

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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This fall had the warmest seas since the El Niño year of 1983. While this brought southern seabirds to our waters, some cold-water species such as Northern Fulmar and Ancient Murrelet were also common.

The spotlight on rarities shined brightly on several seabirds, as well as on a few shorebirds and landbirds. However, the vagrant season by and large was poor throughout, with excitement on fabled Southeast Farallon Island produced by geese rather than dramatic landbird fallouts.

As for trends, Pectoral Sandpiper suffered another very off year and Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread and numerous for the first time since 1987. It appeared to be an off season for such irruptives as thrushes, Cedar Waxwing, and Pine Siskin, but a healthy one for Red Crossbills. And looming over all of this was the Region's apparent entry into a fifth straight drought year.

As an example of why we do not always accept seemingly plausible descriptions from inexperienced observers, we cite the sick "Red-billed Tropicbird" picked up near the coast that proved to be a Silver Pheasant (*vide* N. Gunnell).

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Creek Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara Co.*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island*); H.S.U. (*Humboldt State University*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); ph. (*photo on file with Regional Editors*). All records from F.I. should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Inland high counts included 25 Com. Loons on Grant L., *Mono*, Nov. 7 (JRJ) and 50+ Horned Grebes on Calaveras Res., *Santa Clara*, Nov. 17 (ALE). A Red-necked Grebe at Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa*, Nov. 24 (AWi) was our only inland report.



Stejneger's Petrel 53 miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, November 17, 1990. First confirmed North American record. Photograph/Monte M. Taylor.

stimulated four grebe species to nest, with 59 Eared Grebe nests Aug. 13 (ES) the first known nesting in the Mono area.

Only one Black-footed Albatross was seen on 3 boat trips offshore *Humboldt*, where it is usually numerous (SWH, GSL). Conversely, up to 90 per day were seen at Pioneer Canyon, *San Mateo*, Aug. 5–10 (SFB). Four Laysan Albatrosses were seen, about average. Shocking was the **Murphy's Petrel** harassing cormorants within feet of F.I. Sept. 27 (†PP). Its aggressive, exploratory behavior suggested that it may have been testing F.I. as a potential breeding site (PP). Moreover, it provided the first fall record for the n.e. Pacific, although migrants have been found in Hawaiian waters during fall (AB 43:400–415). Almost expected [!] were two well-seen (one photographed) **Stejneger's Petrels** 53 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 17

(BBrr, ph. RN, ph. M.M. Taylor, †SFB, †m.ob.). This [the first confirmed record] occurred on the 11th anniversary of the first North American sighting, near the Davidson Seamount. Also, four 1906 specimens and several recent sightings beyond the 200 mile limit were all between October and November 20. Further evidence that this species is probably regular far offshore in late fall was the bird seen off s. California Nov. 14.

Flesh-footed Shearwaters were again well represented, with one or two on most boat trips Sept. 10–Nov. 18. Buller's Shearwaters were generally scarce. A scattering of early Short-tailed Shearwaters appeared, beginning with two each on Aug. 23 and Sept. 8 at F.I. The warm water Black-vented Shearwater arrived early in August and later became abundant. The first was in Monterey Bay Aug. 3 (WR). More surprising were two over Pioneer Canyon, *San Mateo*, Aug. 6 (SFB), as this species is rare over deep water so far offshore. Peak counts included 1240 in one hour Oct. 7 at Pigeon Pt. (PJM) and 2000 off Big Sur Nov. 12 (DLSh). A **Townsend's Shearwater** over the west cliff of Cordell Bank, *Marin*, Oct. 28 eluded photography but was described by 19 of the lucky observers (†RS, †SFB, †m.ob.). Although there is no accepted North American record for

this deep water shearwater from the Revillagigedo Is., Mexico, one was seen in the same location June 16, 1985, by seabird researchers familiar with this species, but that record was not accepted by the C.B.R.C.

The annual Wilson's Storm-Petrels in Monterey Bay Aug. 3–Oct. 20 peaked with four Oct. 6 (DLSh, SFB). A storm-petrel raft over Eel R. Canyon Sept. 23 was only the 2nd ever found offshore *Humboldt*, the first being about the same size and location on the same date in 1977. This year's included 1000–1500 Ashies, 20–30 Fork-tailed, two Leach's, and at least three Blacks (SWH, GeM). Black Storm-Petrel, rare so far north, was also seen from F.I. for the first time since the 1983 El Niño. Least Storm-Petrel, our other warm water species, joined the Monterey Bay storm-petrel flock Sept. 10 (BJW, PJM) to Oct. 21 (DLSh). The peak of 100 Oct. 6 (SFB) was the largest since 1984 (one year *post-El Niño*).

A tropicbird seen from Pigeon Pt. Aug. 30 was probably a Red-billed (BS). An ill Brandt's Cormorant was at the Sunnyvale sewage ponds Oct. 7 (AME). It was preceded by three imm. Pelagic Cormorants that were also inland: one roosted at Vasona Res., *Santa Clara*, Aug. 19–25 (†JDub), and others visited Crystal Springs Res., *San Mateo*, Sept. 9 (RSTh), and Benicia Sept. 14 (HCo).

HERONS TO DUCKS

Single Least Bitterns were reported from S. F. Bay N.W.R. Aug. 12 (RJR) and from Sacramento N.W.R. Nov. 23 (DES, MiF). *Butte's* 3rd Little Blue Heron was an immature found at Gray Lodge W.M.A. Aug. 9 (†A. Englis). Cattle Egret reports were well distributed throughout the Region, but the largest number reported was 12 w. of Gridley, *Butte*, Oct. 29 (BED). White-faced Ibises invaded *Monterey* with 15 birds between Pt. Pinos and Moss Landing Sept. 15–Nov. 25 (*vide* DR), while 30 at Bridgeport Res. Sept. 22 (HG) made a new peak count for *Mono*. An imm. **Wood Stork** seen on Twitchell I., *Sacramento*, Oct. 23–27 (K. Nelson, †DGY, m.ob.) represented the Region's 6th "modern" record. Presumably the same bird relocated to the Santa Rosa/Sebastopol area, *Sonoma*, Oct. 30 through November (ph. D.C. Johnston, ph. RAR, m.ob.). A "Bewick's" Swan on Termini-



Wood Stork soaring near Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California, November 11, 1990. Sixth modern record for northern California. Photograph/Ruth Rudesill.

nous Tract, *San Joaquin*, Nov. 9 (DGY) furnished the first Regional report in 3 years. Flocks of up to 300 "white" geese reached the central coast Nov. 2 & 6. At F.I., 13 Snow Geese passed Nov. 2, and 128 Snow, 13 Ross', and two Greater White-fronted geese visited Nov. 6; there were only two, one, and fewer than 10 prior records, respectively. Brant were at Mono L. Aug. 26 (PJM) and Sept. 22 (HG), where extremely rare. Also rare was one in a flock of Aleutian Canada Geese near Colusa Nov. 11 (MJL).

An eclipse ♂ **Garganey** was present at the Bolinas sewer ponds Oct. 10 through November (RS, KH, †JM, †MJL, m.ob.). While most observers considered this the same bird found last spring, opinion was not unanimous (RS). The Tufted Duck that summered along the Hayward Shoreline was still present Nov. 4 (RJR, †GFi). Six Greater Scaup in *San Joaquin* Oct. 24–Nov. 2 (DGY) made a good showing there, while a female at Mono L. Nov. 11 (ES, GRG) provided only the 6th *Mono* record. A rare inland Oldsquaw was at Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa*, Nov. 2 (S. Terrill). Inland Surf Scoters included a female at the Modesto sewer ponds Oct. 21 (HMR); a female at the Stockton sewer ponds Oct. 24, *San Joaquin's* first (†DGY); an imm. male at the Salinas sewer ponds Nov. 2 (BHG); and a female on Clear L. Nov. 29–Dec. 2, *Lake's* second (C. Johnson, G. Commeau, JRW).

RAPTORS

Golden Gate Raptor Observatory tallied new season highs for seven species and for total raptors. Best were the 159 Broad-winged Hawks, of which 64 were counted Oct. 2. Their low count of 63 Ospreys was not reflected Region-wide, but their scarcity of Rough-legged Hawks (only four) was. An imm. Bald Eagle picked up injured at Searsville L., *San Ma-*

teo, Sept. 3 (B. Dengler) provoked the question whether it was one of the birds recently released in *Monterey*. A group of 250 Swainson's Hawks at Woodland, *Yolo*, Sept. 29 (ECB) was the most reported in our Region since 1979. Only one "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was reported with details: in the s.e. corner of *Glenn* Nov. 28 (†BED). Very early was the imm. Ferruginous Hawk w. of Honcut, *Butte*, Aug. 10 (TDM). An amazing concentration of raptors included a Regional record 27 Ferruginous Hawks along only 3 mi of Sierra Valley, *Plumas*, Sept. 9 (LJ).

QUAIL TO SHOREBIRDS

A flock of 13 California Quail at Tom's Place (7160') Oct. 2 was new to that part of *Mono* (CDH). A very late Sora was at Hot Cr., *Mono*, Nov. 10 (GRG). An out-of-place flock of 75 Sandhill Cranes was over Skaggs I., *Sonoma*, Nov. 7, the day after an e. wind (DAsh).

Numbers of *fulva* Lesser Golden-Plovers (53 birds) were comparable to last fall, although only one was inland, a juvenile at the Lodi sewer ponds Sept. 29 (DGY). By contrast, only 23 *dominica* were reported, including inland singles at L. Shastina, *Siskiyou*, Sept. 26 (RE) and Davis sewer ponds Sept. 1 (GEw), and six at the Lodi sewer ponds Sept. 9-Oct. 19 (DGY). Flocks of Semipalmated Plovers exceeding 100 birds always elicit comment in the Region, so the 2000 seen on the N. Spit of Humboldt Bay Aug. 29 (GeM) seemed amazing. Mountain Plovers are rare on the coast at any time, so two on Pt. Reyes Nov. 25-Dec. 1 (RS, KH, DWm) were noteworthy.

American Avocets were out of place on the F.I. Aug. 21 (4th record) and at Trinity L., *Trinity*, Sept. 1 (RE). Four Solitary Sandpipers at the Ripon sewer ponds, *San Joaquin*, Aug. 9 (WRH), six at Bridgeport Res. Aug. 27, and five in *Monterey* Aug. 11-Sept. 23 (*fide* DR) all set county concentration records. The Region's 5th *Hudsonian* Godwit frequented the Sunnyvale sewer ponds Sept. 1-24 (PJM, †JM, †MJL) and a *Bar-tailed* Godwit visited MacKerricker S.P., *Mendocino*, Aug. 26-Oct. 6 (†DT, ph. †RJK, †m.ob.). A most surprising Black Turnstone was at Trinity L. Sept. 1 (†RE).

Six inland Sanderlings were reported, including three at Clear L.



Bar-tailed Godwit at MacKerricker State Park, California, September 11, 1990. Photograph/Robert J. Keiffer.

Sept. 22-Oct. 7, representing the 2nd *Lake* record (JRW). Thirty-three Semipalmated Sandpipers (three inland) were slightly below recent fall averages. A possible ad. Rufous-necked Stint at the Moon-glow Dairy, *Monterey*, Sept. 1-2 (†DR, †JM, †MJL) was the subject of considerable debate, to be resolved by the C.B.R.C. Baird's Sandpiper reports were down slightly from last fall, which was a moderate one, and observers again expressed concern that Pectoral Sandpipers were way below normal. However, eight coastal Sharp-tailed Sandpipers Aug. 25-Nov. 4 were again about average. A large and very late flock of 75 Dunlins was at Mono L. Dec. 9 (J.R. Jehl). It was a 4th straight excellent fall for Stilt Sandpipers (15 birds), the most noteworthy being singles at Mono L. Sept. 1 (MPE), the 2nd e. Sierra record, and a *San Joaquin* first on Staten I. Sept. 24 (†GEw).

After only a single record last fall, there were 17 reported coastal Buff-breasted Sandpipers (14 described) Aug. 15-Sept. 15, a Regional record high. One wonders how long this species will remain on the C.B.R.C. review list at this rate. Thirteen Ruffs were found, including one at the Sunnyvale sewer ponds Sept. 10 (†MRo, J. Corliss) and a female at the Hollister sewer ponds Aug. 17 (KVV), first county records for *Santa Clara* and *San Benito*, respectively. The most outstanding find of the season was a *Jack Snipe* (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*) shot by a snipe hunter at Colusa N.W.R. Dec. 2 (†R. McNab, *H.S.U.). The only other state record is of a bird obtained in similar fashion at Gray Lodge W.M.A., *Butte*, in 1938.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Four of the five Long-tailed Jaegers reported ashore were adults. A juvenile was at Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 2-4 (†ph. DR). Not only are there almost no documented S. Polar Skuas seen from shore, but

boat trips reveal this species to be primarily a deep water bird. All regular day trips found between zero and two skuas, but up to five per day were near Pioneer Canyon Aug. 7-10, and 2 trips up to 75 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes found 12 on Sept. 30 and three on Nov. 17 (all SFB *et al.*).

Unusually far inland were a 2nd-year Heermann's Gull at Martinez Shoreline, *Contra Costa*, Sept. 29 (GFi) and a first basic Glaucous-winged X Western Gull in the s.e. corner of *Glenn* Oct. 10 (†BED). First arrivals were the Glaucous Gull 45 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 17 (m.ob.) and about 10 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Klamath R. Mouth Oct. 3 (JMa). Adult Sabine's Gulls were found



Adult Sabine's Gull on an inland pond at Sunnyvale, California, September 12, 1990. Most inland records in fall involve juveniles, not adults. Photograph/Alan Walther.

inland at Rule L., *Siskiyou*, Sept. 2 (†SFB), Sunnyvale Sept. 9-16 (PJM, †WGB, ph. A. Walther), Topaz L., *Mono*, Sept. 12 (ES, I. Mandelbaum), and Mono L. Sept. 13 (ES). Were the latter two records of the same bird?

In a low year for Elegant Tern, 500 at Humboldt Bay Sept. 16 (FJB) was a surprise. Eclipsing six Arctic Terns on the outer coast was an immature at Novato, *Marin*, Sept. 23-Oct. 10 (RS, m.ob.). A Least Tern at Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Aug. 14 (JMR) was one of very few ever seen n.w. of the Golden Gate.

In *Humboldt* and *Mendocino*, Com. Murres and Cassin's Auklets were noted mostly inshore, with many of them dead, September



Thick-billed Murre at Monterey, California, August 26, 1990. Photograph/Michael O'Brien.



Xantus' Murrelet of the southern race *hypoleucus*, 60+ miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, September 30, 1990. Note the pale underwing, and the white on the face curling up over the eye. Photograph/Ed Greaves.

and October (GeM, DT, GSL, R.W. Sutherland). A Com. Murre at Sunnyvale Sept. 3 (S. Glover) was *Santa Clara*'s 6th. A *Thick-billed* Murre visited Monterey Aug. 26-Sept. 6 (†ph. M. O'Brien, †ph. SFB, †ph. DR). Will this species again be regular here in fall? Among Xantus' Murrelets, 4 pairs of the southern race *hypoleucus* appeared, but only on 2 offshore boat trips, where the water is warmer: pairs were 65 and 72 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Sept. 30 (JM, SFB, ph. EDG), and 2 pairs were 18 mi w. of Pt. Sur, *Monterey*, Oct. 8 (DR, DLSh, SFB). Conversely, Craveri's Murrelets were surprisingly scarce. An Ancient Murrelet in alternate plumage at F.I. Aug. 4-23 provided a "summer" record. After normal arrival in late October, Ancients became numerous by Nov. 11, when 50 were at Ano Nuevo I. and 20 were at Pigeon Pt. (PJM, GJS). Perhaps the Cassin's Auklet picked up at L. Merritt, Oakland, Aug. 19 (R. Burris) was related to the die-off farther north. A Horned Puffin was found long-dead on Salinas R. Beach Sept. 8 (BJW), but another 7 mi s.w. of F.I. Sept. 30 was a fly-by (CSp, A. Wander).

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

White-winged Doves continued to raise the average of recent fall sightings as seven coastal birds were found Sept. 2-Oct. 13. With only 3 previous Regional records since 1913, our 3 records of *Common* *Ground-Dove* were almost invasi-

Mono, Sept. 22 (HG, DCR *et al.*) was latest ever for the Mono Basin.

SA

A very high 25 Com. Poorwills were reported coastally from *Mendocino* to *Santa Clara* Oct. 10–Nov. 29. Observers feel that these birds, along with past late fall records, are migrants rather than local residents. Almost all of the few C.V. floor records are also from this time period, as illustrated by one in Stockton Nov. 8 (J. & M. Walker); this further indicates migrants, as there are no C.V. breeding records. This raises the question of origins and destinations of these birds. The race *californicus* breeds w. of the Cascades/Sierra, and is the form of the few birds that have been racially identified during late fall/winter in the above mentioned areas. But what of *nuttalli* from n. of the state? Do they make up a percentage of these migrants (or wintering birds)?

Though pale in comparison to last spring's spectacle, 150 Black Swifts at Humboldt State University Sept. 26 (DA) made an impressive fall concentration. Five Black-chinned Hummingbirds reported after mid-September represented a tardy bunch, the last being a female at Tomales Bay S.P., *Marin*, Oct. 11 (DDeS). Single Calliope Hummingbirds refueled at a feeder in Fair Oaks, *Sacramento*, Aug. 7 and Sept. 11 (GEW), rare events for the C. V., especially during fall.

WOODPECKERS TO JAYS

Sapsuckers continued to draw close scrutiny. Prior to 1987 there were only two pre-December Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers for the Region. This fall, six were identified Oct. 13–Nov. 12, including F.I.'s first, Oct. 18. Three Red-naped Sapsuckers found along the c. coast Oct. 3–22 were typical, but a Red-breasted Sapsucker of the n. race *ruber* at the Bolinas sewer ponds Nov. 14 (RS) was quite unusual. However, the real showboat was Williamson's Sapsucker: apparently *Napa*'s first in St. Helena Oct. 1–8 (†A. Wright), *Humboldt*'s first just w. of Mt. Lassie Nov. 1 (†GSL), and *San Benito*'s 2nd on San Benito Mt. Nov. 3–11 (DSg, SA, DL).

Four Least Flycatchers on F.I. Sept. 7–Oct. 1 and one in Fairhaven, *Humboldt*, Sept. 7

(GSL) were below the recent average. Eastern Phoebe in *Prunedale*, *Monterey*, after Nov. 8 (KVV) and Lost L., *Fresno*, after Nov. 24 (B. Williford, KH) were where birds wintered last year. The impressive total of 26 Tropical Kingbirds along the coast Sept. 26–Nov. 3 was eclipsed by the C.V.'s 2nd on Bouldin I., *San Joaquin*, Oct. 27 (†DGY, WRH). Two Cassin's Kingbirds were at the Hollister sewer ponds, *San Benito*, Aug. 17 (KVV) for one of few Regional records for that month, while two W. Kingbirds at S. Lake Tahoe Aug. 23 (MBG *et al.*) furnished one of few Tahoe Basin records. Six E. Kingbirds Aug. 5–Sept. 26 were coastal.

A Cliff Swallow in Stockton Nov. 21 (DGY) was exceptionally late. Five to seven Gray Jays that precariously straddled the *Butte/Plumas* line near Humbug Summit Oct. 8 (BWb, TDM, JHS—*Butte*'s 2nd) were at the very s. edge of their Sierra/Cascade range. Pinyon Jay was a coastal intriguer for the first time since 1987 with *Humboldt*'s first since 1912 at a Bayside feeder Oct. 20–24 (S. Sinclair, †GSL, †LPL *et al.*) and two over the Marin Headlands Oct. 23 (S. Glover). The Clark's Nutcracker on Mt. Saint Helena Sept. 23 (BiG) was, surprisingly, only *Sonoma*'s 2nd.

CHICKADEES TO VIREOS

Chickadees wandering to the lowlands included up to two Mountains in Sunnybrae, *Humboldt*, Nov. 2 into December (SWH) and one in Fair Oaks, *Sacramento*, Nov. 29 (R. Barbieri), and a Chestnut-backed in David, *Yolo*, Sept. 29 (MP). Two Chestnut-backed near Bald Mt. in s.w. *San Joaquin* Oct. 13 (†DGY, WRH, TR) represented a county first. An ailing Am. Dipper was exceptionally rare on the C.V. floor in *Sacramento* Sept. 28 (MP). A Wrentit at Horseshoe Pond Sept. 7 (BDP) may have been a first for outer Pt. Reyes. San Rafael, *Marin*, played host to a Brown Thrasher Sept. 18 (D. Norton). Approaching legendary status, the *Bendire's Thrasher* returned to its favorite hedgerow in Acampo, *San Joaquin*, Sept. 11 (DGY) for the 5th winter in the past 6. As expected, the only Red-throated Pipit was at F.I. Sept. 24–27 (†PP). An imm. Cedar Waxwing banded at C.C.R.S. Aug. 3 (*fide* B. Katano) may have originated lo-

cally since they have been known to breed just to the south in *Santa Cruz*. The Phainopepla at Muir Beach Oct. 27 (*fide* CLF) was very rare for *Marin*.

The only Philadelphia Vireo with details was at Carmel R. mouth Oct. 6 (†KVV, KaVV). We were wide-eyed with Red-eyed Vireos as a record high 10 coastal birds were seen Aug. 12–Oct. 7, including *Santa Clara*'s first and 2nd at C.C.R.S. Aug. 12 & Sept. 25, respectively (*fide* WGB). And adding some southern flavor was a **Yellow-green Vireo** in Golden Gate Park, S.F., Sept. 23–26 (DPM, †JM, m.ob.).

WOOD WARBLERS

It was a poor Season on the coast for most of our regularly occurring vagrant warblers. Tennessee (19), Magnolia (16), Blackburnian (three), Prairie (six), Palm (63), and Black-and-white (17) warblers, Am. Redstart (25), N. Waterthrush (10), and others (below) had totals among the lowest in 12 years.

One of the highlights from this fancy family was the **Golden-winged Warbler** at Moss Beach, *San Mateo*, Sept. 22–24 (†RSTh, †JM, †BDP, m.ob.). A Virginia's Warbler at Bodega Bay Oct. 1–3 (DN *et al.*) was apparently a first for *Sonoma*. A casually occurring Lucy's Warbler was at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 29–Oct. 3 (†L. Comrack, DR). Three coastal N. Parulas were found Sept. 8–Oct. 3.

In addition to 15 coastal Chestnut-sided Warblers Sept. 9–30, singles were at Convict L., *Mono*, Aug. 18 (DaS) and Carman Valley, *Sierra*, Aug. 27 (†J. McCormick). *Sierra*'s first Magnolia Warbler was at Turner Cr. Aug. 26 (†LJ). Rare Cape May Warblers were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 19 (RS) and F.I. Sept. 30. Black-throated Blue Warbler showed poorly with singles at Pt. Reyes Oct. 6 (RS) and Sutro Heights Park, S.F., Nov. 25–Dec. 4 (PJM, m.ob.), the latter being exceptionally late. Also in small dosage was one Black-throated Green Warbler at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, Sept. 29–Oct. 1 (†RSTh *et al.*). An inland Prairie Warbler was at Mammoth L., *Mono*, Aug. 29 (DaS). Epitomizing the warbler season, 21 Blackpoll Warblers Sept. 1–Oct. 25 was the lowest output in 20 years, with a worst ever three on F.I. Slightly inland birds in Vallejo, *Solano*, Sept. 17 (†MBG, HCo) and the Palo Alto dump, *Santa*

Clara, Sept. 29 (PJM) each provided 2nd county records.

Plumas' first Black-and-white Warbler was in Sierra Valley Aug. 23 (†LJ). Our lone Prothonotory Warbler was near the Mad R. mouth Sept. 16 (RLeV) while an Ovenbird was slightly inland at C.C.R.S. Oct. 11 (MDa). Inland N. Waterthrushes included one at C.C.R.S. Sept. 6 (*fide* WGB) and *San Joaquin*'s first near Ripon Sept. 22 (†DGY, WRH). We scored a coup with *Oporornis* warblers as single **Kentucky Warblers** were on F.I. Oct. 1–3 (†PP) and in Pacific Grove Oct. 21–29 (AB, †DR *et al.*—*Monterey*'s first); single Connecticut was on F.I. Sept. 18 (†PP) and s. of Half Moon Bay Sept. 22 (†RSTh); and single Mourning was near the Mad R. mouth Sept. 5–8 (JCS, †GSL, †LPL, †B. Allen *et al.*—*Humboldt*'s first), at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 28 (†G. Lasley), and F.I. Sept. 30 (†PP). A very late MacGillivray's Warbler was at Reichmuth Park, Sacramento, Nov. 20 (TDM).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

An above-average six coastal Summer Tanagers included *San Mateo*'s first at Miramontes Cr. Sept. 26 (PJM). A healthy 14 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were along the coast; one on F.I. Nov. 13 was the island's latest in 22 years (PP). Indigo Buntings were scarce with singles on F.I. Sept. 25 and Oct. 5. As with last Fall, *Monterey* supplied our only Dickcissel: an immature at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 5 (RFT, †DR *et al.*).

Five Am. Tree Sparrows along the c. coast included two early birds in September. It was the 4th straight banner Fall for Clay-colored Sparrow as 42 coastal birds spanned the Season including an exceptionally early bird on F.I. Aug. 15. A Brewer's Sparrow at Westhaven, *Humboldt*, Sept. 23 (GSL) and a Lark Sparrow at Arcata Marsh Sept. 19–29 (FJB) were vagrants to the n. coast. Three Lark Buntings were at traditional vagrant traps: F.I. Aug. 31, Pt. Reyes Sept. 10 (MLR), and the Salinas sewer ponds Sept. 11 (BHG, B. Dyer). The Palo Alto Baylands' first (of three) wintering Sharp-tailed Sparrow had returned Nov. 5 (KGH *et al.*) as did a banded bird from last year at Pine Gulch Cr., *Marin*, Oct. 23 (THK). The only inland Swamp Sparrow (31 were coastal) was near Riverbank, *San*



Smith's Longspur at Moss Landing, California, September 15, 1990. First state record. Photograph/Alan Walther.

Joaquin, Nov. 30 (†K. Guse). A conservative 135 White-throated Sparrows solicited many anecdotal "best ever" comments from coastal and C.V. areas. An exceptionally early White-crowned Sparrow of the race *pugetensis* was banded at C.C.R.S. Aug. 13.

The landbird sensation of the Season was the state's first **Smith's Longspur** at Moss Landing Sept. 13-18 (†DEG, †JMa, †ph. m.ob.), a bird that often belly-dragged itself within "too-close-to-focus" range. The only Chestnut-colored Longspurs away from the traditional locales of Pt. Reyes (eight birds) and Bear R. Ridge, *Humboldt* (seven birds) were up to three at Arcata Bottoms Sept. 26-Oct. 9 (FJB, RLeV) and one at Half Moon Bay Nov. 10 (BS). Bear R. Ridge also served up two rare Snow Buntings Nov. 2-10 (†GHZ, †GSL, †B. Allen *et al.*).

An average 16 Bobolinks along the immediate coast included the Region's latest by 2 weeks at Ferndale Bottoms, *Humboldt*, Nov. 24-Dec. 6 (RLeV, B. Allen, m.ob.). A modest four Orchard Orioles were along the coast Sept. 17-Oct. 15, and one "Baltimore" N. Oriole was at F.I. Oct. 5-6. An out of range Cassin's Finch on Mines Rd. Oct. 20 (ALE) was *Santa Clara's* 2nd. Red Crossbill staged a small irruption from S.F. to *Mendocino* with many small flocks of 20+ reported. Five birds on San Benito Mt. Nov. 3 (DSg, DL, SA) were *San Benito's* first.

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25 July-17 August

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Halmahera/Sulawesi
12 July-4 August

INDONESIA #2

Flores/Timor/Sumba
2-18 August

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WEST CHINA (7-31 May))

SRI LANKA (25 Jan.-12 Feb.)

MANCHURIA (28 May-24 Jun.)

THAILAND (18 Jan.-2 Feb.)

MALAYSIA (23 Jul.-15 Aug.)

PHILIPPINES (15 Feb.-15 Mar.)

INDONESIA (24 Jul.-16 Aug.)
Java/Bali/Sumatra