

**MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.**—Of great importance for migration studies in this Region and on the Pacific Coast generally was full-time coverage on South Farallon Island by Point Reyes Bird Observatory personnel. Although the island was covered quite thoroughly last spring and quite frequently last fall, this was the first season that it was manned constantly by banders and observers. It has become increasingly obvious over the past several years that South Farallon is *the* most significant single place to study passerine migration along the coast of the Region. This report certainly attests to that importance.

**Loons, Grebes.**—The loon migration at Point Pinos, Monterey Co. was characteristically light until Oct. 29; thereafter numbers built up rapidly to a peak of 381 in a half hour on Nov. 11 (*AB*); as usual, the vast majority were Arctic Loons. An adult *Yellow-billed Loon* in winter plumage was observed and photographed at Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co. on Oct. 20



(WA); this constituted the third state record. The first Red-necked Grebe, an adult in almost full breeding plumage, was reported from Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Co. on Sept. 12 (WMP). Single birds were seen at South Farallon on Nov. 11 and 17 (P.R.B.O., HCR), and there were two other reports. Two Horned Grebes were seen inland at Folsom Dam, Sacramento Co., Nov. 20 (BK, et al.).

**Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Storm Petrels**—Five Black-footed Albatrosses were seen in Monterey Bay on Aug. 22 (AB) and 1 on Oct. 12 (VLY). Elsewhere, 2 were noted at South Farallon on Sept. 3 (P.R.B.O., Ron LeValley) but the species was not found off the Sonoma County coast during three fall boat trips (BDP). Single Fulmars were noted in Monterey Bay in August and September, with 3 seen there on Oct. 31 (AB); an influx at the end of the period brought 20 birds of this species to South Farallon on Nov. 25 (P.R.B.O., HCR). Pink-footed Shearwaters peaked at 400 in Monterey Bay on Sept. 7 and 130 on Oct. 5 (G.G.A.S., AB). Elsewhere, single birds were seen off the Sonoma County coast on Aug. 21 (BDP) and at South Farallon on Sept. 28 (P.R.B.O., HCR). New Zealand Shearwaters in Monterey Bay increased from 2 on Aug. 22 (AB) to a peak of 85 on Sept. 7 (G.G.A.S., AB). One was seen off the Sonoma County coast on Oct. 19 (BDP), compared with 300 seen there on Oct. 7, 1967. Sooty Shearwater numbers were normal, and there were no reports of Manx Shearwaters. A single Fork-tailed Petrel off the Sonoma County coast on Aug. 21 (BDP) was the sole report. Ashy Petrels peaked at 322 in Monterey Bay on Aug. 22 and 280 on Sept. 11 (AB); 1 was seen off the Sonoma County coast on Aug. 21 (BDP); 1 was found alive at 16th and Geary, San Francisco on Nov. 23 and was taken to the California Academy of Sciences (LCB). The species was still present in small numbers at the Farallons up to the end of the period (P.R.B.O., HCR). Black Petrels were reported only from

Monterey Bay, with peaks of 80 on Aug. 22 and 71 on Sept. 11 (AB). A *Wilson's Petrel* was seen in Monterey Bay on Sept. 7 (G.G.A.S., LCB, TC, WR); another individual showing all of the characteristics of this species except the yellow webs on the feet—it did not come close enough—was seen there on Oct. 16 (AB).

**Pelicans**—White Pelicans were reported from seven localities with an exceptionally large number of 1730 in South San Francisco Bay on Aug. 28, "the largest number seen in the Bay in my experience" (WA). What was probably the same flock was noted at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, Santa Clara Co., Oct. 15 (WMP). Brown Pelicans at the Moss Landing roost peaked at 2300 on Sept. 15 (AB, TM, WR). At South Farallon, the peak of 1700 occurred on Oct. 22 (P.R.B.O., HCR).

**Hérons, Ibis**—One or two Great Blue Herons were seen occasionally at South Farallon from August through early September (P.R.B.O.), and a flock of 7 flying southward was observed from a boat 15 miles off Moss Landing on Aug. 29 (AB). Green Herons were reported from seven localities, including single birds at South Farallon on Sept. 29 and at the San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Area, Merced Co. on the late date of Nov. 3 (ROW). The *Yellow-crowned Night Heron* reported during the summer period from San Rafael, Marin Co. was last seen on Aug. 25 (WMP). A Least Bittern was seen in the East Palo Alto marshes on Nov. 17 (MG). Two adult *Little Blue Herons* were noted at San Rafael on Sept. 10, in the same area where a bird was reported during the summer (WMP, ABu, et al.). White-faced Ibis returned to Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area by the early date of Sept. 21 (ROW).

**Swans, Geese, Ducks**—It is not known whether the 2 Whistling Swans observed in the Oroville Dam area, Butte Co., Aug. 22 (EAP) were summering birds or early migrants; some 200 were present in the Colusa Overflow, Colusa Co. by Nov. 23 (BK). Summering Black Brant included 3 at the mouth of the Salinas River, Monterey Co. that remained until Oct. 15 (AB, TM, WR) and a large flock of 131 at Point Reyes on Aug. 29 (P.R.B.O., RH). At Point Pinos, where a regular watch was maintained, the species was seen only on Nov. 3 when 523 were counted flying south (AB, TM). Two hundred Ross' Geese were at their principal Central Valley haunt, Merced Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Nov. 17 (AB, TM, WR). The single *Fulvous Tree Duck* reported during the summer period from the mouth of the Salinas River was seen again on Aug. 27 (AB, RLB, VLY); 11 were noted at the usual location, Mendota Waterfowl Management Area, Fresno Co., Sept. 15 (AB, TM, WR). Up to 10 Pintail and 1-2 Green-winged Teal were recorded at South Farallon during the period (P.R.B.O., HCR). After Oct. 19, 2-5 Blue-winged Teal were present in the customary location at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor (WA, TC, et al.); 1 was killed at San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Area on Oct. 19 (ROW). At South Farallon, 2 Cinnamon Teal were seen on Oct. 2 and 2 Shovelers

on Oct. 1 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). Wood Ducks remained common in the Oroville area during the fall, even though subject to hunting (*EAP*). Canvasbacks were two weeks late at Point Reyes and numbers were low; the same was also true for the two species of scaup (*P.R.B.O.*). The *Tufted Duck* reported during the spring migration period at Arcata, Humboldt Co. summered and was seen again on Sept. 23 (*RS*, *BD*, *et al.*). Such behavior inevitably raises the question of whether it was an escape, even if that question remains unanswered. A Com. Goldeneye summered at the mouth of the Salinas River and was seen on Sept. 1 (*AB*). The only Oldsquaw reported was a single female at South Farallon, Nov. 17-18 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). The first Sierra Nevada report of a *Harlequin Duck* in many years came from the Mokelumne River, 1.5 miles above Salt Springs Reservoir, Calaveras Co. on July 14 (H. R. Leach, Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game). White-winged Scoter migration at Point Pinos peaked at 110 in two hours on Nov. 3 (*AB*, *TM*). The Surf Scoter migration was in evidence at the same place beginning on Oct. 1 but was light through Oct. 29, peaking on Nov. 3 when 3915 birds, a very high total, were counted in two hours (*AB*, *TM*). At Point Reyes, the peak was 321 scoter sp. in a half hour on Nov. 1 (*P.R.B.O.*, *RH*). An aerial census of Tomales Bay, Marin Co. on Oct. 29 found 6000 scoter sp., the vast majority being Surf Scoters (*P.R.B.O.*). Only two reports of Com. Scoters were received: a flock of 25 at Ocean Shore near Harding Park, San Francisco, Nov. 2 (*LCB*) and a single bird present at Princeton, San Mateo Co., Sept. 8-21 (*WA*, *et al.*). A single Hooded Merganser was observed at the mouth of the Salinas River, an unusual location, on Sept. 1 (*AB*); 6 were seen at Corte Madera, Marin Co., Nov. 29 (*WMP*). Eight Com. Mergansers were noted at the mouth of the Salinas on Aug. 27 (*AB*, *RLB*, *VLY*) and a single bird at Nicasio Reservoir, Marin Co. on Sept. 15 (*WMP*, *ABu*). Three Red-breasted Mergansers were recorded at South Farallon, Nov. 17 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*).

**Kites, Hawks, Eagles**—Some 500 Turkey Vultures were present in the Sacramento Valley, in Glenn and Colusa Counties, during the first two weeks of October (*RDB*). White-tailed Kites were reported from ten areas, with exceptional concentrations noted in four of them, once more demonstrating the ability of this species to respond to rodent "plagues." At Cotati, Sonoma Co., the species was "common . . . the greatest number present since the fall of 1964" (*BDP*); at Coyote Hills, Alameda Co., 25 were present on Aug. 30 (*WAC* & *JC*); at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, 37 on Nov. 2 was "the largest number ever recorded there" (*TC*); in the Moss Landing—Castroville—Salinas River area, 100 were counted on Sept. 18 (*AB*, *RLB*, *WR*, *VLY*), with only 23 still present there by Oct. 6 (*WR*). Single immature Goshawks were reported from high elevations in Placer County (*JW*) and Sierra County (*TC* & *ZC*) in September. Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen at South Farallon on three days in September and October and single Cooper's Hawks

were seen twice (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). An immature Red-tailed Hawk lingered there, Nov. 6-26. An immature Swainson's Hawk was observed at Moss Landing on Sept. 17 (*RLB*, *WR*, *VLY*); this species is rare on the coast. Mixed flocks of Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawks were seen at the Woodland sugar ponds in Yolo County and at Folsom Lake Park, El Dorado Co. on Sept. 9 and Oct. 6, respectively; in each case about 100 birds were involved (*vide BK*). Only two reports of Rough-legged Hawks were received. Single Ferruginous Hawks were reported from Point Reyes on Oct. 13 (*JG*, *RG*, *TC*); from five miles west of Los Banos on Nov. 8 (*ROW*); and at El Nido, Merced Co. on Nov. 17 (*AB*, *TM*, *WR*). Golden Eagles were reported from nine areas, with no reports from the Lafayette—Mount Diablo area of Contra Costa County for the first time since 1958. The only Bald Eagle reported was an immature present at Sacramento Refuge, Nov. 7-17 (*RDB*). Single Ospreys were reported from Point Reyes on Sept. 1 (*P.R.B.O.*, *RH*); at South Farallon, Sept. 2-3 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*); and ten miles north of Santa Cruz, Sept. 15 (*RAM*). A Prairie Falcon sighting five miles east of Truckee, Nevada Co. on Oct. 16 (*JW*) was the sole report of this species. Of four reports of Peregrine Falcons, three were coastal, including a bird that circled a boat 15 miles off Moss Landing on Sept. 11 (*AB*). Only 3 Pigeon Hawks were reported, the first being an observation at Point Reyes on Sept. 17 (*SS*, *JS*). From 1 to 3 Sparrow Hawks were noted on South Farallon during the period (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*).

**Chukar, Cranes, Rails**—Two reports of Chukars from the Sutter Buttes area of Sutter County were received, including one report of "many" on Nov. 16 (*R.R.A.S.*, *BAMcL*). Sandhill Cranes were reported from eight localities in the Central Valley, with the first at San Luis Islands Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Merced Co. on Sept. 23 (*ROW*); 165 were observed flying southward over Duncan Peak Lookout near Foresthill, Placer Co., Oct. 7 (*JW*); and there were concentrations of 800 at San Luis Islands Refuge on Nov. 16 (*WA*), 1500 at Merced Refuge on Nov. 17 (*AB*, *TM*, *WR*), 600 at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, Colusa Co. on Nov. 16 (*R.R.A.S.*, *BAMcL*), and 300 along Woodbridge Road, San Joaquin Co. on Oct. 20 (*vide BK*). Any color-marked cranes should be reported to the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which is trying to pinpoint the precise wintering haunts of the "Greater" Sandhill. A Virginia Rail was found at South Farallon on Sept. 2 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). The only coastal Com. Gallinules reported were 2 at Robert's Lake, Seaside, Monterey Co., Sept. 29–Oct. 6 (*AB*, *TM*, *WR*). An emaciated Am. Coot was caught at South Farallon on Oct. 4 (*P.R.B.O.*); 1000 had reached the mouth of the Salinas by Oct. 6 (*AB*, *WR*).

**Shorebirds**—Present at South Farallon on Nov. 22 were 35 Black Oystercatchers, a sizable figure (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). Inland reports of Semipalmated Plovers included 2 at Beale Air Force Base, Yuba Co. on Aug. 18 (*MP*) and 2 at the Woodland sugar ponds on Aug. 20 (*BK*); 1-2 were seen on South

Farallon during August and September (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). The sighting of a Snowy Plover at the Woodland sugar ponds on Sept. 8 (J. & D. Yardley, *vide BK*) furnished the fifth record for that area. From 1 to 4 Killdeer were present on South Farallon during August and September (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). Twenty Mountain Plovers seen on Mervel Road south of Los Banos on Nov. 17 (*ROW*) were the only report of the species. A total of 22 Am. Golden Plovers were reported from eight locations, including 2 birds at the Vallejo salt ponds in Solano County on Aug. 17 (*BK & HK*), a maximum of 8 at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin Co., Sept. 22 (*LCB, TC, RG*), and 1 at South Farallon, Sept. 15-18 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). Observations of Black-bellied Plovers away from the coast included 800 on the Vallejo marshes, Oct. 19 (H. R. Leach). A single Surf-bird was seen at South Farallon on two occasions (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). Five Ruddy Turnstones noted at Point Reyes on Sept. 15 (*P.R.B.O.*, *RH*) were the largest number recorded anywhere in the Region; 1-3 were seen at South Farallon irregularly throughout the period (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). The winter population of Black Turnstones at Pacific Grove was present in full by Aug. 30 (*WR*); at South Farallon, the winter population had built up to a total of 60 birds by Nov. 30 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). Single Com. Snipe were seen at South Farallon on five dates in October and November (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). A flock of 365 Long-billed Curlews on the Fort Ord grasslands in Monterey County on Oct. 15 (*AB*) was the largest flock reported. A total of 25 Whimbrel at the mouth of the Salinas River on Sept. 1 (*AB*) was the highest number reported. An Upland Plover was seen on South Farallon, Aug. 22-24, and a bird of this species was found dead there on Aug. 31; the wings were deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California at Berkeley (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). This constitutes only the *second* state record, the first being a bird shot at Tule Lake, Siskiyou Co. on Aug. 8, 1896 (*cf.*, Grinnell and Miller, *The Distribution of the Birds of California*, 1944, p. 139). Solitary Sandpipers were noted at Mendota Waterfowl Management Area on Sept. 2 (*AB*) and at San Quentin, Marin Co. on Oct. 1 (*RS*). A Wandering Tattler was seen at the Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda Co. on Sept. 7 (*WA, et al.*); 10-15 were noted at South Farallon during the period (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). A high-tide count of Willets near the Dumbarton Bridge on Aug. 24 produced a total of 1350 birds (*TC, ICTN*); 1 at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area on Nov. 16 (*R.R.A.S.*, *BAMcL*) was very late. A Greater Yellowlegs was recorded on South Farallon, Oct. 2 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*). Lesser Yellowlegs were reported from nine places, with a maximum of 12 at San Quentin on Sept. 9 (*RS*); 1 was seen on South Farallon on Aug. 19 (*P.R.B.O.*, *SS*). 6 at Bodega Bay on Sept. 15 (*WMP, et al.*), and 20+ at Woodland on Sept. 16 (*RS, BD*). Knots were reported from four localities, with 9 at Moss Landing on Sept. 15 (*AB, TM, WR*) the highest number seen; 1 at Thermolito Afterbay, Oroville Dam, Aug. 22 (*EAP*) was remarkable, as the species is only a vagrant inland. By

Nov. 16, 1-2 Rock Sandpipers had returned to Bodega Head (*MG, FH*). Pectoral Sandpipers were generally scarce this fall, the one exception being a flock of 20+ noted at the Woodland sugar ponds on Sept. 16 (*RS*); 1 was banded on South Farallon on Sept. 2 (*P.R.B.O.*). An immature Sharp-tailed Sandpiper seen at Abbott's Lagoon, Point Reyes on Sept. 3 and well described (*P.R.B.O.*, *JS*) appears to be the fifth record for the state. Few Baird's Sandpipers were seen this fall and all reports were of single birds except for "small numbers" observed daily until Sept. 3 at South Farallon (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*) and 2 late birds noted at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor on Oct. 18 (*MP*). An exceptionally large flock of Dunlin at the mouth of the Salinas on Oct. 12 comprised 5000 birds (*TM, WR*); the flock had departed by the following day. Long-billed Dowitchers increased greatly in number at Point Reyes over totals for previous years; up to 4 were present on South Farallon beginning in September (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR, JS*); in the Central Valley, 500 and 2000 birds were noted at Mendota and Los Banos Waterfowl Management Areas, respectively, on Sept. 15 (*AB, TM, WR*). On Sept. 2, a Marbled Godwit was seen at Mendota Waterfowl Management Area (*AB*) where the species is regular in fall in small numbers. An Am. Avocet at South Farallon on Aug. 31 (*P.R.B.O.*, R. Mewaldt) was very much out of place; 27 at Bodega Bay on Oct. 18 (*BDP*) were considered unusual for the Sonoma County coast; 500 were noted at Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area on Sept. 15 (*AB, TM, WR*) and 200 late birds at the Yolo Bypass on Nov. 17 (*AJA & LBA*). A Red Phalarope flight at the end of August brought 500 to South Farallon, Aug. 22-26 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*), and the species was reported as "common" 4-6 miles off the Sonoma County coast on Aug. 21 (*BDP*). In the Monterey Bay area, no major flight developed and the maximum observation was of 7 only on Sept. 7 (*G.G.A.S.*, *AB, WR*). Northern Phalaropes were common along the coast and bays, with a maximum of 10,000 at South Farallon on Aug. 22 (*P.R.B.O.*, *HCR*); a very late inland bird was found at Keller Pond, Concord, Contra Costa Co., Nov. 26 (*LDF*).

**Jaegers, Gulls, Terns**—Pomarine Jaegers were present in Monterey Bay throughout the period, with a maximum of 25 on Sept. 27 (*G.G.A.S.*, *AB*); 4 were found offshore of the Sonoma County coast on Oct. 19 (*BDP*). A Parasitic Jaeger observed above Duncan Peak Lookout, Foresthill, Aug. 24 (*RS, DDeS, JW*) was the second Sierran record in recent years; in Monterey Bay, the species peaked at 15 on Sept. 29, with the last observation on Nov. 1 (*AB*). There were more Skua reports than usual: 2 birds in Monterey Bay on Sept. 7 (*G.G.A.S.*, *AB*); 1 at Inverness, Marin Co., Sept. 22-24 (*GM, WMP, et al.*); 1-2 offshore of the Sonoma County coast on Oct. 19 (*BDP*). An immature *Franklin's Gull* seen at the mouth of the Salinas River on Aug. 25 but not found on the following day (*AB*) constituted the first Monterey County record. The Bonaparte's Gull migration at Point Pinos peaked on Nov. 3 when 815 were observed flying southward in two hours (*AB*,



TM); inland, 1 at San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Area on Oct. 31 (ROW) and 2 at Bass Lake, El Dorado Co. on Nov. 4 (*fade BK*) were considered unusual. The first Black-legged Kittiwake was seen in Monterey Bay on Oct. 5 (G.G.A.S., AB, TC), with single birds present thereafter until the end of the period and 3 noted on Nov. 13 (AB). The number of Sabine's Gulls on Monterey Bay increased from 32 on Aug. 22 to a peak of 104 on Sept. 29 (AB); a good movement occurred at Point Pinos on Oct. 8 when 50 were noted flying southward in 45 minutes (RAM). Thirty Com. Terns were seen at the mouth of the Salinas on Sept. 14 (AB). "Several" Arctic Terns were identified among many terns off the Sonoma County coast on Aug. 21 (BDP); 30 among the 1000 terns in Monterey Bay on Sept. 7 were definitely identified as this species (G.G.A.S., WR). Least Terns were again reported from South San Francisco Bay, with 60 at Mowry Slough, Alameda Co. on Sept. 1 (WA); 2 were seen at the mouth of the Salinas on Oct. 6 (WMP, *et al.*). Although Elegant Terns were late in arriving this fall, numbers were good: at Moss Landing, the number present rose from 10 on Sept. 1 to 350 by Sept. 15 (AB, TM, WR); 100 were seen at the mouth of the Pajaro River, Santa Cruz Co. on Sept. 17 (WA, *et al.*); 25 were present at San Francisco International Airport, Oct. 20–Nov. 6 (VDAc); 20 were seen at Limantour, Marin Co. on Oct. 25 (P.R.B.O.). The last noted were 3 at Monterey on Nov. 12 (AB). From 3 to 5 Caspian Terns were still at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. on Nov. 11 (BK). Reports of Black Terns included 8, a large number, at Mowry Slough, Alameda Co. on Sept. 1 (WA); a single bird at Arcata, Humboldt Co. on Oct. 13 (TJE, CE, RE & PE) was both late and out of place.

Alcids—Com. Murres peaked at 2245 in Monterey Bay on Sept. 11 but declined very rapidly thereafter, with only 92 found on Oct. 11 (AB). This probably was caused indirectly by a very extensive, non-toxic "red tide" condition, which was widespread in the bay until Sept. 25. The presence of more than 1000 Com. Murres at Half Moon Bay, San Mateo Co. on Sept. 11 (WA) probably was related to conditions in Monterey Bay. Numbers of Pigeon Guillemots at the Farallon Islands declined rapidly after Aug. 15, and they were rare in November (P.R.B.O., HCR). A similar dispersal is normal in the Monterey Bay area (AB). No fewer than 25 Marbled Murrelets were seen at Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co. on Aug. 25 (TC, ITCN), a very high count for a regular locality; 2 were noted at the Point Reyes seawatch site on Sept. 1 (P.R.B.O., RH) and 4 in Monterey Bay on Oct. 31 at their usual location, two miles off Santa Cruz (AB). A sighting of 6 Xantus' Murrelets several miles off Point Pinos on Sept. 7 (G.G.A.S., AB) was the only report of this species. Cassin's Auklets were abundant at the Farallon Islands throughout the period (P.R.B.O., HCR); in Monterey Bay, the species peaked at 500–600 on Oct. 12 (VLY); 3 were seen on Aug. 21 and 2 on Oct. 19 off the Sonoma County coast (BDP). Rhinoceros Auklets were scarce throughout the period, with no

more than 1–2 in Monterey Bay (AB) and single birds seen off the Sonoma County coast on two dates (BDP). Tufted Puffins were few in number through August around South Farallon, with the last being seen on Sept. 28 (P.R.B.O., HCR); an adult was noted in Monterey Bay on Aug. 29 (AB) and a single bird off the Sonoma County coast on Oct. 19 (BDP).

Roadrunner, Owls, Goatsuckers, Swifts—A Roadrunner was reported from Sonoma County in September (Chet & Frances Palmer, *fade JFH*). This is an unusually northern and coastal locality, although the species has been recorded as far north as Del Norte County. A Long-eared Owl observed on South Farallon on Oct. 1 and 2 (P.R.B.O.) constituted the first record at this unusual location. Only 2 Saw-whet Owls were banded on Point Reyes this season, compared with 15 last year (P.R.B.O.). A Poor-will caught in San Francisco was brought to the California Academy of Sciences on Oct. 30 and later was released (LCB); this species is rarely reported from urban areas. An unidentified nighthawk was seen at South Farallon on Sept. 5 (P.R.B.O., Ron LeValley); Lesser Nighthawks have been observed there previously, although the Com. Nighthawk breeds much farther north. An unusually large, migrating flock of Black Swifts, estimated at 30–100 birds, circled over the southern end of the Point Reyes Peninsula on Sept. 20 (P.R.B.O.). Migrating flocks of Vaux's Swifts totaling about 100 birds were observed over San Rafael on Sept. 26 (WMP).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers—Rufous Hummingbirds were identified on South Farallon, Sept. 1–5 (P.R.B.O., R. Mewaldt & R. LeValley). Allen's Hummingbirds are only occasionally found migrating through the Central Valley; therefore 4 seen at Los Banos Waterfowl Management Area on Aug. 16 (ROW) were noteworthy. At least 6 "pure" Yellow-shafted and 2 hybrid Flickers were reported this season. The most interesting of these were 2 Yellow-shafted Flickers found on South Farallon, a male, Oct. 3–6, and a female, Nov. 14–23 (P.R.B.O.). After first being recorded last spring, Lewis' Woodpecker was seen again on South Farallon, Sept. 24–25 (P.R.B.O., GMcC). A total of 5 Tropical Kingbirds was reported along the coast this fall, as is now expected. However, two of these were found in unusual locations; one as far north as Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., Oct. 13 (TJE, CE, RE & PE) and another at South Farallon, Oct. 1–4 (P.R.B.O.). A Cassin's Kingbird was found on Sept. 29 at Castle Rock Park, Contra Costa Co., just one county north of the species' northernmost known breeding locality (GH). An *E. Phoebe* was carefully studied at San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Area on Sept. 30 (ROW); this is the first known record of this rare species away from the coast in the Region.

Swallows, Jays, Chickadees, Mimids—Large migrating flocks of swallows were observed moving through Yolo County, with an estimated 2000 mixed Barn and Cliff Swallows on Aug. 17 (B. Mallette & H. Leach, *fade BK*) and an estimated 1000 Tree

Swallows on Sept. 9 (Robert & Ruth Loveless, *file BK*). Gray Jays continued to be reported from the Mendocino area: 5 were noted on Oct. 24 and as many as 12 were said to be coming to feeders (*BAMcL*). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee was observed on Oct. 20 at Big Trees Reserve, Placer Co. (*JW*); this is the same Sierran location where one was found last year. Both Winter and Bewick's Wrens were reported to be about 80 percent down in numbers over the past two years at Point Reyes (*P.R.B.O.*). Several Long-billed Marsh Wrens, a very rare species in the high mountains, were found along the south shore of Lake Tahoe on Sept. 15 (*MP*). The large number of 16 Rock Wrens were counted at Folsom Lake, El Dorado Co., Oct. 27 (*J. Yardley, file BK*). A *Catbird* appeared in a Pacific Grove backyard on Sept. 30 (*VLY, WR, AB, RLB*); this is the second known record for the Region, the first being a bird collected on the Farallon Islands on Sept. 4, 1881. A Sage Thrasher was present on South Farallon, Sept. 12-20 (*P.R.B.O., GMcC*); this species is considered a casual stray to the coast.

**Thrushes, Pipit, Waxwing, Phainopepla, Starling**—Two speckled-breasted, bob-tailed young Robins, barely able to fly, were seen with an adult female in San Jose on the late date of Sept. 29 (*DDMcL*). More than twice as many Swainson's Thrushes were banded on Point Reyes this year than in the past two years; the migration peak occurred between Sept. 1 and 6 (*P.R.B.O.*). At least 4 Townsend's Solitaires were reported from coastal areas, where they winter sparingly: two of them were obviously out of habitat, one on South Farallon on Sept. 22 and 23 (*P.R.B.O., GMcC*) and the other near the end of Point Reyes on Sept. 22 (*LCB, RG & TC*). A *Red-throated Pipit* was banded and photographed at South Farallon on Nov. 3 (*P.R.B.O.*); this is the first confirmed report of this Eurasian species in the Region, although it has been found during several fall migration periods at San Diego. A Bohemian Waxwing was carefully studied as it sat alone atop the 129-foot radio tower on South Farallon, also on Nov. 3 (*P.R.B.O.*). The species is of very erratic occurrence in the Region. More than a dozen Phainopeplas were found on a single hillside near Oroville, Butte Co. on Aug. 28 (*EAP*). Some were seen repeatedly to the end of November up to about 1000 feet elevation. An unprecedented estimate of 300,000 Starlings was made as the birds flew over a ranch near Red Bluff, Tehama Co. where they were rare just ten years ago (*BWN*).

**Vireos, Warblers**—Hutton's Vireos were banded at South Farallon on Sept. 23 and Oct. 21 (*P.R.B.O., GMcC*). Although it is a common resident along the coast, this is the first time the species has been found on the island. Three Red-eyed Vireos were reported this fall: 2 at Lafayette, Contra Costa Co. on Sept. 2 (*LDF*) and 1 at Rodeo Lagoon on Sept. 8 (*VDaC*). Warbling Vireo numbers were found to be reduced by about 80 percent from past years on Point Reyes (*P.R.B.O.*). The only indication of warbler waves this fall were reports of a mixed flock of over 200 birds, mostly Audubon's and Myrtle Warblers, seen

one day in September in Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland (*ST*) and many warblers among what were perhaps over 1000 migrating land birds on South Farallon during the last days of September and the beginning of October (*GMcC*). The next few sentences will discuss the normally common warblers of the Region during the fall migration. Yellow and Wilson's Warblers were reported as much lower in numbers than in the past two years at Pacific Grove (*WR*), and Wilson's Warbler was found to be less than half as numerous as in the last two years on Point Reyes (*P.R.B.O.*). Myrtle Warblers, on the other hand, were found only once at Pacific Grove (*WR*) but were reported as being three times as numerous as last year on Point Reyes (*P.R.B.O.*). Single Black-throated Gray Warblers were banded on the late dates of Nov. 17 and 28 at South Farallon (*P.R.B.O.*). Townsend's Warbler was found to be the second most abundant warbler (after Audubon's) at Pacific Grove, with a total of 66 records this fall (*WR*). Late Hermit Warblers were found along the coast, where they occasionally winter: 1 at Inverness on Nov. 4 (*GM*) and 1 banded on South Farallon on Nov. 20 (*P.R.B.O.*). Another individual of this species found in Yosemite Nat'l Park on Oct. 20 (*LDF*) was extremely late, as they normally leave their high mountain breeding areas by the end of September. Among the four coastal reports of MacGillivray's Warblers was a month-late female in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Nov. 1 (*ABW*). A Yellow-breasted Chat was banded on South Farallon, Oct. 1 (*P.R.B.O., GMcC*); this species is uncommon along the coast. As was discussed in part in this report last fall (see *Audubon Field Notes* 22:87), the rare warblers that are being reported in California with more frequency each year seem to fit into three major categories: (1) **RARE MIGRANTS**—some six or seven species previously referred to as "vagrants" but which breed north of California and are now found regularly; (2) **REGULAR VAGRANTS**—some four or five species considered vagrant because of their normal ranges but which are now found regularly at least somewhere in the state; (3) **VAGRANTS**—the unpredictable number of species that are out of range and irregular in occurrence. **RARE MIGRANTS** found this fall included *Black-and-white Warbler*, a total of ~~5~~ <sup>3</sup> recorded: ~~3~~ <sup>2</sup> on South Farallon, Sept. 30-Oct. 6 (*P.R.B.O., GMcC*), 1 on Point Reyes on Sept. 7 (*RS & BD*), 1 on Point Bonita, Marin Co., Sept. 18-21 (*VDaC, WMP, ABW*); *Tennessee Warbler*, a total of ~~10~~ <sup>9</sup> banded on South Farallon, Oct. ~~1-5~~ <sup>4</sup> (*P.R.B.O.*), 2 seen on Point Reyes on Oct. 1 (*RS*), 1 at Pacific Grove on Oct. 3 (*AB*); *Magnolia Warbler*, a total of 3: 2 banded on South Farallon on Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 (*P.R.B.O.*), 1 seen at Pacific Grove on Oct. 17 (*WR*); *Blackpoll Warbler*, a total of ~~18~~ <sup>11</sup> banded on South Farallon, Sept. 1-Oct. 28 (*P.R.B.O., GMcC*), 2 seen on Point Reyes, Sept. 26-27 (*P.R.B.O.*), 4 at Pacific Grove, Sept. 24-Oct. 13 (*RLB, WR, AB, VLY*), 1 at Fairhaven, Humboldt Co. on Sept. 23 (*RS*); *Palm Warbler*, a total of ~~24~~ <sup>24</sup> <sup>40</sup> on South Farallon, Sept. 22-Nov. 19 (*P.R.B.O.*), 1 on Point Reyes, Oct. 19-22 (*LDF, G.G.A.S.*), 8 at

Pacific Grove, Sept. 27–Nov. 24 (VLY, WR, et al.), 1 at the mouth of the Salinas River, no date (VLY), 2 at Oakland, no date (ST); Am. Redstart, a total of 15: 9 on South Farallon, Aug. 31–Oct. 6 (P.R.B.O.), 5 on Point Reyes, Sept. 7–Oct. 1 (RS & BD), 2 at Pacific Grove on Sept. 5 and 7 (VLY & WR), 1 at Rodeo Lagoon on Sept. 10 (VDAc), 1 at Carmel, Monterey Co. on Oct. 31 (RLB); N. Waterbrush, a total of 1 on South Farallon, Aug. 31–Oct. 4 (P.R.B.O., GMcC), 1 at Carmel on Sept. 23 (RLB). REGULAR VAGRANTS reported were Parula Warbler, 1 reported: a bird banded on South Farallon, Sept. 29–30 (P.R.B.O.) that constituted the fourth fall record for the Region; Black-throated Blue Warbler, a total of 4: 2 on South Farallon, a male on Sept. 24 and another male on Oct. 3–4 (P.R.B.O.), 1 female at Rodeo Lagoon on Sept. 10 (VDAc), 1 male at Lafayette on Oct. 11 (H. Adamson); Chestnut-sided Warbler, a total of 4: 3 banded on South Farallon, Sept. 13, Oct. 3 and Nov. 3 (P.R.B.O.), 1 at Pacific Grove, Sept. 29–Oct. 3 (WR, AB, RLB, VLY); Ovenbird, a total of 3: 3 on South Farallon, Sept. 1–Oct. 3 (P.R.B.O.), 1 at Pacific Grove, Oct. 3–6 (B. Gordon Nelson, RLB, VLY). VAGRANTS included Virginia's Warbler, a total of 4 that constituted the first records for this Region, although the species breeds in eastern California: 3 banded and photographed on South Farallon, Oct. 1–2 (P.R.B.O., GMcC); 1 immature at Pacific Grove on Oct. 5 (RG, GMcC, TC, et al.); Cape May Warbler, a total of 3, although there was only one previous record known for the Region: 2 banded on South Farallon on Oct. 4 (P.R.B.O.), 1 identified at Pacific Grove, Oct. 4–5 (R. E. Wilson, H. Baxter, RG, GMcC, et al.); Blackburnian Warbler, a total of 2, although there were only three previous records for the Region: 2 on South Farallon, one of which was seen on Oct. 3 (GMcC), the other banded on Oct. 28 (P.R.B.O.); Bay-breasted Warbler, 1 reported that constituted the second record for the Region: a bird on South Farallon, Oct. 2 (GMcC); Connecticut Warbler, a total of 2, although there were only five previous records known for the Region: 2 on South Farallon, one of which was banded on Sept. 13 (P.R.B.O.), the other seen on Oct. 4 (RS); Hooded Warbler, 1 reported that constituted the third record for the Region: a bird on South Farallon that was banded on Sept. 29 but was killed by a Sparrow Hawk and retrieved (P.R.B.O.); Canada Warbler, 1 reported that constituted the first record for the Region: a bird at Pacific Grove, Oct. 10–12 (B. Gordon Nelson, RLB, VLY).

**Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers**—Two Bobolinks were found at South Farallon, Sept. 27–Oct. 3 (P.R.B.O., GMcC); the species is a very rare, though probably regular, migrant through the Region. At least 6 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in coastal areas where they are rare: 2 on South Farallon, Aug. 31 and Oct. 1–8 (P.R.B.O., GMcC), 1 at Pacific Grove on Sept. 1 (RAM), 3 in Palo Alto, Oct. 20–23 (TC & W. Hetrick). The discovery of a large number, 30, at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area on the late date of Nov. 16

(BAMcL) indicates that they may winter in this breeding area. An Orchard Oriole was banded on South Farallon on Sept. 10 (P.R.B.O.); this species is very rare, but perhaps regular, in the Region. An impressive estimate of 1000 Brown-headed Cowbirds was reported from the Palo Alto Refuse Area on Nov. 22 (MP). During the fall, 72 Western Tanagers were banded on Point Reyes, mostly between Aug. 31 and Sept. 2 (P.R.B.O.); the previous high for the same period was only 4 birds. Two Summer Tanagers were reported from Marin County: a female at Rodeo Lagoon on Sept. 8 (VDAc) and a male at Inverness on Sept. 24 (GM).

**Finches, Sparrows**—Most finches were found to be greatly reduced in numbers—from 25 to as much as 90 percent—on Point Reyes, particularly the following species: Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee (P.R.B.O.). Blue Grosbeaks, considered vagrant along the coast, were banded on Aug. 22 and 29 and were seen on Sept. 4 at South Farallon (P.R.B.O.). Two immature ♂ Indigo Buntings were reported: one banded and photographed on Aug. 2 at South Farallon (P.R.B.O.) and another present in San Rafael, Sept. 26–28 (WMP). A good-sized flock of 15–20 Pine Grosbeaks was seen at Huntington Lake, Fresno Co., Oct. 12 (WMP). A large flock of 80 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches was observed at about 11,000 feet elevation in King's Canyon Nat'l Park, Sept. 2 (SS & M. Allen). Coastal Lawrence's Goldfinches are always noteworthy: 5 were seen at Pacific Grove on Sept. 29 (WR) and the first for South Farallon on Oct. 3 (P.R.B.O., GMcC, RS). Coastal Green-tailed Towhees, also rare, were found in San Jose on Oct. 12 (DDMcL) and in Pacific Grove on Oct. 1 (VLY). Some 1500 Savannah Sparrows were estimated to be present on South Farallon on Sept. 29 (GMcC, P.R.B.O.). A Grasshopper Sparrow was seen there on Oct. 29 (RS); this species is uncommon along the coast. Vesper Sparrows were found in a number of coastal areas where they are seldom reported: 4+ on South Farallon, Sept. 5–Oct. 13 (P.R.B.O.), 1 on Point Reyes on Oct. 3 (P.R.B.O.), 2 in Arcata on Sept. 25 (RS & BD), 2 at Cotati on Oct. 23 (BDP). Inland, 15; a large number, were counted in the Butte Sink, Sutter Co., Nov. 17 (JG, RG & TC). Vagrant immature Black-throated Sparrows were found at South Farallon, Aug. 29 (P.R.B.O.) and at Foresthill, Placer Co., Sept. 5 (JW). Only 2 Slate-colored Juncos were reported: 1 in San Rafael on Nov. 6 (WMP) and 1 on South Farallon on Nov. 3 (P.R.B.O.). A Tree Sparrow was banded on South Farallon on Nov. 3 and another was studied there on Nov. 14 (P.R.B.O.). At least 2 immature Clay-colored Sparrows were found: one on South Farallon, Oct. 1 (P.R.B.O., GMcC) and another at Pacific Grove, Oct. 18–19 (B. Gordon Nelson, AB, TC, et al.); this species is probably a rare migrant along the coast of the Region. A Brewer's Sparrow was seen on South Farallon on Oct. 4 (RS), and a Harris' Sparrow was banded and photographed there on Nov.

3 (*P.R.B.O.*). Reports of at least 14 different White-throated Sparrows were more than usual. The first Song Sparrow recorded on South Farallon was seen on Oct. 3 (*GMcC*, *P.R.B.O.*). Lapland Longspurs were found at three locations: what were probably 5 birds on South Farallon, Sept. 17–Nov. 11 (*P.R.B.O.*), 2 on Point Reyes, Oct. 1–13 (*RS*, *JG*, *RG*, *TC*), 1 at Pacific Grove on Nov. 10 (*AB*). A Chestnut-collared Longspur was seen with the 2 Laplands on Point Reyes on Oct. 1 (*RS*).

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