLSh). Nearby the highest reports were 500+ in 1.5 hours at Pt. Pinos Nov. 9 (REM) and 467 at Pigeon Pt., Nov. 18 (BS). Numbers dropped rapidly to the north, with highs of 15–20 at Pt. Reyes Oct. 22 (DAH et al.) and 23 at F.I., Oct. 30.

Again flocks of storm-petrels rafting off the edge of Cordell Bank were found to contain both Wilson's and Fork-tailed storm-petrels. Sixteen Wilson's and 40 Fork-tailed were n.w. of the Bank Aug. 15 (†JM, †SFB, DLSh). This is the 2nd highest number of Wilson's reported for W. Coast waters. Two Wilson's at Pioneer Canyon Sept. 6 (†JM) were also in a large mixed flock. The only reports from Monterey Bay were of a Wilson's Oct. 4 (SMS, †JML) and a Fork-tailed Sept. 28 (DLSh). A tally of 200 Ashy Storm-Petrels offshore Humboldt Bay Oct. 12 (SWH, GSL, JCS) was high for so far north. Ashies formed the bulk of the mixed flocks, with 1500 n.w. of Cordell Bank and 500 (not rafted) at Pioneer Canyon Aug. 15 (SFB, JM, DLSh), 4500 rafted at Pioneer Canyon Sept. 6 (JM), and 4500 at Mon-





Subadult white morph Red-footed Booby at Pedro Point, Pacifica, Cal., Aug. 15, 1987. Photo/Peggy Beckett.

terey Canyon Oct. 6 (RS). Pioneer Canyon is a new area for birders, so we do not know if the storm-petrel flocks there are annual or if many storm-petrels used this area instead of Monterey Canyon. The latter's famous flock formed late, was hard to find, and never reached its usual peak numbers, partly owing to the remarkable scarcity of Black Storm-Petrels. Only three near Cordell Bank Aug. 15 (SFB, JM, DLSh), 500 at Pioneer Canyon Sept. 6 (JM), and 800 at Monterey Canyon Oct. 3 (SFB, DLSh) represented the maxima for Blacks. Nevertheless, Least Storm-Petrel did appear, as one to three or more were in the Monterey Canyon flock Sept. 12–Oct. 6 (DLSh, SFB, JML, RS).

Two **Red-billed Tropicbirds** furnished the 6th and 7th Regional records. One was "outside F.I." Aug. 23 (P. Bellamy) and the other was s.e. of the Davidson Seamount, about 50 mi s.w. of Pt. Sur, Oct. 5 (DLSh, m.ob.). Records should be more frequent as we get far offshore into "albacore" waters.

Several **Red-footed Boobies** added spice to California waters this fall. Two birds at F.I. in 1975 had furnished the only previous state records. Comparison of photos may prove otherwise, but from the evidence at this writing it appears that there were two or three in this Region. A subad. white morph associated with the fishing fleet at San Pedro Pt., Pacifica, Aug. 14–17 (fph. P. Beckett), where it delighted hundreds of birders (f.m.ob.). Apparently the same bird was around fishing boats outside the Golden Gate Aug. 20, after which it spent the first half of September intermittently around boats at Pier 45, San Francisco (ph. L. Thompson, S. Williams). What may have been still the same bird landed on the R/V "Pt. Sur" about 12 mi w. of Moss Landing Oct. 8, and rode into Moss Landing Harbor before flying away for good (J. Klusmire ph. to C.B.R.C.). Clearly not the same bird was the imm. brown morph (?) attending the fishing fleet off Bolinas Bay and the Golden Gate Oct. 13–16 (M. Greco photos to C.B.R.C., †SEF). It rode boats into S.F. Bay before flying back out to roost overnight. It was on a sailboat inside S.F. Bay Oct. 17 (S. Pringle photos to C.B.R.C.), but the next day it was picked up at Aquatic Park, S.F., with a fishhook in its mouth. It spent the rest of the fall in rehabilitation centers (ph. JM). At this species often sits on boats, it seems unlikely that these birds had never done so. But, if they are considered "tainted" because they may have landed on boats on their way here, that means we can never call a Red-footed Booby "clean," as this species will always land on boats. These birds give added credibility to booby reports not published last summer (†† to C.B.R.C.).

Brown Pelicans in the Monterey area suffered extensive mortality, exceeding that observed during the 1983 El Niño (AB). By mid-September hundreds of apparently-starving pelicans were desperately scavenging filleted rockfish carcasses

and begging frozen anchovies in Monterey Harbor. The proximate cause of death for some birds was a cholera-like bacterium (Calif. Fish & Game). Although food shortage seemed clear, no other piscivores showed similar effects, leading to speculation that the anchovy schools were staying too deep for the pelicans to catch them (AB). Up to five adults regularly foraged up the Pajaro R. to 3.5 mi inland (DLSu et al.). Maybe related were 3 sightings (perhaps one bird) on inland reservoirs of Santa Clara, plus San Joaquin's first Brown Pelican, hand-tamed at the Mokelumne R. west of Thornton Sept. 26–Oct. 22 (†DGY).

**HERONS, WATERFOWL** — Significant egret concentrations were at the Cache Cr. settling basin, Yolo, Aug. 23 (DJo) and near the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 2 (HMR): 250+ Greats with 150+ Snowies at the former site and 300 Greats with 400 Snowies at the latter. A Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron at Charleston Slough Nov. 7–15 (†JY et al.) was at least the 3rd reported from south S.F. Bay. Little Blue Herons have summered almost regularly there since 1971; an adult was near Alviso Aug. 14 (SFB et al.). It was another poor season for Cattle Egrets. Up to six in s. Fremont Aug. 31–Oct. 14 (fide HG) were in an area where nesting has been suspected; two at F.I., Sept. 16 and four in the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 2 (JCS) were early on the coast; and 350 at the Modesto sewage ponds Oct. 4 (HMR) furnished the only high number reported. A Green-backed Heron seen 20 mi w.n.w. of Pt. Pinos Aug. 30 (RS et al.) was presumably the same one seen 7 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos the same day (JML et al.). The offshore waters of n. Monterey must now be among the most intensively-birded areas in our Region, at least in the fall. A White-faced Ibis at Zmudowski State Beach Sept. 26–Oct. 4 (RFT et al.) provided the only coastal report. In the C.V., 300–400 at the Cache Cr. settling basin Aug. 20 (GEw) made the highest count.

An ad. Tundra Swan at Tule Lake N.W.R., Sept. 7 was "flying well" and unseasonal (SFB). The Trinity R. below Willow Creek, Humboldt, was an odd place for a Greater White-fronted Goose Oct. 3–6 (T. Roelofs). Coastal goose reports were received of about 120 Greater White-fronteds, five or six Snows, and five Ross'. One of the Ross', at Stafford L., Marin, Sept. 24–Nov. 20, "appears to have summered there" (RS et al.). Tule Lake N.W.R., Siskiyou, produced another Emperor Goose, an immature present Nov. 6–13 (†BED et al.). Also at Tule L. were two adult and one imm. Brant Nov. 12–14 (BED et al.).

Migrant ducks were found Oct. 14 in the high Sierra (DAG) where few records exist. Tenaya L., Tuolumne (8200'), had a Green-winged Teal, two Gadwalls, an Am. Wigeon, two Com. Mergansers, and a Ruddy Duck. Siesta L., Tuolumne (8000'), had five Green-winged Teal, and Elery L., Mono (9500'), had a Lesser Scaup.

Conflicting reports were received on migrant vs. summering Green-winged Teal. One at Pescadero Marsh Aug. 10 was considered the first returnee (PJM), while an eclipse-plumaged male at Mountain View Forebay, Santa Clara, Aug. 31 (WGB) and a female at Moss Landing Aug. 7 (DR) were thought to be probably summering. Four more at Zmudowski State Beach Aug. 29 were still considered possible summerers (DR). The species returns as early as mid-July on the extreme n. coast (Erickson et al., 1984, *Birds of Redwood National Park*. Coastal Parks Assoc.). A ♂ **Baikal Teal** was shot by a hunter at Tule Lake N.W.R. (county?), Oct. 14. Color photographs on file at the refuge have been examined by BED, RE, and MFRb, and copies will be forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Five previous California records (3 Regional) are somewhat controversial as to the origin of the birds, but 4 of the 5 have been accepted by the C.B.R.C. as representing genuine vagrants.

Fifty thousand Gadwalls were estimated on Tule L., Sept. 7, when this species was the dominant duck in n.e. California (SFB). Among the many Eur. Wigeon reports, one at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin, Sept. 26 (DAH et al.) was early, and singles at Borax L., Lake, Nov. 4 (JiM), L. Combie, Nevada/Placer, Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (RAE), and Bass L., El Dorado, Nov. 15+ (†GEw) were at unusual locations.



Three Canvasbacks returned to the Stockton sewage ponds by Sept. 30 (DGY) and the first Ring-necked Ducks were likewise early at the Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 18 (DLSu) and the Modesto sewage ponds Sept. 19 (two—HMR). A Ring-necked at F.I., Oct. 7–8, the island's first ever, was the only other arrival of either species before mid-October.

At least eight Oldsquaws were found in Humboldt/Del Norte but only three were reported from Sonoma south. One at Caspar State Beach, Mendocino, Oct. 11 (KFC) was early; one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou, late October to Nov. 8 (fide BED, MFRb) and two at Tule Lake N.W.R. (Siskiyou & Modoc) Nov. 14–28 (BED, RE, MFRb et al.) were inland. A Black Scoter at Manresa State Beach Sept. 10 was early, the earliest ever for Santa Cruz (DLSu). Arriving Surf Scoters were not detected among summering birds in Santa Cruz until Sept. 22 (DLSu). An estimated 110,000 Surf Scoters were along the n. side of Pt. Reyes Oct. 31–Nov. 25 (RS). Inland birds were at L. Herman, Solano, Oct. 21 (RAE), Indian Creek Res., Alpine, Oct. 24 (three—JSL), and Grant L., Mono, Oct. 24 (11—DAG). A  $\phi$  White-winged Scoter was inland at Tule Lake N.W.R., Siskiyou, Nov. 27 (RE et al.). A Bufflehead in Santa Cruz Sept. 7 (RTb) was very early. Inland Red-breasted Mergansers were at "Alkalai Ponds", Mono, Sept. 13 (DAG), Crowley L., Mono, Sept. 26 (two—PJM, DAG), and Sailor Bar, American R., Sacramento, Nov. 15 (GEW).

**RAPTORS** — Golden Gate Raptor Observatory's counts of raptors passing Pt. Diablo, Marin, set seasonal record highs for 11 species: 75 Ospreys, 273 N. Harriers, 3574 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 193 Red-shouldered Hawks, 106 Broad-winged Hawks, five Swainson's Hawks, 3894 Red-tailed Hawks, 35 Ferruginous Hawks, 39 Golden Eagles, 388 Am. Kestrels, and 14 Prairie Falcons. In contrast, the 1382 Cooper's Hawks represented a very low total. A N. Goshawk there Sept. 24 was rare. Trans-Sierra vagrant Red-shouldered Hawks were found at Mono L. County Park Sept. 18–28 (†AME, PJM) and Benton Hot Springs Oct. 16 (GMcC), while one was near Grenada, Siskiyou, Aug. 12 (RE). Five dark-morph birds were among the 106 Broad-winged Hawks at Pt. Diablo Sept. 15–Oct. 24. This total presumably also included most of the five Broad-winged reported elsewhere in Marin Sept. 19–Oct. 21 and the three in San Mateo Sept. 14–Oct. 8. The three other Broad-winged all would have furnished first county records, but only one was documented: Caswell S.P., San Joaquin, Oct. 17 (first for C.V.—†DGY). A Swainson's Hawk at Monterey Bay Academy Sept. 10 (†DLSu) apparently furnished the only good recent Santa Cruz record. The 3894 Red-tailed at Pt. Diablo included 44 dark-morph birds, a dilute-pigment adult Aug. 11, a "Harlan's" Oct. 19, and a bird showing characters of "Krider's" Nov. 25 (CLF, m.ob.), an unprecedented spectrum for the Region. Four of the 35 Ferruginous Hawks there were dark.

A very wary **Crested Caracara** found near the dump s. of Mono L. Sept. 13 (RS) was seen in the area intermittently to Oct. 16 (†JLD, †GMcC, †PP). This bird showed no sign of captivity, and its location proclaims it a better candidate for a wild vagrant than the presumed escapees on the California coast, but this issue will be debated by the C.B.R.C. Of 45 Merlins tallied at Pt. Diablo, three in early November were identified as of the pale prairie race *richardsoni*. Perhaps one of these was at Palo Alto Baylands Nov. 22 (†JM, †RSTh, †EDG).

**QUAIL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — A "pure" albino California Quail was seen in Arcata Nov. 16 (C. Anderson). A survey of 26 potential rail sites in Santa Cruz Oct. 28–Nov. 13 turned up birds at 22 locations, an impressive 190 Virginias and 49 Soras total, but no Com. Moorhens were found (DLSu). Some 300,000 Am. Coots were estimated on Tule L., Sept. 7 (SFB). Coastal Sandhill Cranes were near Ft. Dick, Del Norte, Oct. 26 (RSTr), Hayward Nov. 18 (RJR), and Elkhorn Slough, Monterey, Nov. 18–22 (fide DR). In the C.V., four at Creighton Ranch Preserve, Kings, Sept. 18 (RH) and 15 in Sacramento Sept. 20 (CSu) were early.

## S.A.

The true relative status of the two forms of Lesser Golden-Plover remains unclear. Not long ago *fulva* was considered the far-less-common bird in California, at least during migration. On the coast this fall, 38+ birds were reported as *fulva*, 28+ as *dominica*, and 23+ unknown. All 20 birds from Del Norte, however, were reported as *dominica* (ADB), leaving only about eight other claimed *dominica* for the entire coast. In the C.V., *fulva* reports outnumbered *dominica* 11+:6+ (HMR, DGY et al.), so only e. of the Sierra/Cascade crest did *dominica* predominate. All birds there were identified as juv. *dominica*: one at Crowley L., Mono, Sept. 27 (GMcC); two at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou Oct. 4 (RE, MFRb); and two at nearby Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 2–8 (BED). No ad. *dominica* were reported anywhere in the Region. Observers should report all observations of Lesser Golden-Plovers with as much detail as possible.

A Semipalmated Plover at the Hollister sewage ponds Aug. 21 furnished San Benito's first record (KVV, BHG). A juv. Mountain Plover at Crowley L., Sept. 23 (PP et al.) and two in s. Fremont Oct. 14 (R. Cimen) were in unusual locations.

Fourteen Solitary Sandpipers were reported Regionwide. The most significant was San Benito's first at the Hollister sewage ponds Aug. 21 (KVV, BHG). Another county first there was the Willet Aug. 13–21 (KVV, BHG). Sacramento N.W.R. had 2400 Long-billed Curlews Sept. 15 (BED), but that number pales compared to 10,000+ at Kesterson N.W.R., Oct. 24 (RHG), the largest number ever reported in the Region. Three Ruddy Turnstones at the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 9 (ERC) and one at the Davis sewage ponds Sept. 12 (MP) furnished the only inland reports. Only 7 mi inland, the Salinas sewage ponds added Black Turnstone and Red Knot to their already long list of shorebirds with singles Sept. 5 (BHG, DR et al.) and Oct. 9–15 (SEF, PEL et al.) respectively.

Sanderlings continued to be unpredictable at the Modesto sewage ponds with up to three Sept. 13–20 and one Nov. 22 (HMR et al.). Another inland was in the Tulare L. basin, Kings, Aug. 23 (R. Saval). Of the 60+ Semipalmated Sandpipers found in August and September, three were in Siskiyou, six were in Mono, 10 were in the C.V., and the rest were along the coast. The only reported adult was at Mountain View Forebay, Santa Clara, Aug. 14–17 (†PLN). One hundred Baird's Sandpipers at Crowley L., Sept. 6 (GMcC) made the largest number ever reported in the Region. The only ad. Baird's seen were at Fremont Aug. 3 (RAE) and the Chico oxidation ponds Aug. 13 (JHS).



Juvenile Stilt Sandpiper at Bolinas, Cal., Sept. 9, 1987. Photo/Peter LaTourrette.



The season's only Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was in Eureka Sept. 16–25 (FJB et al.). Conversely, eleven Stilt Sandpipers provided our best showing ever, with one at L. Talawa, Del Norte, Oct. 1 (ADB, SDS), up to two in Eureka Aug. 20–30 (JCS et al.) with another very late there Oct. 20–21 (GSL), one at the Bolinas sewage ponds, Marin, Sept. 4–13 (ph. EDG et al.), one at Pescadero Marsh Sept. 13–21 (RSTh et al.), one apparently moving back and forth between lower Watsonville Slough (Santa Cruz's first) and Zmudowski State Beach Sept. 17–24 (RS, DLSu et al.), one at the Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 5 (BHG, DR et al.), and one at Metro Airport (Sacramento's first) Sept. 24–25 (†TDM et al.). The adult found at the Woodland sugar ponds, Yolo, July 29 was joined by a 2nd bird Aug. 5 (GFI).

Six Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found: one very late near Ft. Dick, Oct. 15–17 (†ADB); one at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin, Sept. 11–24 (ph. WEH, †JM et al.); another at nearby Spaletta Ranch, Pt. Reyes Sept. 6–7 (†DAH et al.); one at F.I., Sept. 8–14 (†GeM, †RPH, P.R.B.O.); and two at Año Nuevo State Reserve Aug. 27–31 (†M.A. Sidor, †SFB, †JM et al.). Only three Ruffs were found (cf. 13 last fall): Ferndale Bottoms, Humboldt, Sept. 10–17 (KI); an ad. female in the Slaughterhouse Pt. area near Vallejo, Napa/Solano, Aug. 4–Oct. 4 (MB et al.); and Woodbridge Road Ecological Preserve (Bract Tract), San Joaquin, Nov. 6–13 (†DGY et al.). An unusual late wave of migrant Short-billed Dowitchers was noted in Santa Cruz Nov. 4–12, with 25 birds at 4 sites, the only ones seen there after Sept. 29 (RAM, DLSu). Late phalaropes were found in San Mateo, a Wilson's at Pescadero Marsh Oct. 25 (DLSu) and a Red-necked at Princeton Marsh Nov. 8 (JM).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — A remarkable concentration of stercorarinines over the Monterey Seavalleys Sept. 19 produced the highest counts for three species: 33 Pomarine Jaegers, 27 Parasitic Jaegers, 46 Long-tailed Jaegers, 10 Long-tailed/Parasitics, and 15 S. Polar Skuas (SFB, DLSu). The count for Long-taileds was eclipsed by 57 offshore Humboldt Bay Sept. 13 (GSL, SWH), these counts being the highest ever for California. That for skuas was the 3rd-highest ever. The only Parasitic away from tidewater was at Crowley L., Sept. 6 (LJP). Long-tailed Jaegers were reported from an unprecedented 28 boat trips Aug. 10–Oct. 12, 10 of them in double figures, with 31 near Pioneer Seamount Sept. 13 (AB, JML) forming another amazing concentration. Numbers of Long-tailed Jaegers correlated with those of their favorite host, Arctic Tern. Ashore, single Long-taileds were seen at Pt. Reyes Sept. 18 (GEw), an adult at Elkhorn Slough Oct. 3 (RS, m.ob.), an adult at Crowley L., Aug. 28 (ph. †JLD), and a juvenile at the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 28–29 for the first C.V. record (†DGY, †HMR, ph. †ERC). Skuas were very frequent, being reported from 29 boat trips Aug. 15–Nov. 15, with multiples on 15 trips. Another was off Wilder Cr. Beach, Santa Cruz, Sept. 28 (†DLSu).

All 15 Franklin's Gulls Aug. 29+ were at sewage ponds and wildlife refuges, with 14 inland. Modesto sewage ponds hosted at least five Aug. 30–Nov. 11 (HMR, ERC, DGY), and one at Kelseyville sewage ponds Oct. 31–Nov. 26 was a first for Lake (JRW et al.). A Little Gull at Crowley L., Aug. 6–Sept. 28 (ph. †JLD, †GMcC, †HG, m.ob.) was the first e. of the Sierra in California. Perhaps of more interest, it molted straight from first-summer plumage into full adult winter plumage, so not all 2nd-winter birds are distinguishable. For the first fall in a decade, "the" ad. Little Gull failed to return to Stockton (DGY). Partial albinism is often seen in Heermann's Gull, with white primary coverts being most common. The 29 sightings of such birds during Santa Cruz surveys represented slightly more than one bird per thousand, with 12 individuals showing some white in flight feathers (†DLSu). All were adults in basic plumage. A Herring Gull at Crowley L., Aug. 31 (DAG) was early. A juv. W. Gull was well described at Modesto sewage ponds Sept. 19–27 (DGY, †HMR). Rather early was a first-winter Glaucous Gull at Baldwin Cr. Beach, Santa Cruz, Nov. 3 (†DLSu). Only nine Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported, Aug. 25–Nov. 16. Sabine's Gulls were well represented offshore (peak counts 45–65, Aug. 15–Oct. 10), ashore (6 reports), inside S.F. Bay (2),

and inland (4 reports). The latter six were: Palo Alto Sept. 26–Oct. 9 (G. Hoyt, †WGB, ph. A. Walther, m.ob.), Foster City Nov. 1 (MDa), Crowley L., Sept. 26–28 (at least five, including three adults—DAG, PJM), Modesto sewage ponds Oct. 11 (first for Stanislaus—†HMR, ph. ERC), Woodland Sugar Ponds Oct. 16 (†GEw), and Stockton sewage ponds Oct. 29–Nov. 10 (DGY, D. Wharton).

At Crescent City, Elegant Terns peaked Sept. 23 at 36 (ADB), a record count for Del Norte. Three Com. Terns at Stockton and Lodi sewage ponds Sept. 22–Oct. 6 more than doubled the records for San Joaquin (DGY). Up to six visited Crowley L., Aug. 28–Sept. 26 (JLD et al.). An Arctic Tern inside S.F. Bay at Hayward Oct. 22 (RJR) was unusual. A Least Tern at Rodeo Lagoon Sept. 13 (BiL, CLF, H. Brandt) provided one of few coastal records n. of San Mateo. An adult migrant at New Brighton State Beach, Santa Cruz, Sept. 16 flew off of the mainland at the south end of the trans-mountain flightline reported for Caspian Terns (DLSu) and speculated for Least last season!

A juv. Pigeon Guillemot was far off the continental shelf Marin or San Mateo Aug. 15 (SFB). Surprisingly, the northernmost report of Xantus' Murrelets was of the largest number, 16 offshore Humboldt Oct. 12 (JCS), and three were offshore Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Oct. 10 (KFC). In Monterey Bay area waters, there were up to six scrippsii Xantus' Murrelets through Nov. 15, one or two hypoleucus Aug. 13–Oct. 10, and two to seven Craveri's Murrelets Sept. 13–Nov. 15 (DLSu, m.ob.). Craveri's seen from Monterey shore were two off Cypress Pt. Oct. 21 (SHa) and four off Pt. Pinos Nov. 12 (†REM).

**DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS** — Seven White-winged Doves, all coastal Aug. 25–Nov. 5, made our best turnout ever (by one). Pending review by the C.B.R.C., the two **Black-billed Cuckoos** discovered (8th and 9th for the Region) match last fall's number. Immatures were on F.I., Aug. 26 (†PP) and outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 12–17 (M. Butler, †CoB, †JM, DAH, m.ob.). Two Greater Roadrunners wandered from dry hills to the C.V. floor n. of Los Baños Aug. 13–Dec. 23 and Oct. 25–Nov. 27 (HMR, T. Poole, RbL et al.). Burrowing Owls were well-reported, including 12 coastal migrants Sept. 26+. A Spotted Owl along La Honda Rd., Aug. 31 (CGR), was unexpected; 20+ mi away on Sept. 8, one calling at Año Nuevo Pt. (GJS) was "[a] first for this location and one of very few San Mateo records [fide PJM]". Reportings of Short-eared Owls were near the highest ever for one season (41), but 75% were of singles, with only 2 reports of as many as five individuals. Nearly all reports were coastal; F.I. Short-eareds totalled a remarkable 17 individuals, including a very early bird Aug. 26 (subsequently Sept. 19+ for the Region). Also noteworthy for F.I. were five N. Saw-whet Owls, Oct. 15–Nov. 18.

A "resurgence in nocturnal visual and auditory detections" of Com. Poorwills at 5000+ ft. in Sierra N.F., Fresno, was noted



Black-billed Cuckoo captured for banding at the P.R.B.O. station on Southeast Farallon I., Cal., Aug. 26, 1987. Photo/Peter Pyle.



September/early October (JCL). At Ft. Hunter-Liggett, Monterey, RLR conducts spotlight surveys for deer, and noted Com. Poorwills this first half of November to be "ten times more abundant than in past" at this time. Neither of these Com. Poorwill reports gave numbers, however. A Chimney Swift over F.I., Aug. 30 (†PP—P.R.B.O.) was one of few documented at this season. Vaux's Swift reports were dominated by the 1661 counted passing Pt. Diablo Aug. 29–Oct. 17 (CLF et al.), the latter date quite late. Even later were two to three near Baldwin Cr. Beach Nov. 21 (DLSu), perhaps fitting better with winter than migration records.

#### **HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS —**

Three Black-chinned Hummingbirds were extralimital: Aug. 1–2 at Pacific Grove (JLD, †DR, RER), Aug. 5–6 at Lee Vining (JLD), and Aug. 28 at F.I. An Anna's Hummingbird at Lee Vining Aug. 6 (JLD) was strictly a vagrant for the Mono Basin; all such records are for fall. Eight coastal or late Costa's Hummingbirds were noted. Most noteworthy were one in Del Norte at Smith River Nov. 2–10 (ADB) and another three through the Region Nov. 14+. Rufous/Allen's hummingbird distribution remains problematic, with the last bird acceptably identified to species Aug. 9 (Rufous). Many "Selasphorus sp." were seen after this, including two after mid-October: San Francisco Bay N.W.R., Nov. 21 (ERi et al.), and Pt. Diablo Nov. 23 (CLF et al.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were identified in Ben Lomond Oct. 19 (†RMrr) and Palo Alto Nov. 23 (A. Jasberg), the latter bird presumably a returnee (AB 40:325). These were only the 2nd and 3rd records for the Region earlier than December. Red-naped Sapsucker records w. of the Sierran crest also totaled two (both males): Rancho Del Oso, Santa Cruz, Sept. 26 (RMrr), and Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne, Nov. 15 (JW). A "probable only" Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker was described from L. Merced, San Francisco, Oct. 3 (†JM); another report of this form lacked details. Reports of "Yellow-shafted" N. Flickers continue to greatly outnumber those of intergrades (by 5:1 this season), although this editor (and most critical observers) see many more intergrades (at least the reverse ratio). Observers should no more assume that flickers with yellow feather shafts are "pure" than that all yellow warblers are Yellow Warblers. Uncertain birds should be reported simply as "N. Flicker," or, "yellow/intergrade," etc. Reports of 12 Pileated Woodpeckers were very unusual. Some/most were well out of range, even flying through open country. Obviously this is not an irruptive species, so perhaps this was owing to the extensive summer fires.

Some 59+ migrant Willow Flycatchers probably represented an average fall turnout for recent years. Four straggled into October, with one very late at Patrick's Point S.P., Oct. 11–18 (D. Oretsky, KI). A remarkable nine Least Flycatchers, Sept. 4–Oct. 20, were well above any previous seasonal total. Five were on F.I., two on outer Pt. Reyes, one was banded at Modoc N.W.R., Sept. 9 (†E. Bloom), and another was banded at Lanphere-Christiansen Dunes Sept. 17 (CJR). Seven Hammond's Flycatchers were coastal, Aug. 23–Oct. 13. Dusky Flycatchers are expected to be rarer (and earlier) coastally, but five were there Aug. 27–Sept. 16, including two banded at F.I. Continued caution is urged in identifying Empidonax! Seasonally rare, Gray Flycatchers were at Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne, Aug. 23 (JW) and F.I., Aug. 31. The season's only E. Phoebe was near Ettersberg, Humboldt, Nov. 1 (†Man Who Walks in the Woods). An impressive four Ash-throated Flycatchers straggled along the coast Oct. 11–31. Just above average numbers were 13 Tropical Kingbirds (coastal, Oct. 9–Nov. 30). Earlier and scarcer on the coast in fall than Tropicals, 10 W. Kingbirds represented a good showing there Aug. 7–Sept. 29. An amazing 15 E. Kingbirds (Aug. 21–Sept. 18) included an "unprecedented" five at F.I. and another five in Marin, as well as two in very unexpected areas: Hopland Field Station, Mendocino, Aug. 21 (†B. Keiffer) and Kaweah Oaks Preserve, Tulare, Sept. 14 (L. Wilson).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES —** A N. Rough-winged Swallow at Woodbridge Rd. Ecological Preserve Nov. 14 (DGY) was quite tardy. Bank Swallows had a late contingent, with five birds Sept. 21+ including the last Oct. 7 at Moss Landing (REM). What was apparently Alpine's first Scrub Jay was at 9000 ft. at L. Winnemucca Sept. 12 (†HMR); it appeared more similar to the Great Basin race than to cismontane forms. Nine reports of Pinyon Jays (150+ birds) indicated above-average conspicuousness, and included 2 very rare coastal sightings: one on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 4–5 (JM) and four at Pt. Diablo Oct. 21 (CLF et al.) for the 3rd and 4th Marin records. Even more so, Clark's Nutcrackers were where the birders were, with reports of this less-gregarious bird totaling 114+ birds. Many were below usual elevations; the first far from usual haunts was on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 15–17 (RS, m.ob.). A Black-billed Magpie on Moseley Rd. Sept. 13 (RSTr) was Del Norte's 2nd, and another was in Tilden P., Contra Costa, Nov. 1 (fide HG). Forty-six Com. Ravens at Ben Lomond dump Nov. 24 (RMrr) made a "record Santa Cruz count" (fide DLSu); the species seems to be on a gradual increase in much of the Region.

A Mountain Chickadee at Hayward Regional Shoreline Nov. 21 (RJR) was a first for Alameda. What was apparently a partially albinistic Chestnut-backed Chickadee at Neary's Lagoon, Santa Cruz, Oct. 11 and Dec. 17 (†DLSu et al.) had a head pattern matching that of Mountain Chickadee. A Pygmy Nuthatch, coastal at King Salmon Aug. 22 (JCS, KVR, †GSL et al.), was Humboldt's first ever. Upslope drift after the breeding season is a well-established phenomenon for many species, but how long do birds remain at high elevations in fall? This season three Bewick's Wrens were reported at 5200–6000 ft on the w. slope of the Sierra Nov. 5–19 (JCS, JCL). At F.I., Marsh Wren sightings have averaged fewer than one per year, so six there Aug. 15–Nov. 4 were startling.

The Region's (and California's, and the Lower 48 States') 3rd **Dusky Warbler** was banded at our patented Siberian Vagrant Trap: F.I., Oct. 14 (†D. Beadle, †RPH—P.R.B.O.). Golden-crowned Kinglets were widespread but in low numbers, Sept. 30+. An exceptionally early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Año Nuevo Pt., Aug. 23 (GJS). At Pt. Diablo an impressive total of 145 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher sightings was made Aug. 1–Oct. 12 (CLF et al.). Most of the other 23 reports (37+ birds) were of November sightings. A light passage of W. Bluebirds was clearly noted at Pt. Diablo (Sept. 1–Oct. 30, CLF et al.) and in Santa Cruz (Aug. 15+, DLSu, m.ob.), and F.I. received one (its first ever!) Oct. 14–15. The first-ever record of Westerns for the Mono Basin was of two at Lee Vining Sept. 16–26 (L. Hug, DAG). As usual, the earliest reports of Mountain Bluebirds for the season were of single vagrants: Oct. 13 at both the Lorenzo Trail, Alameda (RJR), and along Roblar Rd., Sonoma (NTC). A Townsend's Solitaire on Sept. 26 was early (or a usual winter arrival date?) at the now-expected locale of Mt. Saint Helena, Napa (BDP). Unexpected solitaires were one on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 20 (RS, DWm), four at F.I., Sept. 11–Nov. 3 ("Average is less than one"), and one in Del Puerto Cyn., Stanislaus, Nov. 29 (†HMR). The F.I. kept its firm grasp on the Region's **Gray-cheeked Thrush** records, with one Oct. 17–18 (J. Curson—P.R.B.O.) furnishing about the 8th island and 10th n. California record, pending judgment from the C.B.R.C.

**MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS —** It seems that many more N. Mockingbirds than usual wandered N, and to the outer coast, with 15 such reports Sept. 26+. Seven Sage Thrashers (many) were away from the Great Basin Aug. 12–Nov. 15, and included one at 9600 ft near Ten Lakes, Yosemite N.P., Aug. 27 (†WGB) and another at Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne, Aug. 23–24 (JW), both on the Sierran w. slope. Five Brown Thrashers equalled the total for the previous 7 falls combined, and tied the seasonal record (fall 1974). Four were coastward Sept. 25–Oct. 23 and another was at 7100 ft by Silver L., Mono, Nov. 29 (DAG). A **Bendire's Thrasher** near Acampo Oct. 31–Dec. 5 (GEW, †DGY, E. Dickey, m.ob.) was evidently a returnee, as one was here Dec. 21, 1985–Feb. 23, 1986; this is thus an extension of the Region's 6th record. A **Red-throated Pipit** at



Virgin Cr. Beach, Oct. 10–13 (†KFC, DT, D. Wharton et al.) was a Mendocino first, and about the Region's 10th. We have averaged one each fall through the 1980s. Still rarer was our 3rd **Sprague's Pipit** enjoyed Oct. 16 on F.I., whence our other records come as well (†J. Curson, †RPH).

Six Bohemian Waxwings at Lee Vining Nov. 30, and 12 seen there Dec. 8 (DAG), apparently furnished only the Mono Basin's 2nd record. Fifty Bohemians at Susanville Nov. 25 (PhR) were many for there. Cedar Waxwings were quite early in the S.F. Bay Area, with 15 in San Carlos Aug. 19 (PJM) for the first of 4 August reports. "Eastern" Solitary Vireos were at Inverness Oct. 1 (RS) and outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 8 (JM), with "Plumbeous" individuals at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 16–18 (T. Crisler, RFT et al.) and outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 23 (RS). Documentation was said to have been submitted to the C.B.R.C. for a **Yellow-throated Vireo** at the w. edge of Mono L. Aug. 26 (E. Strauss, fide DAG); we will await their judgment. There are fewer than 6 Regional records. A very late Warbling Vireo lingered at the n. interior locale of Davis Cr., Modoc, Oct. 28 (JCS). Two sub-regional editors commented on very low numbers in the C.V. this season. Two Philadelphia Vireos were a little below an average showing: Carmel R. mouth Sept. 17 (†DLSu) and outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 18 (RS et al.). Four Red-eyed Vireos (coastal, Aug. 28–Oct. 18) is roughly our average fall total, and includes an overdue first for Santa Cruz at New Brighton State Beach Sept. 11 (†DLSu).

**WOOD WARBLERS** — These put in a better vagrant show than we have witnessed since fall 1979. Owing to the necessary deadline constraints for this article, I have not attempted to total true records for most of the more common vagrant species, but have simply summarized "reportings" (many of which are duplicates). Those interested may write to me for true record counts, for more quantitative comparisons with previous years.

A **Golden-winged Warbler** on Dechambeau Cr., near Mono L., Aug. 16 (†JHH, J. Uyehara) was the Region's first in 7 years, and about 10th ever. Tennessee Warblers (41 reportings, Aug. 31–Nov. 21) were in only average strength. The farthest-inland record also tied for latest: one in Salinas Nov. 21 (KVV). Six Nashville Warblers in November were all coastal. Eight N. Parulas Aug. 29–Oct. 18 made the best Regional fall total since 1979, and included evidence of possible interior breeding: two birds were together at Rio Bravo on the American R. Parkway, Sacramento, Aug. 29 ("ad. & imm."—DoM, DLO), with the immature seen repeatedly through Oct. 16 (DoM, DLO, GEW et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warblers (40 reportings, Aug. 29–Oct. 28) were in above average numbers, and all coastward. Magnolia Warblers were numerous; among the 49 reportings were 2 exceptional records: a very late individual along Gazos Cr., San Mateo, Nov. 21 (B. Hopkins, B Sch), and one inland at Deadman Cr., Mono, Oct. 11 (DAG). The latter record was at least our 7th away from coastal counties. Four Cape May Warblers appeared: F.I., Sept. 18–20 and Oct. 9, and outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 7 (JMR) & 15–17 (RS, m.ob.). A very impressive 39 reportings of Black-throated Blue Warblers, Sept. 25–Nov. 13, were all coastal except one Nov. 1 at Dechambeau Cr., Mono (E. Strauss). Three subregional editors commented on low numbers of Black-throated Gray Warblers, with only three birds reported lingering into November. Seven Black-throated Green Warblers were identified in the Region, Oct. 9–31. All were coastal (none at F.I.) except the last, Oct. 31 at Lee Vining (DAG). A sudden, clear drop in fall Blackburnian Warbler records occurred 1982–1986, with four/fall versus over ten/fall average in preceding years. This year's 8 records (coastal, Sept. 13–Oct. 31) may only reflect the good fall. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Stinson Beach Nov. 29 (†KH) fit the characters of the yellow-lored group (*D.d.dominica/stoddardi*), and was only 12 mi from the site of our only other such record (AB 39:208).

Currently the only C.B.R.C.-accepted records for **Pine Warbler** in the Region are 2 F.I. records (5 mainland records are under consideration), so three documented records this season



Exceptionally rare away from the coast, this Canada Warbler was found at Reichmuth Park, Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 7, 1987. Photo/W. Edward Harper.

were surprising. A well-studied bird was on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 15–17 (JMR, RS, †JM, †MJL, m.ob.), followed by one at F.I., Nov. 18 (†RPH) and, the real shocker, another studied briefly on the Sierran w. slope at Ackerson Meadow Nov. 22 (†JW). Ten Prairie Warblers (many) Sept. 6+ were coastal and included the return of last year's winterer, to Princeton Nov. 9–21 (†AME). Receipt of 196 reportings of Palm Warblers, that number including several summaries as single reportings, is nothing short of staggering. Probably over 300 were identified, making this our best fall ever for our most abundantly-reported landbird (the oxymoronic "most common vagrant"). Highlights: 73 at F.I., including an exceptionally early one Aug. 31–Sept. 1; a possible *D. p. hypochrysea* at outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 9 (RS) and a leucistic bird there Oct. 15 (RS); and three on seabird trips (m.ob.). Amazingly, not one was uncovered away from coastal counties. Of four Bay-breasted Warblers (Sept. 18–Oct. 25), three were in Marin, and F.I. had the other. Blackpoll reportings (97, Aug. 27–Nov. 3) included the F.I. total of 33 birds, and two away from coastal counties: Sept. 25, Lodi L. Wilderness Area (†DGY) and Sept. 29, Mono L. (PJM).

Black-and-white Warblers also showed strongly, with 73 reportings Aug. 20+. Three were in the interior: Aug. 25–27 at w. Mono L. (DAG), Aug. 26 at Reichmuth P., Sacramento (R. Haussler), and Oct. 12 at Lee Vining (DAG). Seventy reportings of Am. Redstarts apparently made only an average showing (all in coastal counties, Aug. 17–Oct. 18). Documented Worm-eating Warblers were at F.I., Oct. 16 (†RPH—P.R.B.O.) and Carmel R. mouth Oct. 25–Nov. 3 (KVV, †DR, RFT, BHG). The only Ovenbird not at outer Pt. Reyes or F.I. (out of eight, Sept. 4–Oct. 14) was one attending Humboldt State Univ., Sept. 4 (D. Leal). The 1982–1987 average (6.3) is only 5/8 that of the previous decade or so. The 26 reportings of N. Waterthrush (Aug. 26–Oct. 19) included 3 records away from the coast: C.C.R.S., Sept. 3 (fide LRM), Lundy Cyn., Mono, Sept. 14 (DSi), and on the Napa R. near Oakville Sept. 18 (fide HG). The two **Kentucky Warblers** were, amazingly, both away from the coast: w. Mono L. Aug. 13 (DAG) and an adult banded at C.C.R.S., Sept. 18–29 (ph. LRM). Four Connecticut Warblers were noted: C.C.R.S., Sept. 2 (ph. LRM), F.I., Sept. 21–24 (†RAE—P.R.B.O.) and Oct. 12 (†RPH—P.R.B.O.), and outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 9 (†RS). All four Mourning Warblers were on F.I.: Aug. 27–28 (†PP—P.R.B.O.), Sept. 13 (two; †RPH—P.R.B.O.), and Oct. 13 (†RPH—P.R.B.O.). A Com. Yellowthroat at Arcata Marsh Project Nov. 18 (FJB) was very late for the n. coast. The four Hooded Warblers were on the central coast Sept. 1–Oct. 8. Seven Wilson's Warblers lingered into November, with the latest, interior: Nov. 29 by Putah Cr., Yolo (MP). Canada Warblers favored 2 locales: F.I. (three, Aug. 27–Sept. 5) and Reichmuth P., Sacramento, Sept. 6–18 (R. Haussler, ph. WEH, PDG, m.ob.), the latter an ad. male, "likely the same bird as last year" (WEH). A late Yellow-breasted Chat was at Big Sur R. mouth Oct. 8 (†DEG).





Palm Warbler at Point Reyes, Cal., Oct. 10, 1987. Eastern vagrants turned up in remarkable numbers along the Pacific coast during autumn 1987. Photo/Peter LaTourrette.

**TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Four Summer Tanager (F.I./outer Pt. Reyes, Oct. 15–30) were one more than average. **Scarlet Tanagers** were at Carmel R. mouth Oct. 11–17. (†PEL, †SEF, †DR, MFe, m.ob.—first for Monterey) and F.I., Nov. 16 (†RPH—P.R.B.O.). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were below normal, with two on F.I., three in Marin/S.F., and one inland: Modesto, Stanislaus (a county first), Aug. 17 (†HMR, SLR). A Black-headed Grosbeak, meanwhile, was well behind schedule Oct. 26 at Pt. Diablo (CLF et al.). Indigo Buntings, all coastal Aug. 20–Nov. 16 (late!), were in twice usual numbers, with nine records. A Dickcissel on F.I., Oct. 6 was unique this season. Single Green-tailed Towhees popped up Sept. 13 both in Carmel Valley (†S. Fried) and at Natural Bridges State Beach, Santa Cruz (†DEG), and Oct. 6 on F.I. A Rufous-sided Towhee far offshore from Humboldt Sept. 19 (fide GSL) again implies regular n. coast migration in this species (AB 39:100).

Non-Great Basin Am. Tree Sparrow records totalled a rather slight five, Oct. 16–Nov. 19. There were 44 reportings of Clay-colored Sparrow—clearly far above average, perhaps the best showing ever. One reporting was for 30 on F.I. All were coastal, Aug. 28–Nov. 8. Records of 12 Brewer's Sparrows (Aug. 15–Sept. 30) also were many. Included were firsts for Santa Clara and Santa Cruz and two more farther inland. Vesper Sparrows were well-reported away from breeding areas Aug. 28+, including one near Davidson Seamount, 30 mi off Monterey (SFB, DR, AB, MJL, m.ob.). Coastal vagrant Black-throated Sparrows were a widely-studied bird at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 11–24 (K. Ackerman, †MJL, m.ob.) and another at S.F. Bay N.W.R., Oct. 11–12. Black-throateds are rarely noted in migration in the interior, so three juveniles at Ackerson Meadow Aug. 25 (JW) were excellent. Three Sage Sparrows on the immediate coast were of indeterminate racial group: Elk's Head, Humboldt, Aug. 2 (†LPL, †GSL), S.F. Bay N.W.R., Sept. 5 (fide HG), and Año Nuevo Pt., Sept. 27 (GJS, DLSu). Also puzzling were 10 *A. b. nevadensis/canescens* at Modesto Res., Oct. 18 (HMR), north of known C.V. breeding. Based on lack of Saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.), this may be only a wintering site and not a breeding locale (AB 36:1014). Eight Lark Buntings were at least average, and contrasted with last fall's zero. Most noteworthy were singles at L. Crowley Sept. 23 (DWM, KHO) and Princeton Oct. 8–9 (BS, RSTh), the latter a San Mateo 3rd record.

Perhaps the season's best landbird was a **Baird's Sparrow**

studied near L. Talawa, Del Norte Sept. 18 (ADB). 10 days short of 18 years since our only other (F.I.), this was California's 3rd. Twenty Grasshopper Sparrows were reported this fall (15 on F.I.—“Way above average”). All were coastal. An astounding three **Le Conte's Sparrows** were identified, for unofficial 7th–9th Regional records (pending C.B.R.C. decisions): F.I. Sept. 18–19 and Sept. 20–24 (†RAE—P.R.B.O.), and Elk's Head, Humboldt, Oct. 10 (†KI). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Pine Gulch Cr., Nov. 7 (three; RS, DWM, JaW) and the s. end of Tomales Bay Nov. 23–Dec. 2 (RS, DWM), the latter declared “a new spot!” (RS). This is no longer a C.B.R.C.-reviewed species, but we continue to encourage documentation. The one dozen reports of Fox Sparrow included several with tentative I.D. to racial group; with caution, much can be learned on their comparative distributions here.

The 57 reportings of Swamp Sparrow were excellent, easily our best fall ever, and included 2 reports of “10+”. All were coastal (Oct. 14+) save three: Modoc N.W.R., Oct. 6 (banded, †E. Bloom), near Grenada, Oct. 7 (†RE) (“Siskiyou's second”—MFRb), and Woodbridge Ecological Reserve Nov. 11 (SHA). White-throated Sparrows were also far above average, the 55 reportings (considerably more individuals) Sept. 19+ near twice last fall's all-time high. Only five individuals were away from coastal counties, however. A Golden-crowned x White-crowned Sparrow hybrid visited F.I., Oct. 13–16. Four Harris' Sparrows were only average; three were coastal Oct. 19+, but one at Lee Vining Nov. 28 (DAG) was exceptional for Mono Basin. “Slate-colored” Dark-eyed Juncos were in average numbers, with 15 of 16 birds reported coastally. The first, on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 17 (DAH—“pure looking”) was apparently the Region's earliest record by one day.

**LONGSPURS THROUGH FINCHES** — Single McCown's Longspurs were on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 24–28 (JM, ALE, JMR, m.ob.) and Hayward Regional Shoreline Oct. 28–Nov. 5 (RJR, JMR, m.ob.). These were 3rd and 4th records for our coast, and should have been documented. Thirty-four reportings of Lapland Longspur (coastal counties Sept. 19+) included peak numbers at 3 locales of 10–12. Chestnut-collared Longspurs showed well coastally Sept. 26+, but the earliest records were on the Sierran w. slope (!): an imm. male at White Wolf, Yosemite N.P., Sept. 21 (†JW, S. Skiff), and two more at nearby Ackerson Meadow Sept. 24 (JW). A Snow Bunting was identified on Bear R. Ridge near Rio Dell, Humboldt, Nov. 29 and remained to Dec. 25 (†FJB, †GSL, †LPL, D. Anderson, m.ob.). An average turnout of Bobolinks was recorded, with 18 coastal individuals Aug. 26–Oct. 23 (10, including first and last, on F.I.). North coast Tricolored Blackbirds were eight at McKinleyville Oct. 3 (RLeV) and two at Ft. Dick Oct. 19–23 (ADB). A flock of 400 was n. of Irish Beach Oct. 11 (DT); we have few reports on their status in Mendocino. Passage of W. Meadowlarks at Pt. Diablo, Oct. 4–Nov. 29 (CLF et al.) totaled 157. This species is strongly migratory throughout our Region. Fifteen Yellow-headed Blackbirds were coastal Aug. 26–Nov. 1. A Rusty Blackbird at Half Moon Bay Nov. 18–22 (BS, CGR) was noteworthy, but one at White Slough W.M.A., San Joaquin, Nov. 29 (ph. †GWW) provided our 5th interior record. A **Great-tailed Grackle** at Los Baños W.M.A., Nov. 13–23 (refuge personnel, †PhR, BED, EHa) was the 9th for the Region (5th for the C.V.), with our first and 4th records extended to at least Nov. 17 (M. Mericle) as the S.F. pair continued to be reported. These two birds are now at least 9 and 8 years old. Seven Orchard Orioles (all coastal, Aug. 21–Oct. 28) compares well with the recent average of four to five. A ♀ Hooded Oriole in Capitola Nov. 11 (DLSu) was the latest by nearly 2 months, and should have been documented (AB 39:208). One of the five “Baltimore” N. Orioles was not coastal: Lodi L. Wilderness Area Aug. 18 (†DGY).

Five reports of Cassin's Finches were of 21 extralimital birds west of usual areas Oct. 16–Nov. 29, with 75 at Medicine L., Siskiyou (BY et al.) very many for there. More than 50 reportings of Red Crossbills (including several large summaries) elucidated a strong irruption (although short of that in 1984–1985).



Birds were at high and low elevations, with no strong geographic trend shown, but they appeared to peak in late October/early November. Not one report mentioned racial groups (AB 39:209). The few Pine Siskin reports were of high numbers, e.g., 794 passing Pt. Diablo Sept. 30–Nov. 15 (CLF et al.). Most of the 36 Lawrence's Goldfinches reported (many) were in Monterey. One at Gazos Cr. mouth Oct. 17 (PJM) furnished a "first outer coast record for San Mateo." The 358+ Evening Grosbeaks represented a moderately above-average influx; 75% were in coastal counties, with an impressive 138 in Marin.

**ADDENDUM** — An ad. ♂ Phainopepla was feeding four young one mi from Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve Aug. 3–Sept. 3, 1985 (D. Regnery, *vide* DLSu). This was a first breeding record for San Mateo, where there had been only 3 records of the species as of July 1984 (San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching, 1984).

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