

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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A February 13 gale and subsequent storms deposited many seabirds along our coast, both dead and alive. The emaciated condition of the casualties, plus elevated water temperatures at Southeast Farallon Island, led David G. Ainley to announce that a new El Niño phenomenon was starving the birds, but it was the storms that brought the weakened birds ashore. Notably affected in this wreck were Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Horned Puffin.

Among waterfowl, the diving ducks drew the most attention in terms of number extremes and unusual occurrences. It was a poor season for almost all northern and montane irruptive passerines, but a good one for more southerly wintering insectivores.

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

ABBREVIATIONS — C.A.S. = California Academy of Sciences; C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = S.E. Farallon I.; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with Regional Editors. All records from F.I. should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRD — A Pacific Loon at Clearlake Park Dec. 23–24 (L. Hood, JPM, JRW) and a Red-necked Grebe at Sulphur Bank Mine Dec. 5–9 (JRW *et al.*)

both furnished 2nd *Lake* records. Only two Laysan Albatrosses were reported: 5 mi w.s.w. of Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, Jan. 25 (N. Black, J. Guerrero, *fide* AB) and 14 mi s.s.w. of Davenport, *Santa Cruz*, Jan. 27 (AB, DLSh, DGY). Northern Fulmars had increased before the gale brought 200 close to Pt. Pinos Feb. 13 (DR). A Flesh-footed Shearwater on Dec. 27 extended this species' almost annual occurrence on the Monterey Bay CBC (AB, DLSh). Astounding was the dark morph **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** over the surf at Drakes Beach, *Marin*, Dec. 16 (+DDeS, +C. Johnson, +R. Laws). If accepted by the C.B.R.C., it will be the 3rd or 4th for California (one is in review), but the first not in summer or early fall. Counts of Black-vented Shearwaters were small except for 300 offshore *Monterey* Feb. 11 (DLSh).

The February gale pushed many Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels into harbors and left others dead on beaches from *Sonoma* to *Monterey*. Beginning with 15+ on Feb. 13 (AB), *Monterey* Harbor counts peaked at 60 the next day (AB), before trailing off through Feb. 19 (m.ob.). Other high counts included 15 at F.I., 13+ in *Santa Cruz* Harbor (CKf), and five or more at Moss Landing (MFe), all Feb. 17.

The drought probably caused the unusual occurrence of Am. White Pelicans at numerous localities from the C.V. to the coast. For example, those on the *Monterey* Bay coastal plain may have been displaced from L. San Antonio, which was almost dry (AB). Brown Pelicans lingered in

numbers, with 2200 on Año Nuevo I., *San Mateo*, Dec. 10, and 150 still there Feb. 10 (both GJS). Farther north, 65 were in s. *Marin* Dec. 30 (*fide* DSI), and three wintered on Humboldt Bay (m.ob.). Increases in Double-crested Cormorants around Stockton (DGY) and Monterey (AB) may also be related to displacement owing to drought. A Magnificent Frigatebird at Pacific Grove Feb. 1 was reported as an *adult male* (C. Trollman).

BITTERNS TO WATERFOWL — American Bittern reports from the coast and the C.V. again suggested low numbers that have been typical of recent years. These may be drought related but habitat loss also comes to mind. Charleston Slough's resident Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron was present yet another Winter Season Dec. 4–Jan. 9 (WGB *et al.*). *Humboldt's* imm. Little Blue Heron apparently successfully wintered at Arcata Marsh to Jan. 29 (*fide* RAE) but an imm. **Reddish Egret** at Elkhorn Slough/Moss Landing, *Monterey*, Dec. 28–Jan. 25 (†C. Rodgers, †m.ob.) failed in its attempt. This dark morph bird was the Region's 2nd (one at the same locale in Fall 1967) and was the season's highlight for many until it was found dead Jan. 28 (AB, *C.A.S.). Cattle Egret numbers were meager throughout the Region for the 5th consecutive winter.

The Region was blanked on Trumpeter Swan after 4 straight winters of multiple sightings. The 50,000+ Greater White-fronted Geese over Mandeville I., *San Joaquin*, Dec. 10 (DGY) constituted about one-quarter of the state's entire winter population. Such concentrations are very rare this late in the season, as they disperse widely after arriving in the state in early November (BED). Among 20 coastal Snow Geese was a blue morph at Pajaro Dunes, *Santa Cruz*, Jan. 15–Feb. 17 (ALE, CKf), only the 4th to be found on our Region's coastline. Twelve coastal Ross' Geese constituted a good showing but, surprisingly, no blue morphs were reported anywhere. A statewide census estimated 200,000 Ross' (as well as 300,000 Snows) wintered in the state, twice their mid-1970s estimates (*fide* BED).

Santa Clara and *Marin* each had two ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teals. The Season's waterfowl rarity was an imm. ♂ **Garganey** taken by a hunter at Mendota W.A., *Fresno*, Dec. 3. The bird's wing was seen at the Waterfowl Parts Collection Survey in February (BED). Such a find at the Survey is not unprecedented for the Region, as this group has provided the C.A.S. with another similarly plumed wing found Oct. 23, 1977, from *Solano* (*fide* SFB). However, both have yet to be reviewed by the C.B.R.C. Hybrids are always rare but a Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal at Palo Alto Baylands Dec. 11 (†GFi, M. Plant) and a male Eur. x Am. Wigeon at Bolinas Lagoon Feb. 25 (†JW) were of mixtures now annually reported.



Male Tufted Duck at San Francisco, California, January 14, 1990. Photograph/W. Edward Harper.

Redhead reports were way down and among those received, only one had a total greater than 10: 32 at Berkeley Aquatic Park Feb. 14 (JMR *et al.*). The ♂ Ring-necked Duck x scaup sp. in Oakland Feb. 10 (JM) returned for its 6th winter. It was another bountiful winter for Tufted Duck with six in the greater S.F. Bay area. The imm. ♂ King Eider at Pt. Reyes pleased the masses by remaining



Male King Eider at Point Reyes, California, January 27, 1990. Photograph/Ed Greaves.

through the Period and molting into its fancy grown-up duds (ph. EDG, †m.ob.).

Harlequin Ducks formerly nested (and may still) in the Sierra Nevada but fewer than five had been reported in the C.V., so a ♀-plumaged bird at the Stockton sewage ponds Dec. 22 (†DGY) was quite a surprise. An ad. ♂ Oldsquaw at the Modesto sewage ponds, *Stanislaus*, Dec. 17–Feb. 2 (†WRA, †HMR *et al.*) was one of few Regional wintering birds for the interior and constituted a county first. Our only inland scoter was a ♂ Surf on the American R. in Sacramento Dec. 24 (†G. Koch *et al.*). Thirty-two Com. Goldeneyes at the Klamath R. mouth, *Del Norte*, Jan. 1 (ADB) made an impressive concentration for the n. coast. Barrow's Goldeneye was even more impressive along the c. coast where 102 at Vallejo's Glen Cove, *Solano*, Dec. 28 (JCL, V. Beckenhauer) was a Regional high count and 49 on the S. *Marin* CBC Dec. 30 doubled their previous high (*fide* DSI). The 1500 Com. Mergansers on Turlock L. Dec. 23 (HMR) was record high for *Stanislaus*. Two Red-breasted Mergansers at Sulphur Bank Mine, *Lake*, Dec. 16–17 (JRW, JPM, W. McKenny) and one along the Feather R. at Oroville, *Butte* (AM, †TDM) were inland rarities.

RAPTORS — Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon all continued to increase, as did Turkey Vulture wintering on the n. coast. Immature Broad-winged Hawks were near Middletown, *Lake*, Dec. 9 (†R. Scalf) and at Bridgehaven, *Sonoma*, Dec. 28 (†JEP, BDP *et al.*). An adult was in S.F. Dec. 28 (†J.J. Keane). Swainson's Hawks continued to suggest wintering in *San Joaquin*. Seven dark morph birds on Empire Tract and Venice I. Dec. 10 showed no signs of migrating (DGY), and singles were seen in this area Dec. 16 (MJL, MFe) and Feb. 18 & 24 (DGY). Another Swainson's was reported from Mendota W.A., *Fresno*, Jan. 8 (T. Poole).

Ferruginous Hawks were patchy, scarce in many areas but up in others. Among the dark morphs was an adult at Jenner, *Sonoma*, Jan. 25, where it was rare on the coast (†JW). Rough-legged Hawks were scarce almost everywhere. A presumed escaped Crested Caracara flying over the S.F. Presidio Feb. 24 (T. Kellogg) added to the question of natural occurrence of the recent Regional records. There were 4–5 reports of Merlins of the prairie race *richardsoni* (ph. MRO, m.ob.). As this distinction is new to most California birders, we cannot know whether this race is increasing here.

CRANES TO SHOREBIRDS — Thirteen Sandhill Cranes at Modoc N.W.R. Feb. 24 (EckB) were the "first of

spring." In contrast to fall, we receive few spring arrival dates.

Two Semipalmated Plovers at Turlock L., *Stanislaus*, Dec. 10 (†HMR) and one in the Yolo Bypass, *Yolo*, Dec. 22–23 (†WEH) were rare for the interior but fit a pattern of late fall migrants. Coastal Mt. Plovers included one seen all Period at MacKerricher State Beach, *Mendocino* (DT—same bird as 2 years ago?), and *Monterey's* first coastal winter records: two at Moss Landing W.A. Jan. 11 (MDC, N. Cudney) and 16 s. of Moss Landing Jan. 27–28 (MJL, †DR *et al.*).

A Greater Yellowlegs at Hot Cr., *Mono*, Feb. 8 (ES) was only the 3rd in winter for the Mono Basin. The Leslie salt ponds in Newark, *Alameda*, have the reputation of holding large numbers of wintering Lesser Yellowlegs, but 73 Jan. 27 (WDS) apparently made the Region's highest concentration ever during winter. Exceptional was the Region's 2nd winter record of **Solitary Sandpiper** at Pinto L. *Santa Cruz*, Jan. 1–6 (GWP, LES, DSg). For the 5th straight winter a Sanderling inhabited the Modesto-Ceres sewage ponds, *Stanislaus*, Dec. 3–Feb. 2 (HMR). A fall Ruff near Lemoore, *Kings*, was last glimpsed Dec. 21 (KH). Another was observed at Hayward Regional Shoreline Feb. 24 into March (D. Bedford). We have averaged one Wilson's Phalarope a winter for the past 10. This winter we had two: Ceres sewage ponds, *Stanislaus*, Jan. 5 (†HMR) and s. of Huichica Cr. Wildlife Area, *Napa*, Jan. 8 (†M. Berner).

GULLS TO ALCIDS — Three Franklin's Gulls included one in mostly alternate plumage Feb. 15 at Crescent City (ADB). An ad. Bonaparte's Gull on Black Butte Res., *Tehama*, Jan. 3 was locally rare (BED). Mew Gulls are regular in the C.V. in small numbers, but 37 in Sacramento Feb. 18 (GEw, MDC) were presumably driven in by the storms. An ad. Ring-billed Gull in Pacific Grove Dec. 9–Jan. 27 (RER, DR) furnished the first acceptable record for the rocky shore of the Monterey Peninsula. Eight Glaucous Gulls were fewer than average. Black-legged Kittiwakes were few until a big increase around the mid-February storms, after which there were "several hundred" offshore *Monterey* (RT). Obviously storm-driven was the adult at the Stockton Yacht Harbor Feb. 21, *San Joaquin's* first and only the 2nd or 3rd for the C.V. (†DGy). Fourteen Caspian Terns spanning Dec. 10–Feb. 19 continued this species' winter increase. Inland one was as far north as Colusa N.W.R. Jan. 15 (RSTh).

Two Com. Murres ashore near Berkeley Feb. 14 and later (T. Condit), including a banded bird dead in a street, were releases from the nearby Bird Rescue Center. The disclosure that they routinely release offshore marine birds so far inside S.F. Bay was appalling, both for the welfare of the birds and for the assessment of natural distribution patterns. Two **Thick-billed Murres** remained at Monterey at least through Feb. 11 (m.ob., DLSh), with one through Feb. 19 (GHF, MP). Another visited Moss Landing Jan. 1–26 (†BS, †KLG, †GMcC). High counts of 66 Marbled and 35 Ancient murrelets were made on Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* Dec. 16 (PJM). The dozens of Rhinoceros Auklets seen on our beaches Feb. 17–28 represented only a small fraction of the total wreck mortality. *Seventeen* Horned Puffins were also found, 12 of them dead or dying on beaches from *Humboldt* to *Santa Cruz* (ph. RS, m.ob., 7**C.A.S., *S.C.M.). One found alive in *San Mateo* was rehabilitated and released at Devil's Slide in March (K.S. Anderson). Live birds included two at F.I. Feb. 17, one at Pigeon Pt. Feb. 21–22 (BS, MLR), and one 5 mi w. of Pt. Reyes Feb. 25 (S. Anderson).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS — A Burrowing Owl near Ft. Bragg Oct. 25 to the end of the Period (DT) and a Long-eared Owl in Manchester Dec. 30 (†JRW) were *Mendocino* rarities. North of Hollister, the remains of a Short-eared Owl found Feb. 6 (DES) were said to represent the first record for *San Benito* (KVV). The only Vaux's Swift seen was in S.F. Feb. 13 (JMR, FGB).

A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird collecting nest material in Sacramento Feb. 1 (TDM) was participating in a nontraditional sex-role. Two Costa's Hummingbirds were found in the East S.F. Bay Area and one in *Monterey*; the distribution of this species was recently summarized by Baltosser (*Western Birds* 20:41–62). A ♂ Allen's Hummingbird *displaying* for a ♀ *Selasphorus* at Bodega Bay Dec. 21–28 (DE, BDP) was disturbing to those of us who attempt to categorize records in part based on the behavior of individual birds. I am unaware of previous records of courtship behavior among presumably wintering *Selasphorus* in this Region. A ♀ Allen's was already on a nest at Mt. San Bruno, *San Mateo* Jan. 28 (J. McCormack). And last among the hummingbird curiosities this winter was a potential Costa's x *Selasphorus* hybrid (a male, of course) at Bodega Bay Dec. 9–31 (RS, †RAR).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers again outnumbered Red-naped this winter with one in *Humboldt*, two in *Marin*,



Horned Puffin at Point Reyes Beach, Marin County, California, February 21, 1990. Photograph/Rich Stallcup.

and a returning bird in Solano. Three Red-naped were all in the S.F. Bay Area and unidentified birds (Yellow-bellied/Red-naped) were in *Solano* and *Trinity*. Red-breasted Sapsuckers were also newsworthy. One at F.I. Feb. 18 furnished the first winter record there and one showing "all characteristics" of the race *ruber* at Tomales Bay S.P. Jan. 10–11 was said to provide the first such record for *Marin* (RS). *San Benito's* first Williamson's Sapsucker was seen in Bitterwater Cyn. Dec. 30 (KiK, *fide* DSg). A Pileated Woodpecker was seen again in *Alameda* at Redwood Regional Park Dec. 17 (DPM).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS — Second Regional winter records were provided by a **Willow Flycatcher** in S.F. Jan. 20 (†SWM) and a Least Flycatcher near Inverness, *Marin*, Dec. 16 onward (BDP, ph. †RS, †JW *et al.*). Although Least has been found many times in winter in s. California, this was only the 4th winter record of Willow in the state. The identity of the only other *Empidonax* seen ("Western"/Hammond's? near Pescadero Jan. 2–10, *fide* JM) was never resolved. Eastern Phoebe were found at Lost L., *Fresno*, Jan. 28 (*fide* RHG) and near Prunedale, *Monterey*, Feb. 19–26 (†KVV). As with most of its predecessors, the Region's 6th **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** was a cooperative individual seen by many at Pine L. Park, S.F., Dec. 28 to the end of the Period (†DPM, DSg, ph. †m.ob.). Ash-throated Flycatcher is almost as rare in winter; singles were at Salinas Jan. 9 (C. Gottlund), Arcata Jan. 13–Feb. 2 (J. Booker, GSL, †RAE *et al.*), and American R. College, *Sacramento*, Feb. 4–18 (R. Storey, MJL *et al.*). Please provide documentation for any winter *Myiarchus*. A Tropical Kingbird at Moss Landing Jan. 2 (PJM) was the only one seen.

Two Horned Larks at Ft. Bragg Dec. 1 (DT) were in *Mendocino*, where the species' status is unclear. They are common to the south and very rare to the north as wintering birds. A Barn Swallow near Moss Landing Dec. 11 (DLSu) was considered a late migrant (DR) and one at Pescadero Marsh, *San Mateo*, Feb. 18 showed characteristics of Eurasian forms (†JM; see also AB 43:1369).

Beginning in late October and extending through the Winter, Steller's Jays were found at unusually low elevations in the Cascade/Sierra foothills and adjacent C.V. from *Shasta* to *Fresno*. Most notable were up to four in the Sutter Buttes Dec. 28–Feb. 28 (PBS, BED), the first ever recorded there. A **Blue Jay** was reported near Hawkin's Bar, *Trinity*, Feb. 9 or 10 with scant details (†R. Cinnamon); if accepted by the C.B.R.C. this would represent only the 12th record for California. Two Yellow-billed Magpies in Fall R. Valley, *Shasta*, Dec. 16 were considered "unheard of in . . . Black-billed country" (BY, CY).

On Mt. Saint Helena Dec. 2, two Mt. Chickadees were *Sonoma's* first (BDP). American Dippers do disperse, but nevertheless one flying high over a canyon at Tomales Bay S.P. Feb. 25 was indeed an "odd sight" (JW).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were more widely reported than usual in the n.w. portion of the Region with one in *Del Norte*, four in *Humboldt*, one in *Lake*, and three in *Sonoma*. Five or six in central *Stanislaus* to Dec. 21 were also more than expected (HMR). Above average numbers of Mt. Bluebirds were in the Coast Ranges s. of S.F. Bay, two in *Napa* (*fide* RbL) and one on Pt. Reyes Jan. 30–Feb. 3 (†JMR, S. Shafer) were vagrants, but reduced numbers were found in central and e. *San Joaquin* (DGY).

The myth that **Swainson's Thrush** would not winter in California was shattered when a fresh window-killed individual was found on the *Humboldt* St. Univ. campus in Arcata Jan. 24 (*H.S.U.). Although this species has been

reported many times on CBCs, one Dec. 1, 1964, and a crippled bird Dec. 15–16, 1979, both in *San Diego* (Garrett & Dunn. 1981. *Birds of Southern California, Status and Distribution*. L.A. Aud. Soc.) were the only previous reliable Winter records. Observers beware, the floodgates are not now open, and any future claims of this species outside normal temporal patterns will still be handled with the utmost care.

The **Bendire's Thrasher** near Acampo, *San Joaquin*, was last seen Mar. 3 (DGY). Another wagtail may have to be left unidentified since descriptions of the **White/Black-backed Wagtail** at Pajaro Dunes, *Santa Cruz*, Dec. 3–11 (J. Warriner, †G. Ledec, †R. Kovak) appear inconclusive (*fide* JM). Some observers may wish these forms were never considered separate.

Five Solitary Vireos were more than expected. Two in *Humboldt*, one in S.F., and one on Mt. Diablo were all December *cassini*, and the 5th, at Reichmuth Park, *Sacramento*, Nov. 3–Mar. 7 (†TDM), was of the race *plumbeus*. A Warbling Vireo in Milpitas, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 17 (†PMB, E. Laak) furnished about the 6th winter period report for the Region. Like most others, this bird was never seen after December and appears not to have successfully overwintered.

WOOD WARBLERS TO FINCHES — Warblers rebounded after last winter's poor showing. *Humboldt* was especially productive and accounted for nearly half of all records of seasonally rare species. Coastal reports included 10 Tennessees (one a Dec. 1 arrival at F.I.), 21 Nashvilles, three Yellows (very low), 53 Palms, 14 Black-and-whites, and 10 Wilson's. The only inland reports of these species were of two Wilson's in *Sacramento*. The most unusual sightings were of a **Lucy's Warbler** near Pescadero Jan. 1–28 (*San Mateo's* 2nd—†RSTh *et al.*), a Chestnut-sided Warbler near Smith River, *Del Norte*, Dec. 17–30 (BED *et al.*), Am. Redstarts in S.F. Nov. 27–Feb. 21 (R. Kovak *et al.*) and on the Big Sur coast, *Monterey*, Feb. 14–21 (M. Deal), an **Ovenbird** near Manchester Dec. 13–30 (2nd Regional winter record and first ever for *Mendocino* — N. Menken, R. Balzer, †JRW *et al.*), and three N. Waterthrushes (Arcata Marsh Sept. 3–Apr. 13—GSL *et al.*; a returning bird near Ferndale, *Humboldt*, Jan. 13—JCS; and *Sacramento's* first, near Cal Expo on the American R. Parkway Dec. 23–Jan. 1—BWb, †DGY, †TDM *et al.*).

Summer Tanagers were at Pine L. Park, S.F., from Dec. 28 onward (†DPM *et al.*) and Freedom, *Santa Cruz*, Jan. 1 (a returning bird—BBrr). Flowering eucalyptus concentrated three W. Tanagers in Palo Alto Dec. 18 (*fide* WGB); the only other one reported was in Freedom Jan. 1 (BBrr). Grosbeaks fit the typical pattern this winter with Rose-breasted at Pt. Lobos State Reserve, *Monterey*, Dec. 4–15 (BJW) and Sunny Brae, *Humboldt*, Jan. 28–Feb. 5 (SWH *et al.*), a Black-headed near Pescadero Jan. 6 (MiW), and one left unidentified in Tiburon Dec. 30 (†JCo).

Rufous-sided Towhees rarely elicit comments in this Region as it is normally difficult to distinguish migrant from resident individuals. This year was an exception in the central Region where record CBC totals obtained in *Sacramento*, *Stockton*, *Benicia*, and s. *Marin* and additional anecdotal evidence from *San Joaquin* indicated exceptional numbers were present. Clay-colored Sparrows were very selective in their appearances this Season with three each in *Humboldt* and *San Mateo*. Three of these fit the usual pattern and were never seen after the CBC season but one in Blue Lake, *Humboldt*, Dec. 1–Apr. 23 (with sporadic singing from Jan. 20 on—MM *et al.*) and two in *San Mateo* in February (†RSTh *et al.*) were clearly

overwintering. A Vesper Sparrow near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte*, Dec. 8–Feb. 16 (ADB) and two at the Ukiah sewage ponds Dec. 23 (†JRW) were in unexpected wintering areas. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Millerton Pt., Tomales Bay, Jan. 22 apparently furnished the first winter record for well-worked *Marin* (RS). Four Sharp-tailed Sparrows wintered at Bolinas Lagoon and three or four at Palo Alto Baylands.

Bright Fox Sparrows, presumably of the race *zaboria* (see AB 44:41), were found in *Humboldt* (two—RAE), *San Mateo* (two—†RSTh *et al.*), and *Sacramento* (TDM) while only one *altivagans* type was reported (*Sacramento*—TDM). *Zaboria* is certainly more likely than *altivagans* to draw the attention of observers, thus skewing statistics in its favor. Nevertheless, contrary to what has been written, *zaboria* appears to be the predominant rusty form along the coast (especially in the north) while the reverse is true inland, and possibly on the s. coast. And what of the relative abundance of “sooty-brown” vs. “gray-headed” forms? Readers are encouraged to send in their thoughts and observations. Swamp and White-throated sparrows were reported in record numbers Regionwide, with 100+ and 150+ respectively. *Humboldt* again outproduced all other counties. A total of 14 Swamp Sparrows was found in such unexpected counties as *Napa*, *Solano*, *San Joaquin*, and *Santa Clara*. Eleven White-throated Sparrows were together in Inverness Dec. 16 (KH). Seven Harris’ Sparrows were found along the coast from *Marin* north and three or four were in *Shasta/Butte*. The only Chestnut-collared Longspur was near Ferndale, *Humboldt*, Dec. 31 (RLeV).

Up to four Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Moss Landing Jan. 4–Feb. 11 (JB, DEG) and singles at Lower Klamath N.W.R. Dec. 6 (ph. SEF) and Clearlake Dec. 9 (JRW) were unusual in winter away from the C.V. A Rusty Blackbird near Pescadero Jan. 7–Feb. 18 (J. Murphy, BS) may well have been one of two birds that wintered in that area in 1986 and 1987. The pair of Great-tailed Grackles in S.F. continued to be seen through December (*fide* JM); both birds have been known present over 10 years. A Hooded Oriole was at Reichmuth Park, *Sacramento*, Oct. 30–Dec. 23 (†TDM). Surprisingly, only four “Bullock’s” Orioles were reported (three from *Humboldt/Del Norte*), plus a possible “Baltimore” Oriole in *Marin*. Presumably others were simply unreported, especially in s. coastal areas.

Cassin’s Finches made a strong appearance in the S.F. Bay Area with four seen as follows: Mt. Diablo Dec. 3 (KGH, RJR), F.I. Dec. 11, Sky Londa, *San Mateo*, Jan. 1 (MCM), and Livermore Jan. 25 (†ALE). Significant Lawrence’s Goldfinch sightings included up to 25 at Hopland Field Station, *Mendocino*, in December with seven still present by Season’s end (RJK), 12 at Monte Bello Open Space Preserve, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 18 (ph. CB), and hundreds at Henry Coe S.P., *Santa Clara*, in December and January (JY, AL).

CORRIGENDUM — The bird reported as a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in San Jose last winter (43:363) should be changed to a Yellow-bellied/Red-naped Sapsucker.

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