

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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Fall's El Niño intensified through winter. By March, signs pointed to a substantial event. The southern seabirds Black-vented Shearwater, Xantus' Murrelet, and Pink-footed Shearwater were unseasonably numerous; two frigatebirds and a tropicbird were noted. Conversely, the temperature-sensitive northern seabirds Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Ancient Murrelet, with few exceptions, were very scarce.

Near-normal rainfall was received for the first time in six years, but the Region remained in a drought condition. Don Roberson's assessment that the dearth of overwintering rarities such as warblers and orioles has been related to drought-induced late-blooming eucalyptus is probably accurate.

For the second winter, nearly every report commented on the Regionwide lack of montane irruptives, in particular Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, and Pine Siskin.

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

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

San Benito's 2nd Red-throated Loon, at San Justo Res. Feb. 27–Mar. 8 (RMrr, KVV) was surprisingly the only one reported inland. Two Pacific Loons were on Folsom L., *Placer & Sacramento*, Dec. 28–Jan. 1 (†GEw, †TDM). A Yellow-billed Loon on Whiskeytown Res. *Shasta*, Dec. 30–Feb. 17 (G. Woods, J. Coon, BY, †SBT, †F. Gardner) was the first for our Interior district. Four Red-necked Grebes were inside the greater SF Bay, and singles were inland at Clearlake Park, *Lake*, Jan. 2 (JRW) and at Little Panoche Res., *Fresno*, Jan. 7 (GF, MPI).

Black-footed Albatross prefers our continental shelf break; its numbers decrease down the continental slope into deeper waters. Laysan Albatross in California prefers the deep ocean. These patterns were illustrated by a 24-hour boat trip to 100 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Dec. 14 that tallied 59 Laysans but only one Black-footed (SFB, AWa). A trip beyond the Cordell Bank, *Marin*, Feb. 1



found four–seven Laysans (RS, m.ob.), and a single was seen from Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo*, Feb. 18 (BS). Except for 200 seen up to 100 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Dec. 14 (SFB), N. Fulmars were very scarce as the El Niño took hold. The fulmar's preference for deep water is magnified in warm-water seasons. Three Mottled Petrels were 80–84 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Dec. 14 (AWa, †SFB, †RAE).

Pink-footed Shearwaters on the trip beyond the Cordell Bank Feb. 1 were variously estimated from 25–100 (RS, BDP, JW), and 55 were offshore of Monterey Feb. 29 (DLSh). Such winter numbers were unprecedented. Nevertheless, Flesh-footed Shearwater (four) again outnumbered Pink-footed (only one) on the deep-water trip to 100 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Dec. 14 (SFB, AWa). Three

Flesh-footeds were seen on the Cordell Bank trip Feb. 1 (RS, JW, MiF), and singles were off Santa Cruz Dec. 14 (*fide* BBrr) and Monterey Bay Feb. 29 (DLSh). Sixty Black-vented Shearwaters at Moss Landing Dec. 22 (PJM) lingered from fall, but similar numbers remaining or reappearing in March were unseasonable. Three Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, plus "probables," along shore from the Gulf of the Farallones to the Monterey Pen., Dec. 26–28 seemed storm-related.

A Red-billed Tropicbird was reported from a helicopter on the way to FI Feb. 20 (C. Elfic, *fide* KH). Two Pelagic Cormorants at Vallejo Dec. 23 (ABtt, J. Karr) and one at Hayward Shoreline Dec. 29 (RJr) were rather far into SF Bay. A Brown Pelican at Sunnyvale sewage ponds Feb. 26 (R. Freeman) was a rare winter visitor to *Santa Clara*. Two frigatebirds were presumed to be Magnificent. An immature followed and rode fishing boats from Pacific Grove to Monterey Feb. 11–12 (N. Lemon *fide* AB).

The next day an ad. male flew N past Ano Nuevo Pt. (GJS).

EGRETS TO DUCKS

Four Cattle Egrets in *Del Norte*, up to 18 in *Humboldt*, and 69 on the Stockton CBC were the only reports involving more than three birds. A White-faced Ibis near Moss Landing Jan. 1 (PJM *et al.*) was the only one reported along the coast, but six at Joice I., *Solano*, Dec. 23 (RS, D. Wight) were the first on the Benicia CBC.

Rare swans made a big splash in the Region. As many as six "Bewick's" Swans wintered in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (DGY *et al.*). The Whooper Swan at Lower Klamath NWR, *Siskiyou*, in November remained well past the end of the period



Whooper Swan (center), towering above the nearby Tundra Swan and Canada Geese, at Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, California, on December 29, 1991. Apparently a third state record, although none of the records have yet been accepted by the California records committee. Photograph/Monte M. Taylor.

(m.ob.), with two ad. Trumpeter Swans there until Jan. 26 (†DR, †SBT). A color-marked Trumpeter from a flock introduced to Oregon's Summer L. was on Goose L., Modoc, Jan. 4 (*fide* BED), and three adults were in Sierra Valley, Plumas, Feb. 28 (†LJ).

The 84 Greater White-fronted, 28 Snow, and 30 Ross' geese along the coast were many more than normally reported. In addition, two Snow X Ross' Goose hybrids frequented Laguna Grande, Monterey, Dec. 17–Jan. 20 (N. Citron, JC, ph. DR). A Brant island at Lower Klamath NWR Feb. 16 (BDP) was noteworthy, as was one at the San Jose-Santa Clara sewage plant Feb. 18 (SBT). Three endangered Aleutian Canada Geese (*B. c. leucopareia*) were out of range at Half Moon Bay, San Mateo, Dec. 8 (†RSTh). Observers may expect to see more of these as the population expands but are cautioned that it takes more than a white neck ring to make an Aleutian.

Six Eur. Green-winged Teal reports (an average number) included a 2nd *San Joaquin* record on the Bract Tract Jan. 4 (DGY, WRH) and a Eur. X Am. hybrid at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin, Feb. 9 (RS). Up to nine Blue-winged Teal were along Santa Fe Grade, Merced, Feb. 1 (FGB, SAG, JMR), the only noncoastal report. Numbers of Eur. Wigeon continue to increase, including an astounding 85 at the Gray Lodge WMA Dec. 26 (Peace Valley CBC, *fide* BED).

Hybrid *Aythya* ducks were reported as a returning Ring-necked X scaup sp. at L. Merritt Dec. 19 and a Tufted Duck X scaup sp. at Inverness Jan. 30 (both DaS). Nine Tufted Ducks were in 5 SF Bay counties, more than usual. Though recently removed from the CBRC review list, this species should still be described when found in unusual locations. Increasingly regular on large inland bodies of water, a ♀ Greater Scaup in Redding, Shasta, Dec. 6 (BED) was less expected.

An ad. ♀ King Eider in Humboldt Bay Jan. 6–Feb. 1 (†BBA, †FJB, †GSL) was the Region's 3rd in 2 years. The Steller's Eider at Bodega Bay in November remained through the end of the period, revealing itself as an ad. female (m.ob.). A concentration of 22 Harlequin Ducks was at Pt. Saint George, Del Norte, Dec. 15 (*fide* ADB). Oldsquaws are becoming regular deep inside SF Bay, where up to six were reported. Inland, two or three were in the Klamath Basin Dec. 17–Jan. 26 (m.ob.); one was on O'Neill Forebay, Merced, Dec. 27 (†DS, PJM). Only six of 26 reports included sex and age data, making it difficult to determine total numbers for this species.

Surf Scoters, rare inland, included one at O'Neill Forebay Dec. 27 (PJM, DS) and two first-year males at Sacramento NWR Feb. 16 (DSH). A huge flock of 4000 Com. Goldeneyes was off Novato, Marin, Feb. 6 (JW). Of about 150 Barrow's Goldeneyes reported, the most noteworthy include a male on O'Neill Forebay Dec. 27 (PJM, DS) and a pair in Quincy, Plumas, Feb. 7 (LJ). Seven inland Red-breasted Mergansers were more than average.

RAPTORS

At least four Turkey Vultures in *Del Norte* December–Feb. 5 were the most in many winters (ADB). In many areas Black-shouldered Kites are becoming scarce again; only four or five are currently known in e. *Alameda* (ALE). *Yolo's* 5th N. Goshawk was in the Berryessa Hills Dec. 15 (JMHu).

Fall's late ad. Swainson's Hawk lingered in Sierra Valley to Dec. 15 (†LJ). Up to 28 Swainson's Hawks Feb. 16 (WRH) were on Venice I., *San Joaquin* (DGY), and two were in *Sacramento* (TDM, GEW) (see AB 45:316). Seven "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks included *Sierra's* first (†LJ), three in *Solano* (†RS, †CLO, †RLCL), singles in *San Joaquin* (MJL) and *San Mateo* (†RSTh), plus a continuing bird in *Sacramento* (TFi). An imm. Ferruginous Hawk at Ft. Dick Dec. 14–20 (ADB, m.ob.) was *Del Norte's* 2nd. Another at Ft. Bidwell, *Modoc*, Jan. 9 (JCS) was unusually far northeast for midwinter. Rough-legged Hawk was scarce throughout c. California.

The *richardsoni* Merlin was back for its 3rd winter in Mt. View (MMR). Another *richardsoni* was at Bolinas, *Marin*, Nov. 30 (DGY, KH, RAK). Peregrine Falcons continued to increase everywhere, but three adults on the same rock at Castle Rock, *Del Norte*, Dec. 14 (ADB) was a surprising sight.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Black Rail reports increased from SF Bay-area marshes, including 12 in the Pittsburg Marshes, *Contra Costa*, Dec. 14 (EHa *et al.*), but predation by herons continues to be a problem. Two Lesser Golden-Plovers found their way inland to Tyler I., *Sacramento*, Feb. 20–25 (m.ob.). A Mt. Plover made a rare coastal visit to Abbott's Lagoon, *Marin*, Dec. 14 (BDP), while excellent numbers wintered at regular inland locations in *Kings* (29, PJM), *San Benito* (100, m.ob.), *Solano* (19, THK), and *Yolo* (230, m.ob.).

A Greater Yellowlegs wintered n.e. of usual range at Modoc NWR (RLR). Twelve Lesser Yellowlegs at Lemoore, *Kings*, until Dec. 27 (PJM) were late fall migrants there. An inland Willet, very rare in winter, was on Staten I., *San Joaquin*, Feb. 23 (GEW). Also rare in winter was a Wandering Tattler north to MacKerrick SP, *Mendocino*, Feb. 5 (RJK, C. Vaughn). Almost 1400 Red Knots on the *Alameda* shoreline in February (DES, RJR) made the largest number ever recorded in the Region in winter. Single Silt Sandpipers at Lemoore Dec. 1–27 (RH, PJM, †DS) and on the Santa Fe Grade Jan. 24–26 (†DS, DES, RJR) were first Regional winter records. Up to five Ruffs at Lemoore through Dec. 27 (PJM, DS) with two staying until Jan. 27 (DS) and one at Moss Landing Jan. 3 (†DEG) were unprecedented winter numbers. Late phalaropes included a Wilson's at Lemoore Dec. 1 (RH) and a Red-necked on the American R. in *Sacramento* Dec. 7 (MJL).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Thirty Pomarine Jaegers up to 100 mi s.w. of

Pt. Reyes Dec. 14 (SFB) and 15 off Monterey Feb. 29 (DLSh) were high numbers for winter. The only Franklin's Gull was a presumed returning bird at Sandy Wool L., *Santa Clara*, Jan. 25 (G. Shurtleff). A first basic W. Gull at Davis sewage ponds Dec. 18 (†SFB) was *Yolo's* first. Another W. Gull was in s.w. *Sacramento* Jan. 12 (TDM). Eleven to 13 coastal and SF Bay-area Glaucous Gulls featured an adult at Stinson Beach Feb. 14 (DaS). Three others were in *Yolo & Sacramento*; *Lake's* first was at Clearlake Park Feb. 19–20 (†JRW, †S. Klynstra). Fifty Black-legged Kittiwakes were up to 100 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Dec. 14 (SFB), but there were very few others. An immature flying past Martinez Marina Jan. 8 (RJR) was the 3rd for *Contra Costa*. A Caspian Tern at Kings R. near Stratford Dec. 31 (DS, PJM) was our most inland this winter; a Caspian near Arcata Jan. 19 (J.C. Robinson) was the northernmost.

Likely reflecting the El Niño were up to four Xantus' Murrelets offshore *Monterey* Feb. 27 (RT) and two 15 mi n.w. of Pt. Reyes Feb. 1 (RS). In contrast, Ancient Murrelets were few except for 40 offshore Pt. Reyes Beach Dec. 14 (RS). Perhaps the latter birds departed as the El Niño became stronger. The prize of the long Dec. 14 trip was a Parakeet Auklet that was circled closely 74 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes (†SFB, †IvS, †RAE, ph. RN).

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS

The erratic wanderings and late fall nestings of Band-tailed Pigeon have been attributed to fluctuating food sources, especially acorns. Perhaps the early nesting pair near Calistoga, *Napa*, Feb. 2 (M. Eisenman, BiG) was under similar stimulus. Twenty-five Mourning Doves all season at Modoc NWR, with a peak of 70 Jan. 24, were noteworthy as they are very rare here after November (RLR). The reappearance of Burrowing Owls at Marina Dec. 15 (JSo) and Castroville Jan. 11–21 (DSe, BGE) was encouraging *Monterey* news, but *Santa Cruz* appeared to lose one of two known wintering sites near Watsonville when a ground squirrel poisoning program was implemented (RAM *fide* Albatross).

Up to 10 Com. Poorwills calling in the back country of Ft. Ord, *Monterey*, Feb. 24 (DR) were presumably prompted by the unseasonably warm weather. Single ♂ Costa's Hummingbirds were in SF Jan. 1 (ADB) and Fair Oaks, *Sacramento*, Feb. 12–29 (GEW *et al.*), an average winter showing. In the past 20 years only 13 *Selasphorus* hummingbirds have lingered into December, with just four identifiable to species (two each Rufous and Allen's). The season as many as five *Selasphorus* hummingbirds lingered in Berkeley Dec. 10–15 (AdW, m.ob.); another was near Tiburon Dec. 28 (†BHi). Among the identifiable, a ♂ Rufous buzzed Walnut Creek Dec. 9 (T. Finger), and an imm. ♂ Rufous was a CBC highlight in *Sacramento* Dec. 18–21 (†TDM *et al.*). These might be attributed to a mild winter, as have most prior records.

In addition to four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers that wintered in *Marin* and SF, *Sacramento's* first was in Sacramento Dec. 10 (†TDM); *Monterey's* 5th was in Carmel Feb. 11+ (M. Sutherland, †ph. DR, m.ob.). Supplementing six coastal Red-naped Sapsuckers were apparent county firsts for *Calaveras* at Camanche Res. Dec. 29 (†DGY, †WRH) and *El Dorado* at Coloma Historical Park Jan. 26 (MP), and the 2nd and 3rd winter records for the Mono Basin at Lee Vining Jan. 2–4 (M. Findling) and Mono L. Feb. 21 (ES), respectively.

FLYCATCHERS TO CHICKADEES

For the 3rd straight winter, a Least Flycatcher graced the Region: U.C. Berkeley Botanical Gardens Dec. 5–Jan. 19—*Alameda's* first (†M. Vaughn, †JM, †GFi, m.ob.). And for the 3rd winter in the past 4, a Hammond's Flycatcher wintered in the Region: Olema Dec. 16–Jan. 25 (RS, B. Keener, †JW). Single "Western" Flycatchers were at CCRS Nov. 29–Jan. 29, SF Dec. 16–Feb. 6 (DPM, JsC), and Gazos Creek Rd., *San Mateo*, Jan. 3 (SAG). It is difficult to attribute these recent winter Empid sightings to the drought, observer awareness, or other factors.

A Black Phoebe at the Quincy sewer ponds Feb. 7 (LJ) was a winter first for *Plumas*. It was a banner season for E. Phoebe. In addition to the bird returning for its 3rd winter at Lost L., *Fresno*, Nov. 28 (J. Robinson, B. Williford), one was at the Merced NWR early January to Feb. 15 (SAG, TAC); six were coastal from *Monterey* to *Marin* Nov. 29–Feb. 26. Even more impressive was the mini-invasion of Vermilion Flycatchers. An imm. female at Bates Slough, *Tulare*, Dec. 30 (†PJM, †DS) was not completely unexpected, but the ad. male at Gray Lodge WMA Jan. 26–Feb. 27 (RJK, †GFi) that was joined by a 2nd male Feb. 17 (K. Francone) furnished the northernmost state record. *Solano's* first Tropical Kingbird at Benicia Dec. 23 (G. Clifton, W. Neville) was slightly inland while singles at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey*, Dec. 22–23 (PJM, MiF) and on the Centerville CBC, *Humboldt*, Dec. 29–Jan. 4 (fide BBA) were more expected.

An apparent Cliff X Barn Swallow hybrid at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo*, Feb. 21 (†RSTh) must have been a surprise, though it is not without precedent (Phillips, 1986, *Known Birds of North and Middle America*, part 1). A lingering Barn Swallow was at the Stockton sewer ponds Dec. 23 (DGY). Wandering corvids included a Clark's Nutcracker at Modoc NWR Feb. 27, a refuge first (RLR), and a Yellow-billed Magpie at Pt. Reyes Feb. 22–23 (JMHu, RS, m.ob.), *Marin's* 3rd. Two Mt. Chickadees on San Benito Mt. Dec. 8 (SA, †DSG) may carry a distinction greater than establishing a *San Benito* first. Since there appear to be no previous records from the entire Diablo Range and the anomalous nature of the San Benito Mt. region, is it possible that the area may now hold a disjunct population of Mt. Chickadees similar to the one recently re-

found in *Monterey*, especially since the two areas share other similar boreal species?

BLUEBIRDS TO WOOD WARBLERS

About 170 Mt. Bluebirds and 20 Townsend's Solitaires in the Coast Ranges surrounding SF Bay constituted a minor invasion. The former species made no moves into the lowlands, but the latter also hit the immediate coast (three) and the CV (two). The Region's first "good" December Swainson's Thrush was banded at Palomarin Dec. 11 (†D. Reinking) and was probably a late migrant. A Sage Thrasher in Hayward Dec. 29–Mar. 8 (RJR, m.ob.) and two in Sierra Valley, *Plumas*, Feb. 2 (LJ) were slightly displaced.

As is now customary, a few N. Shrikes were in the Sacramento Valley: singles at Sutter NWR Dec. 4 (JCS) and along Gridley Rd., *Colusa*, Jan. 29–Feb. 2 (GFi, m.ob.). Among a record-high 17 coastal Solitary Vireos (*seven* in *Humboldt*), only four were found past the first part of January. One in Crescent City Jan. 30 (ADB) was *Del Norte's* first in winter; the only *plumbeus* was in Eureka Jan. 17–Feb. 19 (FJB), the Region's first coastal winter record of this race n. of *Sonoma*. A very tardy Warbling Vireo was at Pescadero Cr., *San Mateo*, Dec. 28 (DJK).

It was another mediocre season for warblers. Coastally, there were only two Tennessees, six Yellows, 20 Palms, two Am. Redstarts, and five Wilson's. In the interior, there were only four Black-throated Grays and one

Townsend's among the Sacramento and Stockton CBCs. Coastally, species in average or slightly above-average numbers included 30+ Nashvilles, 19 Hermits, and 14 Black-and-whites.

A Yellow Warbler near Stratford, *Kings*, Dec. 31 (PJM, †DS) was very rare for the interior. The season's warbler bright spots were the Region's 3rd wintering Chestnut-sided Warbler in Eureka Dec. 14–Feb. 29 (JCS, m.ob.) and 2nd wintering Blackburnian Warbler in Santa Cruz Dec. 14–Feb. 22 (DLSu, m.ob.). A "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Mono L. Feb. 21 (†ES) was a February first for the Mono Basin. The scant winter records e. of the Sierran crest suggest they are truly a winter rarity in this Region rather than an oversight. A very late MacGillivray's Warbler was in Alviso, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 15 (fide MiF).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Rich in flowering eucalyptus trees, SF always hosts wintering tanagers. The two Summer Tanagers that arrived in late November at L. Merced wintered until Feb. 2 (LLu, m.ob.), and a bird returned to Pine L. Park Dec. 8 (JsC), its 3rd straight winter. Another was at Muir Beach, *Marin*, Feb. 23 (fide KH). Three of five W. Tanagers were in SF Dec. 16–Feb. 8; the dissidents were at the Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, Dec. 7 (DGY, WRH) and Table Bluff, *Humboldt*, Dec. 26 (M. Fisher). A very healthy four



Parakeet Auklet taking off from the water, 74 miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, on December 14, 1991. Photograph/Rod Norden.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found this winter: a returnee to Woodside, *San Mateo*, Nov. 13 through the end of the period (K. Gilmartin, *et al.*), one in Ferndale Dec. 29 (GSL), one along Gazos Creek Rd., *San Mateo*, Jan. 3 (SAG), and *Napa's* first in St. Helena Jan. 12–19 (L. & R. Bertoli, ph. RLCL, m.ob.).

Exciting news from the CV was the Region's 2nd winter record of Blue Grosbeak on Bouldin I., *San Joaquin*, Dec. 14 (†MJL, MFe). The Green-tailed Towhee at the Smith R. mouth, *Del Norte*, Dec. 8 (ADB, J. Gartland) was the first coastal winter record n. of *Sonoma*. Conversely, an Am. Tree Sparrow at Pigeon Pt. Nov. 11–Jan. 31 (RSTh, m.ob.) appeared to be the first truly wintering bird along the coast s. of *Humboldt*. A mild influx of wintering Chipping Sparrows manifested in the greater SF Bay region, as *Marin*, *Napa*, *Solano*, *Contra Costa*, *Santa Clara*, and *San Benito* all claimed small numbers (fewer than 10). These counties list this sparrow as casual at best in winter. Once again, truly wintering Clay-colored Sparrows were found: singles at Wilder Ranch SP, *Santa Cruz*, Jan. 20–Feb. 5 (DEG), *Mendocino* Jan. 25–Feb. 25 (S. Cardwell *et al.*), and Ukiah SP Feb. 29 (DT). The latter two were *Mendocino's* 2nd and 3rd records. Four other birds were found coastally through December.

Lake's first Black-throated Sparrow at the Clearlake Landfill Dec. 21 (†JRW, NWWh) was only the Region's 2nd in winter in 10 years. *San Mateo's* first winter record of Grasshopper Sparrow at Pigeon Pt. Jan. 27 (CBe, a roadkill) was only the Region's 3rd in January. Our only Sharp-tailed Sparrows were singles at Palo Alto Baylands Nov. 23–Feb. 18 (LLu, m.ob.) and SF Bay NWR, *Alameda*, Dec. 29 (*fide* RJR), traditional wintering locales. The high number of Swamp Sparrows reported (110+) appears to be an annual event; six at Grizzly Island WMA, *Solano*, Dec. 23 (†RS, D. Wight) were the farthest inland. Four Harris' Sparrows were scattered throughout the Region Nov. 25–Feb. 23.

A well-described "Pink-sided" Junco in Sierra Valley Dec. 11–12 (†LJ & KL) was probably accurate. However, as mentioned in the past (AB 40:328), the status and identification of this form is still poorly understood. *Plumas's* first McCown's Longspur in Sierra Valley Dec. 1 (†DS, †LJ), †MMC) was the Region's first in 3 years. Up to 20 Lapland Longspurs in Sierra Valley Dec. 1–14 (LJ, DS, KL, MMC) and 20 at Pt. Reyes Feb. 25–Mar. 8 (BDP, m.ob.) were noted winter concentrations. Our only Chestnut-collared Longspurs were up to 11 all winter at Pt. Reyes (JiD, m.ob.). A Rusty Blackbird was at King Salmon, *Humboldt*, Feb. 13–Mar. 1 (BBA). It was a very poor winter for orioles: a Hooded at Smith R., *Del Norte*, Dec. 15 (ADB, R. Bauman), and Northern in Ferndale Dec. 29 (LPL) and Carmel Jan. 24 (BJW).

A ♀ Brambling in the Ferndale Bottoms Dec. 29–Feb. 28 (FJB, TWL, †m.ob.) was

the Region's 5th. Red Crossbills went virtually unreported all fall/winter except in *Plumas/Sierra*, where an exceptional cone crop brought "unprecedented large numbers" and "100s" into the area (LJ). A wandering Lawrence's Goldfinch in Fall R. Valley Jan. 24 (†KvG) gave *Shasta* its 2nd.

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