

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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As northern California entered its sixth year of drought, there appeared to be a weak El Nino in the fall. Storm-petrels unusually close to land and low numbers of Brown Pelicans, jaegers, and terns may have been due to low ocean productivity. Among western mi-grant landbirds, many felt their numbers were low and late in movement.

However, fall 1991 will best be remembered as one of the most spectacular in terms of rarities. In addition to a new state record and 18 species worthy of being boldfaced, there were the fantastic numbers of many va-grant species that caused the masses to pause in delight. It was as if the forces of vagrancy were all working together for a season so that avian gems from the high seas, south, east, far north, and Siberia could put on an amazing display in concert. Perhaps leading the way

were Wood Warblers, epitomized by 24 species on Southeast Farallon Island September 15, an island record. But read on, and you be the judge.

Abbreviations: CCRS (*Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Santa Clara*); CV (*Central Valley*); FI (*Southeast Farallon Island*); HRS (*Hayward Regional Shoreline, Alameda Co.*); SF (*San Francisco*); ph. (*photo on file with Regional editors*). All records from FI and Palomarin should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

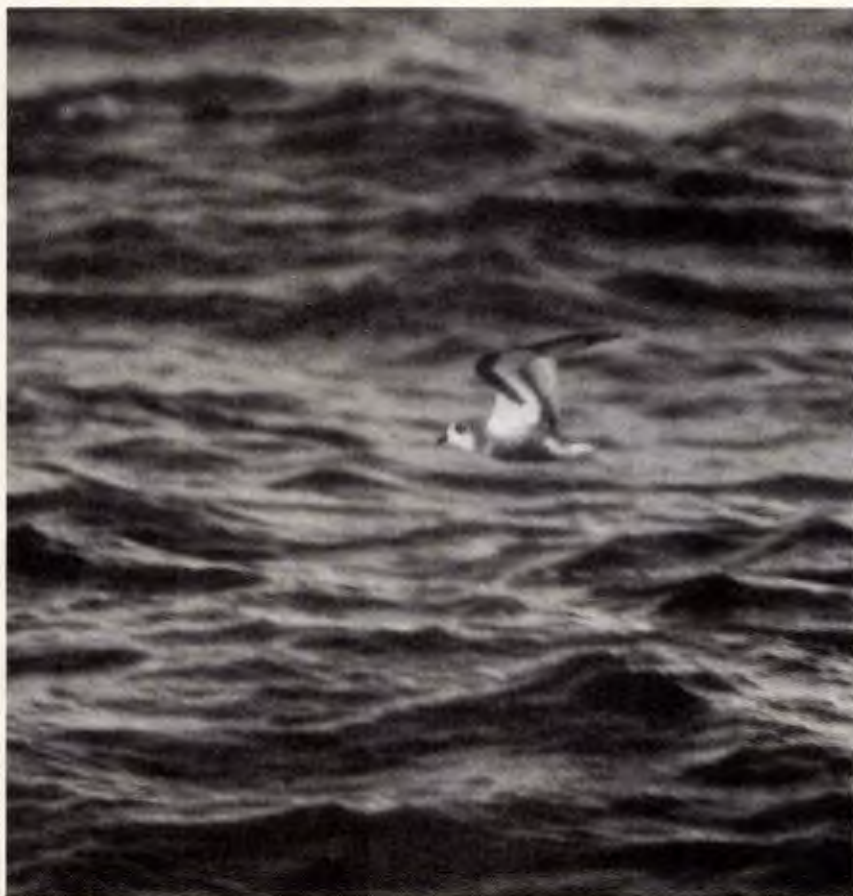
LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

The season's highlight for many birders was the imm. Arctic Loon at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin, Nov. 2–17 (†SNGH, †D. Reinking; †m.ob., †ph. DR). Only a few years ago the field separation of Arctic and Pacific loons in basic plumage was considered impossible, but this individual was considered by nearly all experts to be a "perfect" Arctic, according to our current understanding. As such, it would be the first for N. America outside of Alaska. Inland Pacific Loons were at Comanche Res. Nov. 2 (2nd for *San Joaquin*—DGY, WRH), L. Solano, *Solano*, Nov. 13 (J. Knight), and Rodman Slough, *Lake*, Nov. 20–Dec. 11 (JRW *et al.*). A Horned Grebe at Clearlake Park Oct. 25 was the first fall record for *Lake* (JRW). There were few Red-necked Grebe reports, and only one of even two birds; one was inland on Kutras L., Redding, Oct. 15 (J. C. Robinson).

Six single Laysan Albatrosses Aug. 4–Nov. 16 were eclipsed by 38 counted 62–90 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 16 (BHi, AdW, m.ob.). Even better, on that long boat trip were 17

Mottled Petrels 66–90 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes, including four lured into point-blank range by cod liver oil slicks (†SFB, †ph. SBT, †JM, ph. AdW, ph. M. M. Taylor). These were the first Mottled Petrels seen on a boat trip for birders off the w. coast. Only six single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found on most coastal pelagic trips Sept. 6–Nov. 3, but three were 15 mi w. of Fort Bragg, *Mendocino*, Oct. 6 (RJK, RoM) and three Flesh-footeds outnumbered two Pink-footeds 62–90 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 16 (SFB, JM, m.ob.). Similarly, Buller's Shearwaters were scarce except for 75 on the long Nov.





Mottled Petrel 70+ miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, on November 16, 1991. The plump head and body and stubby black bill are evident in this photo. On this individual, the dark gray belly patch extends to include the breast and the vent. Photograph/Monte M. Taylor.



Laysan Albatross 70+ miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, November 16, 1991. The underwings are heavily mottled with dark at all ages, but the pattern is variable. Photograph/Scott B. Terrill.

16 trip (SFB). A very early Short-tailed Shearwater Sept. 6 was in Monterey Bay (RS). Scarce farther north, Black-vented Shearwaters were present all period in Monterey Bay, with a peak of 1500 just off Moss Landing Nov. 3 (AB).

Single Wilson's Storm-Petrels were in Monterey Bay Sept. 6–Oct. 5 (AdW, m.ob.), near FI Sept. 14 (MLE), and 90 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 16 (JM, SFB). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel in Monterey Harbor Nov. 29 (†P. Johnston, KVV, SHa) followed a storm, but other coastal storm-petrels were more likely due to a weak El Nino. Up to five Leach's and 200–300 Ashys Sept. 14 (MLE) were unusual near FI in daylight hours. Single Ashys were also at Berkeley Pier Oct. 12 (ES), picked up alive at L. Merced, SF, Oct. 14 (ASH), and in Princeton Harbor, *San Mateo*, Oct. 27 (RSTh). Two to six Least Storm-Petrels were in the Monterey Bay flock Sept. 8–Oct. 5 (DLSh, RS, AdW).

An ad. Red-billed Tropicbird only 3 mi offshore at Cypress Pt. Aug. 3 (DLSh) was the 5th *Monterey* record. A booby at Santa Cruz Sept. 26 (†I. Armstrong, †EFE) may have been a Brown Booby, as reported. A Double-crested Cormorant was far offshore over the n. edge of Pioneer Canyon, *San Mateo*, Aug. 14 (SFB). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird over Pt. Pinole, *Contra Costa*, Aug. 22 (RJR) came one month after the last one inside SF Bay.

EGRETS TO DUCKS

The yellow-legged Snowy Egret last winter in *Del Norte* appeared again at the Smith R. mouth Aug. 25 (ADB, C. Dillingham), while two fledglings on Twain I. in Mono L. Aug. 20 (ES) were from *Mono's* first nesting. Adult Little Blue Herons strayed to Bodega Bay Aug. 17 (BeR, RoR) and the Albany mudflats, *Alameda*, Aug. 19 (AWi). Twenty-seven Cattle Egrets were widely scattered along the coast, and one straggled to Crowley L., *Mono*, Sept. 15 (JLD). They were numerous in *Merced* (450) and *Colusa* (185), as expected. Flocks of 745 White-faced Ibis near Alturas, *Modoc*, Aug. 26 (DS) and 500 in *Colusa* Nov. 10 (DES) contrasted with low numbers reported in summer. However, only six birds reached the coast.

California's 3rd Whooper Swan appeared at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Nov. 24 through the end of the period (†RE, †DR, m.ob.). The origin of all Whoopers is still hotly debated. A pair of Trumpeter Swans was in the same area Nov. 30 (†DR). A flock of 45 Greater White-fronted Geese flying E over Broken Rib Mt. on the *Del Norte-Siskiyou* line Oct. 7 (FJB) provided a clue as to how coastal migrating waterfowl reach the interior. A juv. Emperor Goose at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Oct. 21–Nov. 11 (†S. Mlodinow, †RE) caused some consternation because of its white undertail coverts. Early migrant Brant stopped inland at Mono L. Aug. 24–29 (ES, PJM) and Crowley L. Aug. 24 (LJP, RJR).

All 50 Blue-winged Teal reported were



Steller's Eider at Bodega Bay, California, October 27, 1991. Third state record. Photograph/Dan W. Nelson.

coastal, including a flock of 15 at the Salinas sewer ponds, *Monterey*, Oct. 16 (PJM). Eurasian Wigeon sightings continue to increase in coastal and CV locations, but a male at Frenchman L., *Plumas*, Nov. 9 (E. Sorensen, †MMC, KL) made a rare trans-Sierra appearance. A ♂ Tufted Duck returned to L. Merced, SF, Oct. 23 (†m.ob.) for what is probably its 4th winter. The apparent resident male at the HRS, *Alameda*, was reported Sept. 8–Oct. 5 (†RJR).

Monterey's on again/off again King Eider was last seen at Moss Landing Sept. 14 (CKf). A probable ♀ King Eider was flying past Pt. Reyes Oct. 18 (†JM). The state's 3rd Steller's Eider was in Bodega Harbor Oct. 27 (†SBT, L. Terrill, ph. m.ob.) and delighted many through the end of the period. Inland sea ducks included an imm. ♂ Oldsquaw on Copco L., *Siskiyou*, Nov. 21 (RE), an imm. ♂ Surf Scoter at the Quincy sewer ponds, *Plumas*, Nov. 20 (†LJ, KL), and two White-winged Scoters at Lower Indian Creek Res., *Alpine*, Oct. 31–Nov. 5 (J. Thompson). Barrow's Goldeneyes concentrate in certain regular areas in the Region, but a group of 42 off Mare I., *Solano*, Nov. 27–28 (DASH, RLCL) was in a previously unknown spot. A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at the Mokelumne R. mouth Oct. 28 (DGY) was casual for *San Joaquin*.

RAPTORS

A very late Black-shouldered Kite nest was active Sept. 16–30 at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* (RSTh). The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory recorded new season highs for Sharp-shinned Hawk (4290), Red-shouldered Hawk (278), Broad-winged Hawk (251, up from last year's record of 159), and Peregrine Falcon (44), but fog and E winds kept other totals down (CLF). Elsewhere in *Marin*, high counts of Broad-winged Hawks were six and eight on the Point Reyes Pen. Sept. 29 (KH *et al.*), but there were only five singles in other coastal counties. A light morph ad. Swainson's Hawk in Sierra Valley,

Plumas and *Sierra*, Nov. 10 & 30 (†LJ, †DS, *et al.*) was very late, especially for an intermountain site. An imm. Swainson's Hawk banded by Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Nov. 13 was also late. Three "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were reported in November, including one near Sacramento Nov. 19–21 (†TDM, GEW). A 3-mi stretch in Sierra Valley, *Plumas* and *Sierra* held 46 Ferruginous Hawks Nov. 18 (LJ).

CRANES TO SHOREBIRDS

Rare at any time on the coast, three Sandhill Cranes appeared at the Salinas sewer ponds Oct. 13 (BHG). A breeding-plumaged Lesser Golden-Plover at the Davis sewer ponds, *Yolo*, Aug. 10 (RSt) was the earliest of the 47 *fulva*, 36 *dominica*, and 15 unspecified birds reported. A juv. *dominica* at the Corcoran irrigation ponds Sept. 21 (DGY) established one of few *Kings* records. A Snowy Plover on FI Sept. 20–21 (*fide* PP) was the 4th island record. Mountain Plovers reached the coast in *Marin* (five) and *Monterey* (18), while three at Mono L. Aug. 24 (ES) comprised the 6th *Mono* record.

Lesser Yellowlegs appeared in large numbers, topped by 83 seen near Alturas, *Modoc*, Aug. 26 (DS). Nine Solitary Sandpipers e. of the mountains, five in the CV, and eight coastally, were good numbers. A rare inland Wandering Tattler was at Mono L. Aug. 29 (PJM). The Region's 6th Hudsonian Godwit was a juvenile at Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Aug. 29 (†ADB, †GSL). Another, believed by observers to be the same bird, graced the Arcata Bottoms and Mad R. estuary, *Humboldt*, Sept. 9–21 (†BBA, ph. B. Sil-lasen, †m.ob.). A Bar-tailed Godwit was on the n. *Alameda* bayshore Aug. 11–Sept. 22 (†CCr, ph. m.ob., †m.ob.), and another was reported from Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, Aug. 28 (†B. Nikula).

Single Ruddy Turnstones, still considered rare inland, were at Mono L. Aug. 24–25 (LJP, RJR) and Stockton Sept. 6–13 (WRH, DGY). Two juv. Red Knots at Goose L. Aug.

24 (DS) provided *Modoc's* first record. Three inland Sanderlings is about normal for recent years. Twenty-four Semipalmated Sandpipers (six inland) were, as last year, slightly below average. Baird's Sandpipers were reported in average numbers, but Pectorals rebounded from the previous 2 falls, with double-digit reports in many locales. Most impressive was a total of 207 on various *Santa Clara* mudflats Sept. 28 (PJM). Eight Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported coastally, the recent average.

In contrast to last fall, only two Stilt Sandpipers were seen, an adult at the Tracy sewer ponds Aug. 18–Sept. 1 (*San Joaquin's* 2nd, †DGY, †GFi) and a juvenile at the Salinas sewer ponds Aug. 31–Sept. 8 (RJK, DR, DSe). Ten Buff-breasted Sandpipers (eight described) were reported, with three at the San Jose/Santa Clara sewage plant Aug. 25–Sept. 14 (†PJM, ES), a *Santa Clara* first. Of eight coastal Ruffs, four were in *Santa Clara*, while three of four in the San Joaquin Valley were in *Kings*. A count of 61 Wilson's Phalaropes at the Salinas sewer ponds Aug. 24 (DR, RC) was high for the coast, while one near Lemoore, *Kings*, Nov. 5 through the end of the period (DS) was very late.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Jaeger numbers were low. Only two were reported away from tidewater, including an ad. Parasitic at Bridgeport L., *Mono*, Sept. 9 (WEH, B. Hallett). A subadult Long-tailed Jaeger 73 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 16 (JLD, JM, SFB, ph. SBT) was very late. South Polar Skuas may have peaked early; eight were n. of the Pioneer Canyon and w. of FI Aug. 14–17 (SFB, P. Jones); six were offshore *Monterey* Aug. 17 (DGY); only one–three were reported later.

Nine imm. Franklin's Gulls were well scattered, but the only two adults were on the Regional boundary at Tulare L. Drainage Pond 2, *Kern* and *Kings* Aug. 16 (†J. Wilson). A very early juv. Mew Gull was "carefully studied" at CCRS Sept. 19 (JLD). A first basic Thayer's Gull at Trinity Dam Oct. 17–20 (†RE) was apparently *Trinity's* first. At least five W. Gulls in s.w. *Sacramento* Oct. 2–25 (†TDM, GEW) were rare in the Delta. A first basic Glaucous-winged Gull at Tule L., *Siskiyou*, Oct. 12 (SAL, RE) was early so far inland. Also early was a Glaucous Gull at Brooks I., *Contra Costa*, Nov. 5 (JCS). Five Sabine's Gulls well inland included an adult at the Davis sewage ponds, *Yolo*, Sept. 24–27 (JMHu, SHH) and three immatures in *Mono*: one at Crowley L. Sept. 15 (JLD) and two at Mono L. Sept. 29 (L. Ford).

An imm. Arctic Tern was in SF Bay at Hayward (RJR), and an adult was far inland at Crowley L. (†JLD), both Sept. 15. Forty Black Terns at Crowley L. Aug. 16–19 (DS) topped July's high count of 34. Always rare, a Black Skimmer visited *Alameda* July 30–Aug. 26 (A. Cowell, K. Taylor).

An Ancient Murrelet off Pt. Bonita, *Marin*?, Aug. 24 (MLE) was early. A Cassin's



Hudsonian Godwit at Crescent City, California, on August 29, 1991. Seventh Regional record. Photograph/Brad Sillasen.

Auklet was unusual inside Bodega Harbor Nov. 9 (SBT). Two Horned Puffins were 6 mi s. of FI Aug. 23 (MLE), and another was only 1/3 mi off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, Sept. 30 (RT).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

A paltry three coastal White-winged Doves Aug. 2–Sept. 21 was reprieved by *Alameda's* first at HRS Aug. 2–3 (R. Lindeman, RJR). All Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports are noteworthy these days: coastally, singles were at FI Aug. 6 & 21 and Wilder Ranch State Park, *Santa Cruz*, Sept. 4 (RMrr); a calling bird in Loyalton Sept. 9–21 (†E. Myers, †LJ) was a possible breeder and *Sierra's* first. Low water levels on n. Trinity L. appeared to account for a Burrowing Owl's visit Nov. 9 (RE), possibly a *Trinity* first.

The only wayward Lesser Nighthawk was 13 mi out in Monterey Bay Aug. 17 (DGY, m.ob.). Two Chimney Swifts over Bolinas, *Marin*, Sept. 20 (KH) and another over FI Sept. 21 were well studied and the Region's first in fall since 1987. An amazing concentration of 5,000–10,000 Vaux' Swifts were gathering to roost each evening in a huge cinder-block chimney in Healdsburg, *Sonoma*, Sept. 20–24 (†DN). The magnitude of the phenomenon has no Regional precedent. The ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird in SF Sept. 21 (†SFB) was the city's first.

Del Norte's first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker returned to Smith River Nov. 2 (ADB). Two more were in *Marin*: Palomarin Oct. 13 (KH) and Pt. Reyes Station "late November"



Bar-tailed Godwit (left) with Marbled Godwit at Albany, California, on September 2, 1991. Photograph/Alan Walther.



Yellow-green Vireo captured for banding at Palomarin, Bolinas, California, on October 11, 1991.
 Photograph/Rich Stallcup.

(DDeS). Three cismontane Red-naped Sapsuckers were found Oct. 8–Nov. 15. The sapsucker frenzy along the n. coast continued as the Williamson's Sapsucker at Willow Cr. Sept. 17 (TWL) was *Humboldt's* 3rd, less than a year after its first.

FLYCATCHERS TO THRUSHES

Despite favorable weather conditions, flycatchers fared poorly. Two Least Flycatchers at Pt. Reyes Sept. 8 (JM, m.ob.) & 15 (RS), one banded at CCRS Sept. 18 (ph. SBT), and one on FI Sept. 20 were well below the recent average. Only 198 "Western" Flycatchers were banded at CCRS July 31–Oct. 12, a 63% drop from the previous 4-year average.

For the 4th fall in the past 5, a Dusky-capped Flycatcher graced the Region: El Granada, *San Mateo* (county first), Nov. 25–26 (†BS, †RSTh, †CBe). Coastally, a meager 13 Tropical Kingbirds were reported Sept. 19–Nov. 12, with none n. of *Marin*. Our lone Cassin's Kingbird was at El Granada Sept. 17 (BS). Western Kingbirds went unreported along the coast for the first time in 13 years!—an oversight or a real event? Five E. Kingbirds were along the c. coast Sept. 8–16. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at the Salinas sewer ponds Oct. 25–Nov. 2 (JSo, †DR, ph. BJW, ph. †SBT, m.ob.) was only the Region's 5th in fall.

Away from the lowlands, Horned Lark can be rare and local n. of SF, illustrated by *Lake's* first since 1982 at Clearlake Nov. 11 (JRW). Refuting their name, 200 Townsend's Solitaires along a one-mi stretch in Antelope Valley, *Sierra*, Nov. 10 (LJ) was the largest Regional concentration on record. A Swainson's Thrush in Sacramento Sept. 25 (TDM) was very rare for the CV in fall, while one at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 1 appeared to be an eastern/"Rocky Mountain" type (DR).

CATBIRD TO VIREOS

A very impressive three Gray Catbirds were found: two at FI Oct. 1 (†PP) and Oct.

22–Nov. 2 (†PP), and one at Pt. Reyes Oct. 17 (†DGY). There were fewer than 12 previous Regional records. The state's 9th Yellow Wagtail (7th Regional) was at FI Sept. 21 (†PP); all 9 records have been within Sept. 4–21.

S.A.

A highlight of this spectacular season was the invasion of Red-throated Pipits, primarily along the c. coast Sept. 20–Nov. 2. Since 1968, there have been approximately 18 records, mostly of single birds along the outer coast. This fall no fewer than 58 birds graced 9 counties. Not only were first records obtained along the coast for *Sonoma* and *San Mateo*, but for the first time slightly inland counties were invaded: two at HRS Sept. 22–Oct. 9 (†RJR, †JM, m.ob.); one at CCRS Oct. 16–18 (CBe, †SBT); and one at Montezuma Slough, *Solano*, Oct. 17 (RS). Leading the charge was FI, with 14 birds. They even came in flocks, as there were up to six at Bolinas, *Marin*, Sept. 24–Oct. 2 (KH, †m.ob.), eight at Moss Landing, *Monterey*, Oct. 4–20 (G. Rosenberg, †m.ob.), and eight at Pt. Reyes Oct. 6–14 (†JM, m.ob.).

The same forces that brought the wave of Red-throated Pipits to the Region were probably also responsible for up to six Am. Pipits showing characteristics of the race *japonicus* being found: one–two at Pt. Reyes Oct. 7–13 (KH, m.ob.), up to three at FI Oct. 13–Nov. 5 (†PP), and one at Bodega Bay Nov. 10 (AWa). The only previous record away from Alaska appears to be *Del Norte's* in 1989.

Five "Blue-headed" Solitary Vireos Sept. 12–29 along the c. coast was a record total. We also tallied two "Plumbeous" birds at Pt. Reyes Sept. 12 (RS) and Golden Gate Park Sept. 17 (JM *et al.*). Philadelphia Vireo was a disappointment as only two birds were

found in *Marin*: Stinson Gulch Oct. 9 (DaS, †KH) and Pine Gulch Cr. Nov. 25–27 (†D. Reinking *et al.*). Six Red-eyed Vireos Sept. 7–Oct. 12 along the c. coast was above average. For the 3rd fall in the past 4, a Yellow-green Vireo reached the Region: one at Palomarin Oct. 11 (ph. RS) was the Region's 11th.

WOOD WARBLERS

In an era when nostalgia reigns supreme, how appropriate that the stars of birding's vagrant world should stage a fall revue that would conjure up visions of the "Glory Days" nearly 20 years ago. Despite the great reduction of these tropical species in recent years, that special blend of weather and chance created the best coastal fallout of vagrant warblers since the epochal years 1974 and 1979. The vast majority of this activity was in the Pt. Reyes, FI, and SF areas.

Of our regularly occurring vagrant warblers, only Tennessee was in below-average numbers: 11 birds Sept. 9–Oct. 18 and two in late November. Those in record or near-record numbers were: Chestnut-sided (34) Sept. 3–Oct. 16; Blackburnian (21) Aug. 31–Oct. 27; Prairie (17) Sept. 9–Oct. 22; and Am. Redstart (75) Aug. 8–Nov. 3. Above-average totals were garnered for: Magnolia (24) Sept. 5–Oct. 19; Black-throated Blue (16) Sept. 4–Nov. 5; Black-and-white (28) Aug. 11–Nov. 30; and Ovenbird (9) Sept. 7–Oct. 17. Those maintaining the status quo were: Palm (137) Sept. 12–Nov. 26; Blackpoll (78) Aug. 14–Nov. 3; and N. Waterthrush (14) Sept. 7–Oct. 31.

Adding zip to these exceptional numbers was a ♂ Golden-winged Warbler at Sunset Heights Park, SF, Sept. 21 (†SFB, †m.ob.). In light of last Season's findings, single Virginia Warblers at Mono L. County Park Aug. 20 (G. Pasquariello) and Lee Vining Aug. 21 (PJM) were probably post-breeding dispersants. One at FI Sept. 26 was of vagrant status. Up to two N. Parulas at Ano Nuevo State Preserve, *San Mateo*, July 26–Sept. 3 (GJS, m.ob.), plus another in Robinson Canyon, *Monterey*, Sept. 8 (RS) was an average showing. Cape May Warbler has become one of the state's rarer vagrants in recent years, so a record-matching seven birds Sept. 9–Oct. 8 was exciting. An impressive seven Black-throated Green Warblers included an early bird at El Granada, *San Mateo*, Aug. 29 (†BS); the others ranged from Sept. 21–Oct. 24. A scintillating Yellow-throated Warbler at Pt. Reyes Sept. 10–16 (†FGB, †m.ob.) was the "yellow-lored" race. The only noncoastal Palm Warbler was in Stockton Oct. 14 (WRH), a *San Joaquin* first. Bay-breasted Warbler also showed impressively, with five split between FI and *Marin* Sept. 14–Oct. 15.

An amazing five Prothonotary Warblers was a record: singles at Pt. Reyes Sept. 7 (B. Chilson) and Sept. 28–Oct. 3 (BiL, †JM, †S. Cox, m.ob.); singles at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 29–Oct. 5 (RFT, †DR, m.ob.) and Nov. 1–4 (K. Kelman, GJH, †RC *et al.*); and *Santa Clara's* first at Palo Alto Baylands Sept. 29–Oct. 1 (M. Roening, †JM). An inland N.

Waterthrush was on Sherman I., *Sacramento*, Oct. 2 (†TDM). For the 3rd fall in the past 4, FI scored a Kentucky Warbler: Sept. 15 (†PP). Three Connecticut Warblers were on FI Sept. 7–15 (all †PP), with another at CCRS Sept. 25 (†ph. SBT *et al.*). Five Mourning Warblers were divided between FI (four) Sept. 7–Oct. 6 (†PP, †JCS) and Pt. Reyes Sept. 14–17 (†DSg, †JM, m.ob.). Four Hooded Warblers Sept. 11–25 along the c. coast, and single Canada Warblers at Pt. Reyes Sept. 15 (LJP, SNGH) and Pescadero Nov. 5–6 (†BS *et al.*), were only average totals.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Tanagers abounded: a record eight Summers were along the c. coast (six in September/October, two in late November), and a Scarlet visited FI Oct. 22–24 (†ph. DaS). Coastally, 11 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, five Blue Grosbeaks, and five Indigo Buntings in September/October were average totals. Another Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Mono L. Aug. 20 (DS). The Region's 8th Painted Bunting at FI Sept. 15 (†PP) matched the timing and locale of five of the previous seven. A healthy three Dickcissels included *Alameda's* first at the HRS Sept. 20 (†RJR). The others were at FI Sept. 21 and Pt. Reyes Sept. 22 (SBT). *Spizella* sparrows blazing a hot trail along the coast included three Am. Trees Nov. 1–19, 56 Clay-coloreds Aug. 21–Nov. 16, and 13 Brewer's (10 on FI) Sept. 5–Oct. 10. Most impressive were a Chipping x Clay-colored Sparrow hybrid at FI Sept. 13–16 (†PP) and what would be the Region's 2nd Field Sparrow at Hopland Field Station, *Mendocino*, Oct. 11–18 (†RJK, †C. Vaughn). Four Lark Buntings visited the c. coast Aug. 28–Nov. 2.

A "Large-billed" Savannah Sparrow (*A. s. rostratus*) was at Princeton Marsh, *San Mateo*, Sept. 8 (†RSTh). This race is making a comeback in its s. California wintering range after practically disappearing in the late 1970s–early 1980s. The only other Regional record is from Santa Cruz Aug. 27, 1895, a Baird's Sparrow at FI Sept. 7 (†PP) was the Region's 3rd. And for the 2nd straight fall the state cornered a Smith's Longspur: a striking male at Pt. Reyes Oct. 6–8 (G. Rosenberg, †SBT, †JM, m.ob.). Lapland Longspur gave us an interesting show by going shy along the n. coast (11) and Pt. Reyes (12) and going big on FI, with an all-time high of 30 Oct. 17–Nov. 15. Singles also pioneered new countries at Trinity L., *Trinity*, Oct. 9 (†RE) and near Long Barn, *Tuolumne*, Oct. 27–28 (†S. Baldwin, ph. S. Gershen). Four along Dyson Lane in Sierra Valley Nov. 15–30 (DS, †LJ *et al.*) were *Plumas's* 2nd. Single Chestnut-collared Longspurs away from traditional areas were at Chico State University, *Butte*, Sept. 27 (JHS, †TDM *et al.*) and Sierra Valley Nov. 15–24 (DS, †LJ—*Plumas's* first).

Snow Buntings made an unprecedented invasion into the Region this season, almost doubling the previous high count in 1977.

At least 16 birds were accounted for: six on FI Oct. 22–28; six at Pt. Reyes Oct. 22–Nov. 17; one at Ano Nuevo, *San Mateo*, Oct. 26 (†GJS); one at Ft. Funston, SE, Oct. 27–30 (J. Becker, †m.ob.); and two at Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Nov. 5–6 (ph. ADB). In addition to 24 coastal Bobolinks Sept. 10–Oct. 6, one was at HRS Sept. 27 (RJR). Five Rusty Blackbirds Oct. 17–Nov. 1 and six Orchard Orioles Aug. 14–Oct. 17 were slightly above-average sums for the coast. And as an exclamation point to this most eventful season, the state's 6th Common Redpoll was at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Nov. 23–25 (†K. Spencer).

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