

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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Early rains in September brought hope of alleviating our three-year drought condition, but they were short-lived and the fall season ended dry and balmy. Perhaps these weather conditions contributed to the death of many American White Pelicans in Mono County and many species of waterfowl lingering very late to the north of the state.

Among shorebirds, it was a very poor season for many of the "uncommon" species, excellent for some of the "rare" ones, and very good for the "ultra rarities." The landbird season was generally good, with several uncommon and rare species found in record numbers. Unfortunately, it is beyond our current capacity to accurately monitor most common species. The diverse group of "montane" birds did not generate many comments. As a whole, traditional eastern vagrants were found in very good numbers as the 1980s go (the 1970s were much better), but the Siberian and Mexican influence was definitely pale compared to last year.

We are grateful to Kurt F. Campbell for compiling the landbird reports for Erickson's analysis.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.C.R.S. = Coyote Creek Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara; F.I. = Southeast Farallon Island; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with Regional Editors. All records from F.I.

and Palomarin banding stations should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO PELICANS — An above-average three Red-throated Loon and one Pacific Loon visited reservoirs straddling the Sierra. Another Pacific Loon was at L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Nov. 2–29 (ADB, RE), where they are annual.

Four Laysan Albatross sightings offshore Monterey included one as early as Aug. 27 (DLSh, DGY). Another Laysan was 30 mi w. of Klamath R. mouth, Del Norte, Oct. 12 (E. Logan). Northern Fulmars were widely scattered in small numbers. Buller's Shearwaters were scarce. Gray Whales off Point St. George, Del Norte, were attended by 500 Sooty Shearwaters Nov. 26 (ADB), rather late for such a concentration. Black-vented Shearwaters appeared from Monterey to F.I., beginning with two near Moss Landing Sept. 8 (RS) and peaking at 400–500 near Pt. Pinos Nov. 14 (RT, *vide* AB). Ten Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Cordell Bank Aug. 13 (TRS) showed that concentrations are probably regular there. One to two Wilson's in Monterey Bay Sept. 11–Oct. 7 (TRS *et al.*) were normal. Up to three Least Storm-Petrels were identified in Monterey Bay in October (DGY, DLSh).

The Region's 7th **Red-billed Tropicbird** circled past Pigeon Pt. Lighthouse, San Mateo, Aug. 10–12 (tGF, tJ.R. Blair, tGJS, m.ob.). A fishing boat reported a tropicbird in Monterey Bay Oct. 17 (*vide* DLSh). Among many reports of Am. White Pelicans were notable numbers in Monterey (up to 30) and

Lake (55), where they are scarce, and a casual visitant was at the Eel R. estuary, *Humboldt*, Aug. 8–9 (B. Slocum). Perhaps related to these sightings was the discovery in September–October of about 300 dead white pelicans at Crowley L., Mono (A. Janik, L. Neel, HG et al.). Necropsies by the California Dept. of Fish and Game implicated a combination of elevated mercury levels, lesions on various organs, parasites, and starvation. A Brown Pelican at Bridgeport Res., Mono, Aug. 21 (PJM) could have been the same bird seen there in July.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL — *Humboldt's* 2nd record of Least Bittern was of an ad. male found at the site of its first: Arcata Marsh, Aug. 25–Sept. 30 (RAE, ph. M. Morris et al.). An ad. Little Blue Heron at the Clear L. Oaks sewage ponds, Lake, Sept. 21–25 (†JRW) and an immature at Arcata Marsh Nov. 5 into December (†GHZ, T. Ryan, †RAE et al.) were respective county firsts. Additional immatures at Rodeo Beach, Marin, Aug. 9 (CLF et al.) and Alviso, Santa Clara, Aug. 20 (BHi, LES) were from expected locales.

Cattle Egret reports were again few, but numerous Green-backed Heron sightings in Santa Clara (25+) had WGB wondering if their numbers are increasing in the south S.F. Bay area. While overall Regional sightings of White-faced Ibis were down compared to the past 2 falls, up to 25 in Mono Aug. 21–Sept. 3 (PJM, G. Larimore et al.) and 60+ along the coast from Monterey to *Humboldt* Sept. 8–14 (m.ob.) were very strong movements in these regions.

Snow Geese made a most impressive showing along the length of our coast with 46 birds reported Oct. 11–Nov. 15, including one on F.I. Oct. 15–16 (2nd record there). In stark contrast, the more expected Ross' Goose had only one sighting along the coast, the resident of Stafford L., Marin (RS).

A Eur. Green-winged Teal at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin, Nov. 4 (MDC) represented one of few fall reports on record. Over 10,000 Mallards on Terminous Tract, San Joaquin, Sept. 28 made an impressive early concentration, but they dropped off dramatically in October–December (DGY). With only one previous fall Blue-winged Teal sighting in the Mono Basin, seven in Mono Sept. 14–Oct. 4 (PJM, ES, HG) were of interest. Among wigeons there were roughly 30 Eurasians (25 coastal), a family of Americans with five young at Crowley L. Aug. 22 (PJM) for Mono's first breeding record, and a ♂ Eurasian x American at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, Santa Clara, Nov. 23 (†MJM).

The presumed Redhead chicks attended by the ♀ Redhead at the Sunnyvale sewage ponds, Santa Clara, in July, as mentioned in the Summer report, surprisingly feathered up as Lesser Scaup by Aug. 7 (PJM). Such adoptive behavior is very unusual among ducks. However, this event could have been prompted by the unprecedented breeding success of Lesser Scaup there, as an estimated 10 broods were present Aug. 17 (PJM, RSTh). Rare ducks included a ♀ Tufted Duck at Warm Springs, Alameda, Nov. 17 (†LRF) and a very obliging ♂ King Eider at Pt. Reyes Aug. 30 into December (†GF, †MJL,



Immature male King Eider at Drake's Bay, Point Reyes National Seashore, California, September 11, 1989. Photograph/Ed Greaves.

†JM, ph. EDG et al.). Inland Oldsquaws were at Delevan N.W.R., Colusa, Nov. 18 (fide BED) and L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Nov. 29 (RE). All inland scoters were in the n.e. corner of the Region: an adult ♂ Black Scoter at Tule Lake N.W.R., Siskiyou, Nov. 4 (K. Gonzales, †M. Schreiner) for the Region's 4th in the interior, three Surf Scoters, and two White-winged Scoters. A ♀ Hooded Merganser at the Sutro Baths Nov. 15 (DPM) was said to be the first in S.F. since the 1940s (JM).

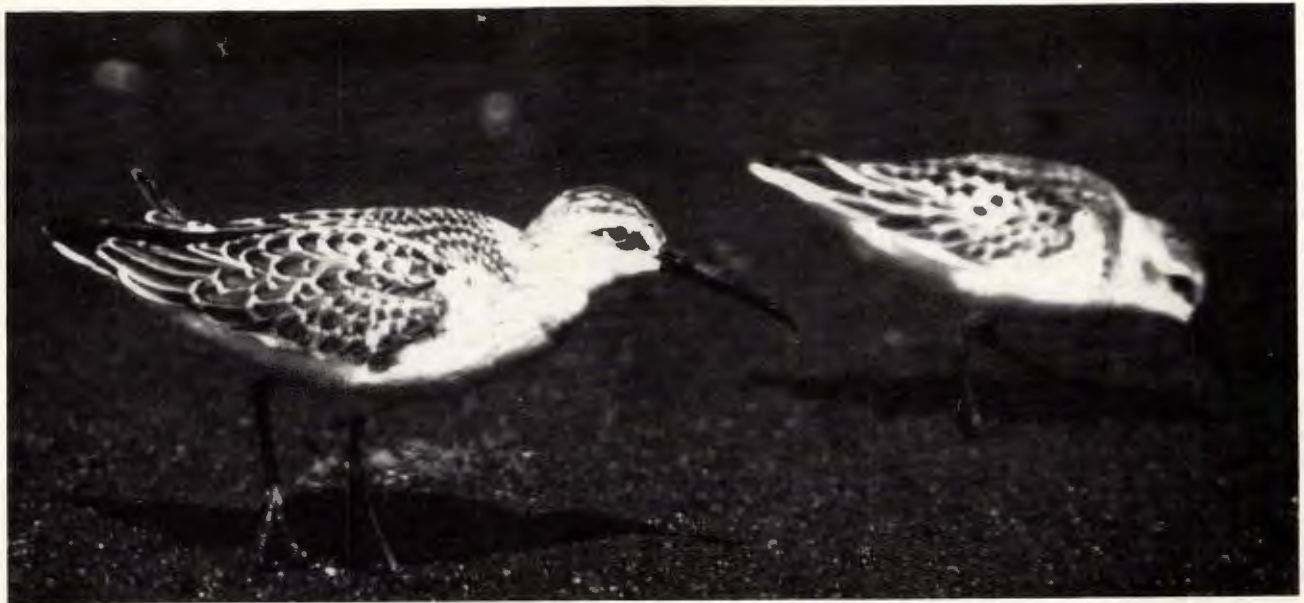
RAPTORS — The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory recorded 7 new season high counts: 1882 Turkey Vultures, 112 Ospreys, 4893 Red-tailed Hawks, 463 Am. Kestrels, 75 Merlins, 31 Peregrine Falcons, and 18 Prairie Falcons. All falcons continue to show increases in our Region. Three raptors were considered low: 1261 Cooper's Hawks, no Swainson's Hawks, and five Rough-legged Hawks. The earliest of their four N. Goshawks was Sept. 4. The 91 Broad-winged Hawks there likely included two others seen in Marin and San Mateo. Another was at Hayward Shoreline, Alameda, Nov. 5 (RJR).

Red-shouldered Hawks continue to increase east and north of the mountains, as seven appeared this season, including an adult soaring over 10,500 ft Hall Natural Area, Mono, Aug. 5 (DDeS). An imm. Golden Eagle between lakes Earl and Talawa, Del Norte, Nov. 1–10 (C. Hampy, PFS, ADB, B. Barton) was believed to be the first on the coastal lowlands n. of Cape Mendocino. Among numerous Santa Clara Merlins was an ad. ♂ richardsoni in Mountain View Nov. 5–26 (ph. MRo, MJM), and among many Peregrine Falcons was an ad. tundrius at Pigeon Pt. Nov. 19 (†RSTh). Topping these was California's 5th Gyrfalcon at Tule Lake N.W.R., Siskiyou and Modoc, Nov. 9–25, an immature (†BED, †RE, ph. †MMI, ph. †J. Olive, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS — Both forms of Lesser Golden-Plover were very well reported this fall with 60+ *fulva* and 77+ *dominica*, including nine *fulva* and 37 *dominica* inland. However, of the latter, 24 at the Hollister sewage ponds, San Benito, Sept. 27 (KVV) apparently made our largest inland concentration of any form. The state's 3rd and 4th Mongolian Plovers were an adult male at Moss Landing W.A., Monterey (site of the state's first), Aug. 14–16 (†DEG, †RFT, †BJW, †KVV) and one in basic plumage at Pt. Reyes Sept. 22–25 (RS, †JM, †MJL, ph. AG, m.ob.). Single Snowy Plovers at F.I. Aug. 27–29 and Sept. 15 provided the 2nd and 3rd records there. A Semipalmated Plover at the Redding sewage ponds, Shasta, Aug. 4 (D. Holmes) was a county first. There were three scattered Mountain Plovers along the coast, and 68 at Turlock L. Nov. 5 (HMR) provided Stanislaus' 2nd record, at the site of its first 10 years ago. Point Reyes and neighboring F.I. have the lock on Eurasian Dotterels with the state's 4th at F.I. Sept. 15 (ph. †T. Schantz), making the 3rd fall in the past 4 that a juvenile has enhanced their landscapes.

Always rare on the n. coast, a Black-necked Stilt near Ft. Bragg Sept. 13 (DT) was apparently the 2nd for Mendocino. Twenty-seven Solitary Sandpipers about evenly split between the coast and interior made one of their best showings ever, including Shasta's first at the Redding sewage ponds Aug. 7 (BY, BVdM) and the first for F.I. Sept. 7. The Region's 3rd Upland Sandpiper was tantalizingly glimpsed on F.I. Aug. 27 (†O. Williams) but was secured in the record books when found dead there Sept. 21 (†PP). A juv. Bar-tailed Godwit was at Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo, Aug. 20–Sept. 9 (ph. †RSTh, ph. M. Taylor, †m.ob.).

Forty-three Semipalmated Sandpipers (nine inland) represented average fall numbers, but only seven reported from the n. coast were considered poor numbers there (RAE). Overall Baird's Sandpiper numbers appeared modest, and Pectoral Sandpipers seemingly suffered a breeding crash as we witnessed one of their worst showings ever, with most sightings being of single birds. In contrast, six coastal Sharp-tailed Sandpipers Sept. 2–Oct. 19 were about average. Five basic-plumaged Dunlins at Hayward Shoreline, Alameda, Aug. 21 (C. Corben, SFB, L. Hug) probably had summered



Juvenile Curlew Sandpiper (with juvenile Western Sandpiper) at Lake Merced, San Francisco, California, September 17, 1989. Photograph/Peter LaTourrette.

locally. Rounding out the list of quality Siberian shorebirds was a juv. **Curlew Sandpiper** at L. Merced, S.F., Sept. 17–20 (ASH, †JM, †GFi, m.ob.). It was a 3rd straight banner fall for Stilt Sandpiper (13 seen Aug. 4–Sept. 30) including these county firsts: one near Stratford, Kings, Sept. 8 (ph. †JSR) and three at Crowley L., Mono, Sept. 23 (WDS et al.). Our only Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Natural Bridges State Beach, Santa Cruz, Aug. 28–30 (†DEG, †RMrr, CKf). Ruffs went for the record as an amazing 16 birds were observed Aug. 4–Nov. 24, including two inland.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS — Single Pomarine Jaegers at Alameda South Shore Sept. 12 (JMR) and nearby Hayward Shoreline Oct. 1 (RJR) were both chasing terns. Rarer was the juv. Long-tailed Jaeger at Crowley L., Mono, Sept. 16 (†JLD, P.J. Grant). The maxima for Long-taileds were of only eight offshore Monterey Aug. 27 & Sept. 3 (DLSh).

At least one nest of Franklin's Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou, seemed to have been successful, as three apparent fledglings were seen with two adults July 18 (†RE). Four migrant Franklin's Gulls Aug. 13–Nov. 23 were fewer than in the previous 3 autumns. An ad. Little Gull frequented a new location, Horseshoe and Drakes Beach ponds, Marin, Aug. 20–Oct. 25 (DWm, †JM, †MJL, †S. Molodnoff, m.ob.), but the adult at Stockton sewage ponds Nov. 21 (JMR, FGB) was at California's main site for this species. The 2nd-winter Mew Gull at Sunnyvale Aug. 27 (PJM) was so early that it had likely summered locally. Up to seven Sabine's Gulls were found inland Aug. 5–Oct. 3: two adults each at Crowley L. and in the Delta, plus an adult and one or two juveniles in Santa Clara.

Elegant Tern counts of 400–450 on Humboldt Bay Aug. 19 (PFS, RAE) and 64 at Crescent City Sept. 10 (ADB) were second only to the hundreds of 1983. Single Arctic Terns were inland at Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 16 (adult—JLD) and at Stockton sewage ponds Oct. 24–26 (immature—†DGY, JMR, FGB). Four Arctic appeared ashore, including Contra Costa's first at Pt. Isabel Sept. 17 (RJR). Of six coastward Black Terns, one at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt, Nov. 14–30 (RAE, C. Ogan et al.) was very late. Two Black Skimmers at Elkhorn Slough Aug. 5 (D. Hoffman) continued this species' recent pattern.

For the first time since the early 1970s multiple **Thick-billed Murres** appeared, as in almost all previous records, at and near Monterey. First one was found Sept. 8 (RS), then the



Thick-billed Murre at Monterey, California, September 16, 1989. Photograph/Monte M. Taylor.

count peaked at five on Sept. 19 (JLD). Counts of two or three spanned Sept. 9–Oct. 15, and at least one remained into December (†MJL, ph. M.M. Taylor, ph. EDG, †MAP, m.ob.). Water temperature trends and the Alaskan oil spill come to mind as possible causes. A Marbled Murrelet at F.I. Oct. 11 was the first for that offshore site. Hundreds of Rhinoceros Auklets came close inshore and to baited fishhooks at Monterey in November (BJW, RT), and lesser numbers of these and Cassin's Auklets were inshore in San Mateo (PJM), suggesting a lack of natural food offshore. Perhaps the Rhinoceros Auklet at the Berkeley Pier, Alameda, Sept. 17 (RJR), the two Tufted Puffins flying past the Cliff House, San Francisco, Sept. 18 (JMR, FGB), and the unusual frequency of Tufted Puffins in Monterey Bay this autumn (DLSh, m.ob.) were also related.

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS — White-winged Doves at F.I. Sept. 3 & 13–14 were the only ones found this year. A Flammulated Owl calling on the coast at Sunny Brae, Humboldt, Sept. 19 (PFS) represented one of very few migrant records for the Region. A Barred Owl in a residential area n. of Crescent City Oct. 29 (†ADB et al.) was about the 15th to be found in California. It probably will not be long before Barred Owls outnumber Great Gray Owls in California. There

are very few records of the latter south of the Yosemite region, so 3 recent reports from Fresno June to December (*vide* DGY) were most welcome. Single Long-eared Owls were at Monkey Rock, s.e. Mendocino, Aug. 15 and Stoney Gorge Res., Glenn, Sept. 7; the species is a "scarce breeder" in the Coast Ranges (JW).

A nighthawk feeding over Candlestick Park, S.F., Oct. 7 during game four of the Giants/Cubs championship series was seen by millions on TV pursuing the final fly-out. It was unfortunately not identified by consensus (*vide* RLeV, JM). A definite Lesser was at F.I. Aug. 8–10. Calliope Hummingbirds are almost unknown in the Region during fall migration; one was at C.C.R.S. Aug. 10 and one was at Mono Lake Co. Park Sept. 12 (PJM). Late Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds were in Arcata Nov. 21 (J. Hewston) and in Santa Clara Nov. 22 (DLSu).

The concrete canyons of S.F. provided 2 interesting woodpecker sightings this Season. An Acorn Woodpecker on the 36th floor of the Embarcadero Center Nov. 8 (S. Margolin) followed a Red-naped Sapsucker clinging to a ledge on the 46th floor of the Bank of America Building Oct. 5 (CSp). The only other cismontane Red-naped Sapsuckers seen were at Smith River Oct. 29 (Del Norte's 2nd—ADB), Reichmuth Park, Sacramento, Sept. 18 (K.B. Ostyn), and two in Santa Clara Sept. 12 and Nov. 29 (DLSu).

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at F.I. Sept. 8–9 (ph. tPP) furnished the Region's 4th record; all have been identified there in September. *Empidonax* banding totals at C.C.R.S. were: 25 Willows Aug. 13–Sept. 20, three Least Sept. 23–26, one Hammond's Aug. 17, one Dusky Aug. 10–17, and 665 "Westerns" July 27–Oct. 11. Eight Least were identified at F.I./Pt. Reyes Aug. 27–Sept. 21, Dusks were at F.I. Sept. 9 and Pt. Reyes Sept. 17 (RJR), and Grays were at F.I. Sept. 15–23, Moss Beach, San Mateo, Oct. 15 (tDJK), and Olema, Marin, Oct. 26 (RS). "Westerns" at Uvas Cr., Santa Clara, Nov. 11 (DLSu) and Burris Park, Kings, Nov. 24 (KH) were very late.

Five E. Phoebes made a record total. Three were at F.I. Nov. 15–21, one was at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey, Nov. 3–17 (tDEG), and San Mateo's first was near Pescadero Nov. 11–12 (MLR, tRSTh). A Great Crested Flycatcher visited F.I. Sept. 27 (tPP). It was a poor year for Tropical Kingbirds with only nine along the coast Oct. 8–Nov. 20. One slightly inland on Coyote Cr. Oct. 18 (tDLSu) was Santa Clara's 2nd. One E. Kingbird was at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey, Sept. 22 (tDEG) and eight to 10 were at F.I./Pt. Reyes Aug. 21–Sept. 9. Three near Grenada, Siskiyou, Aug. 15 were no doubt from the local breeding population (RE).

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS — A Purple Martin near Stratford Sept. 5 was possibly a first for Kings (tJSR). Significant migratory concentrations of swallows included 50,000+ Trees and 20,000+ Barns at Venice I., San Joaquin, Sept. 27 (DGY) and 3000–4000 Violet-greens near Pt. Reyes Station Oct. 30 (RS). Late swallows included a Cliff Swallow at the Lodi sewage ponds Nov. 1 (DGY) and five Barn Swallows in November. Canyon Wrens exhibit very limited movement; one at Pt. Reyes Aug. 18 (RS) was Marin's first.

Three Townsend's Solitaires were found along the central coast Sept. 28–Oct. 29. A Swainson's Thrush at C.C.R.S. Oct. 30 was very late. Three Sage Thrashers visited F.I./Pt. Reyes Sept. 28–Oct. 17, one was at Patterson Pass, Alameda, Nov. 27–Dec. 2 (tGFi et al.), and up to 13 were in a likely wintering area along Panoche Access Rd. in w. Fresno Nov. 24–Dec. 2 (SA et al.). Acampo, San Joaquin, returned to the limelight with the reappearance of the **Bendire's Thrasher** there Sept. 30, for the 4th winter in the last 5 (DGY).

The identity of a **White/Black-backed Wagtail** at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin, Oct. 1 (tK. Metcalf, ph. Debbie Bedford et al.) was disputed, but the former seems to be favored (*vide* JM). The record will be reviewed in detail by the C.B.R.C. Red-throated Pipits were found only at F.I.: Sept. 27 (tPP) and Oct. 14 (tDBd). An Am Pipit at L. Talawa, Del Norte, Oct. 13 was said to resemble the race *japonicus* (tADB). In addition to

Alaska records, there is a June specimen from n.e. Sonora (Monson & Phillips, 1981, *Annotated checklist of the birds of Arizona*. UA Press) on this side of the Pacific. Their calls may be distinctive (*vide* JLD).

Solitary Vireos of all colors were reported this season. "Blue-headed" were seen at F.I. Sept. 7–9 and Fairhaven, Humboldt, Oct. 3 (tGHZ); "Plumbeous" Solitaires were at Pt. Lobos, Monterey, Sept. 23 (tBJW), Pt. Reyes Oct. 13 (DSg, tGFi), Hayward Shoreline Oct. 15 (RJR), and Reichmuth Park, Sacramento, Nov. 3 (tTDM); and a "Cassin's" at Burris Park, Kings, Nov. 24 (KH) was very late. Warbling Vireos at F.I. Nov. 16 and in Pacific Grove Nov. 18 (AB) were also late. Philadelphia and Red-eyed vireos were found in low numbers with only one of the former at F.I. Oct. 25 (tPP) and three of the latter shared between F.I. and Pt. Reyes Sept. 9–12.

WOOD WARBLERS — About 30 Tennessee Warblers on the coast Aug. 26–Nov. 2 were about average. Two slightly inland in Alameda (RJR) and a late bird at F.I. Nov. 29 were less expected. Both Virginia's Warblers were banded by P.R.B.O.: Palomarin Oct. 1 (tDDeS) and F.I. Oct. 11–17. The lone N. Parula was at Samoa Dunes, Humboldt, Sept. 7 (GHZ).

Inland Chestnut-sided Warblers at Mono L. Aug. 21 (PJM) and San Joaquin's first at Lodi L. Sept. 1 (tDGY) preceded a moderate showing of 14 along the coast Sept. 6–Oct. 12. Twenty coastal Magnolia Warblers Sept. 4–Oct. 24 made a respectable number. Three Cape May Warblers represented the highest fall total since 1982: Crescent City Sept. 26–27 (ADB et al.), Westhaven, Humboldt, Sept. 29–30 (GSL, LPL et al.), and F.I. Sept. 30–Oct. 11. Ten Black-throated Blue Warblers were at F.I./Pt. Reyes Sept. 28–Oct. 26, and one was in S.F. Oct. 22 (A. Smith). One at Honey Lake W.A., Lassen, Oct. 8 (tTDM, BWb) furnished only the 6th inland Regional record and the first for n.e. California, but the species has been surprisingly well reported in e. Oregon. Black-throated Green Warblers were found at F.I. only: Sept. 8 and Nov. 2. Nine Blackburnian Warblers along the coast Sept. 4–Oct. 7 were expected, but one slightly inland at Berkeley Sept. 26 (HG) and one very late at Tomales Bay S.P. Nov. 30 (RS) were not. The only Yellow-throated Warbler seen was most unusual in the Sierra Nevada near Grizzly Flats, El Dorado, Oct. 28–Nov. 25 (tHMR). A Prairie Warbler startled a boatload of observers 9 miles off Cypress Pt., Monterey, Sept. 3 (DLSh et al.), and three were seen at F.I./Pt. Reyes Sept. 12–Oct. 26. Of nearly 200 Palm Warblers on the coast after Sept. 15, about two-thirds were at F.I./Pt. Reyes. One at Briceland, Humboldt, Oct. 9 (Woods) and three in Santa Clara (PJM, DLSu) were slightly inland. Four Bay-breasted Warblers were at F.I./Pt. Reyes Sept. 11–Oct. 11. Nearly 50 Blackpoll Warblers hugged the immediate coast Sept. 5–Oct. 15.

At least four of the 17 Black-and-white Warblers found along the immediate coast Sept. 7 and later were believed to be wintering birds. An Am. Redstart was inland near Davis, Yolo, Aug. 26 (BMx, ECB) and 60+ were on the immediate coast Aug. 11–Oct. 28. A Prothonotary Warbler was in Half Moon Bay, San Mateo, Sept. 29–30 (tPJM, tSEF, tRSTh), and one at F.I. Oct. 23 (tPP) was, surprisingly, only the island's 2nd. A Worm-eating Warbler put in a brief appearance at Pt. Reyes Nov. 4 (tJM, GHg). An Ovenbird at F.I. Aug. 19–22 was record early for the Region. Five more were at F.I./Pt. Reyes in September, and Alameda's first was at Hayward Shoreline Sept. 29 (RJR). Eighteen coastal N. Waterthrushes Aug. 18–Sept. 24 (well above the recent average) included one found in Arcata Sept. 3 that was still present at the end of the year (GSL et al.). Three in Santa Clara and one in Contra Costa Aug. 31–Oct. 8 (*vide* WGB, JMR) were slightly inland.

Three Connecticut Warblers visited F.I. (Sept. 13—tT. Schantz; Sept. 28—tDBd; Oct. 11—tPP) and two were found in Humboldt: Fairhaven Sept. 13 (tJCS, tRAE et al.) and Mad R. mouth Sept. 27–28 (tJCS, RLeV, tSWH et al.). Five Mourning Warblers at F.I. Sept. 6–20 included an ad. male Sept. 6–9



Northern California had more Northern Waterthrushes than expected in autumn 1989. This one was at Point Reyes on September 2nd. Photograph/Peter LaTourrette.

(all †PP). The island also hosted the only Hooded Warbler Oct. 11. Canada Warblers found Pt. Reyes Aug. 20 (ASH) and F.I. Sept. 8 (two). Alameda's first record was extraordinary with two in Fremont on the late date of Nov. 14 (M. Nordstrom, ALH, *fide* JM). A Yellow-breasted Chat at San Bruno Mountain S.P., San Mateo, Nov. 3 (J. McCormick) was most unusual on that date.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — An inland Summer Tanager near Groveland Sept. 7 (†S. Baldwin) was Tuolumne's first. One at F.I. Oct. 12–13 was of the less expected race *cooperi*. Twelve Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Aug. 21–Oct. 15 were all on the immediate coast, as was a lingering bird in Ferndale, Humboldt, mid-November to Dec. 6 (G. & D. Anderson, PFS *et al.*). Eight Blue Grosbeaks at F.I. Aug. 21–Sept. 16 (an exceptional number there) and a very late bird in Bayside, Humboldt, Nov. 28 (RAE *et al.*) furnished the only coastal reports. Seven coastal Indigo Buntings Aug. 8–Oct. 29 included none at F.I./Pt. Reyes. Monterey's 2nd Dickcissel at the Big Sur R. mouth Nov. 16–19 (†DEG) was the only report. Extralimital Green-tailed Towhees were at Lodi L. Sept. 4 (J. Rowoth) and C.C.R.S. Oct. 1.

Six Am. Tree Sparrows were found on the coast s. to F.I./Pt. Reyes Oct. 11–Nov. 2. It was an exceptional year for Clay-colored Sparrows. Half of the 62 found along the coast Sept. 6–Nov. 17 were at F.I., including a Regional high of 10 on Sept. 28. Slightly inland were one at Hayward Shoreline Sept. 24 (RJR), San Benito's first at the Hollister sewage ponds Sept. 27 (†KVV), and one in upper Carmel Valley, Monterey, Oct. 2 (RS). In contrast, Brewer's and Vesper sparrow numbers were depressed on the coast, with only four of the former seen on the central coast Aug. 31–Nov. 15. The single coastal Black-throated Sparrow was at Pt. Reyes Sept. 14 (GF). Three Lark Buntings were in Humboldt Aug. 29–Oct. 12 (GSL, RAE *et al.*) and three were at F.I./Pt. Reyes Aug. 31–Sept. 8.

Southeast Farallon I. provided the only migrant Grasshopper Sparrow noted (Nov. 1) and was the site of yet another juv. **Le Conte's Sparrow** record (Oct. 7—†DBd). Sharp-tailed Sparrows made quite an appearance. Up to four at Bolinas Lagoon Nov. 4 and later (M. Larkin, †BDP *et al.*) and one at Palo Alto Baylands Nov. 14 and later (BHI, †AME *et al.*) were at traditional sites, but five others were not: Carmel R. mouth Oct. 5–7 (Monterey's 3rd—†GPS, †BJW), the first ever for F.I. Oct. 27, Alameda South Shore Nov. 12–13 (LRF, D. Wolff), and San Mateo's 2nd and 3rd at Princeton Harbor Oct. 15 (†DJK, †FrT) and Redwood Shores Nov. 15 (BS). Sixty-five Swamp Sparrows along the coast and four in Santa Clara Sept. 28+ made a good showing, but seven in San Joaquin, including

Southeast Farallon I. scored another major coup with the appearance of a **Red-flanked Bluetail** (*Tarsiger cyanurus*) there Nov. 1 (†DBd). The few previous New World records were all from the w. Alaskan islands in the last 8 years. Those observers given to despair at birding on the mainland should recall their reactions to earlier reports of Dusky Warbler and Brown Shrike on "The Rock." Many active birders in the Region have now seen both species on the mainland and should rejoice in what must lie ahead.

six at Venice I. Nov. 30, were totally unexpected (*fide* DGY). The vast majority of a record 100+ White-throated Sparrows were along the coast; 23 were in Humboldt alone. A Golden-crowned Sparrow on the Pajaro R. in s. Santa Clara Aug. 23 (DLSu) was very early, if not oversummering.

It appeared to have been the worst fall in recent times for Lapland Longspurs, with 40+ in Del Norte outnumbering all other reports combined. Singles at F.I. Sept. 6 and Fairhaven, Humboldt, Sept. 11 (RAE) were early, and up to three near Mare I., Solano, Oct. 24–Nov. 15 (DDeS) were in an unusual location. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found in normal numbers with four to five at F.I./Marin Sept. 20–Oct. 20. And then there were Snow Buntings. Not since 1977 had so many been seen: Arcata Marsh Oct. 29–Nov. 1 (†GHZ, ph. JMH *et al.*), Lower Klamath N.W.R. Oct. 30–Nov. 8 (†BED, †RE *et al.*), San Mateo's first at the mouth of Tunitas Cr. Nov. 3–4 (†RSTH *et al.*), and F.I. Nov. 15 (†S. Anderson).

On the down side, 13 Bobolinks on the central coast Sept. 7–Oct. 16 were all the Region's observers could produce. Rusty Blackbirds were detected at Bolinas, Marin, Oct. 20–21 (RS *et al.*), Bolinas Lagoon Oct. 28 (J. Silvas, KH *et al.*), F.I. Nov. 7, and the Ukiah sewage ponds, Mendocino, Nov. 24 (GSL, †LPL). The male of the pair of Great-tailed Grackles in S.F. was seen at the Aquatic Park Nov. 17–18 (S. Morical). Incredibly, only one Orchard Oriole was found (F.I., Sept. 2–5), for the lowest fall total since 1973. Seven "Baltimore" Orioles on the central coast Sept. 6–Oct. 11 were more than expected. A Cassin's Finch at F.I. Nov. 2 represented only the 6th record there. A Lawrence's Goldfinch at Tom's Place Oct. 20 (†CDHa) was only the 3rd to be found in the Mono Basin, all in October/November.

CORRIGENDA — The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory assures us that 10 of their 11 N. Goshawks during Autumn 1988 were seen and documented by veteran hawk counters, and that the five goshawks Oct. 19, 1988 were seen together (*fide* AMF). Last issue's comments on Black Skimmers should have concluded with "When will nesting be proven around San Francisco Bay?"; skimmers nested in the Region (Kings Co.) in 1986 (AB 40:1251).

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