

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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The state's 6-year drought came to an abrupt halt as heavy storms all period brought above-average rain totals to all parts of the Region. More importantly, the snow pack in the Sierra/Cascades was the heaviest in 40 years. Heavy snow in Sierran valleys and our Great Basin areas apparently forced many bird species, especially waterfowl and passerines, out of these areas (RE, LJ, RLR). Effects of the lingering El Niño were shown by Black-vented Shearwater, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Brown Pelican, Heerman's Gull, and perhaps alcids. Winter irruptives such as thrushes and Red-breasted Nuthatch had average totals, while some, such as Golden-crowned Kinglet, showed poorly. Among the finches, only Pine Siskin and Purple Finch had a strong Season.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Cr. Riparian banding Sta., Santa Clara*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); Cyn. (*Canyon*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon I.*); M.B.O.S.P. (*Monte Bello Open Space Preserve, San Mateo*); P.G.M.N.H. (*Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History*); P.R.B.O. (*Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); ph. (*photo on file with Regional Editor*). All records from F.I. and Palomarin should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

A Pacific Loon misguidedly paddled in a flooded field about 5 mi. e. of Pinnacles N.M., *San Benito*,

Feb. 11 (†GjH), and unusual numbers of all 3 common species were inland in *Santa Clara*. Yellow-billed Loons were near Hayward, *Alameda*, Dec. 22–Jan. 14 (D. Reinsche, †RJR, MiF) and at Rodeo Beach, *Marin*, Feb. 24 (†CLF). A Horned Grebe at Mono L. County Park Jan. 3 was late (DS). Red-necked Grebes at Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa*, Dec. 8–9 (AWi, JM) and Clear L., *Lake*, Jan. 30–Feb. 7 (C. Johnson, JRW) were scarce inland.

Decreasing from their fall irruption, Black-vented Shearwaters were still numerous Dec. 26, when 316 were counted in 5.5 hours at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* (PJM, BS). Small numbers lingered into Spring. An intense early morning storm undoubtedly drove to land the Leach's Storm-Petrel found dead in Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, Dec. 29 (DSg, T. Love, *P.G.M.N.H.) and the unidentified dark storm-petrel seen from Pt. Pinos the same day

(DSg). The Leach's represented the first winter record for *Monterey* and about the 4th for the Region prior to this species' late February return to colonies. Unprecedented numbers of Leach's far off s. California in January and February suggest an effect of El Niño (PP, *fide* DR).

Brown Pelicans wintered in numbers unusual n. of Monterey Bay. Exemplary maxima were 450 at Princeton Harbor, *San Mateo*, Dec. 29 (RSTh) and 100 at the same site Feb. 9 (PJM), 142 at Petaluma, *Sonoma*, Jan. 3 (BGr), 300 at Bird Rock, *Marin*, Jan. 18 (JCo), and six on Humboldt Bay Feb. 13 (GjH, DFx). Unseasonal so far into greater S.F. Bay were singles at Suisun Bay, *Contra Costa*, Dec. 19 (EHa) and Palo Alto, *Santa Clara*, Feb. 16 (JiC). A healthy ad. Pelagic Cormorant swam a manmade lagoon at Red-wood Shores, *San Mateo*, Jan. 8 (RSTh).

EGRETS TO DUCKS

A Great Egret at the Hot Cr. Fish Hatchery (7000') Jan. 4 was the first in winter for the greater Mono L. area (DS). Only the 4th along the n. coast, an imm. Little Blue Heron was at Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Dec. 5–24 (ADB, m.ob.). Cattle Egrets were well reported with over >70 sightings, mostly coastal. A minimum of five White-faced Ibises, which rarely reach the coast in winter, were around Monterey Bay Dec. 3–Feb. 7 (m.ob.).

Two "Bewick's" Swans, a form first recorded in the Region in 1975, were at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Feb. 6 (†RE); another was near Nelson, *Butte*, Feb. 25 (MMA). A transplant of color-marked Trumpeter Swans from Idaho to Summer L., Oregon, resulted in the sighting of 18 of these birds from *Siskiyou* to *Yolo*, while a description of three unmarked birds seen at L. Almanor, *Plumas*, Feb. 15 (†JTr) was sent to the CBRC.

Arctic nesting goose species made the coast in average to above



average numbers, but 15 Snow Geese in Pope Valley, *Napa*, Jan. 1 (PBu) were between the C.V. and the coast, where they are much less common. More than usual blue morph "white" geese were reported, including nine Snow, 8 Ross', and 1 hybrid, all from the C.V.

S.A.

An attempt by the P.R.B.O. Pacific Flyway Project to obtain a minimum estimate of the White-faced Ibis wintering in the C.V. turned up a total of 2380, far more than ever recorded before, but perhaps not surprising, given the size of some recent nesting colonies. As many as 74–87% of these birds were seen on private land deliberately flooded as waterfowl habitat, illustrating how important these lands are to the state's waterbirds.

Very rare in the Mountain and Great Basin districts in winter were a Wood Duck at L. Almaror Dec. 18 (*fide* HG) and three at Hot Cr. Fish Hatchery Jan. 4 (DS). Six coastal Eur. Green-winged Teals was an average count for recent years; still rarely reported inland, singles were at Sacramento N.W.R., Glenn (LLu) and near Los Banos, *Merced* (RJR), both Jan. 1. An imm. ♂ Garganey was found at the Las Gallinas sewer ponds, *Marin*, Jan. 16 (†K. Burton, †K. Howard, †P. Allen), for our 4th record in 2 years. Always interesting to Regional birders, Blue-winged Teals and Eur. Wigeons were reported in numbers about equal to those recorded last year, including 87 of the latter at Gray Lodge W.M.A. Dec. 27 (*fide* BED).

A pair of Tufted Ducks at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, Feb. 13 (*fide* DGY) and an ad. female in Fresno Dec. 13 (L. Parmeter) were inland, where there are very few records. Six Tufted Ducks were located around S.F. Bay, in keeping with recent trends. The ♀ King Eider that returned to Humboldt Bay in fall remained all period (†JM, †DR, m.ob.). Oldsquaw numbers were slightly below normal but included *Shasta's* first, a male at Redding Dec. 26–Feb. 14 (BY, m.ob.). Up to six Barrow's Goldeneyes at L. Mendocino Jan. 31–Feb. 21 (RS, m.ob.) were reported as *Mendocino's* first; four in Smith R. estuary, *Del Norte*, Dec. 4–24 (ADB, m.ob.) was an "excellent showing." Two ♀ Red-breasted Mergansers showed up inland at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced*, Dec. 28 (PJM, DS) and a male and three females were on Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa*, Jan. 31 (SAG).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

The best winter for Black Rails since 1984–1985 included 13 birds in s. Tomales Bay Jan. 9 (RS *et al.*). A Clapper Rail was att he same locale Dec. 12 (RS) and Jan. 14 (JGE), where it is accidental, and one was described as a "probable" from the Carmel R. mouth Dec. 22 (†HOs); there are no acceptable *Monterey* records since 1980 (DR). Sandhill

Cranes made very rare coastal appearances with one immature in Santa Cruz Dec. 19 (ELb); three on the San Jose CBC Dec. 20 (m.ob.), representing the 4th *Santa Clara* record; and 15 in the w. Suisun Marsh, *Solano*, Jan. 29–30 (GFi, JMR, CLO).

The Region's 2nd Wilson's Plover, found in fall, remained for the Moss Landing CBC Jan. 1 (m.ob.). A peak of 800 Mt. Plovers at Pixley N.W.R., *Tulare*, Dec. 2 (*fide* J. Engler) was the largest number reported in the Region in 15 years. There were also ≤630 in Panoche Valley, *San Benito*, Dec. 16–Feb. 27 (m.ob.). An inland Willer, very rare in winter, was near Sacramento Feb. 6 (GEw). Two Sanderlings were in the Tulare L. basin, *Tulare*, Jan. 29 (†DS, N. Warnock), where one wintered last year. Western Sandpipers aren't supposed to winter in the n. C.V., but P.R.B.O. censuses found several large flocks there, including 450 in *Sutter* Feb. 13 (DS,



Laughing Gull in first basic plumage at Lake Mendocino, California, on February 9, 1993. Photograph/Robert J. Keiffer.

GWP). A single Stilt Sandpiper on Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey*, Jan. 29 (†C. Hickey) followed last year's first Regional winter records. Ruffs wintered again, with two observed near Lemoore, *Kings*, through Jan. 29 (DS, N. Warnock); one at Moss Landing Dec. 13–Jan. 7 (C. Scollan, M. Sutherland, m.ob.); one in Alviso, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 20–21 (MJM, MMR); and one at Merced N.W.R., *Merced*, Jan. 24 (D. Gray). A Wilson's Phalarope at the Lodi sewer ponds, *San Joaquin*, Dec. 12–19 (*fide* DGY); three on Salt Pond A8, *Santa Clara*, Dec. 19–20 (MMR, MJM, S. Formenti); and one s. of Lemoore Jan. 28 (DS, N. Warnock) were exceptional winter numbers.

RAPTORS

Eight Ospreys on the Angwin CBC, *Napa*, Jan. 1 tied the second highest count for Winter. Two Broad-winged Hawks made one-day appearances: at Willow Cr., *Sonoma*, Jan. 3 (DE) and over Brisbane, *San Mateo*, Feb. 28 (ASH). A few winter Swainson's Hawks are now expected in the C.V. (AB 43:362, 44:323,

45:316, & 46:311), but not so e. of the Sierra. A light morph ad. Swainson's Hawk in Sierra Valley, *Plumas*, Dec. 8 (†LJ, KL) may have been the same bird seen across the line in *Sierra* through Dec. 15, 1991. Of four reported "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks only one at Lynch Cyn., *Solano*, Dec. 20–21 was described (†S. Bobzien). *Del Norte's* second Ferruginous Hawk that wintered last year returned to Ft. Dick (ADB, RAE). Merlins were very numerous throughout the coast and C.V. *Seven* were reported as the dark northwestern race *suckleyi*, including three together in *Marin*, Dec. 12 (RS). Stallcup noted that they were associated with the Pine Siskin irruption, as they were during the Red Crossbill and siskin irruption of 1984–1985. Supporting the notion of Merlins following finches, 13 of 20 Merlins in *Santa Clara* were away from the S.F. Bay. Two in *Santa Clara* (WGB, MMR) and one at Pixley N.W.R., *Tulare*, Dec. 24 (J. Engler) were reported as the pale race *richardsonii*, which is rare in the Region.

LARIDS AND ALCIDS

A first basic Laughing Gull at L. Mendocino, *Mendocino*, Jan. 23–Feb. 21 (JRW, NW, ph. RJK, ph. DR, m.ob.) broke tradition in 3 ways: of 18 prior records, 17 had been between April and September, 16 coastal, and 16 adults. A first basic Com. Black-headed Gull at Arcata Jan. 23–Feb. 7 (R.J. Adams, †BBA, †TWL, †JM) was *Humboldt's* 4th and the Region's 14th. No doubt the El Niño and Brown Pelicans influenced many Heermann's Gulls to winter in numbers n. of Monterey Bay. Counts of 255 at Stinson Beach, *Marin*, Dec. 27 (RS, SBT, JW) and 300 at Pacifica, *San Mateo*, Feb. 9 (PJM, A. DeMartini) were unprecedented. An ad. W. Gull at Lakeport, *Lake*, Feb. 24–Mar. 8 (JRW, JPM, C. Johnson) was very rare so far inland. Glaucous Gull numbers equaled those of the record 1990–1991 winter. *Four or five adults* were among the 26–28 individuals reported.

Two Caspian Terns frequenting Arcata all winter (BBA, DFx, SWH, R.J. Adams), one in *Tulare* and five to seven in *Kings*, Jan. 28–29 (DS, N. Warnock) were rare in winter. An Elegant Tern at Bolinas, *Marin*, Dec. 27 (PP) was late. A Black Skimmer rested at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, Jan. 11 (J. Davis), and one banded on both legs stopped at Princeton Harbor, *San Mateo*, Feb. 20 (D. Witter). Two were rumored to have visited *Santa Cruz* in February. The one prior winter record for the Region was at Monterey Bay Feb. 12–March 1988. A Thick-billed Murre was at King Salmon, Humboldt Bay, Dec. 16 (†DFx, †BBA, †TWL). The El Niño may have caused the very high counts of alcids from shore and notable mortality of small alcids. In 5.5 hours of seawatching from Pigeon Pt., 10,100 Com. Murres and 843 Rhinoceros Auklets were counted Dec. 26 (PJM, BS). The Western Sonoma County CBC tallied 4762 Com. Murres, 26 Marbled Murrelets, 82 Ancient Murrelets, and 115 unidentified murrelets Jan. 3. Close offshore Arcata 160 An-

cients were recorded Dec. 19 (GF *fide* DFX). Hundreds of dead Cassin's Auklets littered Carmel R. and Pt. Pinos beaches, *Monterey*, Feb. 2 (C. Scollan). Five Marbled Murrelets and two Cassin's Auklets were found dead at Crescent City Dec. 24–Feb. 19 (ADB).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

The White-winged Dove at Pescadero, *San Mateo*, Dec. 26 (RSTh) was probably a late fall migrant, as true winter records are few. The state can now officially consider Barred Owl a breeder, as the pair at Wheel Gulch, *Mendocino*, was observed copulating Feb. 6 (RJB, B. Keiffer). Away from the Klamath Basin, winter records of Short-eared Owls in the Great Basin portion of the Region are very rare; thus, one at Mono L., Jan. 3 (DS) was of interest.

Last winter's Costa's Hummingbird in Fair Oaks, *Sacramento*, returned Sept. 9–Feb. 28 (GEW). Another wintered in Hayward, *Alameda*, Dec. 20–Jan. 23 (D. Hamilton, m.ob.). Our only lingering Rufous Hummingbird was an imm. male at U.C. Berkeley Botanical Gardens, *Alameda*, Dec. 12 (DFW). The male at Ano Nuevo State Reserve, *San Mateo*, Jan. 24 (RSTh) was one of the Region's earlier spring arrivals; fewer than 10 mid-late January records fall within this category. Interior sightings of Allen's Hummingbirds are very rare, with movement noted March–September; thus, a male videotaped in Folsom, *El Dorado*, Feb. 7 (*fide* GEW) was most interesting.

Among an impressive eight Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers that wintered along the c. coast, the first noted Nov. 15, singles at San Mateo Dec. 19+ (I. Lake, m.ob.) and La Honda Jan. 31 (CB, WGB) represented *San Mateo's* first records, while an ad. female on Butts Cyn. Rd., Feb. 28 (RS) established *Lake's* first. Conversely, two Red-naped Sapsuckers along the c. coast during December–January was an anemic showing. The Williamson's Sapsucker at Tomales S.P. remained until Jan. 3 (JCo), and another was found in Berkeley, *Alameda*, Feb. 20–Mar. 4 (†R. Swenson, †GFi, m.ob.). The species is casual in the S.F. Bay area. A Hairy Woodpecker in Golden Gate Park Dec. 12–25 (ASH, PJM) was equally rare for S.F. Pileated Woodpeckers are always noteworthy in the S.F. Bay area; one at M.B.O.S.P., Feb. 13 (S. Rottenborn) was *Sanita Clara's* 4th.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

The recent surge of winter empids continued as the 3rd Regional Winter record of *Dusky Flycatcher* was at Buena Vista Park, S.F., Dec. 24 (ASH). Two "Western" Flycatchers along the c. coast in mid-December were expected. Eastern Phoebe were numerous in the c. state, for the 2nd consecutive winter. In addition to two on the outer coast Dec. 30 and Feb. 4, first county records were at C.C.R.S., Dec. 20–Jan. 3 (J. Mancini, †WGB, †MJM *et al.*) and Davis, *Yolo*, Jan. 26–Mar. 3 (JMHu, m.ob.), while *Alameda's* 2nd was near Livermore Jan. 24+ (J. Robinson, †GFi, m.ob.).



Gray Catbird at Orick, California, December 24, 1992. The Region's third in winter, and first for the northern coast. Photograph/Colin Dillingham.

Very rare on the n. coast during winter, single Say's Phoebes were at Ft. Dick, *Del Norte*, Dec. 9 (ADB, JGa) and Willow Cr., *Humboldt*, Dec. 26 (C. Ogan, R. Adams, †DFx). The presence of *Vermilion Flycatchers* in the n. portion of the state continued unabated from last winter and fall, as a male and female were at the Lucky Seven Duck Club near Gray Lodge W.A., *Butte*, December–Jan. 30 (D. Cavallo *et al.*).

The fall deluge of Dusky-capped Flycatchers gathered steam as *Marin's* 2nd was at Pine Gulch Cr., Dec. 7–13 (†RS, †DS *et al.*), and two (!) were in Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, Dec. 23–Jan. 11 (†DR, †RC, m.ob.) and Dec. 29–Jan. 2 (T. Love, †DSg, †RC, †ph. DR, m.ob.). Last dates for birds of the fall: *Natural Bridges S.P.*, Dec. 27 (*fide* JM), *El Granada* Dec. 2 (BS), and *Big Sur R.* mouth Dec. 15 (†DR, †RC). Almost as rare in winter, single Ash-throated Flycatchers were in Rohnert Park, *Sonoma*, Dec. 12 (R. Merris, ChW); *Sacramento* Dec. 26–Feb. 25 (RSt, WEH), probably same bird seen 2 winters ago; and *Davis* Jan. 26–Feb. 13 (JMHu, m.ob.). Three *Tropical Kingbirds* along the n. coast Dec. 1–10 were late fall representatives. The first winter record of Cassin's Kingbird in 10 years came from *Paicines Res.*, *San Benito*, Dec. 27 (BJW), while the *W. Kingbird* at Pt. Reyes Feb. 28 (E. Ruhlen) was the Region's earliest spring arrival ever.

Horned Lark is rare and local on the n. coast past mid-December, so a count of 17 at L. Talawa, *Del Norte*, Jan. 31 (ADB, JGa) was noteworthy. Several observers noted swallows arrived earlier than normal; in coastal *Monterey*, a *Tree Swallow* Jan. 30 (CHo) and two *N. Rough-wingeds* Feb. 19 (BHG) were record early there by 5 days (DR), and *Barn Swallows* at Los Banos N.W.R., Jan. 24 (DES) & 31 (P. Allen), with one and two birds, respectively, were Regionally very early.

JAYS TO VIREOS

There were no reports of wandering corvids except for *San Mateo's* first Pinyon Jay at El Granada Feb. 10 (BS). The *Rock Wren* that returned for its 2nd winter at Bract Tract, *San Joaquin*, Dec. 19–Jan. 16 (AEn, DGY) and one at the Salinas sewer ponds Feb. 10 (DEG) were considered vagrants. *Mountain Bluebirds* appeared in slightly above-average numbers in the I.C.R., coastal lowlands, and C.V., but Townsend's Solitaire managed only eight sightings in the greater S.F. Bay area.

The *Gray Catbird* at Orick, *Humboldt*, Dec. 12–Jan. 31 (J. Allen, †L. Barnes, †BBA, †DFx, †DR, ph. C. Dillingham) was a first for the n. coast and the Region's 3rd in winter. Our only extralimital *Sage Thrasher* was at Bay Farm I., *Alameda*, Dec. 20–Feb. 15 (ALE, m.ob.). *Northern Shrikes* away from the n. portion of the state were singles at *Merced N.W.R.*, Jan. 10 (RJR) and at *Panoche Valley*, *San Benito*, Jan. 16–Mar. 1 (CKF, m.ob.). Two coastal "Cassin's" *Solitary Vireos* during December fell into the recent pattern of late fall migrants.

WOOD-WARBLERS TO TANAGERS

Outstanding rarities highlighted the winter warbler show; however, it was the 3rd consecutive mediocre season for our more commonly occurring vagrants. Coastally, there were only one *Tennessee*, two *Yellows*, 23 *Palms*, five *Black-and-whites*, two *Am. Redstarts*, three *N. Waterthrushes*, and 10 *Wilson's*. As expected, few of these birds were seen past December. Undoubtedly, the bird of the season was the ♂ *Blue-winged Warbler* that wintered near Ferndale on the Salt R., *Humboldt*, Jan. 2–March 7 (†DFx, †BBA, †JM, m.ob.), providing what appeared to be only the 3rd winter record for *N. America* away from the Tropics. Twenty coastal *Nashville Warblers* was about the recent average. The *Virginia's Warbler* in *Carmel* Jan. 2–5 (B. Hill, †BJW *et al.*) was the Region's 4th in winter; three of the four have been from *Monterey*. A *Lucy's Warbler* in *Bodega Bay* Dec. 7–Jan. 9 (S. Cogen, m.ob.) was *Sonoma's* first and the first to winter on our n. coast.

Yellow Warblers at *Nelson Hill*, *Solano*, Dec. 21 (†E. Meyers) and at *Fair Oaks*, *Sacramento*, Feb. 3 (R. Smith) were very rare for the interior. The *Chestnut-sided Warbler* in S.F., Dec. 29 (PJM) was exceptional for December but was probably a late fall vagrant. A pure flock of 500 "Myrtle" *Yellow-rumped Warblers* on *Woodley I.* near *Humboldt Bay* Dec. 4 (DFx) gave an example of how "separate" they can be from "Audubon's." Amazingly, the Region's 2nd winter record of *Black-throated Green Warbler* again came from *Del Norte*, *Smith R.*, Dec. 1–24 (SDS, ADB, BED *et al.*). An *Am. Redstart* in *Sacramento* Dec. 16 (TDM) was a first in winter for the C.V. People paid admission to see the the Region's 3rd wintering *Ovenbird* at the S.F. Zoo Dec. 29–Jan. 23 (DPM, m.ob.).

As usual, S.F. cornered the market on *Summer Tanagers*, with four Dec. 12–Jan. 16; one at *Pine L. Park* may have returned for its 3rd

winter. Another was near Pajaro, *Monterey*, Jan. 1 (*fide* DR). A very impressive five W. Tanagers were found along the coast Dec. 7–Jan. 4, with another in Sacramento Dec. 25 (GEW). Early winter records are expected, so one in S.F., Feb. 27 (MLR) was quite unusual.

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Stinson Beach, *Marin*, Oct. 9–Dec. 27 (RS *et al.*) was probably attempting to winter. Another was in Petaluma Dec. 6–12 (W. Nelson). Our only Black-headed Grosbeak was in Pengrove, *Sonoma*, Jan. 18 (H. Boysne, DN). The Region's 2nd winter record of Lazuli Bunting was a male at the Carmel R. mouth Feb. 4 (†HOs). *Monterey* continued to shine, as it also held the Region's 9th winter record of Indigo Bunting at Elkhorn Slough Jan. 1 (†PJM, A. Demartini). Most of our winter Green-tailed Towhee records are just one-day birds, so one at a feeder in Martinez, *Contra Costa*, Feb. 10–Mar. 2 (D. Kirshen) was noteworthy. The extreme snow cover over the Region's Great Basin areas likely forced many passerines to non-traditional sites; species like Am. Tree Sparrow were rarely noted (only 8–10). One Clay-colored Sparrow at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, Dec. 19–Feb. 28 (D. Powell *et al.*) was our lowest total output for the period in years. A Lark Sparrow at Ft. Dick, *Del Norte*, Dec. 15–20 (ADB, JGa) was a vagrant to the n. coast, and the Lark Bunting at Gustine, *Merced*, Jan. 30 (RJR) was a vagrant to the entire Region. The Grasshopper Sparrow at Ano Nuevo Reserve Dec 26 (†P. Keel) was consistent with recent winter records from the c. coast. Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported from traditional S.F. Bay area spots.

Gazelle Flats, *Siskiyou*, gave us quite a show of snowbirds this Season. Within a ¼-mi ra-

dius, reports included one McCown's Longspur Jan. 14–16, ≤223 Lapland Longspurs Dec. 17–Jan. 17, one Chestnut-collared Longspur Jan. 10–16, and a Snow Bunting Jan. 10 (all †RE). This area has produced impressive numbers of longspurs in the past. Another McCown's Longspur at Tule L., Dec. 22–26 (†K. Spencer, †RE) was added to the Region's less than 15 records. Additional Lapland Longspurs were 14 at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Jan. 18–23 (K. Spencer), 21 at Ash Cr. W.A., *Lassen*, Dec. 27 (T. Easterla), and 59 along the n. coast. *Plumas*' first Snow Bunting was in Sierra Valley Jan. 15 (†LJ).

Winter orioles included at least two Hoodeds at Los Altos, *Santa Clara*, Jan. 15–Feb. 6 (V. Reynolds, PLN), and six coastal N. Orioles Dec. 12–Jan. 3. An interior N. Oriole was at Gray Lodge W.M.A. Dec. 5 (BED). Rosy Finches away from traditional sites included 53 "Hepburns" at Fall R. Mills, *Shasta*, Dec. 19–22 (R. Modine) and two at Indian Valley Jan. 15 (G. Rotta, Y. Coulgoulat)—*Plumas*' first). A wandering Cassin's Finch was seen along Mines Rd., *Alameda*, Dec. 28 (RJR); more unusual were three on the C.V. floor in Stockton Feb. 12–28 (DGY, WRH). A notable die-off of Pine Siskins at bird feeders was noted in the greater S.F. Bay area and the c. Sierra mid-December to early January. *Salmonella* was detected in recovered specimens. *Salmonella* was also discovered in dead siskins in the Northwest earlier in winter and apparently followed birds as they invaded south.

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