

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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Outstanding rarities took the spotlight in the fall of 1988. Northern Monterey County was the focal point of activity with three first state records, all of Asian origin, and numerous lesser rarities August 28–October 9. Not since the 1960s, when the wealth of eastern vagrants was first being realized at the Tijuana River Valley and the Farallon Islands, have so many state records been found in such a small area and short time period. The difference is that the birds involved 20 years ago are now considered almost routine. Claims that Monterey County is now the “center of the birding universe” are extreme, but it will probably be a long time before any other area of California can match this fall’s performance.

Virtually all “southern” seabirds were in relatively low numbers: Black-vented Shearwater, Black and Least storm-petrels, Brown Pelican, Heermann’s Gull, Elegant Tern, and Xantus’ Murrelet. Also low were *Podiceps* grebes, Arctic (and Common?) Tern, and Ancient Murrelet. All other shearwaters, Ashy Storm-Petrel, Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers, Sabine’s Gull, and Craveri’s Murrelet were in normal numbers. Above normal were albatrosses, Long-tailed Jaeger, South Polar Skua, Caspian Tern, and Tufted Puffin.

Among landbirds many insectivores remained late, owing perhaps to the mild weather (drought). Montane irruptives were scarce or virtually absent along the coast and Central Valley: Red-breasted Nuthatch, thrushes, and finches. The notable exceptions were Lewis’ Woodpecker and Golden-crowned Kinglet. The vagrant season was very good in terms of quantity and quality.

We are grateful to Kurt F. Campbell for compiling the landbird reports for Yee’s analysis.

ABBREVIATIONS—C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.C.R.S. = Coyote Creek Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = Southeast Farallon Island; G.G.R.O. = Golden Gate Raptor Observatory; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with Regional Editors. All records from S.E. Farallon I. and Palomarin should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.).

LOONS TO PELICANS—An emaciated imm. Yellow-billed Loon was found dead near Trinidad, *Humboldt*, Nov. 2 (S. Shannon, *H.S.U., ph. GSL, ph. LPL). About 12 Laysan Albatrosses at Cordell Bank, Marin, Nov. 26 (R. Norden) lingered to the point of boring some birders (!). Four Wilson’s Storm-Petrels were in Monterey Bay Aug. 21 (DGY, DLSh), after which one to two were seen through Oct. 16 (DLSh, m.ob.). Another Wilson’s was at Cordell Bank Oct. 23 (KFC). Very unusual was the Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel over S.F. Bay at Hayward Shoreline, *Alameda*, Aug. 28 (RJR). Although a few were offshore Monterey this fall, there was no other onshore movement or wreck. Nearly as notable was the Leach’s Storm-Petrel only 4 mi off Pt. Pinos Oct. 1 (JLD), as this species is almost unknown close to the mainland in c. California. Estimates of Least Storm-Petrels in the Monterey Bay storm-petrel flocks Aug. 21 ranged from three (DLSh) to 10 (DGY), with only one to two on 4 dates through Oct. 16 (DLSh, SFB). Never reaching their fall numbers of the past few years, Brown Pelicans also departed much earlier. By October they were gone from Santa Clara (PMB, WGB) and down to double-digit high counts on the Santa Cruz coast compared to thousands in October 1987 (DLSu).

HERONS TO WATERFOWL—A Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara*, Aug. 7–Nov. 24 (PJM, +WGB, +Tovar, m.ob.) furnished at least the 4th south S.F. Bay record. A pair of ad. Little Blue Herons with a just-fledged juvenile near Alviso, *Santa Clara*, Aug. 5 (P. Woodin) furnished the first proof of successful nesting of a pure pair

of this species in the Region (Morlan & Erickson 1988. Supplement to *The Birds of Northern California*. Golden Gate Aud. Soc.). Probably this same immature was seen at Alviso Sept. 17 (†JM), and an adult was seen at Hayward Shoreline Sept. 11–12 (T. Condit, RJR).

Cattle Egret breeding numbers in the San Joaquin Valley were down slightly and only small numbers were recorded dispersing coastally north to *Del Norte*, in keeping with the downward trend the past 3–4 years. On the other hand, White-faced Ibis continued their remarkable expansion with 715 in one small field at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Aug. 12 (RE, MFRb) coming from the estimated “total refuge population of over 1000 birds” (MFRb). Elsewhere the peak count reported from the C.V. was of 300 near Davis, *Yolo*, Aug. 25 (MP).

A fair coastal movement of Greater White-fronted Geese was recorded with the high count at L. Earl, *Del Norte*, Oct. 1, where a flock of 43 included two “Tule” Geese (†ADB) for the first coastal record north of *Alameda*. Ring-necked Ducks returned early with 4 reports from the s. half of the Region Sept. 4–18. State record counts of Harlequin Ducks (43) and Black Scoters (250) were obtained at Pt. Saint George, *Del Norte*, Oct. 24 and Nov. 14, respectively (ADB).

RAPTORS—Despite much early-season fog, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory’s migration counts at Pt. Diablo, *Marin*, Aug. 3–Dec. 11 scored new season highs for eight species: 102 Ospreys, 438 N. Harriers, 3887 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 11 N. Goshawks, 69 Rough-legged Hawks, 65 Merlins, 28 Peregrine Falcons, and 17 Prairie Falcons. This contrasted with low totals of 1266 Cooper’s Hawks and 295 Am. Kestrels.

Goshawk dates at Pt. Diablo spanned Aug. 6 to Nov. 27, with an astounding five on Oct. 19 (G.G.R.O.). Perhaps the latter count included some duplication of a bird returning to the observation point, as hawks commonly circle back at Pt. Diablo. One also worries that novice hawkwatchers/banders may have misidentified some of the 11 goshawks. Of 60 Broad-winged Hawks passing Pt. Diablo Sept. 13–Nov. 28, 12 did so on the first day (G.G.R.O.). Five other Broad-winged in *Marin*, *San Mateo*, and *Santa Cruz* were detected Sept. 8–Nov. 29. As in the good old days there were large feeding flocks of Swainson’s Hawks in C.V. fields. Near Patterson, *Stanislaus*, 85 were counted Aug. 3 (HMR, SLR, J. Obers). *Yolo* produced many high counts, including 46 near Woodland Aug. 6 (BED, PBS), 100 near Davis Sept. 4–7 (DES, AMF), and 200+ near Davis Sept. 25 (TCO). A dark-morph Swainson’s Hawk at Staten I., *San Joaquin*, Nov. 20 was late (RbL, RAR et al.). The 75 dark-morph Red-tailed Hawks passing Pt. Diablo represented 2.12% of the total 3542 (G.G.R.O.). An imm. Ferruginous Hawk at Big L., *Shasta*, Aug. 15 (SFB) was the earliest of various “early” records. Rough-legged Hawks staged their biggest irruption in more than 15 years, beginning with an early bird Oct. 7 at Carmel (DGY). The 69 at Pt. Diablo was 4 times the previous high of 17 in 1984 (G.G.R.O.). Ten even reached F.I. (P.R.B.O.). The American Canyon Rock Quarry, *Napa*, certainly attracts Golden Eagles; 11 were together there Oct. 27 (CLO).

MOORHEN TO SHOREBIRDS—A Com. Moorhen at June L., *Mono*, Sept. 23 (LJP et al.) and a Sandhill Crane at the Mad R. mouth, *Humboldt*, Nov. 6 (RLeV et al.) were east and west of their normal Regional ranges respectively.

Reports were received of 90+ Lesser Golden-Plovers on the coast and 20+ inland. The forms *dominica* and *fulva* were identified in about equal numbers on the coast, but *fulva* outnumbered *dominica* by almost 4:1 at traditional wintering sites while *dominica* was on top nearly 2:1 elsewhere. Inland birds were divided nearly 2:1 in favor of *dominica*, with *fulva* identified only at traditional wintering sites in *San Joaquin* and *Stanislaus*. Eight hundred “exhausted” Semipalmated Plovers at L. Talawa, *Del Norte*, Sept. 2 (ADB) made a large migratory concentration. In *Santa Cruz*, migration was re-

corded later than expected with a peak count of 75 at the Pajaro R. mouth Oct. 29 (CKf, RAM) and stragglers noted to Dec. 7 (DEG). Point Reyes hosted its 2nd juv. **Eurasian Dotterel** only 2 years after the first. Unlike its predecessor, this one proved very difficult to find during its Sept. 10–13 visit and was seen by only a fortunate few (MJL, ph. Sandy Komito). The only other state record is from nearby F.I.

The Region's 2nd **Spotted Redshank** (California's 4th) was at Staten I., San Joaquin, Nov. 19–20 (MJL, †TDM, †JM et al.). The late date and prime habitat (witness 10,000+ Long-billed Dowitchers there Oct. 22—MJL) certainly suggested the possibility of wintering, as has occurred in Oregon (S. Jetty, Columbia R., Feb. 21–Mar. 15, 1981). A count of 120+ Lesser Yellowlegs at L. Earl, Del Norte Sept. 1 (ADB) is the highest Regional count since 1977, when 186 were seen at adjacent L. Talawa on Aug. 22. Wandering Tattlers were found inland at the Salinas sewage ponds (three Sept. 20—BHG) and the Hollister sewage ponds Oct. 8 (San Benito's first—RE, †MFRb).

Certainly the season's most observed bird was the ad. **Terek Sandpiper** at Carmel River State Beach Aug. 28–Sept. 23 (E.M. Wilson, B.R. Harriman, ph. m.ob.). The only other North American record outside of Alaska was in British Columbia the previous fall. The Region's 4th **Hudsonian Godwit** (a juvenile) at Carmel River State Beach Aug. 28 (SEF) was found as a direct result of the Terek Sandpiper. To the delight of many observers, apparently the same godwit settled in at the Salinas R. mouth Sept. 4–Oct. 3 (ph. †WEH, SMS, ph. m.ob.), where it in turn resulted in the finding of the Region's 5th **Bar-tailed Godwit** (a juvenile) Sept. 11 (†SFB et al.). Another **Bar-tailed Godwit** followed soon thereafter at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin, Sept. 20 (†KFH).

A Sanderling at the Sacramento Metro Airport sewage ponds Sept. 6 (†TDM) was Sacramento's first, and one of eight interior birds this period. Over 40 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported in August and September with one in Siskiyou, six in the C.V., and the rest coastal. Another discovery by Terek Sandpiper "chasers" was California's first **Long-toed Stint**. The well-marked juvenile was thankfully easy to see at the Salinas sewage ponds Aug. 29–Sept. 2 (B.E. Daniels, †MAP, m.ob.). Seven Sharp-tailed Sandpipers along the coast Sept. 18–Oct. 23 represented a moderate showing. Fourteen Stilt Sandpipers topped last fall's record 11. All were coastal Aug. 7–Oct. 27 except for one at L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Sept. 22–26 (RE, †MFRb) and one at the Ceres sewage ponds, Stanislaus, Sept. 23 (HMR).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers continued to grace the Region, with at least 15 found this season. Three or more were at lakes Talawa/Earl, Del Norte, Aug. 29–Sept. 12 (ph. †ADB et al.). Alameda's first was at Hayward Shoreline Sept. 18–19 (†PEG, †RJR, †JM et al.), and, surprisingly, two were inland: L. Shastina Sept. 16–17 (†MFRb, ph. RE) and the Hollister sewage ponds, San Benito's first, Sept. 30 (†KVV). The rest were at Pt. Reyes, where up to nine were at the Spaletta Ranch/plateau Sept. 9–13 (RS, †DAH, †JM, †MAP et al.). Additional sightings at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 15–18 (one—DWm et al.) and the Hall Ranch Sept. 17 (two—J. McCormick) may have involved these same individuals. Ruffs were found at Laguna Cr. Marsh, Santa Cruz, Aug. 23–Sept. 2 (DEG et al.), Bodega Harbor Oct. 22–30 (L. Cumrack, ph. DN et al.), and Staten I., San Joaquin, Nov. 25 (DGY).

Red Phalaropes were reported primarily in 2 major waves nearly 3 months apart! Up to 5000 were in the vicinity of F.I. in mid-August (P.R.B.O., ToJ) and 1000 were on Monterey Bay Aug. 26 (SFB). Later, 750–2000 were at Cordell Bank Oct. 30 (SFB, RS et al.), hundreds were in the vicinity of Ft. Bragg, Mendocino, Nov. 10–12 (DT), 1600 were on Monterey Bay Nov. 14 (AB), and 3000+ were at the Smith R. estuary, Del Norte, Nov. 17 (ADB, PFS). One was seen inland, at Mono L. Sept. 25 (JRJ).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDIS—Seventeen boat trips found Long-tailed Jaegers off c. California Aug. 11–Oct. 9, with 54

over Sur Canyon, Monterey, Sept. 10 (DLSh) almost equaling 1987's record count of 57. South Polar Skuas were nearly as abundant as last year, with 22 boats finding them Aug. 27–Oct. 23 and multiples on 15 trips. The high was 11 offshore Monterey Sept. 11 (DLSh, JiD).

Only two Franklin's Gulls were found in the C.V. (both at Stockton sewage ponds—DGY), but six appeared along the coast; two to four were at Crowley L. and/or Mono L., Mono; and one visited Prosser L., Nevada, Aug. 15 (MDH). The latter areas reflect the increasing trend of this gull in e. California. A first-year Little Gull in Monterey Bay Oct. 16 (DaS, AB, †RER) preceded an adult at Lodi sewage ponds Nov. 16 (†DGY). The ad. Com. Black-headed Gull at Hayward Shoreline, Alameda, Aug. 28 (†RJR) was the first in the Region since February 1986, when the long-time Stockton adult was last seen. Single first-year Glaucous Gulls cruised the waters from F.I. to Fanny Shoal, Marin, Oct. 24–30 (P.R.B.O., †W. Keener, ph. C. Coccoli) and soared over Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Nov. 20 (DLSu). Between two and six Sabine's Gulls frequented Crowley L. and/or Mono L., Mono, Aug. 6–Oct. 11 (ES, m.ob.), and others were inland at Tule L., Siskiyou, Oct. 18–23 (ph. RE, MFRb) and Martinez, Contra Costa, Oct. 26 (C. Cutler). Sabine's Gulls ashore in Humboldt were at Arcata Oct. 14 (FJB) and Trinidad Nov. 9 (RAE, GSL), the latter being late.

An ad. Royal Tern at Sunset State Beach, Santa Cruz, Aug. 29 (DLSu) was well north of its current range. Despite the low numbers of Elegant Terns in the S.F. Bay area, 30 were unusually far inland at Baumberg Tract salt ponds, Hayward, Aug. 20 (SFB). Annually during July–August, 1000+ Black Terns appear in the Klamath Basin, Siskiyou and Modoc (MFRb), making this the only part of our Region where this species remains numerous. We welcome any counts of this species. Again on Aug. 12 an ad. Black Skimmer was found at Pajaro R. mouth, Santa Cruz and Monterey (DLSu). A Thick-billed Murre flying S past F.I. Oct. 29 was convincingly compared with the Com. Murres it had joined (†PP). The last 1988 Horned Puffin was near F.I. Sept. 17 (ToJ).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS—For the 3rd fall in a row our coastline was graced with seven White-winged Doves Aug. 26–Oct. 22. Prior to 1985, our Region had totaled only about 30 of these doves! A vagrant Lesser Nighthawk at Petaluma Nov. 20 (†DN) provided Sonoma's 2nd record. There is none yet for counties to the north. There was nothing vagrant about Com. Nighthawk in Mono, as 250 were at Crowley L. Aug. 13 (PEL). One at Dechambeau Cr., Mono, Sept. 18 (ES) was the latest ever for the Mono Basin (Gaines 1988, *Birds of Yosemite*, Artemisia Press). Reports of this species past mid-September are extremely rare, but a just-fledged bird from a closely watched nest at Arcata Oct. 3 (C. Ogan) may suggest something about the origin of these late birds. Amazing were 17 Black-chinned Hummingbirds at C.C.R.S. July 27–Sept. 28 with breeding detected nearby (no details on the breeding). The few migrant reports of this species through the immediate S.F. Bay area have always been considered extralimital, while breeding records appear to be nil. Explanations are few... perhaps the drought, or identification problems when not in the hand?

Two more counties tallied first records of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Stanislaus at Frank Raines Park Oct. 8–9 (†HMR, SLR, ERC) and Solano at Gates Canyon Road Nov. 19 (†MBG). They may prove as regular as Red-naped Sapsucker w. of the Sierran crest as we learn to distinguish between the two; e.g., the only extralimital Red-naped reported was from Ft. Mason, S.F. Oct. 11 (M. Butler).

A pair of Contopus flycatchers lingered long enough to be Thanksgiving treats in Santa Cruz as our latest-ever Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Palm Beach Grove Nov. 25 while a wood-pewee sp. at Corralitos Cr. Nov. 26 was the Region's 2nd latest (both †DLSu). A well studied *Empidonax* at Pt.

Saint George, Del Norte, Sept. 13 was strongly felt to be a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (†ADB). However, the C.B.R.C. has accepted only two previous birds netted on F.I. In addition to four Least Flycatchers on F.I. Sept. 2–24, four were in Marin Sept. 9–21, the C.V.'s first was at Lodi L., San Joaquin Sept. 5 († DGY), and one was near Ferndale, Humboldt, Oct. 16–19 (GSL, FJB, †RAE). Significant among 12 Hammond's Flycatchers were the first fall records for Monterey: Carmel R. mouth Sept. 16 († BGE) and Pacific Grove Sept. 17–18 († DR, RER, RFT). An impressive 400 W. Flycatchers were banded at C.C.R.P. Aug. 1–Oct. 15 with a peak in mid-September. One at Lodi L., San Joaquin, Nov. 30 (DGY) was late. Cornering all three of our E. Phobes was F.I. with arrivals Sept. 24, Oct. 20, and Nov. 16.

An Ash-throated Flycatcher on F.I. Nov. 20 was the latest ever there. Very rare **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at Creighton Ranch, Tulare, Oct. 7–10 († RH) for the state's first interior record, and at the Carmel R. mouth, Oct. 9 († MCM *et al.*). Kingbirds staged a royal gathering in the Region as a record high 35 **Tropicals** Sept. 16–Nov. 18, eight coastal **Westerns** Aug. 26–Oct. 12, and 11 coastal **Easterns** Aug. 29–Oct. 1 were observed.

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS — Staging fall Bank Swallows are rarely encountered, so 500 at n. Crowley L., Mono, Aug. 23 (PJM) were noteworthy. One at F.I. Oct. 27 was very late. A Barn Swallow at Tule L. Nov. 8 (RE) was Siskiyou's latest ever. A Yellow-billed Magpie at Spring Valley, Lake (county first), Nov. 17 (JPM) was joined by another Dec. 2 (JRW, N. White). A Rock Wren at the Modesto Sewage Ponds, Stanislaus, Oct. 2 (HMR) was unusual for the C.V. floor, while a Canyon Wren at Pine Canyon Sept. 14–27 (KGH, RJR) was the first seen on Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa, in about 40 years (KGH).

The state's 3rd **Northern Wheatear** (first since September 1977) brought the mobs to the Sacramento Valley near Kirkwood, Tehama, Oct. 13–15 (SAL, ph. †m.ob.). Yet another was on F.I. Nov. 6–10 († RPH), the site of the state's first in June 1971. **Veery** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were dealt to us in mixed pairs on Pt. Reyes as one of each was present Oct. 7 († RS, †BiL) and Oct. 15 († DDeS *et al.*). There are fewer than 10 acceptable sightings of each for the Region.



Brown Thrasher at Point Reyes, California, October 16, 1988. Photograph/Peter LaTourrette.

Mimicking last fall's high numbers, five Brown Thrashers were seen: Mono L. Aug. 10 (DAsh) and four coastal birds Sept. 23–Nov. 30. The **Bendire's Thrasher** returned to the same hedgerow near Acampo, San Joaquin, Oct. 15 and later (DGY) for the 3rd time in 4 years. Arguably the best among Monterey's potpourri of Siberian strays was North America's first **Gray Wagtail** s. of Alaska at the Salinas R. mouth Oct. 9–10 (DaS, ph. †m.ob.). For the 4th fall out of the past 5, Red-throated Pipit was observed: one at the Salinas R. mouth Oct. 3 († G. Rosenberg) and singles at F.I. Oct. 6–7 & 27 (both †PP).

Sorting out Solitary Vireos this fall revealed two coastal "Eastern" birds and three of the "Plumbeous" form. Three Philadelphia Vireos were found along the coast: Carmel Oct. 3 (DaS, RS, †JLD) and two at Pt. Reyes Sept. 22 († ScC) and Oct. 8 († GFi, †KH, †DAH). Three **Yellow-green Vireos** constituted our first multiple-sighting season of this straggler from the south. Singles were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 30 (ph. PLAT), Pacific Grove Oct. 9–12 († ph. SEF, ph. †m.ob.), and F.I. Oct. 25 († PP).



Northern Wheatear near Orland, Tehama County, California, October 14, 1988. Photograph/Jon L. Dunn.



Yellow-green Vireo at Pacific Grove, California, October 9, 1988. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.

WOOD WARBLERS — For the 2nd straight fall many vagrant warblers were seen in above-average numbers: Tennessee, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, and N. Waterthrush. September appeared to be the peak period of movement and, as usual, most were along the immediate coast unless otherwise noted.

Single Virginia's Warblers were at F.I. Sept. 8–9 & 13 with additional ones in Pescadero, San Mateo, Oct. 10–11 († RSTh, DK) and Palm Beach Grove, Santa Cruz, Oct. 5–6 († CKf, ELb). A very rare Lucy's Warbler was at F.I. Nov. 1–2. We have averaged fewer than one per year this decade. Only three N. Parulas Sept. 9–Oct. 10 illustrated their scarcity in fall compared to spring.

An interior Magnolia Warbler was banded at Modoc N.W.R. Oct. 10 (C. McMarthy). Cape May Warbler was not reported, for the first fall in over 18 years! This is consistent with the species becoming an increasingly rare vagrant in the state, despite good numbers last fall. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was slightly inland at Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Sept. 25 (PJM). A fascinating bird thought to be a "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler x Townsend's Warbler hybrid was closely monitored at Pt. Reyes Oct. 8–10 († DAH, †KH, †RAE *et al.*). There appear to be few records of this blend.

Four Black-throated Green Warblers Oct. 15–27 did not represent unusual numbers, but 14 Blackburnian Warblers Sept. 16–Oct. 23 and 13 Prairie Warblers Sept. 7–Oct. 28 made the highest fall totals in 8 years. As usual, F.I. had the squeeze on Bay-breasted Warblers, with two Sept. 24 & 26, while Pt. Reyes had the other one Oct. 8 (DAH). The ad. ♀ Black-and-white Warbler that was banded at Modoc N.W.R. in July was seen again Aug. 21–27 (JSC, ECKB). Of interest was the ♂ Am. Redstart returning to winter in Pescadero from Oct. 29 on (RSTh, SEF). Our lone Prothonotary and Worm-eating warblers were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 29 († ScC) and Sept. 9 (KH, †PP, ph. RS), respectively. A N. Waterthrush was inland at Manzanita L., Shasta, Aug. 15 (DPM). The Region scored **Kentucky Warbler** for the 2nd straight fall with one at F.I. Sept. 9–10 († ph. SFB). Our solo Connecticut Warbler was netted at Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt, Sept. 9–16 (JCS, †GSL *et al.*). This represents our first acceptable record for the n. coast. Three Mourning Warblers were noted: F.I. Aug. 30 († ph. PP) and Sept. 8–10 († ph. SFB), and the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 8 († DR *et al.*). A late MacGillivray's Warbler was at Half Moon Bay, San Mateo, Oct. 30–Nov. 4 (PJM). Three Hooded Warblers Aug. 21–Sept. 26 and six Canada Warblers Aug. 22–Oct. 26 were slightly more than average.

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES — Only three coastal Rose-breasted Grosbeaks trickled through, Aug. 1–Sept. 13, with an apparent Rose-breasted x Black-headed Grosbeak hybrid noted on F.I. Oct. 21. A lingering Lazuli Bunting was at Almaden Res., Santa Clara, Nov. 15 († JMa). An ad. ♂ Indigo Bunting found near Laird Slough, Stanislaus (county first), Aug. 2–7 († HMR *et al.*) in the company of nesting Lazulis led to the discovery of an ad. ♀ Indigo there Aug. 4–13 († HMR, † DGY). An additional inland bird was near Woodland, Yolo, Aug. 9 (M. Crawford), while one at F.I. Nov. 20 was very late. An apparent Lazuli x Indigo Bunting hybrid was studied at Bolinas Lagoon Aug. 27 (RMS).

A deceased Dickcissel was found at Alpine L., Marin, Sept. 19 (R. Brown), and live ones were at F.I. Sept. 2 (two) & 30. A wayward Rufous-sided Towhee was among the pelagics 41 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos Sept. 24 (DR, DLSu) when it boarded a research boat. A very rare Cassin's Sparrow was at F.I. Sept. 13 († DDK) where all previous fall records were produced.

Ten coastal Lark Buntings Aug. 27–Sept. 11 were balanced by three in the Mono Basin: one at Crowley L. Sept. 24 (HG *et al.*) and two at Mono L. Sept. 25 (*fide ES*). Two Grasshopper Sparrows on Sonora Rd., e. Stanislaus, Oct. 15–16 (HMR, SLR) were at an unusual locale, while three Sharp-tailed Sparrows

Oct. 25–Nov. 24 were at coastal estuaries. A White-throated Sparrow at Pt. Reyes Sept. 4 (T. Babineaux) was very early. Our two Harris' Sparrow were singles at the Pier 98 Landfill, S.F., Oct. 23 and later (ASH, m.ob.) and along Hayward Shoreline, Alameda, Nov. 17 (RJR). Two very rare "Gray-headed" Juncos were well studied and considered "pure": McKinleyville, Humboldt, Oct. 7 and later (RLeV, †RAE, †GSL *et al.*) for a first for the n. coast, and Moraga, Contra Costa, Nov. 19–25 (GA, †JM, m.ob.).

A Lapland Longspur near the confluence of Pescadero Cr. and the Pajaro R., Santa Clara, Oct. 15 († DLSu) was slightly inland and furnished a county first. Farther inland, a Chestnut-collared Longspur in the Panoche Valley Oct. 29 (DSg) was San Benito's first. The Region's (and the state's) 2nd **Rustic Bunting** was enjoyed by a handful of people along Pilarcitos Cr. in Half Moon Bay Nov. 25–27 († DK, †JM, †MAP, †DR, †RSTh). A Snow Bunting was at F.I. Oct. 27 († PP). Twenty-three Bobolinks lined the coast Aug. 25–Oct. 20 including two in the south S.F. Bay system. Interesting were four near Cedarville, Modoc, Aug. 15 (†TDM, AM) and one at Manzanita L., Shasta, Aug. 15 (DPM). The former locale was near the area where breeding has been strongly suspected. Our lone Rusty Blackbird was at Pt. Reyes Oct. 7 (RS, BiL). Del Norte's 2nd **Common Grackle** was in Crescent City Nov. 10–12 (ADB, †RAE, †LPL *et al.*). Five coastal Orchard Orioles Sept. 13–Oct. 30 included what was apparently last year's male returning to Pacific Grove Oct. 10 and later (N. Bain, m.ob.). Evening Grosbeak was ever the enigma: rarely encountered except for "hundreds" around Markleville, Alpine, Oct. 23 (WEH).

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