

**MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.** — It was a very wet winter throughout most of California this year. One storm after another during January and February



brought far above normal amounts of rain to coastal and valley areas and snow to the mountains and the northern coast. From Los Banos, Roger Wilbur reported that almost twice the normal amount of rain greatly increased wetland habitat and caused waterfowl and shorebirds to scatter rather than concentrate in the refuges of the Central Valley; on the northern coast, Margaret Keith reported that the total rainfall for the season at Grizzly Creek State Park was 69.53 inches, the highest in eight years; and Eleanor Pugh reported that the newly created Lake Oroville in Butte County rose as much as 16 feet in 24 hours!

Although it was not considered to be a very cold winter, the numerous storms created extremely deep snowpacks in the Sierra Nevada. Snow even accumulated several times along the northern coast and fell as far south as the mountains on the San Francisco Peninsula. On Jan. 28, snow even fell in downtown San Francisco, a very rare occurrence, indeed!

In the report that follows the reader's attention is directed to various problems affecting many species that were caused by man: dead or dying grebes and cormorants which probably were poisoned by pesticides, Brown Pelicans laying thin-shelled or shell-less eggs as a result of the accumulation of DDT-type residues in their body tissues, repeated oiling of alcids, and Robins and Cedar Waxwings being slaughtered by

the thousands along the highways. Observers are requested to report any such findings so that they may be brought to light.

**Loons, Grebes** — The southbound migration of loons continued into the winter reporting period, with 345 noted passing Point Pinos, Monterey Co. in 1½ hours on Dec. 1 (AB, TM), this movement decreasing rapidly thereafter. Whether *Yellow-billed Loons* habitually reach central California waters remains to be established, but, following two observations at Tomales Bay, Marin Co. last winter (Audubon Field Notes 22:472), no less than 5 individuals were reported this winter. An adult female found in Monterey Harbor on Dec. 29 (RG, R. Griswold) was ailing and was seen by many observers before being found dead on Jan. 1; it is now specimen No. 2348 at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (VLY). An adult was observed off Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., Jan. 22-25 (AB, TC, WR, Santa Clara Audubon Society); another adult was found on Jan. 25 in the Moss Landing harbormouth (JG & RG) but could not be found subsequently. An immature bird was found on the same day in Monterey Harbor and was photographed (AB); it remained until Feb. 22 and was seen by numerous observers (TC, PD, GMcC, WR, VLY, et al.). Another immature was found at Limantour, Marin Co. on March 4 (P.R.B.O., JS). Evidence of a major flight elsewhere along the West Coast included a sight record at Victoria, B.C. on Nov. 11 (Audubon Field Notes 23:94), a bird collected near the Los Coronados Islands off northern Baja California on Nov. 24 (Dr. J. Jehl, details to be published elsewhere), and four records in the Northern Pacific Coast Region, all in March. The arrival of the late December birds in the Monterey area coincided with the onset in the Pacific Northwest of the heaviest snowstorms in many years. In our Region, January storms concentrated large numbers of Arctic Loons in the sheltered southern part of Monterey Bay, where tight flocks of 500 and 300 off Pacific Grove were observed feeding by synchronized diving, similar to that employed by flocks of Brandt's Cormorants (AB). Fifteen Red-throated Loons off the mouth of the Pajaro River, Santa Cruz Co. on March 28 (VA, WA) was the largest number of this species reported. Red-necked Grebes were exceptionally numerous in the Monterey area, with 27 found 1 mile off the harbor on Dec. 27 (AB). Single birds were reported from four other locations, and 2 were seen at South Farallon Is. on Dec. 17 (P.R.B.O., HR). Western Grebes seemed to be present in larger than normal numbers around the Monterey Peninsula this winter, but beginning in March a die-off of major proportions occurred: 35 unoiled birds were found dead along 1 mile of beach on March 1 and 50 along the same stretch, April 1. The dying birds exhibited the convulsive symptoms of pesticide poisoning, but no analyses were available at the time of writing (AB). Six dead, unoiled Eared Grebes were found with the Western Grebes. Observers who find dead, unoiled waterbirds should assist in determining the extent of pesticide contamination by sending such birds to the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for analysis. Aquatic food

chains, both fresh-water and marine, are becoming increasingly contaminated.

**Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Storm Petrels** — Two Black-footed Albatrosses were observed in Monterey Bay on Dec. 4 (AB) and 2 were seen near the Farallons on Feb. 20 (P.R.B.O., HR). Fulmars were rather widespread but not especially numerous: 40 were noted in Monterey Bay on Dec. 4 (AB); 40-75 were seen feeding on a dead Fin Whale at Bodega Head, Sonoma Co. on Jan. 5 and 6 (EH & NH, JW); 1 was seen attacking a dead Com. Murre near the Farallons on Feb. 20 (P.R.B.O., HR). A few Sooty Shearwaters wintered in Monterey Bay, with 14 seen on Dec. 4 (AB); 7 were seen off the Sonoma County coast on Dec. 21 (TC). The season's first Leach's Petrel on the Farallons was recorded on March 17 (P.R.B.O., HR). A Fork-tailed Petrel and an Ashy Petrel were found in Monterey harbor during a southerly gale on Feb. 6 (MG, AB); the latter species is almost unknown in Monterey Bay between mid-December and early July. The first Ashy Petrel of the season returned to South Farallon on Feb. 17, with "large" numbers present by March 12 (P.R.B.O., HR). An immature female *Galapagos Storm Petrel* of the southern or Peruvian race (*Oceanodroma tethys kelsalli*) was picked up alive in Jack Stanton's garden in Carmel, Monterey Co. on Jan. 21 following five days of southerly gales. The bird was examined and the identification was confirmed by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy of the American Museum of Natural History; it is now specimen No. 2123A at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (VLY). This appears to be the first United States record of the species. Full details will be published elsewhere.

**Pelicans, Cormorants** — White Pelicans were reported from the usual locations, with 200 transient birds noted at the San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Area, Merced Co. on Jan. 21 (ROW). The status of the Brown Pelican along the Pacific Coast gives cause for acute concern. The Point Reyes reports show a 50 percent decline in each of the last three seasons, with a maximum of only 49 in the fall of 1968 as compared with 700 in 1965 (P.R.B.O., JS). On a March 20 visit to Anacapa in the Channel Islands off Santa Barbara, the only active colony known in the state, about 300 nests were found to contain fresh plant material indicating nesting attempts, but all eggs found on the colony were thin-shelled or nearly shell-less, and many of them were broken, presumably by the weight of the incubating bird (Dr. R.W. Risebrough, *vide* AB; also see the article "Brown Pelican Status in California" on pp. 57-59 and the introductory remarks on p. 2 of the February 1969 issue of this journal — Ed.). The accumulation of DDT-type residues in body tissues is believed responsible for the egg-shell thinning observed in this population, and the present evidence points to the probable extermination of the Brown Pelican as a breeding species in California. As DDT contamination levels continue to rise in Baja California waters, we also may expect that population to follow the Brown Pelican breeding populations of northern Florida, Louisiana and Texas toward extinction. There also were indications that cormorants are being directly

poisoned by pesticides. In the Monterey area, Brandt's Cormorants were dying in large numbers in March, and the beach survey mentioned under the Western Grebe, above, revealed 15 dead, unoiled birds of this species along 1 mile of beach on March 1 and 19 dead, unoiled birds along the same stretch, April 1; pesticide analyses had not been completed by the time of writing (AB). One Pelagic Cormorant also was found in the same circumstances.

**Hérons, Ibis** — Counts of Great Blue Herons at Limantour indicated a two-thirds decline over the last two seasons (P.R.B.O., JS). "Several" Green Herons were reported wintering on the Feather River near Oroville, Butte Co. (EAP) and 1 was seen nest-building at Santa Cruz on March 27 (VA). A Snowy Egret present on the Feather River near Oroville, Dec. 30–Jan. 5 (EAP) was rather far north for the season. The very large figure of 100 Black-crowned Night Herons was reported from Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, Butte Co. on Dec. 17 (MP). The sighting of a Least Bittern on Olema Marsh, Marin Co. on Jan. 29 (RS) was the third successive winter report from that area. White-faced Ibis continue to occur in large numbers at Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area, with up to 160 present there all winter (ROW, BAMcL).

**Swans** — Whistling Swans were more numerous than usual, with 63,000 in the Central Valley in January (California Department of Fish and Game, *fide BK*); flocks in excess of 100 were seen at two locations along the northern coast. *Trumpeter Swans* were seen in Santa Rosa for the second successive winter, with up to 5 present, Feb. 8–March 14 (BDP, GB, *et al.*); 3 probable adult Trumpeters were seen on Año Nuevo Ranch, San Mateo Co. on Dec. 29 (JG & RG, TC, WH) and a probable sub-adult bird was noted at the south end of Humboldt Bay on March 2 (JG & RG).

**Geese** — The Department of Fish and Game Waterfowl Population Survey for Dec. 18 showed 271,740 "white geese" in the Central Valley and Delta regions, with 385,130 "dark geese" recorded at the same time. Sacramento Nat'l Wildlife Refuge held pride of place as usual, with 129,100 "white geese" and 23,200 "dark geese" on the census date. Reports of wintering Black Brant included 7000 at Humboldt Bay on March 2 (JG & RG); this high figure must have included returning migrants as well as wintering birds. A *Red-breasted Goose* killed by Alvin Richins ½ mile south of Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area on Dec. 1 has been mounted and photographed; the bird was alone at the time and was unbanded (John B. Cowan, Refuge Manager, *fide AB*). Although there is one prior record of the species from the winter of 1892-93, Grinnell and Miller (*The Distribution of the Birds of California*, p. 560, 1944) did not feel warranted in placing it on the full state list, instead relegating it to the "of uncertain occurrence" category. The fact that the nearest known Siberian breeding grounds (see G.P. Dement'ev, *et al.*, *Birds of the Soviet Union*, translated from the Russian, Vol. IV, p. 362, 1967) lie perhaps 2000 miles to the west of any other Siberian waterfowl known to winter in the United States (*e.g.*, Snow Geese from Wrangel

Island) leads one to speculate on the question of origin. Two adult Emperor Geese were present at Limantour, Dec. 15-24 (LCB, TC, JG & RG, WH). It should be noted that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is experimenting with transplanting eggs from Emperor Goose nests to White-fronted Goose nests in Alaska. The intention is to bring Emperors south of their normal wintering range. Should this program continue, we may well receive more reports of Emperor Geese from the Central Valley. Some 28,160 White-fronted Geese were present in the Delta region, Solano Co. on Dec. 29 (Department of Fish and Game, *fide BK*). Three coastal flocks of this species were reported, including 80 at Alvarado, Alameda Co. on Jan. 10 (WA). Ross' Geese away from the Central Valley are rare; 45 seen in the Delta on Dec. 29 (Department of Fish and Game, *fide BK*) and 9 seen at Mowry Slough, Alameda Co. on Jan. 9 (WA) were thus extremely noteworthy.

**Ducks** — All ducks, both surface feeders and divers, were well below the average for recent years at Point Reyes (P.R.B.O., JS). A male *Com. Teal* at the Arcata dump, Humboldt Co. on March 1 (JG & RG) was the second consecutive winter report from that area. Blue-winged Teal were reported from the usual few locations. Single European Widgeons were observed at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco from Dec. 14 to at least Feb. 12 (TC, WH, WA) and at the Arcata Sewage ponds, Jan. 28–Feb. 22 (RS, EH & NH, BD). At the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda Co., 3000 Shovelers were observed on Feb. 9 (MP). The largest flock of Redheads reported was a mere 44 at Nicasio Reservoir, Marin Co., Jan. 9 (WMP, AN); likewise, the largest Ring-necked Duck flock was of only 100 at Lake Lagunita, Stanford University, Santa Clara Co., Jan. 25 (TC & ZC). Up to 6 Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported from three East Bay locations, with a maximum of 5 on Lake Merritt in Oakland on Dec. 8 (TC, WH); 4 displaying birds at De Sablo Reservoir near Paradise, Butte Co. on Jan. 26 (EAP) were at a new location for this species. Single Oldsquaws were reported from five locations, all coastal; 2 were seen at South Farallon on Dec. 7 (P.R.B.O., HR), 2 at Alvarado on Jan. 10 (WA), and 2 at Limantour on March 14 (P.R.B.O., JS). None of these birds were recorded as adult males. Up to 2 Harlequin Ducks were reported from locations ranging from Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. north to the Oregon border. More *Com. Scoters* were reported than usual, with 21 at the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, Feb. 22 (LCB) the highest count. Hooded Mergansers also were more numerous, being reported from six localities, with a maximum count of 7 at Larkspur, Marin Co., Jan. 12 (JG & RG); 32 *Com. Mergansers* at Camp Far West, Yuba Co., Dec. 6 (MP) were the largest congregation of this species reported; a flock of 165 Red-breasted Mergansers north of the Brisbane dump, San Mateo Co., March 3 (RS) was of exceptional size.

**Vultures, Condors** — The sighting of 30 Turkey Vultures on Sutter Buttes, Sutter Co., Dec. 17 (MP) was noteworthy since, perhaps owing to tule fogs, the species does not generally winter in the Central Valley. The Buttes are clear of fog for the most part.

According to a local rancher, 2 adult California Condors were driven from a carcass at Success Valley, Tulare Co. by Golden and Bald Eagles on March 9 (*fide MEM*).

**Hawks, Eagles** — White-tailed Kites were present in good numbers at Cotati, Sonoma Co. (*BDP*); 1 seen north of Fort Bragg (*RC*) was the most northerly coastal report. An immature Goshawk was seen at Tomales Bay State Park, Marin Co. on Feb. 15 (*VDAc*); an adult was seen at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. on March 15 (*VDAc*); and another adult was seen above 6000 feet elevation in Yosemite Nat'l Park on March 30 (Dr. R.W. Risebrough, *fide AB*). An immature *Broad-winged Hawk* was found at Fort Ord, Monterey Co. on Dec. 22 (*WR*) but not subsequently; this is only the fourth record for the Region, the other three being obtained last winter. Migrant Swainson's Hawks began appearing in the Central Valley toward the end of the period, with reports from four locations after March 13 (*ROW*) and a maximum of 10 birds at Oroville on March 23 (LeClerc, *fide EAP*). Six Rough-legged Hawks were reported, the most southerly a bird wintering at Success Valley (*MEM*). Six Ferruginous Hawks also were reported, including 1 on March 19 at the mouth of the Smith River, Del Norte Co. (*JHH*), a remarkable location. Golden Eagles were more numerous than usual, with a marked increase observed in the Springville area of Tulare County "following heavy snows on the mountains and upper foothills" (*MEM*). Of 10 Bald Eagles reported this winter, half were immature. A wintering Osprey was seen three times in the Point Reyes area (*WMP, et al.*), and northbound migrants were reported from six other localities during March. Prairie Falcons were reported from three areas and Peregrines from five. A total of 6 Pigeon Hawks was reported; at least 3 were adult males.

**Cranes, Rails** — Sandhill Cranes were reported from the usual areas, with a high count of 2363 at Terminous, San Joaquin Co. in January (Department of Fish and Game, *fide BK*). At the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, 15 Virginia Rails were noted in 100 yards at high tide on Jan. 19, and the observer (*DDeS*) commented that the species "probably outnumbers Clapper Rail in winter in brackish South San Francisco Bay waters." Five Clapper Rails were seen in the same area. A belated *Black Rail* report concerns 1 found dead at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, Butte Co. in March 1962 and reported by John B. Cowan, Refuge Manager; the specimen was preserved. This record appears to constitute a northward extension of the known range, the previous northern limit being Marin County. Some 193,835 Am. Coots were reported from the Central Valley and Delta regions on the Department of Fish and Game survey, Dec. 18.

**Shorebirds** — Mountain Plovers were found near San Lucas, Monterey Co. in the upper Salinas Valley where they are considered rare, with 10 seen on Dec. 15 (*AB, RLB, TM*) and 25 seen on Jan. 4 (*RLB, VLY*). Wintering Am. Golden Plovers continue to be detected: 5-6 were seen by many observers near Alviso, Santa Clara Co. during February, for the third consecutive winter report from this location; and 1

was seen at the Richardson Bay Sanctuary, Marin Co. on March 2 (*CSL*). Wintering Lesser Yellowlegs were reported from three localities, with some early migrants appearing at the end of March. Wintering Knots were observed at five locations. Rock Sandpipers were noted in more locations than usual, seven in all, including four new sites: Mussel Point, Sonoma Co. where 2 were seen on Feb. 12 (*BDP*); Goat Is., Crescent City, Del Norte Co. where 4 were seen on Feb. 15 (*DDeS*); Bird Rock, Seventeen Mile Drive, Monterey Co. where 1 was seen on Dec. 22 (*AB*); and South Farallon where 1 was present, Dec. 4-Jan. 21 (*P.R.B.O., HR*). The identification of a *Semipalmated Sandpiper* collected at the mouth of the Salinas River, Monterey Co. on Sept. 1, 1968 has been confirmed by two additional authorities; the specimen, the first for the Region, has been deposited at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (*AB, VLY*). A Marbled Godwit was present at San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Area, Dec. 12-27 (*ROW*). Twenty late Red Phalaropes seen at Point Pinos on Dec. 1 (*AB, TM*) were the only report of this species.

**Jaegers, Gulls** — Pomarine Jaegers wintered on Monterey Bay as usual, with 6 on Dec. 4 the highest count (*AB*). A Parasitic Jaeger was observed flying with gulls from South San Francisco Bay to Calera Dam on Jan. 20, behavior the observer (*DDMcL*) has occasionally noted in the past; and an adult of this species was seen at Moss Landing on Jan. 26 (*DDeS*). Despite these reports, Parasitic Jaegers should be considered rare in winter and the Pomarine Jaeger the normal species at this time of year. One result of the gull studies being conducted in the San Francisco Bay area by Dr. H.L. Cogswell and his associates is the discovery that Glaucous Gulls are more numerous than previously assumed. This winter, 15, about equally divided between first-year and second-year plumages, were present among some 80,000 gulls at five dumps in the area (*RS, et al.*). Six more Glaucous Gulls, all immatures, were reported from several localities from Arcata south to the mouth of the Carmel River. Heermann's Gulls do not entirely disappear from our coast after January, and a sprinkling of immature birds usually can be found from February through April around Monterey and farther north. Although Black-legged Kittiwakes annually appear in Monterey Bay in large numbers, their presence this year was more noticeable because they were feeding close inshore; their regular use of fresh water for drinking and bathing also was noted. Of 5000 birds seen in Monterey Bay on Feb. 16, 10-15 percent were oiled; the origin of this oil is unknown (*AB, TM, WR*). Point Reyes reported "an extremely good year" for the species, with "mature birds surprisingly common" (*P.R.B.O., JS*). Black-legged Kittiwakes also were reported as far north as Bodega Bay (*LCB*); an immature found dead at Lafayette on Dec. 10, after gales, constituted the first record for Contra Costa County (*LF*). A very late immature Sabine's Gull was seen at Limantour on Dec. 15 (*LCB, BDP*).

**Alcids** — Regular oiling of alcids, especially Com. Murres and to a lesser extent, Rhinoceros Auklets, in the Monterey Bay area gives cause for increasing

concern. The constant year-round attrition kills hundreds of birds, but we do not know enough about the breeding populations to know whether a decline is in progress or not. The proportion of the northern subspecies among the oiled birds is not even known. Perhaps this information will be the only benefit to come from the Santa Barbara oil disaster. On March 2, 5000 Com. Murres were seen at Crescent City (*JG & RG*). Four Marbled Murrelets were seen 3 miles off Santa Cruz on Dec. 4 (*AB*); 1 was seen at Monterey harbor on March 2 (*TC, WH, TM*); 1 was noted off the Sonoma County coast on Dec. 21 (*TC*) and 2 on March 22 (*BDP*). Thirty-one Ancient Murrelets were seen offshore in Monterey Bay on Dec. 4 (*AB*). January gales concentrated this species, along with others, in the south end of the bay, with 45 seen in 1 hour at Point Pinos on Jan. 26 (*AB, TM, WR*). Elsewhere, 1 was seen off the Sonoma County coast on Dec. 21 (*TC*) and 5 on March 22 (*BDP*). Cassin's Auklets were "present in thousands" at South Farallon throughout the period (*P.R.B.O., HR*); 50 were seen in 1 hour at Point Pinos on Jan. 26 (*AB, TM, WR*). Rhinoceros Auklets in Monterey Bay increased from 201 on Dec. 4 (*AB*) to 3500 seen in 1 hour at Point Pinos on Jan. 26 (*AB, TM, WR*); this concentration had dispersed by Jan. 31 (*AB*).

**Pigeons, Owls, Poor-will** — Band-tailed Pigeons were reported to be much more common than usual this winter, particularly in the Santa Cruz Mountains south of San Francisco (*RG, MP, DDeS*) and were noted feeding on the hard, capsule fruits of the imported eucalyptus trees on the Stanford University campus (*MP*). A total of 89 Barn Owls on the Sacramento Christmas Count, Dec. 29 (*fide BK*) was very high, even though the species is usually found there in large numbers. A Pygmy Owl was out of habitat in the garden of the Santa Cruz County Courthouse where it stayed for the week of Dec. 2 (*V. Rudnick*). A total of 30 Burrowing Owls on the Sacramento Christmas Count (*fide BK*) also was a large number; 1-2 even wintered on South Farallon (*P.R.B.O., HR*). More Long-eared Owls were reported than usual, with 1 near Walnut Creek, Contra Costa Co. in December (*LF*), 2 in Sacramento on Dec. 29 (*fide BK*), and 2 in a backyard at Cotati, Sonoma Co. from Feb. 23 to at least March 1 (*BDP, WMP, LCB, et al.*). Short-eared Owls, however, were scarce or absent this winter, with a maximum of only 5 reported from Sacramento on Dec. 29 (*fide BK*). A wintering Poor-will was seen on Slack Canyon Road in southern Monterey County, Jan. 4-5 (*RLB, VLY*).

**Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers** — White-throated Swifts were found wintering in at least six coastal locations, with 50 at Stanford University (*MP, DDeS*) the largest number reported. An unusually large concentration of 20 Anna's Hummingbirds was noted in Butte County in a single eucalyptus tree on the bank of the Feather River (*EAP*). No "pure" Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported, but 10 "hybrids" were found in seven different locations, mostly coastal. Forty Lewis' Woodpeckers were counted in large oak trees along a 7-mile stretch in Yuba County on Dec. 16 (*MP*). A

female Nuttall's Woodpecker found in the Palo Alto foothills on March 6 (*MP & DDeS*) was out of its interior range and perhaps constituted the first sighting for the San Francisco Peninsula.

**Flycatchers, Swallows, Jays** — An *Eastern Phoebe* was carefully studied at Moraga in Bollinger Canyon, Contra Costa Co. on March 1 (*LF*). Was this a spring migrant or did it possibly winter as the species has done several times before in this Region? The rarest land bird of the season was a *Coues' Flycatcher* found at Monterey on the Christmas Count, Dec. 27 (*WR*) and photographed and carefully studied by numerous observers (*AB, VLY, RLB, et al.*) during the following two days. The convincing details submitted by the finder indicate that this should be considered the first record for the Region. Violet-green Swallows wintered in fairly large numbers in at least two localities near the coast, with about 30 present in the Olema marshes of Marin County (*RS*); "dozens" also were reported wintering in Butte Sink, Sutter Co. (*MP*).

**Jays, Nuthatches, Dipper, Wrens** — Many more Steller's Jays than usual came daily to a feeder in Springville, Tulare Co. and were believed to have descended from the Sierras because of the long, cold winter (*MEM*). Two pairs of Red-breasted Nuthatches were watched excavating nest sites in Golden Gate Park on March 26 (*BDP*); this species breeds very locally along the coast. A Dipper was seen in Slack Canyon, an area of very little water, on Jan. 4-5 (*VLY & RLB*). Single wintering House Wrens, always rare, were found in Sonoma County in December (*BAMcL*) and at Richardson Bay, Marin Co. on Feb. 1 (*LCB*).

**Thrushes** — Robins invaded the Region in larger numbers than have ever been recorded before, with most observers reporting them by the thousands rather than the hundreds of past years. A roost of 10,000 was located in Atherton, San Mateo Co. (*MP*) and 100,000 were estimated to be present near Folsom, Sacramento Co. (*A.J. Argente, fide BK*), but the champion count was that of 350,000 birds coming to roost in Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland (*RS, et al.*). A sad note was reported from Antioch, Contra Costa Co. where 6500 Robins and Cedar Waxwings were found to have been killed by automobiles while they were trying to eat Toyon berries planted along 7 miles of highway divider (*WA*). Varied Thrushes also were reported as much more common than usual or as abundant; 3 were even found on South Farallon, March 12-13 (*P.R.B.O., HR*). A total of 40 wintering Mountain Bluebirds in southern Monterey County on Jan. 4-5 (*RLB & VLY*) was a large number for this species. Reports of 11 Townsend's Solitaires wintering in seven different localities, mostly coastal, also was a large number for so far away from the Sierras.

**Kinglet, Waxwings, Phainopepla, Shrike** — A Golden-crowned Kinglet was noted on South Farallon, March 27 (*P.R.B.O., HR*). One of the highlights of the season was the largest invasion of Bohemian Waxwings in recent years. They were reported from ten widely scattered locations, both coastal and inland. The earliest reports were from coastal Humboldt County: 25 seen in McKinleyville on Jan. 28 (*RS & BD*) and 250 seen in Arcata on Feb. 4 (*JE, CE, BE, PE & SH*), with 450 present at Arcata by Feb. 23 (*WH*). They

were subsequently found to the south, with up to 66 noted in Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co. during March (*BAMcL*, *BDP*, *WMP*, *et al.*) and as many as 100 observed entering the Robin roost in Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland, March 18 (*RS*); the species also was reported from Salinas, Monterey Co. where 7 were banded in March (*M.A. Linsdale, fide AB*). Up to 1000 said to be wintering in the Chico area of Butte County (*EAP*) was the largest number reported; the southernmost Central Valley report was of 30 noted in a Sacramento yard on March 23 (*fide BK*). Single Phainopeplas were found in eight locations, two of which were noteworthy in being coastal: sightings at Stanford University in March (*MP*, *DDeS*) and in the Carmel Valley on March 26 (*EH*). An immature Northern Shrike was found near Cromberg, Plumas Co., March 8 (*GMcC, et al.*); this species is always rare in the Region.

**Warblers** — A male Black-and-white Warbler wintered in the Olema marsh, observations ranging from Dec. 29 to March 24 (*RS, JW & AW*). Wintering Orange-crowned Warblers were found at four locations, with 4 at Stanford University on Jan. 31 (*MP*) the highest number reported. A Nashville Warbler was seen in Pacific Grove on Jan. 7 (*VLY*). Several observers in different localities reported Myrtle Warblers outnumbering Audubon's Warblers, by a ratio as high as 5 to 1 on the Stanford University campus (*MP, DDeS*). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen at Santa Rosa on March 1 (*LCB*). Did this individual possibly overwinter or was it a spring migrant about a month earlier than is normal? The only wintering Palm Warbler reported was a bird observed at Santa Rosa from Jan. 6 to February (*BAMcL*). No wintering Wilson's Warblers were reported.

**Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers** — Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in three coastal locations where they are rare: a female at Pacific Grove on March 21 (*Mrs. S. Kammerer, fide VLY*), an immature male at Los Altos, Santa Clara Co. on March 28 (*RS*), and a female at Fremont, Alameda Co. on March 30 (*RS*). Three wintering Bullock's Orioles were reported: an immature male and a female seen at Pacific Grove on Dec. 20 (*WR*) and another bird noted at Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. on Feb. 23 (*LCB*). A large flock of 8000 Brown-headed Cowbirds was found wintering in Sacramento (*BK*). At least six Western Tanagers were reported this winter: a pair present at a feeder in Santa Rosa during January and February (*BAMcL*); a female seen in Sacramento on Jan. 2 (*J. Wilburn and W. Lake, fide BK*); and 3 birds noted in Pacific Grove, Dec. 20–March 15 (*VLY, WR*).

**Finches, Sparrows** — An immature male *Rose-breasted Grosbeak* was seen in Pacific Grove, Dec. 23–Jan. 7 (*WR, AB, VLY, RLB*); there are only two previous winter records for the Region. A male Painted Bunting that came to a feeder in Oakland, March 9 and 11 (*M. Jencks, WMP, VDaC, et al.*) was probably an escaped cage bird as they are commonly kept and it was an unlikely time of the year for a northward-moving vagrant. The only Evening Grosbeaks reported away from the mountains was a flock of 14 seen in Chico during February and March (*EAP*).

Numbers of Purple Finches at Point Reyes were double those of last year, and 2 were found on South Farallon (*P.R.B.O., HR, CJR & JS*). A flock of about 60 Cassin's Finches moved down to the Sierra foothills at Springville, Tulare Co. for the week of Feb. 25 (*MEM*). Pine Siskins were found flocking by the "thousands" at Grizzly Creek State Park, Humboldt Co., Dec. 24 (*MK*). The only wintering Lawrence's Goldfinch reported was an individual seen at Piedmont, Alameda Co., Feb. 22 (*ST*). A Green-tailed Towhee came to a feeder in Santa Rosa, Dec. 2–Jan. 11 (*BAMcL, et al.*); this may be the Region's northernmost wintering record. As many as 20 Vesper Sparrows were seen at Sutter Buttes, Sutter Co. on Dec. 17 (*MP*). Hundreds of Lark Sparrows also were seen at Sutter Buttes in December (*MP*); over 100 were counted in Sacramento on Jan. 18 (*BK*); 1 was present on South Farallon, Jan. 7–24 (*P.R.B.O., HR*); 10, probably wintering birds, were seen in the Santa Cruz Mountains of San Mateo County on March 6 (*DDeS*). At least 11 Slate-colored Juncos were found throughout the Region this winter, which is slightly more than is usual. An Oregon Junco banded six years ago was retrapped in Soquel, Santa Cruz Co. on Dec. 19 (*FH*); this individual had been sent to Hayward, Alameda Co. in 1964 and released in a homing experiment. An adult Chipping Sparrow, rare near the coast in winter, was seen at Stanford University on March 2 (*MP*). At least 1 Harris' Sparrow is usually found in the Region each winter; this year an immature came to a feeder in Santa Rosa, Dec. 5–Jan. 21 (*BAMcL, TC, et al.*). A Golden-crowned Sparrow banded in 1961 was retrapped in Soquel on Dec. 19 (*FH*). As is about usual, 8 White-throated Sparrows were reported from coastal areas. Only 1 Swamp Sparrow was found this winter — a bird seen at Inverness, Marin Co., Dec. 17–Jan. 27 (*BAMcL, et al.*) — compared to 10 last year. A Lapland Longspur found in late fall on Seventeen Mile Drive, Monterey Co. lingered until at least Dec. 16 (*AB*).

**Corrigendum** — In the Spring Migration Report for 1968, it was erroneously reported that 2 Fork-tailed Petrels were banded on the Farallon Islands (*Audubon Field Notes 22:571*). The birds involved were Leach's Petrels, as were 11 more banded since then.

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